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Report Highlights:

Korean seafood imports totaled \$5.27 billion in 2020, down 3.0 percent from 2019. Korean seafood imported from the United States decreased 7.2 percent to \$215 million in 2020. The United States remains the fifth largest seafood exporter to Korea with a 4.1 percent market share. U.S. seafood is generally perceived as high quality and safe, but it is often underpriced by regional competitors.

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SECTION I: KOREAN SEAFOOD MARKET OVERVIEW

1. PRODUCTION

Korean seafood production totaled 3.71 million metric tons in 2020, down 3.9 percent from 2019. Production from adjacent waters increased by 2.2 percent, while shallow sea aquaculture production (including seaweed) decreased 4.2 percent and distant water production decreased 13.3 percent. Productions from inland waters also decreased 3.8 percent.

Table 1. Korean Seafood Production by Waters (1,000 MT)

Year	Total	Adjacent Waters	Shallow Sea Aquaculture	Distant Waters	Inland Waters
2014	3,305	1,059	1,547	669	30
2015	3,337	1,058	1,668	578	33
2016	3,269	908	1,872	454	35
2017	3,725	927	2,316	446	36
2018	3,791	1,012	2,251	493	35
2019	3,861	912	2,410	504	35
2020	3,711	932	2,308	437	34

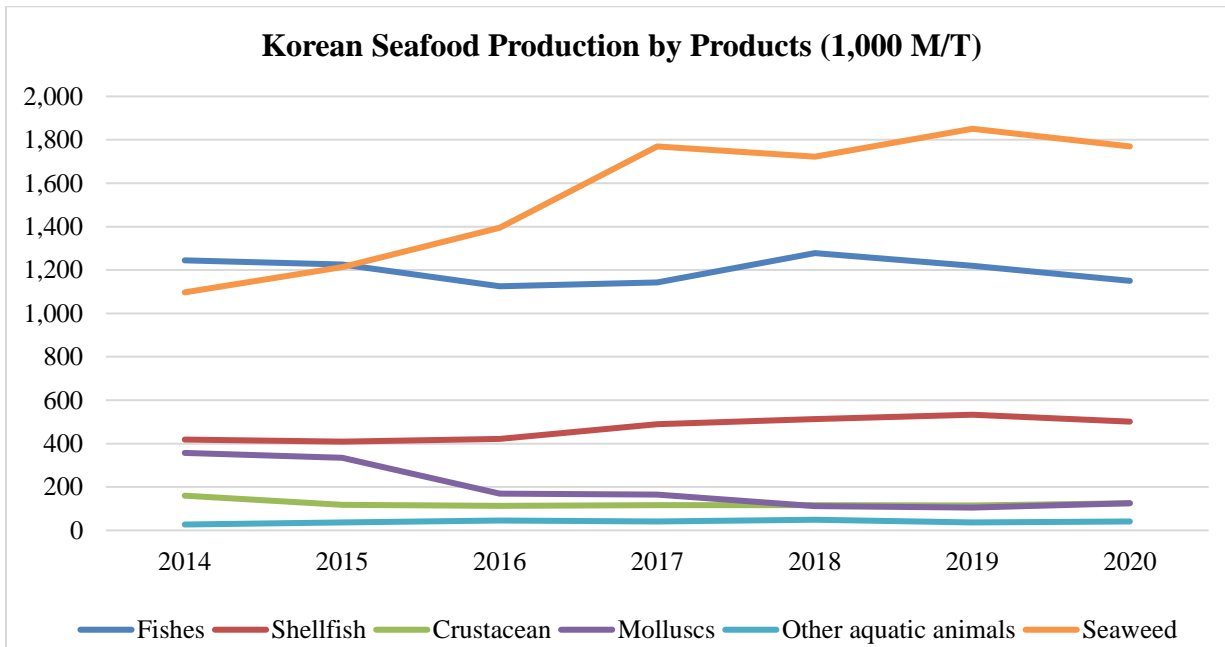
Source: Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), Fishery Information Portal (www.fips.go.kr)

Domestic fish production has fluctuated between 100,000-400,000 metric tons over the past seven years. Domestic fish production is not expected to increase significantly in the future due to the depletion of fishery resources in adjacent waters and the enforcement of Exclusive Economic Zones by neighboring

countries. Bilateral and multilateral fishing accords limit total harvest. The harvest from adjacent waters consists primarily of anchovy, mackerel, hairtail, horse mackerel, Spanish mackerel, herring, croaker, blue mackerel, monkfish, and flatfish.

