USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution **Date:** February 22, 2023

Report Number: CH2023-0027

Report Name: 2022 China Fishery Products Annual

Country: China - People's Republic of

Post: Beijing

Report Category: Fishery Products

Prepared By: FAS China Staff

Approved By: Garrett Mcdonald

Report Highlights:

China remained the world's largest seafood producer in 2022, with production expected to reach 67.5 million metric tons (MMT), up from the 66.9 MMT in 2021. Production growth continues to be driven by aquaculture which is expected to increase 1.2 percent year-on-year to reach 54.6 MMT in 2022. During the same period, wild-catch output is expected to decline slightly to 12.9 MMT from the 13 MMT in 2021 due to fewer resources and greater restrictions in both domestic and international waters. Seafood imports surged in 2022 to 4.1 MMT, up 22 percent from the previous year, on strong demand for high-value products including frozen fish, fish fillets and crustaceans. Seafood exports in 2022 were stable at 3.5 MMT, nearly unchanged from the previous year. The end of zero-COVID measures in December 2022 is expected to ease burdens and costs across the seafood industry, which often bore the brunt of policies targeting cold chain products.

Executive Summary:

The People's Republic of China (PRC) remained the world's largest seafood producer in 2022, with production estimated at 67.5 MMT, up from 66.9 MMT in 2021. Production growth continues to be driven by aquaculture production – estimated at 54.6 MMT in 2022, an increase 1.2 percent. Estimated wild-caught production declined slightly to 12.9 MMT from the 13 MMT in 2021 - due to fewer resources and greater restrictions in both domestic and international waters.

Seafood imports surged in 2022 to 4.1 MMT valued at U.S. $18.7 billion, up 22 percent and 35 percent, respectively, from the previous year. The increases were led by higher volumes and prices for high-value products - including frozen fish, fish fillets and crustaceans. Though still shy of the record of 4.4 MMT imported in 2019, the increase marks a significant rebound from the relatively low 3.4 MMT imported in 2021. The uptick is likely the result of a combination of factors including greater demand for ready-to-cook and prepared foods for home and restaurant use, strong demand for high-end seafood products, challenges in live seafood sales due to COVID restrictions and increased online sales, and marginally higher pork prices during the second half of 2022.

Seafood exports in 2022 were stable with volumes nearly unchanged and a modest 4 percent increase in value from the previous year. However, volumes remained considerably lower than 2019, the last full pre-pandemic year. The PRC primarily exports processed seafood products and maintains a diverse set of export markets. In 2022, Japan was the largest export destination, followed by the United States and Thailand. In 2022, exports to the United States increased 5.4 percent in value but declined 4.6 percent in volume from the previous year.

In December 2022, the PRC ended most restrictions put in place under its zero-COVID policy, including testing and disinfection of imported cold chain products. These disproportionately affected imported seafood. Although the PRC enters 2023 with a weakened economy, many industry sources expect demand for seafood to increase significantly in 2023. Normal activities, including travel and large events and gatherings that had been restricted for much of 2021 and 2022 are returning. The increase in demand will have implications across the industry and beyond, including the PRC's aquaculture feed consumption, intensification of aquaculture, enforcement of measures intended to control wild-caught production, and the PRC adoption of the recent WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement.

Notes:

This report uses Chinese terminology to maintain consistency between Chinese statistics and product categories. Total seafood trade statistics in this report do not include fishmeal.

Official PRC data on seafood production is typically published between May-July in the year following the calendar year data set period. Thus, the 2022 Fisheries Statistics Report contains full year data for 2021. Full year data for 2022 is not expected to be available until the second half of 2023.

Definitions:

Seafood products: Includes wild caught and aquaculture products from marine and freshwater sources, including oceans, rivers, lakes, and ponds. Also, includes both animal and plant products.

Seafood catch production: Total volume of wild caught seafood products from freshwater and marine sources.

Aquaculture production: Total volume of farmed seafood products from freshwater and marine sources.

Pre-prepared food: A term describing any number of food products that are processed to a stage short of ready-to-eat for the purpose of easy preparation.

I. Production

Driven by steady demand and a modest expansion of aquaculture production, China's 2022 seafood production is estimated at 67.5 MMT, up from the 66.9 MMT the previous year. Aquaculture production is estimated at 54.6 MMT, up from 53.9 MMT in 2021. Estimated ocean and freshwater wild-caught seafood production decline slightly to 12.9 MMT from 2021. Following a period of limited growth from 2017 – 2019 (see Table 1), China's aquaculture sector has expanded since the onset of the pandemic in early 2020. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) said total seafood production reached 45.2 MMT in the first 3 quarters of 2022, up 3.9 percent year-on-year; however, official reports did not provide a breakdown between aquaculture and wild caught production. Post forecasts estimates that total aquaculture production increased 1.2 percent to 54.6 MMT in 2022.

