There is no universal definition of what constitutes a fishery subsidy, nor a complete record of all types of subsidies provided to the fishing industry worldwide. Global estimates of fisheries subsidies have ranged from US$14 - US$54 billion annually over the last two decades, with each study defining and classifying subsidies slightly differently depending on the purpose of the study. Fisheries subsidies in this figure are classified into thirteen categories defined by [Sumaila et al. (2010)](http://oceana.org/sites/default/files/Bottom-Up_Re-estimation_Sumalia_2010.pdf).

The classification scheme for fisheries subsidies created by [Sumaila et al. (2010)](http://oceana.org/sites/default/files/Bottom-Up_Re-estimation_Sumalia_2010.pdf) was first used to estimate the magnitude of fisheries subsidies in 2003 US$. They define fisheries subsidies as financial transfers, direct or indirect, from public entities to the fishing sector, which help the sector to be more profitable than it would be otherwise. Fisheries subsidies are then divided into thirteen different categories, depending on the (1) policy objective, (2) description, (3) scope, coverage and duration, (4) annual US$ amount, (5) source(s) of funding; (6) administering authority, (7) recipients, and (8) mechanisms of transfer associated with the subsidy program.