Seaweed is a common ingredient in Korean cuisine and processed foods. Seaweed production overtook fish production by weight in 2016 for the first time and has expanded rapidly in response to increased consumption of dried, seasoned laver and exports of seaweed products to new consumers overseas.

The local squid catch has dropped significantly in recent years due to changing water temperatures. This has caused the price of local squid to double and increased demand for imported squid. Squid (HS 03074) imports surged 42 percent in 2018 to 118,796 metric tons. In 2019, local production and stocks had recovered and imports declined 8.6 percent to 108,577 metric tons. In 2020, local production still fell short of demand and import increased again by 16.5 percent to 126,526 metric tons.



Source: Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), Fishery Information Portal (www.fips.go.kr)

The number of Korean fishing vessels has steadily decreased over the past 20 years as fishery resources have been depleted. The Korean government is working to accelerate downsizing of the Korean fishing fleet. The government has successfully promoted shallow water aquaculture production. This segment now accounts for 62 percent of Korean seafood production, compared to only 47 percent in 2014. The government is also looking into ways to secure higher fishing quotas in foreign waters and is seeking to purchase fishing quotas from other countries, including Russia.

The Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) establishes Total Allowable Catch limits for 14 species. In 2018 MOF switched from a calendar year TAC limit to a July-June schedule. MOF also sets limits on the fishing season, fishing areas, the number of fishing boats, and fishing methods.

Table 2. Korean Total Allowable Catch in 2020-2021 (Metric Tons)

Species	2017 Jan-Dec	2018 (July 2018 ~ June 2019)	2019 (July 2019 ~ June 2020)	2020 (July 2020 ~ June 2021)
Mackerels	123,000	110,078	132,452	123,527
Jack mackerels	16,600	14,610	30,727	29,424
Red snow crabs	38,000	30,971	26,630	25,516
Snow crabs	906	917	1,003	1,036
Purplish Washington clams	1,800	1,570	1,551	1,507
Pen shells	5,332	7,777	7,437	8,582
Horned turban	1,432	1,720	1,275	
Blue crabs	6,000	5,700	5,798	5,033
Squids	141,750	111,254	97,103	89,078
Sailfin sandfish	5,037	4,725	2,821	2,196
Mottled Skate	203	321	377	447
Hairtails			29,174	21,350
Manila clams			1,561	1,638
Yellow corvina			20,481	22,935
Spanish Mackerel			-	27,876
Total	340,060	289,643	358,390	360,145

Source: Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), Resource Management Division

Korea produced 1.09 million tons of processed seafood products in 2019, down twenty percent from the year before. This is the lowest production level in the last 8 years. There has been a decline in demand from the institutional and food service sectors. Seafood processors also face higher production cost due to minimum wage increases and higher raw material costs. The COVID-19 pandemic may have caused production to drop further, but 2020 data is not yet available to confirm this.

Table 3. Korean Production of Processed Seafood

Year	Production (MT)	Value (Million K/Won)
2012	1,885,489	7,770,232
2013	1,819,693	7,422,605
2014	2,337,313	7,523,432
2015	1,829,025	7,097,394
2016	1,574,951	5,962,884
2017	1,291,639	5,916,672
2018	1,356,579	6,202,073
2019	1,085,523	6,063,543

Source: Korea Statistics Service (<http://kosis.kr>)

2. CONSUMPTION

Seafood consumption has continued to grow despite stagnant production. The Korean seafood industry has successfully promoted seafood as a healthy alternative to red meat. Seafood consumption grew on average 3.5 percent a year between 2000 and 2018, compared to an average growth of three percent for meat products. Seafood businesses have also worked to diversify fish products, improve quality, and research new processing technologies. The major seafood species consumed in Korea are Alaska pollack, squid, mackerel, shrimp, crabs, monkfish, anchovy, flat fish, oyster, and octopus.

