



NOAA
FISHERIES

In April 2020, NOAA Fisheries prepared its first national report on the regional impacts of COVID-19 on the commercial, recreational and aquaculture sectors. This report updates that initial assessment, capturing economic changes experienced by the fishing industry as the country began its phased reopening along with infusion of Federal funding through the CARES Act. NOAA Fisheries will continue to use this information to identify economic hardship where it exists and identify pathways for enhancing the resilience of the U.S. seafood and fisheries industries.

Southeast Snapshot, January-June 2020



Southeast Fisheries Impacts from COVID-19

Commercial Fisheries Landings Trends and Impacts through June 2020

From 2014 to 2018, approximately 10,000 commercial fishing vessels operated in the Southeast fisheries and landed products valued on average at \$1.1 billion annually. The top three commercial fisheries by landings revenue in the Gulf of Mexico are shrimp, oysters, and menhaden; the top fisheries by landings revenue in the South Atlantic Region are blue crab, shrimp, and snapper-grouper. Many of the participants in Southeast commercial fisheries are active year-round, reflecting the seasonality of these fisheries (see Figure 1). For the period March to May, which corresponds to the period in 2020 during which social distancing measures were first implemented and most restrictive, the shrimp fishery is somewhat less active than it is during other parts of the year, with 16% of annual shrimp landings revenue earned during this 3-month period. In contrast, 25% to 30% of black sea bass, blue crab, Eastern oysters, Gulf of Mexico reef fish and South Atlantic snapper-grouper landings revenue is earned during this period while 33% and 66% of deep-sea golden crab and dolphinfish-wahoo, respectively, is earned during this period.

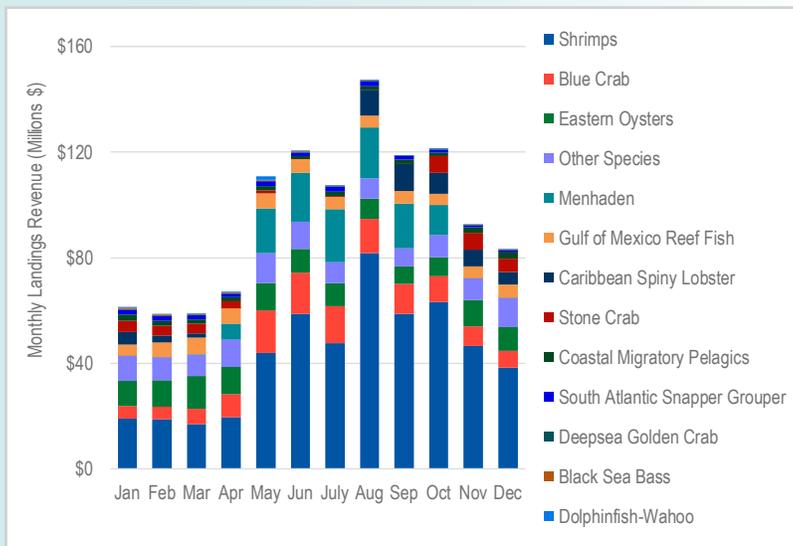


Figure 1. Southeast Average Monthly Landings Revenue for Species, 2014 to 2018.

To assess the effects of COVID-19 on Southeast commercial fisheries, 2019 and 2020 data were obtained from the SEFSC Commercial Landings Monitoring System. Note that these data are preliminary and representative of only selected federally-managed species. Due to incomplete data, some large Southeast fisheries, such as Eastern oysters, blue crab, shrimp, and menhaden, as well as landings reported to states are excluded from this analysis. In addition, a multitude of minor species are harvested by commercial operations in southeast waters which are not regulated by federal quotas and are also not included in this analysis.

Overall, the analysis of monthly landings revenue data for selected federally-managed species (excludes shrimp and menhaden) for January to June 2020 compared with 2019 for the same period indicates that landings revenue is down 23% for the first six months of 2020 relative to the same time period in 2019 (Figure 2). Landings revenue declined 11% in January and February relative to 2019 but then dropped sharply (36%) in March through May, with April experiencing the largest monthly decline (-48%) (Figure 3).

Table 1 summarizes impacts to ex-vessel landings revenues and average ex-vessel prices for the selected components of southeast commercial fisheries included in Figures 2 and 3 above. In the Gulf of Mexico, landings revenue of king mackerel increased by 12% in the first six months of 2020 relative to 2019 while landings revenue of king mackerel in the South Atlantic decreased 13%. Landings revenue of Spanish mackerel decreased significantly in both regions during March and April while average prices increased by 32% in the Gulf of Mexico and 15% in the South Atlantic. While landings of Spanish mackerel have not recovered in the Gulf, landings revenue in the South Atlantic sector increased by 50% in May and June 2020 relative to 2019, signaling that this sector is improving.