Table 1. China: Seafood Production (Unit: MMT)

Category/Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Total Seafood Production	64.45	64.58	64.80	65.49	66.90	67.5
-Total Aquaculture Production	49.06	49.91	50.79	52.24	53.94	54.6
--- Ocean	20.01	20.31	20.65	21.35	22.11	
--- Freshwater	29.05	29.60	30.14	30.89	31.83	
-Total Wild Caught Production	15.39	14.26	14.01	13.25	12.96	12.9
--- Ocean	13.21	12.70	12.2	11.79	11.76	
--- Freshwater	2.18	1.96	1.84	1.46	1.20	

Source: 2021 China Fishery Statistics Report; *Data for 2022 are FAS/Beijing estimates

A. Wild Caught Seafood

Wild-caught seafood production in domestic waters is constrained by deteriorating fishery resources in lakes and rivers. Central, provincial, and local PRC authorities have largely maintained, and in some cases expanded, coastal and freshwater seasonal fishing bans. On January 1, 2021, MARA enacted a 10-year fishing ban covering all natural waterways of the Yangtze River and its major tributaries. The ban, combined with previous bans (see the 2020 Fishery Report and 2021 Fishery Report) has lowered overall wild-caught production.

Official PRC data suggests marine fishing has declined in recent past years due to fewer resources, reduced fishing fleets, and tighter regulations. The scale of China's marine fishing industry, including its Distant Water Fishing (DWF) fleet, is a subject of considerable debate.

On November 21, 2020, MARA published a "White Paper on China's Distant Ocean Fishing," which noted updated regulations on "The Administration of Distant Ocean Fisheries" were to be fully enforced on April 1, 2021. Compared to the original regulations issued in 2013, the updated version contains additional measures consistent with international practices, such as bans on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) vessels and IUU activities. The White Paper also established a distant ocean fishing data collecting and reporting system; promoted and optimized distant ocean fishing logs; and promoted and optimized procedures for dispatching national observers to fishing vessels. However, a lack of transparency in how such systems operate and their data collection methods makes it difficult for outside observers to assess the extent to which these measures are enforced. The paper also stated the PRC had

reduced its DWF to 2,701 vessels (1,589 of which were operating in international marine waters) by the end of 2019, reaching a previously set target of less than 3,000 by the end of 2020. However, official data on the current operating size of the DWF is not available and many foreign funded NGOs continue to assess that the PRC maintains the largest DWF in the world, masking the true size through vessel registrations in third countries, predominantly in Africa.

An official "zero growth" policy implemented by MARA aims to limit the PRC's domestic ocean catch to less than 10 MMT. MARA reports wild-caught volume from domestic ocean waters in 2021 was 9.5 MMT, down from the previous year's 10 MMT. MARA reported an additional 2.3 MMT of volume produced outside domestic ocean water, a 3 percent decline from 2020 and 1.2 MMT of wild-caught freshwater catch in 2021, down from the 1.5 MMT in 2020. The declining trend of wild caught production is expected to continue when official data for 2022 is released.

B. Aquaculture

Estimated aquaculture production increased 1.2 percent to 54.6 MMT in 2022 from the previous year. The PRC was the world's top aquaculture producer in 2021 with an output of nearly 54 MMT, up 3.3 percent from the previous year. The growth was aided by increased production efficiency through intensification and industrialization, lower supplies of wild-caught seafood, and increased demand for pre-prepared seafood in the retail and HRI sectors. Although official data on aquaculture production in 2022 has yet to be published, preliminary feed data suggests continuing growth. In 2022, aquaculture feed production was 25.2 MMT, up 10.2 percent year-on-year - indicating higher production and greater use of compound feed. Notably, industry estimates of annual aquaculture feed exceed official estimates, with some sources suggesting annual aquaculture feed reaching 35 MMT. A portion of the feed used in aquaculture production is not compound feed and is therefore not captured in these numbers.

Aquaculture production increased in 2021 despite continued reductions in area. As reflected in Table 2, aquaculture area has fallen since 2017 when the enforcement of environmental regulations was strengthened. Restrictions on freshwater aquaculture farming in reservoirs and large lakes, rules on cultivating certain fish species, and higher rental use rates for water resources have constrained industry growth. It is worth noting ocean aquaculture area grew moderately, partly offsetting the freshwater area decline. The release of the 2023 "No. 1 Document" (link in Chinese), a policy document providing broad guidance for resource allocation and development goals in the PRC's agricultural sector, highlighted the need to expand both freshwater and marine aquaculture. A theme reflected in MARA's stated policy of raising production efficiency of existing aquaculture and increasing demonstration projects for companies/areas focused on sustainable aquaculture farming. MARA indicated 2022 total demonstration water area reached 1.2 MHa with capacity to supply over 6 MMT of seafood products. MARA has not published clear guidance on the methods, metrics, and outcomes of these programs.

Table 2. China: Aquaculture Area (Unit: hectares)

Year	Ocean	Freshwater	Total
2018	2,043,069	5,146,455	7,189,524
2019	1,992,177	5,116,320	7,108,497
2020	1,995,550	5,040,556	7,036,106
2021	2,025,510	4,983,870	7,009,380
2020-2021 change	+1.5%	-1.12%	-0.38%
2019-2020 change	+0.17%	-1.48%	-1.02%
2019-2018 change	-2.49%	-0.59%	-1.13%

Source: 2022 China Fishery Statistics Report

Aquaculture will continue to be the PRC's major means to increase domestic seafood supply. Consumer demand for high-quality seafood and changes in consumption patterns towards more processed and pre-prepared seafood are expected to continue driving growth in the industry. At the PRC's 2022 Ag Outlook Forum, aquaculture production was forecast to grow at 1.1 percent yearly from 2022 to 2031 with total production reaching 71.3 MMT.

