

# NOAA's National Seafood Strategy

Outlines 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 Objectives

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

# 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.

# Objectives

- 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
- Identify priority actions for program/office strategies



# Elements of Implementation Plan

- Surveys/science and allocation for wild capture remain key activities
- Seafood Strategy to focus on industry services provided by the agency with existing resources or strengthened by leveraging partnerships
- Types of actions (ongoing, new, aspirational):
  - Economic, market, social analysis
  - Coordination with and leveraging other federal agencies, partners
  - Communication and outreach
  - Other industry services: Seafood Inspection Program (SIP) certifications, SIP assistance to USDA buying program, international trade, SK grants, Fishery Finance Program loans
  - Workforce training (e.g., Sea Grant)
- Actions by program/office
- A few place-based focus area actions (crosscutting: NMFS programs and partners)
- Document progress and deliverables

