



Overfished seafood stocks hit all time record low in 2017

NOAA Fisheries has released a Status of United States Fisheries report for 2017 shows the number of stocks on the overfished list just reached a new all-time low.

The report outlines that at the end of 2017, the overfishing list included 30 stocks and the overfished list dropped to 35 stocks.

Besides, 91 per cent of the stocks are not subject to overfishing and 87 per cent are not overfished.

The document also explains that in 2017, three previously overfished stocks were rebuilt:

- Bocaccio: Southern Pacific Coast;
- Darkblotched rockfish: Pacific Coast;
- Pacific ocean perch: Pacific Coast.

“Ending overfishing and rebuilding stocks provides two key benefits for the American people. First, it strengthens the value of US fisheries’ contribution to the economy, which in 2015 exceeded USD 208 billion dollars. Second, it supports the communities and marine ecosystems that depend on healthy fisheries,” pointed out US Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Chris Oliver.

In his view, continuous monitoring and improvement of our knowledge about the status of stocks is key to ongoing sustainable fisheries management under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

NOAA reports states that while some West Coast groundfish species were split into geographic sub-stocks increasing the number of stocks assessed, 31 first-time assessments were carried out on mostly data-limited reef species.

This report continues to highlight the success that can be achieved using sound science, innovative management approaches, effective enforcement, meaningful partnerships, and robust public participation.

The report highlights that the US dynamic, science-based management process is proving successful in ending overfishing and rebuilding stocks, and in helping them attain significant benefits to the US economy.



“We look forward to exploring innovative approaches to fisheries management and working with our partners to ensure America’s fisheries remain the world’s most sustainable,” Oliver concluded.

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