Some fisheries, however, incurred significant reductions in landings revenue in 2020. Historically, most landings of dolphinfish in the South Atlantic are recorded in May and June. Landings revenue of dolphinfish declined by 53% in May and June 2020 relative to 2019. It is not clear whether the fleet will be able to make up this shortfall in the remaining six months of 2020. In the South Atlantic Region, landings revenue in the black sea bass fishery and deep-sea golden crab fishery declined by 65% and 55%, respectively. Landings revenue in the commercially important yellowtail snapper fishery declined by 43% in the South Atlantic Region and 55% in the Gulf of Mexico. Landings revenue also significantly declined for several important Gulf of Mexico reef fish species not managed under an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program, such as greater amberjack (42%) and vermilion snapper (34%).

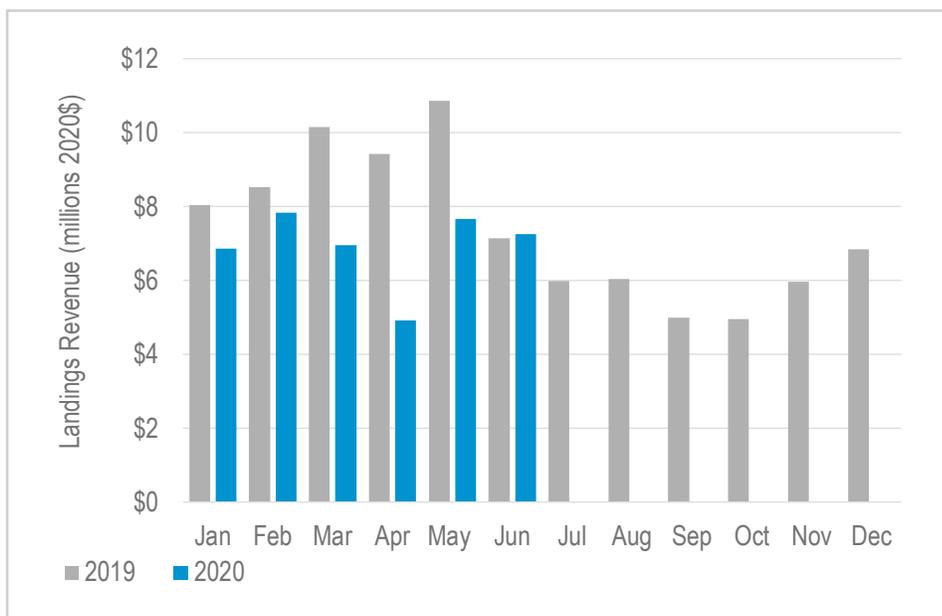


Figure 2. Southeast monthly landings revenue in 2019 and 2020.