Aquaculture Products (Marine-Based and Freshwater Products)

Fish

Fish accounted for 52.4 percent of aquaculture production in 2021. Total fish production in 2021 increased 2.3 percent year-on-year to 28.25 MMT - comprised of freshwater and marine production of 26.4 and 1.8 MMT, respectively. This trend is expected to continue in 2022.

Table 3. China: Seafood Production by Category (1,000 metric tons)

Category/Year	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
Aquaculture products	**49,911**	**50,791**	**52,242**	**53,944**
--Fish	26,938	27,086	27,613	28,247
--Shrimp, Prawn, and Crab	5,141	5,674	6,032	6,439
--Shellfish	14,635	14,579	14,987	15,457
--Algae	2,351	2,544	2,621	2,723
--Other	846	907	987	1,079
Wild catch products	**14,666**	**14,013**	**13,249**	**12,960**

Source: 2022 China Fishery Statistics Report. Note: the 2022 report contains data through 2021.

Five species of carp (grass carp, bighead carp, silver carp, cyprinoid carp, and crucian carp) remain the most popular aquaculture freshwater fish with combined production of 18.4 MMT in 2021, up 1.3 percent from 2020. Carp demand remains strong due to its price advantage and availability, with production occurring in ponds, lakes, and reservoirs in nearly every province.

The PRC is also the world's largest tilapia producer, producing 1.7 MMT in 2021, almost unchanged from the previous year. Although official data are not available yet, tilapia production in 2022 is expected to be stagnant due to lower export demand (see Chart 2 in the import section of this report).

Additionally, competition in the form of increasing imports of lower-priced Vietnamese Basa fish is also expected to limit tilapia production growth.

From 2020, Chinese industry associations and large tilapia-producing provinces such as Hainan boosted promotion of tilapia products in the domestic market, including online and restaurant promotions with various processed products. Guangdong, Hainan, Guangxi, Yunnan, and Fujian are China's top tilapia-producing provinces, accounting for 97.3 percent of total tilapia production in 2021.

Catfish production continued to grow rapidly in 2021, with production at 363,344 MT, up 15 percent from the previous year on steady growth in domestic consumption. Sichuan, Hunan, Hubei, Guangdong, and Henan provinces continue to lead production, accounting for 77.7 percent of total production. Official production numbers for 2022 are not available but industry sources expect catfish production maintained moderate growth.

Crustaceans

The PRC's 2021 crustacean production reached 6.4 MMT, up from 6.0 MMT in 2020. Marine-based crustacean production was 1.9 MMT, up from 1.8 MMT, while freshwater production was 4.6 MMT, up from the 4.3 MMT in 2020. Aquaculture crustacean production is expected to increase moderately 2022 on stronger domestic demand, particularly from high-end consumers. Likewise, driven by strong domestic demand and abundant resources such as paddy fields and ponds, crawfish production reached 2.63 MMT in 2021, up 10 percent from the previous year. The southern provinces of Hubei, Anhui, Hunan, Jiangsu and Jiangxi account for 92 percent of crawfish production .

China is the largest aquaculture shrimp (Penaeus vannamei) producer globally, producing nearly 2 MMT in 2021, up from the 1.9 MMT in 2020. Although official production data is not yet available, strong domestic demand for shrimp likely led to growth in 2022.

Shellfish

In 2021, total shellfish production was 15.5 MMT, up from 15 MMT in 2020. Shellfish production in 2022 is expected to be stable due to government restrictions on expanding marine production area. Shandong, Fujian, Liaoning, Guangdong, Zhejiang, and Guangxi are the top six marine-based cultured shellfish production provinces in China, accounting for 90 percent of total production in 2021.

Seafood Production by Province

In 2021, China's top seafood-producing provinces were Guangdong, Shandong, and Fujian, due to favorable coastal locations, abundant freshwater resources, and established production facilities. The leading freshwater aquaculture producers were Hubei, Guangdong, and Jiangsu provinces.

Table 4. China: Top Seafood Producing Provinces in 2021 (Unit: 1,000 metric tons)

Province	Total production	Aquaculture production	Wild-caught production
Guangdong	8,845	7,568	1,277
Shandong	8,544	6,419	2,125
Fujian	8,531	6,321	2,209
Zhejiang	5,990	2,657	3,333
Jiangsu	4,938	4,335	603
Hubei	4,832	4,806	26
Liaoning	4,824	4,066	758
Guangxi	3,548	2,964	583
Other	16,851	14,858	2,044
Total	**66,903**	**53,994**	**12,958**

Source: 2022 China Fishery Statistics Yearbook

C. Seafood Processing

According to MARA, processed seafood production was 21.3 MMT in 2021, up from the 20.9 MMT in 2020. In 2021, total seafood sent for processing was 25.2 MMT, up 1.8 percent year-on-year, of which 19.5 MMT were ocean products, accounting for 77.3 percent, and 5.7 MMT were freshwater products. Although many Chinese consumers still prefer live seafood products, freshwater aquatic products are increasingly processed as pre-prepared products for commercial or home consumption to meet demand from consumers who no longer have time to shop for or prepare live seafood.

