

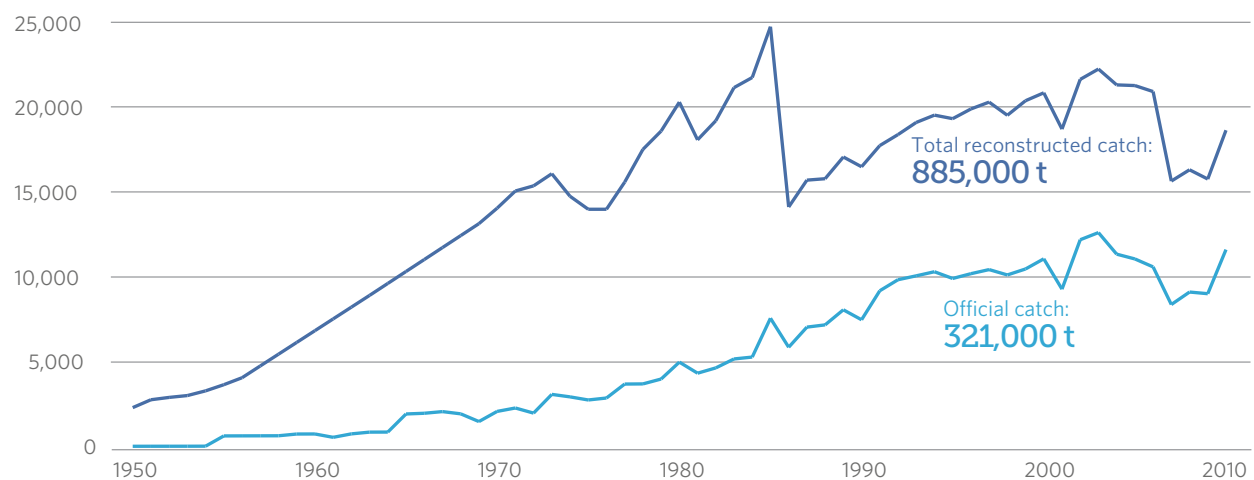
Bahamas Catch Reconstruction

Overview

Tourism is the main industry in The Bahamas, but official fisheries data cover only commercial fishing. "Catch reconstruction" is an approach that supplements official data with information from a broad range of sources. This fact sheet presents results and methods from a catch reconstruction study of The Bahamas (Smith and Zeller, 2013).



Reconstructed Fisheries Catch of the Bahamas, in Metric Tons (t) 1950-2010



Note: Figures are rounded.

Reconstructed Catch by Category, in Metric Tons (t) 1950-2010



Source: The *Sea Around Us* project
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Data Sources for Reconstructed Catch by Category, in Metric Tons 1950-2010

Type of fishing	Catch	Data sources
Recreational	490,000	Researchers collected data on the number of tourist fishers from government surveys and multiplied them by 80 percent of the catch limit for visitors to obtain catch estimates. For 1950 to 1985, the period before the limits, they assumed catch was twice the 1986 limit. For residents of The Bahamas, officials estimated frequency of recreational trips and catch per trip.
Commercial	361,000	Government experts estimated catch at landing sites not covered by official statistics. Data are less reliable prior to 1970, so researchers extrapolated catch from human population data and the per-capita commercial catch rate for 1970 to 1975.
Subsistence	33,000	Officials made conservative estimates of per-capita consumption in each group of islands in The Bahamas. Researchers assumed subsistence consumption declined linearly by half from 1980 to 2010 and multiplied the resulting consumption rates by population data to obtain subsistence catch rates for each year.
Tourism catch data		
Tourism		Researchers did a separate analysis for tourism-driven catch. They added the non-resident recreational catch to an estimate of tourist consumption of commercial seafood, which was based on a survey they conducted of hotels. They estimated a tourism-driven catch of 662,000 metric tons, 75 percent of the total catch for The Bahamas.

References: Smith, N.S. and Zeller, D. 2013. "Bahamas Catch Reconstruction: Fisheries Trends in a Tourism-Driven Economy (1950-2010)." Fisheries Centre Working Paper #2013 - 08. Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia, Canada.

Source: The *Sea Around Us* project

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SEA AROUND US PROJECT
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