Table 4. Korean Seafood Demand and Supply (Unit: 1,000 tons)

Total	Domestic Consumption	Domestic Production	Self-sufficiency rate
2014	4,541	3,305	72.8%
2015	4,605	3,337	72.5%
2016	4,583	3,270	71.4%
2017	5,696	3,728	65.4%
2018	5,418	3,754	69.3%
2019 (Est.)	5,361	3,860	72.0%
2020 (Est.)	5,278	3,711	70.3%

Source: Korean Fisheries Yearbook 2020, KMI Fishery Outlook 2021

Korean consumers place a high value on freshness, origin, taste, cost, and food safety. Price, quality, and timeliness are the most important factors for U.S. seafood exports to Korea. U.S. seafood products are generally viewed as high quality but tend to be more expensive. As a result, Korea primarily imports premium products from the United States. An example is Alaska pollock surimi, which enjoys a reputation for high quality and limited supply in Korea.

Korean per capita fish and shellfish consumption has held steady over the last decade despite declining consumption by young consumers. Per capita seaweed consumption, in contrast, has nearly doubled over the last decade. Koreans eat fresh, chilled, and frozen fish in order of preference. Some fish are consumed raw (“Hoi”, or “Sashimi”), and command a price premium. Korean consumers believe fresh fish taste better than frozen fish after cooking. Accordingly, fresh or chilled fish tend to be substantially more expensive than frozen fish.

Table 5. Korean Annual Per Capita Consumption of Seafood Products (Kg)

Product Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (est.)	2020 (est.)	2021 (est.)
Fish and Shellfish	38.3	37.1	41.6	38.5	36.3	45.0	41.5	38.4	39.1	40.6
Seaweed	15.9	17.4	16.9	18.6	21.1	27.7	26.6	28.5	27.8	29.4

Total (kg/year)	54.2	54.5	58.5	57.1	57.4	72.7	68.1	66.9	66.9	70.0
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Source: Korea Rural Economy Institute (KREI) 2018 Food Balance Sheet, KMI Fishery Outlook 2021

Demand for precooked, prepared, and preserved foods is growing quickly. This includes processed ready-to-eat seafood products and home meal replacement (HMR) products incorporating seafood ingredients. The trend has been driven by a steady rise in the labor participation rate for women and the increasing number of single-person households. The COVID-19 pandemic also escalated this trend by increasing “un-tact” food sales through online market. Industry experts forecast seafood HMR sales will reach 60 billion won in 2021, 3.75 times higher than the 16 billion in sales in 2016.

CJ Cheil Jedang (a large food processor) launched a new meal brand “Bibigo Grilled Fish” in 2020. The brand features pre-cooked and portioned fish in a microwavable room-temperature stable package. The first batch of this product was introduced to the Korean HMR market with five fish species (flat fish, mackerel, Spanish mackerel, Atka mackerel, and Pacific saury). The product is designed for direct consumption as a side dish for rice.

Hotels and department stores generally use high quality seafood and charge a higher price. Some five-star hotels and leading department stores have already done special promotions featuring U.S. seafood products such as lobster and cod. These promotions are often timed with the opening of a new fishing season and sometimes commemorate an anniversary of the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA). The institutional feeding and food service sector generally uses cheaper food ingredients. The most popular fish products in this market include frozen flatfish (mostly yellowfin sole), croaker (aka yellow corvina), mackerel (from Norway), Atka mackerel (from Russia), Alaska pollack, shrimp (from Vietnam), and hairtail (from Senegal).