There were 9,202 seafood processing facilities in operation in the PRC as of the end of 2021, up from 9,136 in 2020, with a total processing capacity of 28.9 MMT. The PRC continues to be the world's processing hub for mackerel, salmon, cod, and herring. Leading seafood processing provinces - Shandong, Fujian, Liaoning, Zhejiang, and Guangdong—produced 16.1 MMT of processed seafood in 2021 or 76 percent of the nation's total. In addition to being major seafood producers, these provinces host many foreign-owned processing facilities and are also equipped with ports and cold storage facilities for importing, processing, and re-exporting seafood.

The PRC’s processing sector has yet to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels. Many companies faced challenges related to securing products, staff shortages due to lockdowns, higher operating costs from testing and preventative measures, and supply chain disruptions.

II. Consumption

The PRC leads the world in seafood consumption, and Chinese consumers have an increasing preference for high-quality, value-added seafood products. Per capita seafood consumption remained strong in 2021, partly a result of increased demand due to high pork prices in the first half of the year.

Table 5. China: Protein Consumption Trends (Unit: kilograms)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Per Capita Consumption of Seafood Products					
Urban	14.8	14.3	16.7	16.6	16.7
Rural	7.4	7.8	9.6	10.3	10.9
Per Capita Consumption of Pork, Beef, Poultry, and Mutton					
Urban	38.9	41	40.1	40.4	46.7
Rural	31.5	35.5	34.7	33.8	43.3

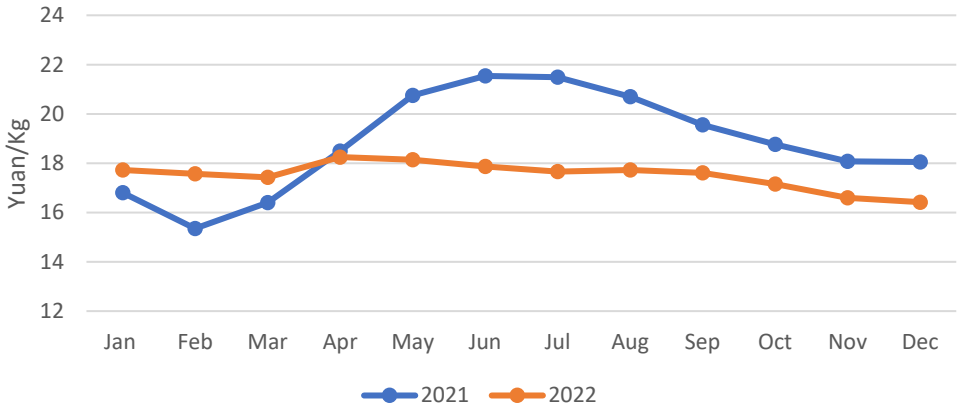
Source: 2022 China Statistical Yearbook

Consumption of seafood products is highest in coastal regions, where seafood products have been a traditional source of protein and where populations have relatively higher levels of disposable income.

Consumers prefer live/fresh seafood to frozen or processed products, and domestic consumption of processed seafood products is small compared to overall seafood consumption. However, frozen and processed seafood consumption is increasing steadily due to improvements in processing, distribution, and cold chain systems, the increasing popularity of high-end supermarkets, and consumer interest in a more diversified and nutritious diet featuring seafood. Industry contacts also note that growing awareness about potential food safety risks associated with live seafood is shifting some consumers towards frozen and other processed fishery products.

According to MARA, prices for major aquaculture products remained relatively lower in 2022. The average wholesale price for 4 varieties of carp declined from July 2021 and remained stable throughout much of 2022.

Chart 1. China: Carp Price Remained Declining Trend with Adequate Supply



Source: MARA; Note: Exchange rate 1 Yuan = about U.S.$ 7 in 2022

E-commerce

Booming e-commerce trade has contributed to domestic seafood consumption. The most popular aquatic products for e-commerce were fresh and frozen shrimp, ready-to-eat seafood products, and fresh and frozen fish products. Although an updated report covering 2022 is unavailable, it is believed COVID-19 and its related control measures accelerated this change in consumers' purchasing behavior from buying fresh and live at wet markets to purchasing fresh and frozen from e-commerce channels to limit contact with others. Industry contacts expect much of this demand will remain following the end of zero-COVID as consumers, particularly younger consumers with disposable income, prefer the convenience and time saved by ordering online.

