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ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING ACCOUNTS FOR MORE THAN \$2 BILLION OF U.S. SEAFOOD IMPORTS, REPORTS USITC

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ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING ACCOUNTS FOR MORE THAN \$2 BILLION OF U.S. SEAFOOD IMPORTS, REPORTS USITC

Nearly 11 percent of total U.S. seafood imports and over 13 percent of U.S. imports caught at sea in 2019 were derived from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, according to a new report by the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC).

The investigation, *Seafood Obtained via Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing: U.S. Imports and Economic Impact on U.S. Commercial Fisheries*

(<https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/pub5168.pdf>), was requested by the House Committee on Ways and Means in a letter

(https://usitc.gov/sites/default/files/research_and_analysis/u.s._fisheries_request_letter_12_20_ received on December 19, 2019).

As requested, the USITC, an independent, nonpartisan, factfinding federal agency, reported on the size, scope, supply chains, pricing pressures, and potential economic effects of U.S. imports of IUU seafood products. The USITC findings include:

- The United States imported an estimated \$2.4 billion worth of seafood derived from IUU fishing in 2019. This figure represents nearly 11 percent of total U.S. seafood imports, and over 13 percent of U.S. imports caught at sea (“marine capture”).
- Among the major categories of marine-capture IUU imports were imports of swimming crab, wild-caught warmwater shrimp, yellowfin tuna, and squid.
- China, Russia, Mexico, Vietnam, and Indonesia were relatively substantial exporters of marine-capture IUU imports to the United States.
- The removal of IUU imports from the U.S. market would have a positive effect on U.S. commercial fishers, with estimated increases in U.S. prices, landings (catches of fish), and operating income.

Seafood Obtained via Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing: U.S. Imports and Economic Impact on U.S. Commercial Fisheries (Investigation No. 332-575, USITC Publication 5168, February 2021) is available on the USITC's Internet site at <https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/pub5168.pdf> (<https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/pub5168.pdf>).

USITC general factfinding investigations, such as this one, cover matters related to tariffs or trade and are generally conducted at the request of the U.S. Trade Representative, the House Committee on Ways and Means, or the Senate Committee on Finance. The resulting report conveys the Commission's objective findings and independent analyses on the subjects investigated. The Commission makes no recommendations on policy or other matters in its general factfinding reports. Upon completion of each investigation, the USITC submits its findings and analyses to the requester. General factfinding investigation reports are subsequently released to the public, unless they are classified by the requester for national security reasons.

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