SECTION II: TRADE, TARIFFS, COMPETITORS AND MARKETING

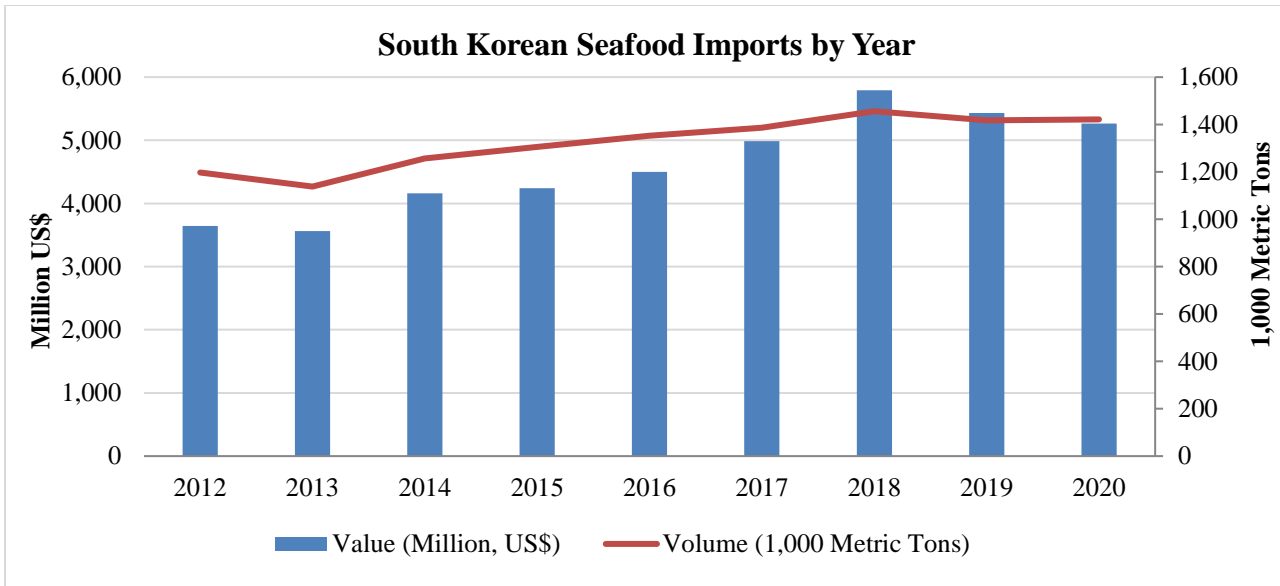
1. TRADE

Growing domestic demand and limited supplies made Korea a net importer of seafood in 2001 for the first time. In 2020 Korea imported \$3.7 billion more in seafood than it exported. Korean seafood imports are expected to continue to grow, creating opportunities for U.S. seafood exporters. Korea’s largest seafood export is seaweed.

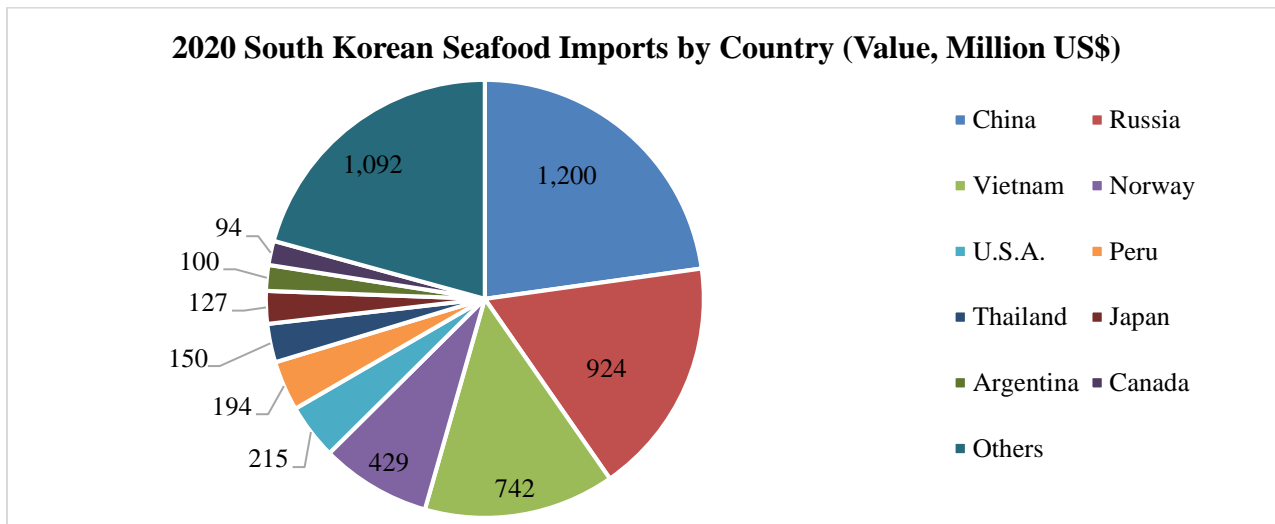
a. World Trade

Korea’s seafood imports from all origins totaled \$5.27 billion in 2020, down three percent from 2019. China is the largest supplier, exporting \$1.2 billion in seafood to Korea in 2020. Russia is the second largest supplier, followed by Vietnam, Norway, and the United States. The largest imports by value in

2020 were frozen squid, peeled shrimps & prawns, live king crab, fresh Atlantic salmon, frozen Alaska pollack, fish surimi, and webfoot octopus. The largest imports by volume were frozen Alaska pollack, squid, fish surimi, sand lance, sardine, mackerel, and peeled shrimps & prawns .