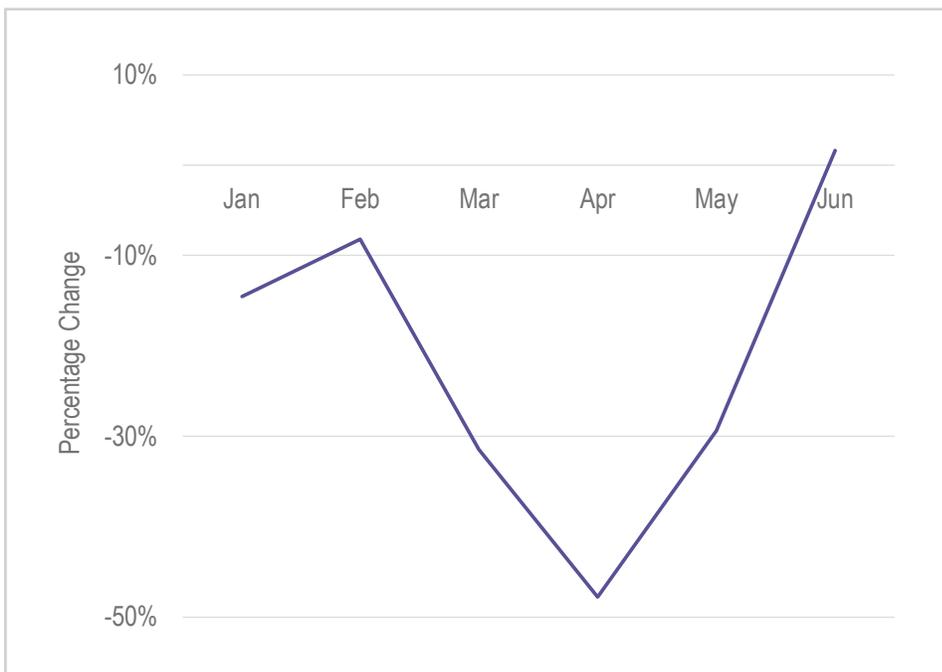


Figure 3. Percentage change in 2020 Southeast monthly landings revenue relative to 2019 monthly landings revenue.

Table 1. Percentage changes in ex-vessel landings revenues and average ex-vessel prices for major southeast commercial finfish fisheries for January-June 2020 relative to January-June 2019.

Aggregate Fishery	Key Species Sectors	Percent Change in Ex-Vessel Landings Revenue	Percent Change in Average Ex-Vessel Price
Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics	Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics (all sectors)	-9%	-26%
	King mackerel	12%	0%
	Spanish mackerel	-73%	32%
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish	Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish (all sectors)	-20%	-2%
	IFQ species*	-17%	N/A
	Greater amberjack	-42%	8%
	Vermilion snapper	-34%	-2%
	Yellowtail snapper	-55%	-8%
South Atlantic Black Sea Bass	South Atlantic Black Sea Bass (all sectors)	-65%	21%
South Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagics	South Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagics (all sectors)	-12%	7%
	King mackerel	-13%	-1%
	Spanish mackerel	-9%	15%
South Atlantic Deepsea Golden Crab	South Atlantic Deepsea Golden Crab (all sectors)	-55%	19%
South Atlantic Dolphin-Wahoo	South Atlantic Dolphin-Wahoo (all sectors)	-54%	3%
	Dolphinfish	-53%	4%
South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper (all sectors)	-35%	-5%
	Deep water complex	-18%	-4%
	Gray triggerfish	-52%	-40%
	Greater amberjack	-32%	2%
	Vermilion snapper	-37%	0%
	Yellowtail snapper	-43%	-9%

*The Red Snapper IFQ program was implemented in 2007. The Grouper-Tilefish IFQ program was established in 2010 and is comprised of five share categories (gag, red grouper, shallow water groupers, deep water groupers and tilefishes). Due to multiple species categories, an aggregate average IFQ species price is not available.

Several commercially important reef fish species are managed under the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper and Grouper-Tilefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) programs. IFQ programs are management regulations that set species-specific total allowable catch (i.e. quota) for a fishing season and distribute shares of a dedicated portion of the quota through shares to individual accounts. These shares result in annual allocations of the yearly dedicated quota which are transferable among approved entities and also enable shareholders to postpone harvesting their quota if market conditions are unfavorable, as occurred this past spring as social distancing

measures implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19 closed restaurants both domestically and globally.

Figure 4 reveals underlying trends in the economics of the Gulf of Mexico IFQ fisheries. A steep decline in landings revenue from Gulf of Mexico IFQ species was reported in March and April 2020 but beginning in May, landings revenue started to rebound. Cumulative landings revenue of all IFQ species through June 2020 were 17% less than cumulative landings in the first six months of 2019. Furthermore, cumulative landings of IFQ species through

June 2020 represent 41% of the total annual quota compared to 44% during the same time period in 2019. However, this is higher than the average of 34% during the first six months of 2017-2019.

