

# **Ocean Fisheries: What is at Risk as a Result of Offshore Wind Development in our Ocean**

**March 2025**



Information in this report was obtained from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council website.

## **Ocean Fisheries: What is at Risk as a Result of Offshore Wind Development in our Ocean?**

**Commercial and recreational marine fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic region** support jobs, businesses, and coastal communities, providing recreational opportunities and supplying fresh seafood to local and global markets. In 2022, commercial and recreational fisheries generated \$5.5 billion in sales and supported nearly 59 thousand jobs across the Mid-Atlantic Council's member states.

**To find information on specific offshore wind projects along with Fishery Management Council's comments on the projects click on these links:**

<https://www.mafmc.org/northeast-offshore-wind>

<https://www.mafmc.org/northeast-offshore-wind#offshore-wind-projects/>

The Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils have compiled the information to help you stay informed about offshore wind development activities that may be relevant to you.

**For general information about offshore wind, please visit the Councils' joint wind page linked below.**

<https://www.mafmc.org/offshore-wind-notice>



Information in this report was obtained from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council website.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council has developed two new infographics that explore the impacts of fisheries throughout the region.

These infographics reflect 2022 commercial and recreational fisheries data published by NOAA Fisheries as of February 2025. Commercial jobs and sales values are based on domestic harvest and do not include seafood imports.

**On the following pages are the Infographics highlighting the value of the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries. They can also be downloaded as a single file here:**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/511cdc7fe4b00307a2628ac6/t/67cb14580d16917d933fc630/1741362267561/Mid-Atlantic-Fisheries-Infographic.pdf>

**Click this link for the most recent data and publications.**

[Fisheries One-Stop-Shop](#)

# MID-ATLANTIC FISHERIES



Commercial and recreational marine fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic region support jobs, businesses, and coastal communities, providing recreational opportunities and supplying fresh seafood to local and global markets. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council develops science-based management plans to ensure the long-term sustainability of these fisheries and the marine ecosystem.

**53,307**  
nautical miles<sup>2</sup>  
Area managed by the  
Mid-Atlantic Council

**15** Species managed by the  
Council under fishery  
management plans  
**50** Additional forage species  
managed as "ecosystem  
components"

**68 Million**  
Number of recreational  
fishing trips taken in the  
Mid-Atlantic in 2022

**542 Million**  
Pounds of fish & shellfish harvested  
in the Mid-Atlantic by commercial  
fishermen in 2022

which generated  
**\$484 Million**  
in landings revenue

**35,406**  
Jobs supported by the  
commercial fishing  
industry in 2022

**19.7**  
Pounds of fish &  
shellfish eaten by  
average Americans  
per year

**\$5.5 Billion**  
Combined sales impacts of the commercial and  
recreational fishing industries in the Mid-Atlantic  
region in 2022

**\$3.6  
Billion**  
Total spending on  
recreational trip  
expenditures

**98  
Million**  
Number of fish  
harvested by  
recreational anglers

which  
makes  
the U.S.

**4th**  
Largest consumer  
of seafood in the  
world (trailing only  
China, India, and  
Indonesia)

**23,313**  
Jobs supported by  
the recreational  
fishing industry in  
2022

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Atlantic Mackerel

Atlantic Mackerel are graded by fat content with the highest-fat content fish fetching the best prices in a worldwide market.

### Longfin & Illex Squid

Longfin squid can change colors rapidly when threatened or excited by expanding or contracting bags of color in their skin.

### Butterfish

Developed as an export market to Japan, butterfish were auctioned off & served as breakfast at high-end hot-springs resorts.

### Spiny Dogfish

This small shark has venomous spines in front of its dorsal fins, which it uses for defense against predators.

### Summer Flounder

Summer flounder are masters of camouflage, capable of changing their skin color and pattern to blend in with the ocean floor.

### Scup

Scup are small fish but they fight energetically when hooked, making them a favorite target for both child and adult anglers.

### Black Sea Bass

Black sea bass are protogynous hermaphrodites, meaning many begin life as females and later transition to males as they grow.

### Bluefish

Known as the "marine piranha" because of its aggressive feeding habits, bluefish have been known to bite humans.

### Tilefish

Tilefish only live along outer edge of continental shelf, where the sea floor is bathed by warm waters from the Gulf Stream.

### Monkfish

Using their large mouths, monkfish have been known to eat prey half their size, and capture water-birds at the sea surface.