Source: Korean Government Import Data (www.kita.net, CIF Value)



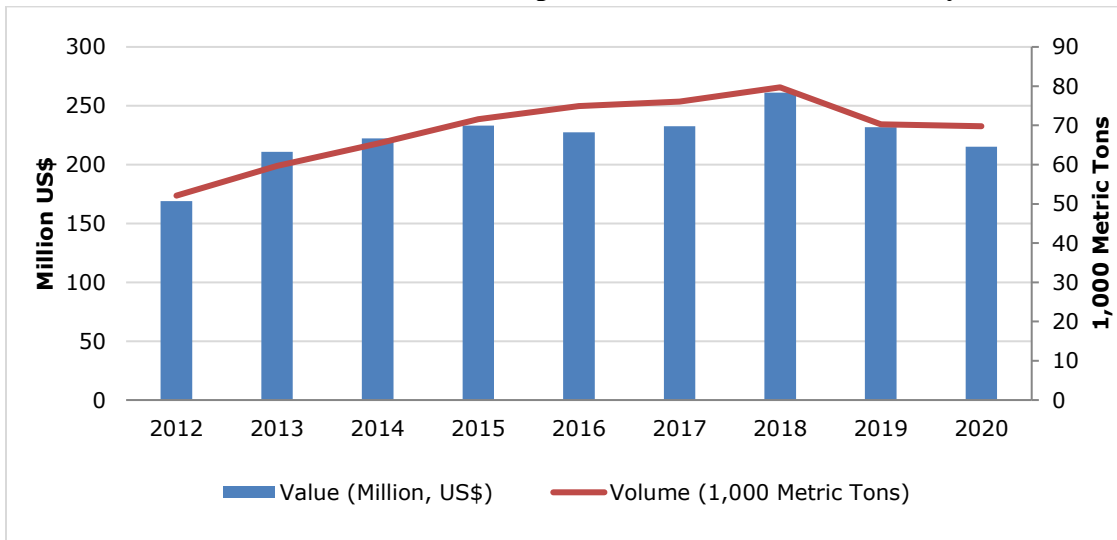
Source: Korean Government Import Data (www.kita.net, CIF Value)

b. U.S. Imports

Korea imported \$215 million worth of U.S. seafood in 2020, down 7.2 percent from 2019. U.S. market share remained above 4 percent. The top ten seafood imports from the U.S. by value in 2020 were Alaska pollack surimi, frozen Alaska pollack fish, flat fish, live lobster, livers/roes/milt of Alaska

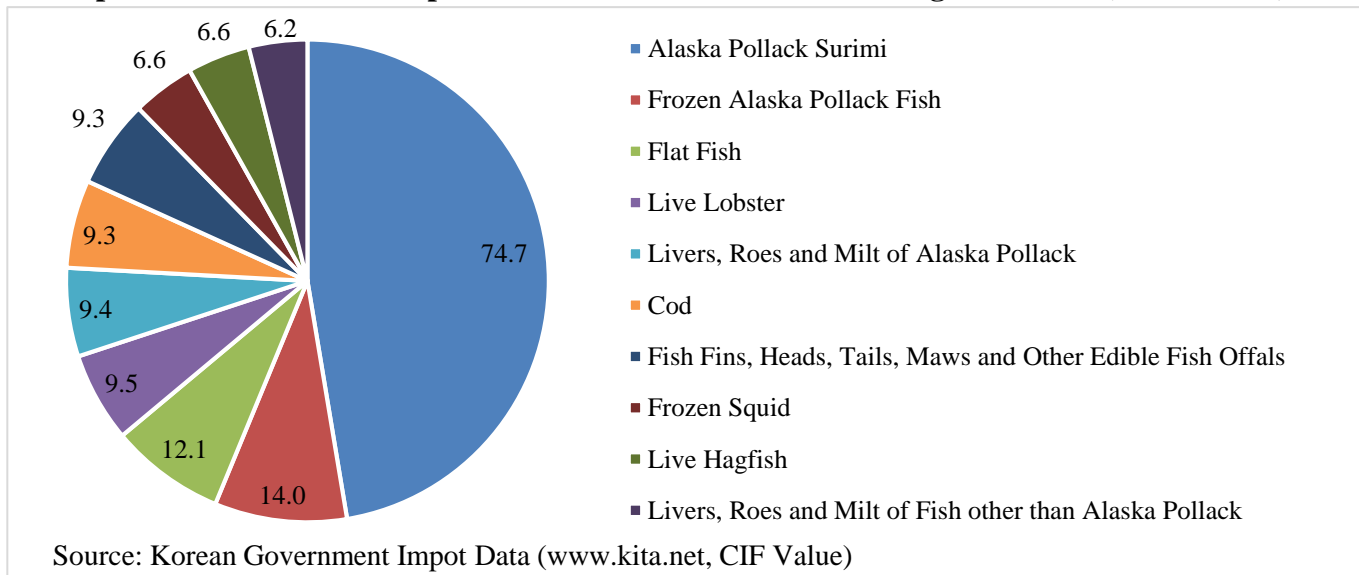
pollack, cod, fish fins/heads/tails/maws/other edible fish offals, frozen squid, live hagfish, and livers/roes/milt of fish other than Alaska pollack. The top ten imports by volume were Alaska pollack surimi, frozen Alaska pollack fish, flat fish, cod, livers/roes/milt of fish other than Alaska pollack, fish fins/heads/tails/maws/other edible fish offals, rockfish including Pacific Ocean perch, frozen squid, livers/roes/milt of Alaska pollack, and other fish frozen.

