

README for the U.S. IUU Import Estimate Database

This data release accompanies USITC Publication 5168, *Seafood Obtained via Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing: U.S. Imports and Economic Impact on U.S. Commercial Fisheries*, USITC investigation no. 332-575. These data were used to compile tables in chapter 3, appendix F, and other analyses throughout the report. All the data included in this release come from public sources. The data, which include estimated values and quantities of imports as well as risk characterizations, are based on the Commission's IUU Estimate approach described in detail in chapter 3 and appendix F of the report. The included variables are listed in the tables below.

Recommended citation for this dataset:

U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC). *Seafood Obtained via Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing: U.S. Imports and Economic Impact on U.S. Commercial Fisheries*. USITC Publication 5168. Washington, DC: USITC, March 2021. <https://usitc.gov/publications/332/pub5168.pdf>.

Table descriptions:

Table 1 provides estimates of U.S. imports of seafood products. U.S. imports are based on General Imports from the U.S. Department of Commerce, as maintained by the USITC ([DataWeb](#)), and were accessed on December 2, 2020. These import data include year, partner, and HTS 10-digit codes. In addition to official import data, estimated data on the original source of capture or aquaculture production, the fishing area and FAO major fishing area where harvest occurred (for marine capture products), the method, zone, and sector of fishing, the species groups that were the raw material for these seafood products, and whether these imports were IUU or non-IUU products by HTS10 and partner countries are included.

Table 1: U.S. imports of seafood products (overall, IUU, and non-IUU estimates), by partner, HTS-10 code, year, and other estimated parameters (source, fishing area, species group, type of capture or aquaculture production) (mt and \$)

Variable name	Description
year	Calendar year: 2018, 2019
partner_desc	Name of the country or territory that directly supplies U.S. imports
partner_iso2	ISO-2 of the country or territory that directly supplies U.S. imports
source_desc	Name of the country or territory engaged in capture or aquaculture production of seafood imports
source_iso2	ISO-2 of the country or territory engaged in capture or aquaculture production of seafood imports
partner_source_same	Binary indicator of whether the partner and source are the same (1) or not (0)
area_desc	Name of the fishing area or aquaculture production area where harvest occurs
area_iso2	ISO-2 of the country or territory claiming the fishing area or aquaculture production area
fao_area	FAO major fishing area (FAO major fishing area 99 refers to unknown high seas areas, all freshwater areas, or all aquaculture production areas)
species_aggregate	Aggregation of one or more species groups

species_group	A defined group of seafood products consisting of one or more individual species
hs_code_10	10-digit Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) code
processed	Binary indicator of whether a product is considered processed within the analysis (1) or unprocessed or semi-processed (0)
method	Harvest method: aquaculture, capture, unknown
zone	Harvest environment: marine, freshwater, unknown
sector	Type of fisher or producer: industrial, artisanal, inland/aquaculture, unknown
iuu_quantity	Quantity of U.S. imports of IUU seafood products in metric tons
iuu_value	Value of U.S. imports of IUU seafood products in USD
noniuu_quantity	Quantity of U.S. imports of non-IUU seafood products in metric tons
noniuu_value	Value of U.S. imports of non-IUU seafood products in USD
quantity	Quantity of total U.S. imports of seafood products in metric tons
value	Value of total U.S. imports of seafood products in USD

Tables 2 and 3 provide the fisheries and fundamental risk characterizations of global marine capture landings that were used to adjust IUU marine capture estimates, as described in the report. For all descriptions of individual risk indicators, see chapter 3 and appendix F of the report. For each risk indicator, possible entries include “low”, “moderate”, or “high” risk. In many cases, no risk entry was made.

Table 2: Fisheries risk characterizations for certain marine capture landings, by source, fishing area, species group, fishing sector

Variable name	Description
source_desc	Name of the country or territory engaged in capture or aquaculture production of seafood imports
source_iso2	ISO-2 of the country or territory engaged in capture or aquaculture production of seafood imports
area_desc	Name of the fishing area or aquaculture production area where harvest occurs
area_iso2	ISO-2 of the country or territory claiming the fishing area or aquaculture production area
fao_area	FAO major fishing area (FAO major fishing area 99 refers to unknown high seas areas, all freshwater areas, or all aquaculture production areas)
species_aggregate	Aggregation of one or more species groups
species_group	A defined group of seafood products consisting of one or more individual species
sector	Type of fisher or producer: industrial, artisanal, inland/aquaculture, unknown
fisheries_risk	Fisheries risk

Table 3: Fundamental risk characterizations and underlying risk criteria for global marine capture landings, by source and fishing area

Variable name	Description
source_desc	Name of the country or territory engaged in capture or aquaculture production of seafood imports
source_iso2	ISO-2 of the country or territory engaged in capture or aquaculture production of seafood imports
area_desc	Name of the fishing area or aquaculture production area where harvest occurs
area_iso2	ISO-2 of the country or territory claiming the fishing area or aquaculture production area
fao_area	FAO major fishing area (FAO major fishing area 99 refers to unknown high seas areas, all freshwater areas, or all aquaculture production areas)
fundamental_risk	Fundamental risk
prevalence_risk	IUU prevalence
prev_list_risk	RFMO and Interpol listing risk
prev_noaa_risk	NOAA Fisheries biennial report risk
prev_card_risk	EU carding system risk
vulnerability_risk	IUU vulnerability
vuln_foc_risk	Flag of convenience risk
vuln_port_risk	Port obscurity risk
vuln_tran_risk	Transshipment risk
vuln_dwf_source_risk	Distant-water fishing risk (source country)
vuln_dwf_area_risk	Distant-water fishing risk (fishing area)
national_governance_risk	National governance risk
fl_cl_ht_risk	Forced labor, child labor, human trafficking risk

Tables 4 and 5 are structurally identical to table 1, in that they provide estimates of U.S. imports of seafood products based on identical parameters. Tables 4 and 5 are U.S. import estimates that are based on labor risk-based adjustments that differ from those used in the main methodology. These alternative adjustments are described in appendix F. In alternative 1 (corresponding with table 4), IUU marine capture estimates as a share of reported landings were increased by 10 percent and 20 percent if FL/CL/HT risk was moderate or high, respectively. In alternative 2 (corresponding with table 5), IUU marine capture estimates as a share of reported landings were increased by 7.5 percentage points and 15.0 percentage points if FL/CL/HT risk was moderate or high, respectively.