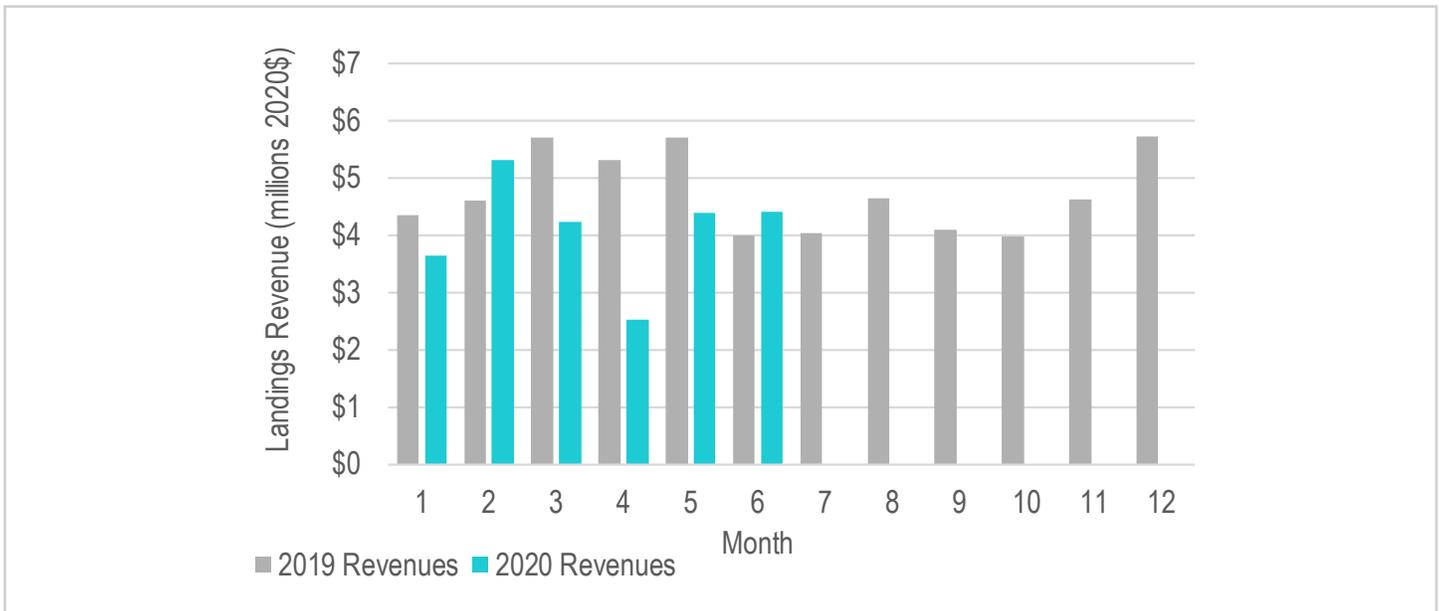


Figure 4. Landings revenues for Gulf of Mexico IFQ species by month for 2019 and 2020.

SPINY LOBSTER FISHERY

Data from the state of Florida shows that over the first 3 months of 2020 in comparison to 2019, spiny lobster landings declined by 42.5%, average price declined by 25.4% and dockside value declined by 57.1%. The lobster season is closed from April-August. With the available data we cannot clearly determine the cause of the decline. However, because the spiny lobster fishery relies heavily upon the Chinese market, the impact of tariffs and the closure of the Chinese market in January contributed significantly to the very steep declines the fishery experienced in the first quarter of 2020.

COMMERCIAL FISHING PERMIT HOLDER SURVEY

A total of 327 commercial fishing permit holders were contacted in the eight states in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Regions between July 5 and September 15, 2020 regarding the impacts of COVID-19 related factors on their businesses through the first half of the year (January - June/July 2020). Of those contacted, 88% reported that COVID-19 related factors had affected their businesses. For 80% of respondents affected by COVID-19 related factors, commercial fishing represented their primary source of income. Some 94% of affected commercial fishing permit holders reported reduced revenues in the first half of 2020 in comparison to the same period in 2019, with revenue declining on average 56%. Only 1% reported increased revenue in comparison to the same period in 2019. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of commercial permit holders reported a reduction of employees with an average decrease of 2 employees. Less than 1% of commercial permit holders reported an increase in numbers of employees.

Comparison of 2020 with first half of 2019

- 94% of commercial permit holders reported revenue losses.
- Commercial permit holders reported between <1% and 100% revenue losses, for an average 56% decrease in revenue among those reporting losses.
- 28% of commercial permit holders reported a reduction in employees. <1% reported an increase and 66% reported no change.
- On average, commercial fishing permit holders reported operating at 44% of normal fishing activity compared to the same period in 2019.

Top three COVID-19 related factors affecting commercial permit holders:

- Instructed not to fish by dealer/processor (36%).
- Low prices for seafood (22%).
- No crew available (9%).

Eighty-six percent (86%) of commercial permit holders that responded to the survey stopped fishing for some period of time in the first half of 2020. Of these, 12% stopped fishing for less than a month, 46% stopped fishing from 1 to 3 months, and 16% stopped fishing for more than three months. Ten percent (10%) had ceased operations indefinitely but had plans to eventually resume taking trips. Less than 1% of survey respondents reported permanently shutting down their commercial fishing operations. The most common ways that COVID-19 related factors impacted commercial fishing permit holders included reduced number of trips (21%) and difficulty obtaining supplies other than bait (19%), although 53% percent responded “Other” which includes a wide range of impacts.