South Korea Seafood Imports from the United States by Year



Source: Korean Government Import Data (www.kita.net, CIF Value)

Top 10 Korean Seafood Imports from the United States in 10 Digit HS Code (Million US\$)



Source: Korean Government Impot Data (www.kita.net, CIF Value)

Note: These 10 products accounted for 80 percent of Korea’s seafood imports from the United States. See Table 14 in the Annex for more details.

2. TARIFFS & QUOTAS

U.S. seafood has benefited from the elimination of 5 to 20 percent import duties under the KORUS FTA. Customs duties for fishery products imported from the United States were either cut to zero or phased out over the 3 to 10 years. For example, duties on U.S. frozen Sockeye salmon were immediately eliminated, while duties on U.S. trout and sea bass were phased out over 3 and 10 years respectively.

Korea imposes Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ) on three fish species from the United States under the KORUS FTA. Importers can use the quota on a first-come first-serve basis. The duty-free allotments under the TRQs are increased each year as shown below. More details on the KORUS FTA, including the tariff schedule, can be found on the [KORUS FTA Official Homepage](#) and [ATO Seoul website](#).

Table 8. Korea-United States FTA Seafood Tariff Rate Quotas (Metric Tons)

Year	Flatfish/Frozen (HS 0303.34.0000, 0303.39.0000)	Alaska pollack/Frozen (HS 0303.67.0000, 0303.69.9000)	Croaker/Frozen (HS 0303.79.9095)
2021	3,058	8,688	1,551
2022	3,303	9,469	1,629
2023	unlimited	10,322	unlimited
2024		11,251	
2025		12,263	
2026		unlimited	

Negotiated customs duties on certain seafood products under the KORUS FTA are higher than the current Most Favored Nation (MFN) applied base rate. Korea applies the lower of the two rates to imports from the United States. An example is provided in table nine. The duties paid on imports from the United States are highlighted in green.

Table 9. KORUS FTA Tariff Schedule Applied to Frozen Skate Products

Product	Tariff Rate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Frozen Skate (HS0303.82.2000)	MFN	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
	KORUS	24.3%	21.6%	18.9%	16.2%	13.5%	10.8%	8.1%	5.4%	2.7%	0.0%

