

Appendix D: Seafood Strategy Office

NOAA Fisheries Role in Supporting Sustainable Shrimp Fisheries: NOAA's National Seafood Strategy

Southeast Shrimp Strategy and Planning Meeting
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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Our Mission

NOAA Fisheries is responsible for the stewardship of the nation's ocean resources and their habitat. We provide vital services, all backed by sound science and an ecosystem-based approach to management:

- Healthy ecosystems
- Productive and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Recovery and conservation of protected resources
- Safe sources of seafood



NOAA's National Seafood Strategy: Drivers

Climate change is rapidly altering species location, size, and composition. It is also intensifying storms and impacts on infrastructure.

The **coronavirus pandemic** disrupted markets and trade, decreasing the economic viability of the seafood industry and limiting access to some seafood.

New technologies and other ocean uses, such as offshore wind energy, will affect use of ocean space and potentially result in conflicts.

Significant **labor shortages** plus aging harvesting, processing, and distribution **infrastructure** affect production, safety, and cost-effectiveness in the industry.



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Seafood Industry Recommendations

- Continue vital science/survey work to inform Councils
- Industry services: be more responsive to seafood industry needs
- Increase US seafood production
- Highlight relevance of food, job, community, and economic security
- Strengthen resilience of US seafood sector and communities
- Put more US seafood on US plates
- Trade-related activities to support US seafood

NOAA's National Seafood Strategy: Goals

NOAA's direction for **supporting a thriving domestic U.S. seafood economy** and **enhancing the resilience of the seafood sector** in the face of climate change and other stressors.

A draft strategy was crafted **based on input from the seafood sector** received over several years.

Four Strategy Goals

1. Sustain or increase sustainable U.S. wild capture production
2. Increase sustainable U.S. aquaculture production
3. Foster access to domestic and global markets for the U.S. seafood industry
4. Strengthen the entire U.S. seafood sector

Complements other NOAA Fisheries policies, strategies



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Elements of Implementation Plan

- Surveys/science and allocation for wild capture remain key activities
- Feature industry services provided by the agency with existing resources or by leveraging partnerships
- Actions listed by goals (wild capture, aquaculture, markets, strengthen sector) and by status (ongoing, new, aspirational):
- Types of actions:
 - Economic, market, social analysis
 - Communication and outreach: tell the story of US harvest sustainability
 - Other industry services: Seafood Inspection Program (SIP) certifications, SIP assistance to USDA buying program, international trade, Saltonstall-Kennedy grants, Fishery Finance Program loans
 - Trade: monitoring/enforcement of illegal imports, export facilitation, technical advice to federal trade agencies
 - Coordinate with and leverage other federal agencies, partners (e.g., USDA, DOT, EDA, MBDA, EPA) to recapitalize seafood infrastructure, ports, processing, and vessels; seafood marketing; and other federal assistance
 - Workforce training (e.g., Sea Grant)
- A few place-based focus area actions (crosscutting: NOAA Fisheries and partners)
Example: Shrimp Futures project
- Document progress and deliverables



Promoting Trade to Support U.S. Seafood:

International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce

Work domestically and internationally to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, labor abuses, and harmful fishing practices:

- International agreements and multilateral cooperation
- Regulatory programs and trade monitoring, including the Report to Congress on Improving International Fisheries Management and the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP)

New IATC Trade and Commerce Division aims to support U.S. seafood industry through:

- Improving coordination and providing technical and policy advice to federal agencies on trade, including tariffs, market access, and trade barriers
- Outreach to industry on trade priorities and market opportunities
- Work with Seafood Inspection Program (SIP) and other U.S. agencies to facilitate access to foreign markets



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Standards and Product Assistance:

International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce

Seafood Inspection Program services:

- Export Certification of Seafood
- Market Access Assistance
- Technical Work Developing Standards
- Technical Advisory Work for Federal Purchases of Seafood (USDA, DOD)
- Increase Development and Application of U.S. Grade Standards for Seafood

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