Seafood Dealers

There were 3,240 seafood dealers operating in the Southeast Region in 2018. Notwithstanding a few seafood products that are exported (e.g., spiny lobster to China), much of the Southeast Region’s product is consumed domestically, with a high proportion dependent upon restaurant sales. King mackerel is a notable exception; it is sold primarily in grocery stores and there remains a strong market for this product, although especially in the Gulf of Mexico, it is a seasonal fishery with the majority of sales in January/February and April/May.

NOAA Fisheries interviewed 270 seafood dealers and processors between July 5 and September 15, 2020 regarding the impacts of COVID-19 related factors on their businesses through the first half of the year (through June/July 2020). Some 89% of seafood dealers/processors reported that they had been impacted by COVID-19 related factors in the first half of 2020. Of those affected, 89% reported reduced revenue in comparison to the same period in 2019, with revenue declining on average 55%. Only 6% of those affected reported sales improved in comparison to the same period in 2019 with an average 20% increase in revenue. Some 46% of affected businesses reported a reduction of on-site employees with an average decrease of 8 employees. Only 2.5% of affected businesses reported an increase in numbers of employees (average of 4 employees).

Comparison of 2020 with first half of 2019

- 89% of dealers reported revenue losses.
- Dealers reported between <1% and 100% revenue losses, for an average 55% decrease in revenue among those reporting losses.
- 46% of dealers reported a reduction in employees. 6% reported an increase and 47% reported no change.
- On average, dealer processors were operating at 48% of business activity compared to the same period in 2019.

Forty-eight percent (48%) of affected dealer/processors closed their business operations for some period of time in the first half of 2020. Of these, 23% were closed for less than a month, 40% were closed from 1 to 3 months, and 11% were closed for more than three months. Twenty-two percent (22%) were closed indefinitely but had plans to eventually reopen. Only 3% of survey respondents reported permanently shutting down their operations. The most common impacts of COVID-19 related factors on seafood dealer processors included reduced operations or business hours (43%), reduced sales to restaurants, retail or grocery stores (20%), and lack of local product (11%).

Top three COVID-19 related factors affecting seafood dealer/processors:

- Low seafood prices (33%).
- Implementing health safety measures (19%).
- Loss of employees (17%).

Recreational Fishing — For-Hire Sector

There were approximately 4,000 and 1,800 charter operations in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Regions, respectively, in 2019. There were also an estimated 63 headboat vessels in the South Atlantic and 69 in the Gulf of Mexico in 2019. From 2016 to 2019, anglers in the Southeast took an average of 1,523,770 charter trips annually.

In 2020, charter revenues from January through the end of June from North Carolina to Mississippi were \$141.7 million. This represented an overall 24% decrease in average revenues for this same time period for the years 2017 to 2019. The decrease in revenues is largely attributable to COVID-19 closures that took place in March to May 2020. For example, from January-February 2020, total charter trips and revenues in the southeast were up 13% and 14% respectively over the 2017-2019 average. In comparison, from March-April 2020, charter trips and revenue declined by 72% in comparison to the 2017-2019 period. Finally, from May-June 2020, trips and revenues were only down by 4.5% in comparison to the 2017-2019 average for those months. During this same period (May-June), South Carolina had a 29% increase in revenue and Alabama had a 10% increase in revenue; Georgia had the largest decline at 47%, but both East and West Florida showed minor declines of 2% and 5%, respectively.¹

Headboat revenue across the Southeast decreased by 34% overall across states in the Southeast (NC to TX) from January to June 2020 compared to the average revenues for the same time period between 2017 and 2019. For May and June, 2020 headboat revenues were \$10 million compared to the average \$13 million, representing a 21% decrease in comparison to the same time period in 2017-2019. Texas was the only state with an increase in headboat revenues in May/June (7%); Louisiana had the largest decrease in comparison to May/June of 2017-19 (56%).