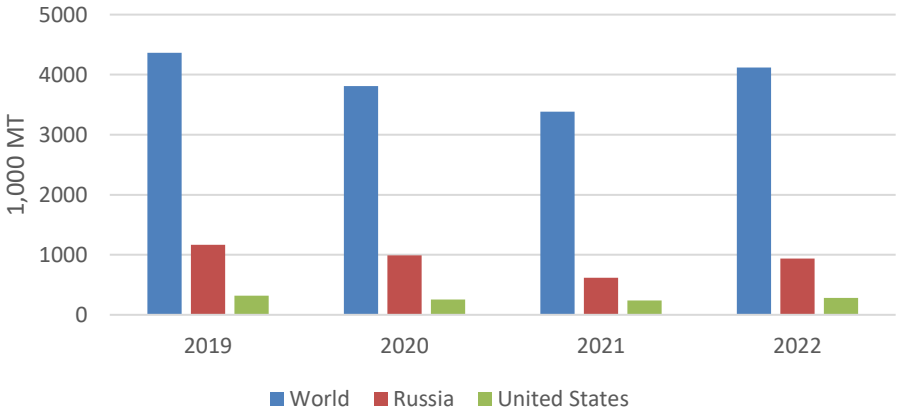
III. Trade

A. Imports

Seafood imports recovered in 2022, mainly due to increased domestic consumption and weak overseas demand. Despite COVID-19 related restrictions, China's seafood imports hit 4.1 MMT and U.S. $18.7 billion in 2022, up 22 percent by volume and 35 percent in value from the previous year; led by higher volumes of higher prices fish fillets and crustaceans. Though still shy of the record of 4.4 MMT imported in 2019, imports have rebounded from the relatively low 3.4 MMT imported in 2021. The uptick in imports is likely the result of a combination of factors including higher pork prices and increased consumption and preference for seafoods by consumers along with improved income.

Seafood imports from the United States showed a 17 percent year-on-year growth in value and volume in 2022, however, still 13 percent lower in volume than the pre-COVID 2019. In 2022, Russia remained China's largest seafood supplier by volume at nearly 1.0 MMT, followed by Ecuador at 0.6 MMT, Vietnam at 0.5 MMT, India at 0.3 MMT and the United States at just under 0.3 MMT.

Chart 2. China: Seafood Imports Recovered in 2022

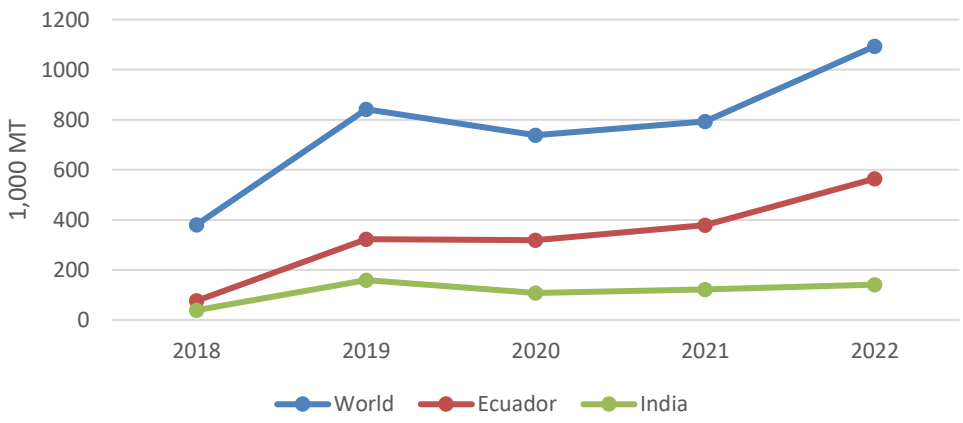


Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

In 2022, frozen fish accounted for most of the Chinese import market, with nearly 2.1 MMT. Crustacean imports were 1.1 MMT and mollusk imports were 0.5 MMT. China's imports of frozen fish (HS Code 0303) and fish fillet (HS Code 0304) increased by 28 percent and 58 percent by volume in 2022, respectively, from the previous year. Industry sources note the higher demand is mostly driven by high end consumers in a handful of metropolitan areas (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou). Despite the rapid growth, imports have yet to return to 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

Imports of crustaceans (HS Code 0306) in 2022 surged 38 percent in volume from relatively low levels in 2021. As with imports of fish and fish fillets, high end consumers with disposable income accounted for the rapid increase in imports, though lower prices (price averaged U.S. $8,500/MT from 2019 through 2022 as compared to the U.S.$11,400/MT from 2017-2018) may have aided overall consumption. Ecuador, India, and Canada remained top suppliers of crustaceans to China in 2022.

Chart 3. China: Imports of Crustaceans Surged in 2022



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

In 2022, imports of salmon recovered quickly with total imports of 201,395 MT, up 39 percent year-on-year. This was still much lower than the record imports of 248,000 MT in 2019. Imports from the United States exceeded 54,000 MT, 26 percent higher than the previous year. Despite increasing demand by Chinese consumers, salmon imports were severely affected by COVID related entry inspections.

Imports of lower-priced Vietnamese Basa fish increased rapidly. China's imports of Basa fillet surged 67 percent to 228,000 MT in 2022 from the low imports at 136,000 MT in 2021 and slightly lower than the record imports at 239,000 MT in 2020. Chinese consumers increasingly add this affordable fillet in their diet both at home and dining-out.

The northern ports of Qingdao and Dalian are the two primary arrival ports for seafood.

PRC – Ecuador Free Trade Agreement

In January 2023, news sources reported that the PRC and Ecuador had concluded negotiations for a free trade agreement. Although Ecuador is a major supplier of seafood, particularly shrimp, to China, the new agreement is unlikely to provide much benefit in terms of seafood tariffs. The PRC already assesses a 2% duty on most of the products exported by the South American nation. Details of the final agreement have not yet been published.

