**The Economics of United States Aquaculture**

**Wild Caught**

6.0 million tons

**Imported Edible Seafood**
with over half produced from aquaculture in 2019
(Quagrainie and Shambach, 2021)

50% of total seafood production (89.25 million metric tonnes) made up by global aquaculture in 2018
(Seliheimer, Wiermaa, and Jessovitch 2021)

**Sales (Billion $)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1.09 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$1.37 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$1.51 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

in total farm sales from U.S. aquaculture
(Quagrainie and Shambach, 2021)

**Number of Regulations**

- **Direct**: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50
- **Indirect**: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50
- **Total Aquaculture Regulations**: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50

**Seafood Production**

- **Capture fisheries**: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50
- **Aquaculture**: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50

- **Increase in total U.S. demand for seafood between 1990 and 2018**
  (Abaidoo, Melstrom, and Malone, 2021)

- **41% increase**

- **2,757 aquaculture restrictions in South Dakota**
- **51,668 aquaculture regulations in California**
  (Staples et al. 2021)

- **62% of consumers rank ‘safety’ as the most important attribute when purchasing seafood**
- **22% rank ‘farm raised’ as very important**
  (De Souza et al. 2021)

**Author Information**: Jessie Marshall is Undergraduate Student at Michigan State University. Trey Malone (tmalone@msu.edu) is Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, Ann Arbor, MI. Richard T. Melstrom (rmelstrom@luc.edu) is Associate Professor, Institute for Environmental Sustainability, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL.

**Acknowledgements**: The authors would like to acknowledge support from the Great Lakes Aquaculture Collaborative.

**Data Source**: Figures are developed from the articles in the Choices Special Issue on The Economics of U.S. Aquaculture.

©1999–2021 CHOICES. All rights reserved. Articles may be reproduced or electronically distributed as long as attribution to Choices and the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association is maintained. Choices subscriptions are free and can be obtained through http://www.choicesmagazine.org.