

Where *Seafood* Consumed in Hawai'i Originates

In Hawai'i, we are fortunate to be less dependent on seafood imports than the US mainland, where about 90 percent of the seafood consumed is from foreign sources.¹

Our local commercial fisheries provide us with about 37 percent of the seafood consumed in our islands (fig. 1). If we consider our non-commercial fishery as well, we are about 51 percent sustainable in regards to seafood (fig. 2). The remainder of our fish, shellfish and edible seaweed comes from the US mainland (5 to 6 percent) and foreign imports (44 to 57 percent).²

FIGURE 1: HAWAII AVAILABLE SEAFOOD - COMMERCIAL



FIGURE 2: HAWAII AVAILABLE SEAFOOD - COMMERCIAL + NONCOMMERCIAL



In 2010 to 2014, our imported seafood came from 40 different countries (fig. 3) and included hundreds of different seafood goods.³ Other countries provided Hawai'i with a single seafood product: Argentina with squid; Guatemala, dolphinfish; Mexico, grouper; New Caledonia, shrimp; and Greece, Maldive Islands, Malta and Singapore with tuna.



Figure 3: Between 2010 and 2014, Hawai'i direct foreign imports arrived from 40 countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, China-Hong Kong, China-Taipei, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Malaysia, Maldive Islands, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Western Samoa.

In the past five years, Hawai'i has imported on average about 19 million pounds of seafood annually at a cost of about \$43.6 million each year (corrected for inflation), and the amount and value of these imports are increasing (fig. 4).

Dolphinfish is one species whose imports have been on the increase (fig. 5). In 2010-2014, Hawai'i imported dolphinfish from 17 countries: Australia, China-Taipei, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines, Tonga and Vietnam. Known in Hawai'i as mahimahi, it is a favorite with locals and tourists alike. While imported dolphinfish are often labeled as "mahimahi" or "mahi," some fishermen and industry representatives in Hawai'i believe the Hawaiian name should be used for locally landed dolphinfish only.

Another favorite local fish is 'ahi, or bigeye and yellowfin tuna. These tuna are used to prepare raw fish dishes such as sashimi and poke. At least 13 countries supply bigeye tuna to Hawai'i (fig. 6) while at least 18 countries ship yellowfin tuna to our islands (fig. 7). The countries supplying bigeye include Australia, Ecuador, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Vietnam and Western Samoa. Except for Ecuador, these same countries also provided Hawai'i with yellowfin tuna, as did China-Taipei, Costa Rica, Singapore, Thailand and Vanuatu.

However, the exact amount and value of bigeye and yellowfin imported into Hawai'i is not accurately known. This is because a significant amount of tuna and other marine fish that is shipped through customs in Honolulu is labeled as "NSPF," meaning "not specifically provided for" (figs. 8 and 9). It is also likely that foreign tuna is transshipped from West coast ports (California, Washington) to Hawai'i.

While it is unfortunate that we are unable to accurately identify all of the fish that is imported directly or indirectly into our islands, we are fortunate that the fish caught by our local commercial vessels are easily identified and are landed fresh on ice.

References
 (1) FishWatch, <http://www.fishwatch.gov/>
 (2) Luke M et al. "Seafood Consumption and Supply Sources in Hawaii, 2000-2009." *Marine Fisheries Review* 74(4): 67.
 (3) 2000 to 2014 Import Data through U.S. Customs Honolulu District, National Marine Fisheries Service Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division. (<http://www.st.erdc.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/foreign-trade/>)

Figure 4

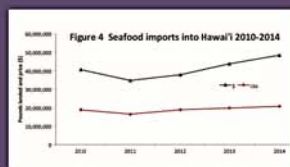


Figure 5

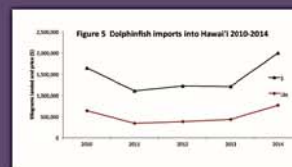


Figure 6

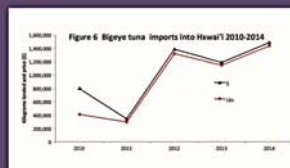


Figure 7

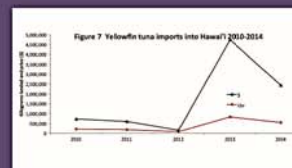


Figure 8

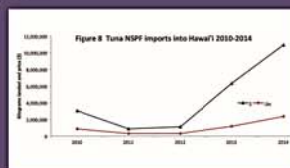


Figure 9