Exports

The PRC primarily exports processed seafood products. Seafood exports by volume in 2022 remained stable at 3.5 MMT; however, value increased by 4 percent on generally higher prices. Exports remain below the pre-pandemic period when volumes exceeded 4 MMT annually. The slow rebound in exports underscores operational challenges related to zero-COVID and weaker overseas demand.

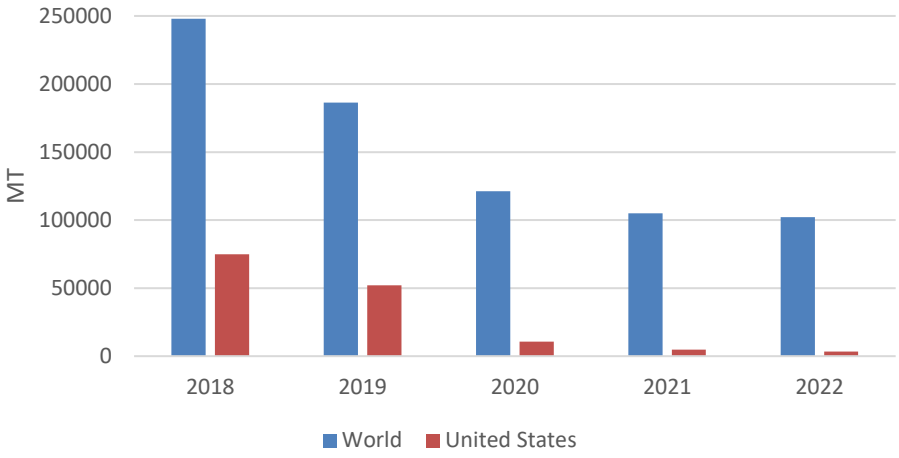
In 2022, Japan remained the PRC's largest seafood product export destination, followed by the United States and Thailand. Exports to the United States increased 5.5 percent in value but declined 4.6 percent in volume from the previous year. A 14 percent decline of prepared and preserved fish (HS Code 1604) and 21 percent fall of crustaceans/mollusks (HS Code 1605) exports to the United States more offset the 21 percent year-on-year increase of fish fillet (HS Code 0304) exports.

In 2022, exports of fish fillet (HS Code 0304) recovered in volume and value, up 14 percent and 29 percent, respectively, from the previous year, though volumes remained 19 percent below 2019 levels. Fish fillet exports are expected to recover further in 2023, following the removal of COVID restrictions and improved efficiency and competitiveness in processing. Exports of crustaceans (HS Code 0306) decreased 26 percent in volume due to strong domestic demand.

The United States, which accounted for 64 percent of 14,700 MT of China's catfish exports in 2021, remained the top market for China's catfish products in 2022 with 69 percent of the 9,486 MT exported destined for the U.S. market (see below section on *Siluriformes*).

China's exports of tilapia products continue to face competition from lower-priced Vietnamese Basa fish in international markets. Increased domestic demand for tilapia products also bid some supply away from exporters. In 2022, China's total exports of tilapia products were 102,000 MT, significantly lower than an average yearly volume of 216,000 MT from 2018 to 2019. Tilapia exports to the United States dropped significantly to 3,400 MT in 2022 from the average 63,000 MT in 2018 to 2019 despite a U.S. Section 301 tariff exclusion issued on March 26, 2020, for imports of frozen tilapia under HS code 0304.61.000. For additional information please see the U.S. Trade Representative "China Section 301-Tariff Actions and Exclusion Process" or contact the Section 301 Hotline at (202) 395-5725.

Chart 4. China: Exports of Tilapia Products (2018-2022)



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

China's exports of crawfish products in the first 10 months of 2022 remained low at about 8,000 MT, 8 percent lower compared to the previous year, mainly due to robust local demand and lower global demand due to COVID-19.

IV. Policy

WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

On June 17, 2022, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, was adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12). The agreement, which was supported by all 164 WTO members, is a major step forward in reducing fisheries subsidies, a key factor in the widespread depletion of the world's fish stocks. In January 2023, PRC officials from the Ministry of Commerce said they expect to approve the agreement this year, marking a major policy shift for a country believed to be one of the largest providers of fisheries subsidies. The PRC's experts believe the Agreement contributes to the realization of the goal of "conservation and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources for sustainable development" of the United Nations 2030 sustainable development agenda. Industry sources have generally supported the agreement, suggesting it may provide for more stable and sustainable development of China's marine fishing industry.

COVID-19 Findings on Imported Seafood

On December 28, 2022, GACC published "Announcement No. 131 of 2022." The Announcement states that PRC-required testing and disinfection measures for the coronavirus applied to imported cold-chain foods and non-cold chain goods will end on January 8, 2023. The removal of testing and disinfection measures on all imported cold chain products is expected to facilitate higher seafood imports in 2023, including those products destined for processing and re-export.

Market Access for U.S. Seafood Species

The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is responsible for market access for U.S. seafood species to China. In February 2020, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) approved the import of 26 aquatic species referenced in the U.S-China Economic and Trade Agreement from the United States. A list of U.S. seafood species approved for import to China is available on the GACC website.