FOR-HIRE OPERATORS SURVEY

A total of 486 for-hire businesses were contacted in the eight states in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Regions between July 5 and September 15, 2020 regarding the impacts of COVID-19 related factors on their businesses through the first half of the year (January through June/July 2020). Of those contacted, 95% reported that COVID-19 related factors had affected their businesses. For 69% of affected respondents, charter/for-hire fishing represented their primary source of income. Some 94% of affected for-hire operators reported reduced revenues in the first half of 2020 in comparison to the same period in 2019, with revenue declining on average 58%. Only 2% of those affected reported that sales improved in comparison to the same period in 2019, with an average 30% increase in revenue. Some 12% of affected for-hire businesses reported a reduction of employees with an

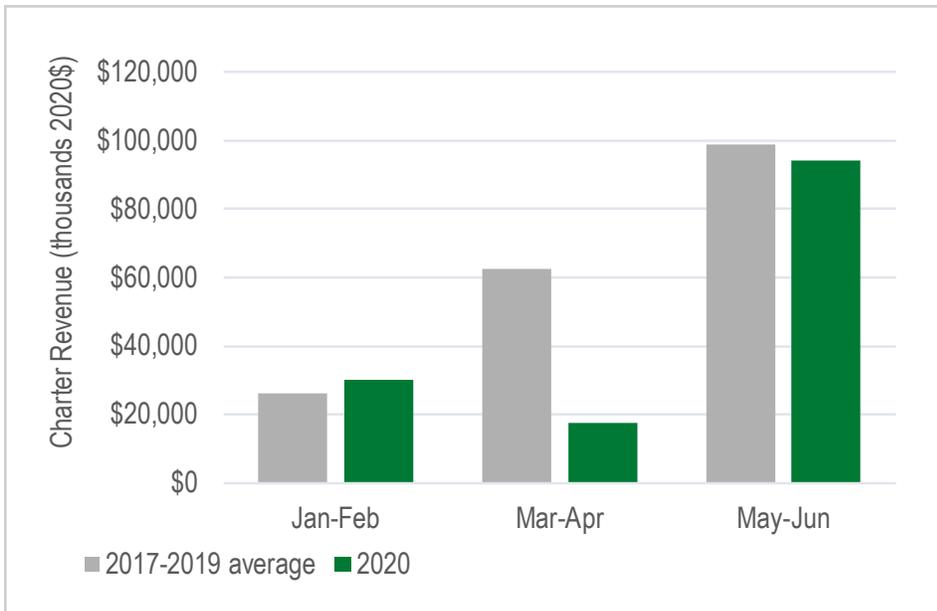


Figure 5. Southeast charter revenues for the baseline (2017-2019) and 2020.*
 *January-February excludes South Carolina and Georgia. Texas and Louisiana are not included in these figures due to lack of 2020 data for those states.

average decrease of 2 employees. Less than 1% of affected for-hire operations reported an increase in numbers of employees.

Comparison of 2020 with first half of 2019

- 94% of affected for-hire operators reported revenue losses.
- Affected for-hire businesses reported between 5% and 100% revenue losses, for an average 58% decrease in revenue among those reporting losses.
- 12% of affected for-hire operators reported a reduction in employees. <1% reported an increase and 85% reported no change.
- On average, affected for-hire operations were operating at 53% of normal fishing activity compared to the same period in 2019.

Top three COVID-19 related factors affecting the for-hire sector:

- Restrictions by state and local governments (57%).
- Lack of charter/party/for-hire clients (10%).
- Loss of crew (3%).

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of affected party/charter/for-hire businesses stopped taking fishing trips for some period of time in the first half of 2020. Of these, 5% stopped taking trips for less than a month, 64% stopped taking trips from 1 to 3 months, and 11% stopped taking trips for more than three months. Eight percent (8%) had ceased operations indefinitely but had plans to eventually resume taking trips. Only 1% of survey respondents reported permanently shutting down their charter operations. The most common ways that COVID-19 related factors affected charter/party/for-hire operations included reduced number of trips (49%) and difficulty obtaining supplies other than bait (22%).

Puerto Rico

Between 2013 and 2018, dockside revenues in Puerto Rico averaged about \$5 million for the first six months of the year (January-June). On March 15, 2020, the Governor instituted a two-week closure (curfew) for the majority of businesses on the island of Puerto Rico. However, commercial fishermen were exempted from the curfew and fish cooperatives (*villas pesqueras*) and fish stores could also sell seafood products.

COMMERCIAL FISHING SURVEY

A total of 318 small-scale commercial fishermen were contacted in Puerto Rico in July and August of 2020 regarding the impacts of COVID-19 related factors on their fishing operations through the first half of the year (January-June/July 2020). Of those contacted, 96% reported that COVID-19 related factors had affected their fishing operations. For 73% of the respondents affected by COVID-19 related factors, commercial fishing represented their primary source of income. Some 87% of affected commercial fishing permit holders reported reduced revenues in the first half of 2020 in comparison to the same period in 2019, with revenue declining on average 65%. Only one fisherman reported increased revenue in comparison to the same period in 2019. Twenty-five percent (25%) of commercial fishermen reported a reduction of employees/crew.