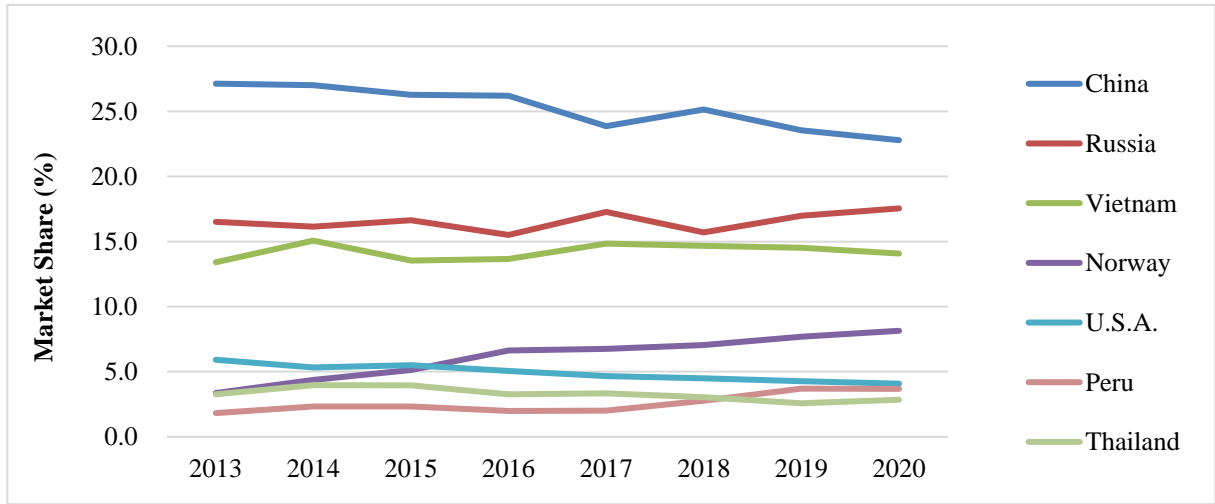
Korea has tried to insulate domestic seafood producers from import competition, particularly from China. “Adjustment tariffs” ranging from 22 to 50 percent were imposed on nine fish species not subject to tariff bindings under WTO agreements. These nine species previously were subject to tariffs ranging from 10 to 20 percent. However, the Korea-China FTA implemented on December 20, 2015, led to a surge in price-competitive seafood imports from China. Frozen Alaska pollack (HS0303670000,

0303699000) is the only U.S. seafood export significantly impacted by adjustment tariffs. Currently the first 8,688 tons of U.S. Alaska pollack exports to Korea enter duty free, while any exports over that amount face a 22 percent adjustment tariff. The quota will gradually increase until trade is unrestricted in 2026.

3. COMPETITORS

Korea imports seafood from about 100 different countries. Major suppliers of fishery products to Korea include China, Russia, Vietnam, Norway, United States, Peru, Thailand, Japan, Argentina, and Canada. The United States is the fifth largest exporter of seafood to Korea. The United States briefly became the fourth largest exporter of seafood in 2012 after Japanese seafood exports dropped following the nuclear power plant accident in Fukushima. However, Norway overtook the United States in 2016 due to strong sales of salmon and mackerel. Despite strong competition, U.S. seafood will likely remain a top choice for Korean consumers as it has established a reputation for good quality and stable supply.

Korea Seafood Imports from Top 7 Countries



Source: Korean Government Import Data (www.kita.net)

Korea has entered into new trade agreements with several competing seafood exporters in recent years, increasing competition. As an example, U.S. lobster exports to Korea jumped 50 percent in 2014 after tariffs were cut to eight percent as part of the KORUS FTA. The United States dominated the Korean lobster market that year. However, Canada started to quickly take over market share as tariffs on Canadian lobster fell under the Korea-Canada FTA.

Table 10. Korean Tariff Phase-Out Schedule for Lobster Products under FTA's

Description	Country	Base Rate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Live, Fresh, Chilled Lobsters (Homarus)	USA	20%	16%	12%	8%	4%	0%	0%
	Canada		20%	20%	20%	13.3%	6.6%	0%
Description	Country	Base Rate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Frozen Lobsters (Homarus)	USA	20%	16%	12%	8%	4%	0%	0%
	Canada		20%	20%	20%	0%	0%	0%

Table 11. Korean Lobster Imports (Homarus Spp.)