GACC also published a list of live aquatic animals by countries/regions approved for import into China. Traders are recommended to check the market access status for specific seafood specie before exportation.

Registration for Exporters of Seafood/Aquatic Animals to China

The GACC Import and Export Food Safety Bureau updates and publishes Registration Information of Overseas Food Manufacturers of Imported Food, which contains the U.S. seafood exporting facilities registered with GACC.

The Department for Supervision of Inspection and Quarantine of Animals and Plants of GACC is responsible for the registration of overseas suppliers of live aquatic animals. The Department maintains 3 Lists of Registered U.S. Exporters for Exports of Aquatic Animals (including Edible Live Aquatic Animals, Breeding Stock and Ornamental Aquatic Animals) to China. U.S. Exporters are recommended to check this link for their registration status prior to exporting products to China.

Draft Revised Fishery Law

In August 2019, MARA released a revised Draft Fishery Law for public comment. It is an update of the existing Fishery Law from 2013. The update places greater emphasis on environmental protection in the aquaculture sector, disease prevention, and the control and the use of inputs. In October 2022, China's Ministry of Justice held an expert meeting to review and solicit comments on the draft. MARA has not yet notified a draft of the law to the WTO.

Veterinary Drug Use and Maximum Residue Limits

China has increased government oversight of veterinary drug use in aquaculture production. On October 12, 2019, China issued the National Food Safety Standards - Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs in Foods" (GB 13650-2019), which entered into force on April 1, 2020. The measure establishes veterinary drug MRL standards for over 20 veterinary drugs in fish (skin and meat).

Chinese Exports of *Siluriformes* to the United States

In November 2019, FSIS listed the PRC as eligible to export *Siluriformes* fish and fish products to the United States. Only raw *Siluriformes* fish and fish products produced in FSIS-eligible Chinese establishments are eligible for export to the United States. The list of eligible facilities is available on the FSIS website.

VAT and Import Duties for Domestically Consumed Seafood Imports

Imported seafood processed and sold in China for domestic consumption is subject to tariffs ranging from 7 to 14 percent. In recent years, the PRC has enacted a provisional lower tariff rate of between 2 and 5 percent for some products. Tariff rates, MFN rates, and provisional special tariff rates are listed on the Ministry of Finance website at 2022 Customs Import and Export Tariff.

For information on the additional Chinese tariffs on U.S. fishery products, see the February 2020 USDA GAIN report China Announces Reductions in Certain Additional Tariffs.

U.S. seafood exporters are advised to consult with their importers regarding the tariff and VAT rates for specific seafood species. Chinese importers may apply for exclusions from the additional tariffs on U.S. products. For more information about the tariff exclusion process, see GAIN report CH2020-0017.

Trade Tables

Table 6. China: Imports of Seafood Products by Category (Unit: Metric Tons)

HS Code		2019	2020	2021	2022
	Total	4,366,525	3,808,566	3,382,952	4,123,163
0302	Fish, Fresh	104,783	64,704	77,824	64,567
0303	Fish, Frozen	2,527,562	2,196,526	1,615,175	2,064,990
0304	Fish, Fillet	278,312	276,465	166,775	263,581
0305	Fish, Dried, Salted, Brined	46,764	69,195	42,919	80,898
0306	Crustaceans	842,282	738,593	793,747	1,094,806
0307	Mollusks & Other	494,444	401,150	612,986	499,639
1604	Prepared or Packaged Fish and Caviar	29,895	34,765	25,793	21,912
1605	Prepared or Packaged Crustaceans and Mollusks	42,538	27,168	47,732	32,769

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Table 7. China: Imports of Seafood Products by Category (Unit: Million USD)

HS Code		2019	2020	2021	2022
	Total	15,436	12,430	13,835	18,705
0302	Fish, Fresh	792	421	713	852
0303	Fish, Frozen	4,935	3,917	3,510	5,105
0304	Fish Fillets	650	527	396	745
0305	Fish, Dried, Salted, Brined	123	172	130	261
0306	Crustaceans	7,037	5,912	6,974	9,570
0307	Mollusks & other	1,559	1,185	1,769	1,824
1604	Prepared or Packaged Fish and Caviar	144	163	137	115
1605	Prepared or Packaged Crustaceans and Mollusks	196	136	206	234

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Table 8. China: Imports of Seafood Products by Country of Origin (Unit: Million USD)

Country/Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
World	15,437	12,432	13,835	18,705
Ecuador	1,900	1,720	2,187	3,562
Russia	2,185	1,840	1,861	2,762
Canada	1,113	822	1,063	1,209
United States	914	778	976	1,138
India	1,232	841	961	1,264
Norway	689	505	726	914
Vietnam	989	1,066	717	1,680
Indonesia	609	654	685	761
New Zealand	481	430	465	498
Thailand	476	390	414	424
Japan	355	247	401	546
Peru	303	148	321	190
Malaysia	195	227	255	222
Greenland	273	260	238	366

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Table 9. China: Exports of Seafood products by Category (Unit: Metric Tons)