Puerto Rico: Comparison of 2020 with first half of 2019

- 87% of small-scale fishermen reported revenue losses.
- Commercial permit holders reported between <1% and 100% revenue losses, for an average 65% decrease in revenue among those reporting losses.
- 28% of commercial permit holders reported a reduction in employees. <1% reported an increase and 66% reported no change.
- On average, commercial fishing permit holders reported operating at 44% of normal fishing activity compared to the same period in 2019.

Top three COVID-19 related factors affecting Puerto Rican commercial harvesters:

- Lack of markets or buyers (79%).
- State and local government restrictions (71%).
- Implementing health safety measures (48%).

Ninety-four percent (94%) of commercial fishermen stopped fishing for some period of time in the first half of 2020. Of these, 13% stopped fishing for less than a month, 43% stopped fishing from 1 to 3 months, and 33% stopped fishing for more than three months. Nine percent (9%) had ceased operations indefinitely but had plans to eventually resume taking trips. Less than 1% of survey respondents went out of business. The most common ways that COVID-19 related factors impacted commercial fishing permit holders included reduced number of trips (83%), lack of markets (30%), and difficulty obtaining supplies other than bait (21%). Six percent (6%) of Puerto Rican fishermen reported switching to new fisheries.

SEAFOOD DEALER SURVEY

In Puerto Rico, there are approximately 70 active landing centers and independent dealers that market most of the production locally. Most of Puerto Rico's product is consumed domestically, with a high proportion of sales going to restaurants and hotels.

NOAA Fisheries surveyed 47 seafood dealers and processors in Puerto Rico in July/August 2020 regarding the impacts of COVID-19 related factors on their businesses through the first half of the year (through June/July 2020). 98% of seafood dealers/processors reported that they had been impacted by COVID-19 related factors. Of those affected, ninety-three percent (93%) reported reduced revenues, with an average decrease of 56%. Only 2% (one dealer) reported increased revenues. Some 43% of affected businesses reported a reduction of on-site employees, while 56% did not change the number of employees.

Puerto Rico: Comparison of 2020 with first half of 2019

- 93% of affected dealers reported reduction in sales.
- Dealers reported an average 56% decrease in revenue for those reporting losses.
- 43% of dealers reported a reduction in employees and 57% reported no change.
- On average, affected dealer processors were operating at 33% of business activity compared to the same period in 2019.

Top three COVID-19 related factors affecting seafood dealer/processors:

- State and local market restrictions (87%).
- Loss of markets or buyers (77%).
- Implementing health safety measures (70%).

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of affected dealer/processors closed their business operations for some period of time in the first half of 2020. Of these, 30% were closed for less than a month,

45% were closed from 1 to 3 months, and 15% were closed for more than three months. Ten percent (10%) were closed indefinitely but had plans to eventually reopen. No dealer/processors in Puerto Rico reported having gone out of business. The most common impacts of COVID-19 related factors on seafood dealer processors included reduced sales to restaurants, retail, or grocery stores (94%), lack of product (81%), and reduced operations or business hours (60%).

CHARTER OPERATORS SURVEY PUERTO RICO

There are currently around 30 charter operators in Puerto Rico, although the number can increase to 50 on a seasonal basis when demand is high through the addition of mostly informal, unlicensed operators. A total of 16 charter operators were contacted in Puerto Rico in July/August 2020 regarding the impacts of COVID-19 related factors on their businesses through the first half of the year (January-June/July 2020). Of those contacted, 100% reported that COVID-19 related factors had affected their businesses. For 88% of affected respondents, charter/for-hire fishing represented their primary source of income. Some 100% of charter operators reported reduced revenues in the first half of 2020 in comparison to the same period in 2019, with revenue declining on average 85%. Some 50% of affected for-hire businesses reported a reduction of employees.

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of affected party/charter/for-hire businesses stopped taking fishing trips for some period of time in the first half of 2020. Of these, 7% stopped taking trips for more than three months, 67% had ceased operations indefinitely with plans to resume, and 20% went out of business.

Comparison of 2020 with first half of 2019, Puerto Rico Charters

- 100% of affected for-hire operators reported revenue losses.
- Affected for-hire businesses reported an average 85% decrease in revenue.
- 50% of affected for-hire operators reported a reduction in employees and 44% reported no change in crew/employees.
- On average, affected for-hire operations were operating at 1.3% of normal fishing activity (most reported no activity).