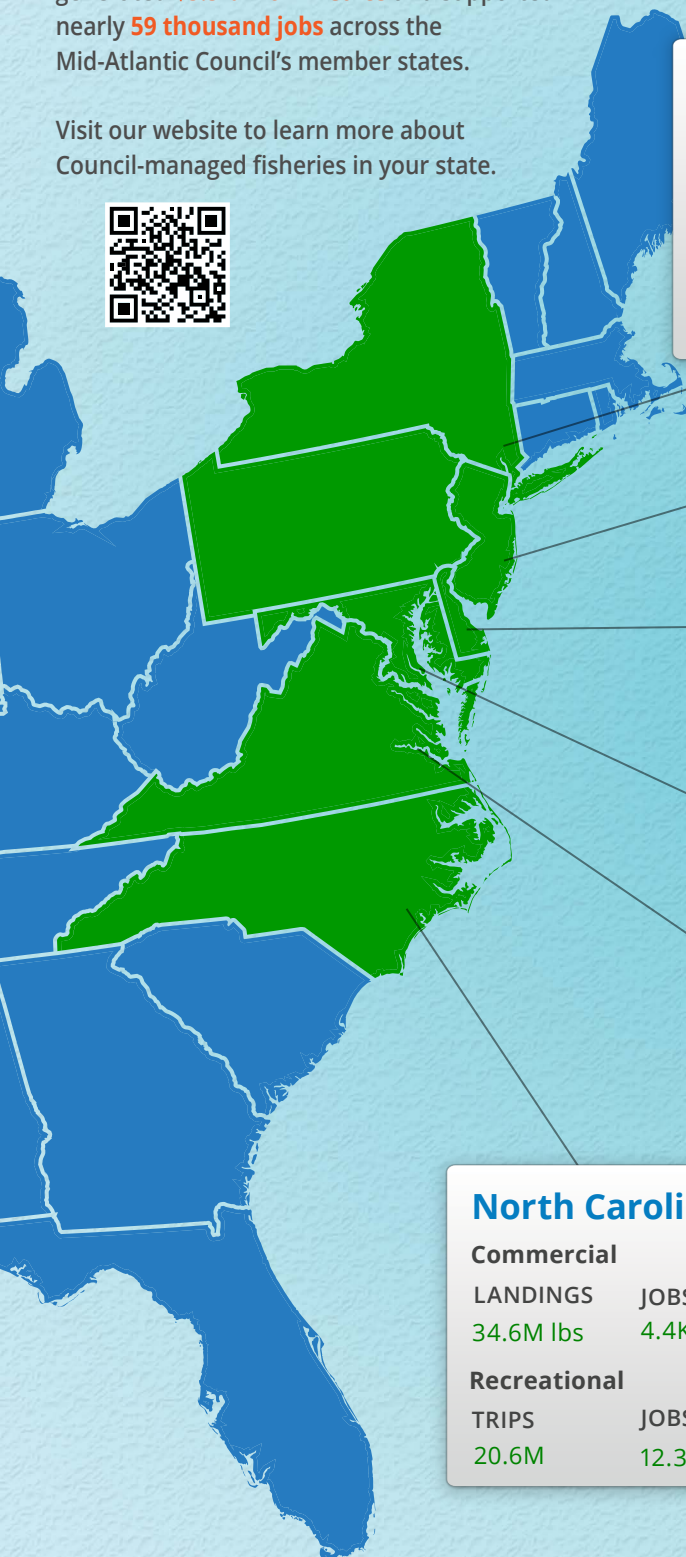
### Surfclam & Quahog

Surfclams and ocean quahogs were the first U.S. fisheries managed under catch shares programs.

# Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council FISHERY IMPACTS BY MEMBER STATE

In 2022, commercial and recreational fisheries generated **\$5.5 billion in sales** and supported nearly **59 thousand jobs** across the Mid-Atlantic Council's member states.

Visit our website to learn more about Council-managed fisheries in your state.



## New York

### Commercial

LANDINGS	JOB	SALES
19.1M lbs	3K	\$139M

### Recreational

TRIPS	JOB	SALES
16.5M	2.4K	\$378M

## New Jersey

### Commercial

LANDINGS	JOB	SALES
107.9M lbs	6.5K	\$528M

### Recreational

TRIPS	JOB	SALES
13.9M	3.5K	\$673M

## Delaware

### Commercial

LANDINGS	JOB	SALES
5.2M lbs	655	\$74M

### Recreational

TRIPS	JOB	SALES
2.4M	749	\$110M

## Maryland

### Commercial

LANDINGS	JOB	SALES
33.2M lbs	6.9K	\$362M

### Recreational

TRIPS	JOB	SALES
8.2M	2.7K	\$387M

## Virginia

### Commercial

LANDINGS	JOB	SALES
341.6M lbs	14K	\$769M

### Recreational

TRIPS	JOB	SALES
6.5M	1.7K	\$246M

## North Carolina

### Commercial

LANDINGS	JOB	SALES
34.6M lbs	4.4K	\$212M

### Recreational

TRIPS	JOB	SALES
20.6M	12.3K	\$1.6B

February 2025



This infographic reflects 2022 commercial and recreational fisheries data published by NOAA Fisheries as of February 2025. Commercial jobs and sales values are based on domestic harvest and do not include seafood imports. Visit the [Fisheries One-Stop-Shop](#) for the most recent data and publications.