HS Code		2019	2020	2021	2022
	Total	4,023,545	3,571,725	3,562,061	3,519,752
0302	Fish, Fresh	24,550	33,219	35,712	44,102
0303	Fish, Frozen	1,151,718	891,155	707,684	677,991
0304	Fish, Fillet	892,306	695,742	638,877	726,041
0305	Fish, Dried, Salted, Brined	84,232	64,002	55,093	61,568
0306	Crustaceans	117,283	115,517	119,889	88,211
0307	Mollusks and Other	510,016	454,310	509,813	510,016
1604	Prepared or Packaged Fish and Caviar	868,826	976,965	1,057,605	961,693
1605	Prepared or Packaged Crustaceans and Mollusks	374,613	340,834	437,388	450,123

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Table 10. China: Exports of Seafood Products by Category (Unit: Million USD)

HS Code		2019	2020	2021	2022
	Total	19,224	17,621	20,286	21,179
0302	Fish, Fresh	163	207	248	334
0303	Fish, Frozen	2,852	2,377	2,363	2,263
0304	Fish, Fillet	4,291	3,345	3,163	4,078
0305	Fish, Dried, Salted, Brined	475	394	365	421
0306	Crustaceans	1,028	952	1,000	827
0307	Mollusks and Other	2,944	2,721	3,118	3,378
1604	Prepared or Packaged Fish and Caviar	3,759	4,155	5,101	6,641
1605	Prepared or Packaged Crustaceans and Mollusks	3,710	3,469	4,927	5,238

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Table 11. China: Exports of Seafood Products by Country of Destination
(Unit: Million USD)

Country/Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
World	19,224	17,621	20,286	21,179
Japan	3,550	3,153	3,375	3,387
United States	2,400	2,032	2,368	2,497
South Korea	1,570	1,510	1,567	1,653
Thailand	989	1,364	1,510	1,664
Hong Kong	1,260	1,217	1,446	1,297
Malaysia	501	752	1,307	1,636
Taiwan	1,328	1,281	1,210	1,255
Philippines	623	627	1,013	996
Mexico	446	480	720	611
Canada	483	381	430	519
Spain	428	360	401	405
Germany	644	428	396	576
Vietnam	252	266	371	427

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Table 12. China: Imports of Fish, Frozen by Country of Origin (Unit: Metric Tons)

Country/Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
World	2,527,486	2,196,551	1,615,175	2,064,990
Russia	1,135,166	963,879	574,157	886,237
United States	276,510	205,592	185,570	214,467
Norway	152,271	120,276	157,309	154,597
Indonesia	113,529	144,838	103,736	84,770
India	131,066	97,435	72,418	128,662
Vietnam	40,726	42,067	49,276	74,244
Greenland	40,208	35,814	36,692	36,905
Malaysia	17,507	40,442	36,069	39,378
South Korea	43,874	59,492	35,984	28,491

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Table 13. China: Imports of Salmon by Country of Origin (Unit: Metric Tons)

Country/Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
World	247,761	130,968	144,503	201,359
United States	61,682	20,882	43,566	54,131
Russia	89,527	47,927	37,471	73,880
Norway	26,823	18,291	26,139	24,458
Chile	41,888	25,462	11,487	23,928
Australia	6,754	9,323	11,637	11,618

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Table 14. China: Imports of Crustaceans by Country of Origin (Unit: Metric Tons)

Country/Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
World	842,281	738,602	793,747	1,094,806
Ecuador	322,821	318,688	378,888	564,747
India	159,045	107,778	122,264	141,224
Canada	62,896	52,223	50,730	64,898
Thailand	40,714	23,657	28,659	30,191
Vietnam	39,091	44,469	27,468	54,907
Russia	17,599	19,114	21,240	27,939
Malaysia	15,045	16,453	19,509	11,563
Indonesia	14,741	17,996	16,225	25,131
Argentina	35,156	26,318	13,913	18,506
Greenland	15,462	19,016	13,907	27,469

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Table 15. China: Exports of Fish Fillet by Destination (Unit: Metric Tons)

Country/Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
World	892,315	695,724	638,877	726,041
Japan	149,286	119,966	122,883	129,693
United States	173,245	139,737	107,830	130,973
Germany	164,542	112,681	101,440	134,237
United Kingdom	60,047	53,462	46,235	50,634
South Korea	25,207	24,424	32,083	37,113
France	42,508	35,806	30,202	35,872
Canada	32,666	27,538	26,945	30,016
Poland	25,224	21,242	22,408	16,785
Spain	25,619	17,374	19,312	23,159
Philippines	19,795	15,327	17,967	23,708

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Table 16. China: Exports of Prepared and Preserved Crustacean and Mollusks by Destination (Unit: Metric Tons)

Country/Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
World	374,608	340,839	437,388	450,123
Japan	106,079	99,063	106,698	102,830
United States	69,717	48,025	53,223	41,914
Thailand	16,728	23,653	43,916	50,023
South Korea	36,547	36,143	39,842	44,426
Malaysia	11,451	19,740	39,013	65,847
Taiwan	28,689	23,698	29,625	30,999
Hong Kong	18,298	17,216	25,064	21,532
Canada	14,127	11,333	13,903	13,270
Chile	4,426	6,452	13,664	6,179
Singapore	9,789	8,847	10,874	12,854

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC.

Attachments:

No Attachments.