Top three COVID-19 related factors affecting the charter sector in Puerto Rico:

- Lack of charter clients (94%).
- State and local government restrictions (94%).
- Implementing health safety measures (38%).

U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI)

In early 2020, many commercial and charter fishermen in USVI were still struggling to recover from the devastating impacts of hurricanes Irma and Maria in late 2017. Some commercial fishermen were fishing on others boats trying to accumulate funds for boat repairs and to purchase new gear. Charter fishermen were just starting to recover from the decline in tourism related to hotel closures and infrastructure damage related to the storms.

In mid-March 2020, the Governor announced the closure of USVI to all tourists after 17 individuals on the islands tested positive for COVID-19. The first closure lasted until mid-July. After a brief reopening to tourism, the USVI was once again closed down as the COVID-19 threshold was exceeded.

Between August 24 and September 9, 2020, NOAA contacted 87 commercial and charter fishermen on the islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John by phone to administer a survey regarding the impacts of COVID-19 related factors on their fishing operations during the first half of the year (January-June 2020). Although there may be some differences between islands, the following sections cover all of USVI. Due to the lack of a significant dealer/processor sector in USVI (since most catch is sold directly to consumers either in the market or directly to restaurants or stores) this sector was not included in the survey.

COMMERCIAL FISHING SURVEY

A total of 63 small-scale commercial fishermen responded to the survey in USVI. Of those contacted, 86% reported that COVID-19 related factors had affected their fishing operations. For 63% of the respondents affected by COVID-19 related factors, commercial fishing represented their primary source of income. Some 87% of affected commercial fishing permit holders reported reduced revenues in the first half of 2020 in comparison to the same period in 2019, with revenue declining on average 53%. Thirty-one percent (31%) of commercial fishermen reported having experienced a reduction in employees/crew with an average of 1.3 fewer crew members; 69% had not reduced the number of crew.

USVI: Comparison of 2020 with first half of 2019

- 87% of USVI commercial fishermen reported revenue losses.
- Affected commercial fishermen reported an average decrease in revenue of 53%
- 31% of commercial fishermen reported a reduction in crew. 69% reported no change.
- On average, commercial fishermen reported operating at 48% of normal fishing activity compared to the same period in 2019.

Top three COVID-19 related factors affecting commercial harvesters in USVI:

- Implementing health safety measures (63%).
- State and local government restrictions (61%).
- Lack of markets or buyers (56%).

Eighty-one percent (81%) of commercial fishermen in USVI stopped fishing for some period of time in the first half of 2020. Of these, 30% stopped fishing for less than a month, 50% stopped fishing from 1 to 3 months, and 1% stopped fishing for more than three months. Two percent (2%) had ceased operations indefinitely but had plans to eventually resume fishing.

FOR-HIRE OPERATORS SURVEY

A total of 18 charter businesses responded to the survey in USVI. Of those contacted, 89% reported that COVID-19 related factors had affected their businesses. For 72% of affected respondents, charter/for-hire fishing represented their primary source of income. One hundred percent (100%) of affected for-hire operators reported reduced revenues in the first half of 2020 in comparison to the same period in 2019, with revenue declining on average 77%. Some 31% of affected for-hire businesses reported that they reduced their number of employees and another 67% did not change the number of employees

Comparison of 2020 with first half of 2019

- 100% of affected for-hire operators reported revenue losses.
- Affected for-hire businesses reported an average revenue decrease of 58%.
- 31% of affected for-hire operators reported a reduction in crew/employees.
- On average, affected for-hire operations were operating at 39% of normal fishing activity compared to the same period in 2019.

Top three COVID-19 related factors affecting the for-hire sector:

- Lack of charter/party/for-hire clients (79%).
- Restrictions by state and local governments (74%).
- Implementing health safety measures (42%).

Ninety-four percent (94%) of affected party/charter/for-hire businesses stopped taking fishing trips for some period of time in the first half of 2020. Of these, 20% stopped taking trips for less than a month, 27% stopped taking trips from 1 to 3 months, 33% stopped taking trips for more than three months, and 20% stopped fishing indefinitely with plans to resume. We received no reports of charters going out of business.

Endnotes

1 Revenues are in 2020 dollars. Texas and Louisiana are not included in these figures as we don't have monthly or wave estimates yet for 2020.



U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Wilbur Ross

Acting Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere

Dr. Neil Jacobs

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

Chris Oliver

January 2021

www.fisheries.noaa.gov

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National Marine
Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910



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