

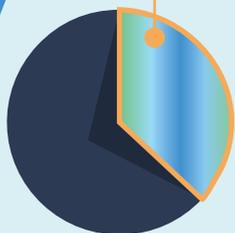


# Ocean Economy Statistics

## Tourism and Recreation Sector<sup>1</sup>



### HIGHLIGHTS (2018)



**Tourism and Recreation** is the largest sector in the U.S. marine economy, accounting for **37%** of its gross output<sup>2</sup> in 2018.

Gross Output

**\$227 Billion**

Value Added<sup>3</sup>

**\$143 Billion**

### SECTOR OVERVIEW

Tourism is the largest component of this sector with gross output equal to \$133 billion in 2018, or 58% of the Tourism and Recreation sector's gross output.

Recreational activities account for the remainder of gross output in this sector, \$95 billion or 42%. This includes a wide array of coastal and marine recreational activities:



### TRENDS

#### Tourism and Recreation & Ocean Economy Trend



The recreation component of this sector grew steadily between 2014 and 2018, with variability in the tourism component accounting for the dip in the trend line.

Gross Output Percentage Growth using 2014 as a base, without inflation adjustment

## WHAT NOAA IS DOING

Recovery of U.S. marine tourism and recreation in the wake of COVID-19 is a top priority with \$2 trillion stimulus bill providing relief to hard-hit tourism and travel industries. Some specific ways in which NOAA is restoring the public confidence in driving sector recovery include:

NOAA offers a **suite of products** to increase the safety of recreational boating, including both nautical products and small craft weather advisories.

The **National Marine Fisheries Service** provides a wide range of information and services to support sustainable recreational fishing.

“**NOAA Smart Buoys**” free smart-phone apps make it easy for recreational fishermen and boaters to get current information on wind speed, water and air temperature, wave height, and water quality at their location.

NOAA conducts and funds research to reduce the effects of **Harmful Algal Blooms** on communities that rely on recreation and tourism and to keep recreational users of our beaches safe.

**National Marine Sanctuaries** and marine national monuments provide opportunities to responsibly enjoy special places in the marine and Great Lakes environment, while also safeguarding their unique beauty, diversity and historical significance for future generations. Most national marine sanctuaries provide opportunities for families to enjoy the sport of recreational saltwater fishing and foster a sense of responsibility for America's great outdoors.

**Sea Grant** promotes the application of research to increase the quality, safety, and sustainability of coastal and marine tourism.

**Marine Protected Areas** are a valuable tool for sustaining our nation's fisheries. They allow fisheries to thrive by protecting sensitive habitats, conserving spawning areas, and restricting harmful impacts. The National Marine Protected Areas Center is the nation's hub for building innovative partnerships and tools to protect our special ocean.

NOAA's work in implementing the **Endangered Species Act** helps to provide communities with healthier ecosystems, cleaner water, and greater opportunities for recreation, both now and in the future.

**Fishing, diving, and snorkeling** on and near U.S. coral reefs add hundreds of millions of dollars to local businesses; NOAA scientists are working to monitor and preserve the health of these valuable natural resources.

**NOAA's Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grants** provide millions of dollars each year to support community-based habitat restoration projects, recognizing that habitat protection and restoration are vital to sustainable recreational fishing; habitat restoration provides a wide range of other benefits, including higher property values, lower infrastructure costs, and increased flood protection.

**NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Program and National Estuarine Research Reserve System** enhance tourism and recreation by developing coastal public access sites like boat ramps, and by protecting the resources that make coastal locations popular places for visitors.

<sup>1</sup> OESA results are presented in two ways: (1) with totals for the standard industry groups used by BEA to publish national statistics for gross domestic product and (2) with totals for activity groups that represent the major types of marine activity. The OESA tables use the term "Activity" instead of "Sector."

<sup>2</sup> Gross output is a measure of economic activity associated with the domestic production of goods and services including those that are sold both to final consumers and to other industries.

<sup>3</sup> Value Added is the contribution that this sector makes to the nation's gross domestic product and reflects the value of gross output less the value of inputs used up in the production process.