Country	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT
World	107,208	4,730	122,709	5,368	120,915	5,253	89,321	4,210
Canada	82,003	3,604	102,153	4,509	102,627	4,538	78,019	3,717
United States	25,128	1,124	20,106	830	17,790	673	11,266	489
Others	77	2	450	29	498	42	36	4

Source: Korea Customs and Trade Development Institute, HS 0306320000, HS0306129000

A dozen countries, including China, Russia, Japan, Norway, Thailand, Chile, Canada, and Indonesia, participate in the Busan International Seafood & Fisheries Expo annually. These competitors exhibit a wide variety of seafood products targeting importers, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, hotels, restaurants, and food processors. ATO Seoul organized a U.S. pavilion at the 2020 Busan International Seafood and Fisheries Expo, partnering with the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and Food Export USA Northeast to showcase U.S. seafood. Most exporting countries, however, canceled their participation in the 2020 show due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Many competitors such as Norway, Canada and Japan are expected to redouble efforts to promote their seafood exports in the Korean market after the COVID-19 pandemic is over,

4. MARKETING

Seafood importers generally sell directly to the hotel and the food service industries, and/or to distributors who sell to traditional markets and restaurants. When the volume is large, importers generally sell directly to retailers such as supermarkets, discount stores and department stores. When the volume is small, importers sell to distributors. U.S. suppliers should contact seafood importers to sell their fishery products to Korea.

Consumers like to purchase species they are accustomed to, and importers tend to import species that have strong consumer demand. Thirty species accounted for more than 97 percent of Korea's seafood imports from the United States in 2020. U.S. exporters can invest in building consumer interest in new

species, but most will find it easier and more cost effective to focus on one of the commonly imported fish species.

Exporters can find more market information by contacting Korean importers, U.S. state departments of agriculture, and by visiting the [Seoul Agricultural Trade Office's website](#). Participating in local food shows can be an effective way to find potential importers and assess market potential. Many Korean importers attend these shows looking to establish reliable long-term trading relationships. Show participation enhances initial contacts with importers, agents, wholesalers, distributors, retailers and others in the food and beverage industry. The two major seafood shows in Korea are the Seoul International Seafood Show and the Busan International Seafood and Fisheries Expo.

Seoul International Seafood Show (3S): Sponsored by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), this is the only show held in Seoul specializing in seafood, fishery, nursery, aquaculture, processing machinery and related equipment. The show was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The 2021 show was held in-person in Seoul on May 5-7, 2021. Check the [show website](#) for further details.

Busan International Seafood & Fisheries Expo (BIFSE) 2021 will be held in Busan at the BEXCO convention center, November 3-5, 2021. It offers an excellent opportunity to explore possible market opportunities in Korea. This show is held in every year in late October or early November and targets importers, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, hotels, restaurants, food processors, and media. Currently, it is the only seafood show held in Korea supported by ATO Seoul. ATO Seoul has participated in this show for 16 years in cooperation with State Regional Trade Groups and USDA cooperator group such as SUSTA, Food Export USA Northeast and ASMI. Check [BISFE's website](#) for detailed information on the show and contact [ATO Seoul](#) for questions on the USA Pavilion.

SECTION III: FURTHER INFORMATION AND KEY CONTACTS

General information on the Korean market and exporting to Korea can be found in the [2020 Exporter Guide](#). For further information about the Korean market please contact:

U.S. Agricultural Trade Office (ATO)

Local address: Rm 303, Leema B/D, 42, Jongro 1-gil, Jongro-gu, Seoul, Korea 03152

U.S. mailing address: ATO, U.S. Embassy - Seoul, Unit 9600 Box 0050, DPO, AP 96209-0050

Phone: 82-2-6951-6848

Fax: 82-2-720-7921

E-mail: atoseoul@state.gov

Home Page: www.atoseoul.com

Agricultural Affairs Office, U.S. Embassy Seoul (AAO)

Korean Address: U.S. Embassy, 188 Sejong-daero, Jongro-gu, Seoul, Korea

Telephone: +82-2 397-4297 Fax: +82-2 738-7147

E-mail: agseoul@state.gov

U.S. Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service Seoul (APHIS)

Local address: Rm 303, Leema B/D, 42, Jongro 1-gil, Jongro-gu, Seoul, Korea 03152

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[U.S. State Regional Trade Groups \(SRTG\)](#)

[U.S. State Offices in Korea](#)

[American Chamber of Commerce \(AMCHAM\)](#)

Korean Government

[Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries \(MOF\)](#)

[Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs \(MAFRA\)](#)

[Ministry of Food and Drug Safety \(MFDS\)](#)

[Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy \(MOTIE\)](#)

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(MOFA\)](#)

APPENDIX: KOREAN SEAFOOD TRADE STATISTICS

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Appendix

Table 12. Korea's Total Seafood Imports by Year (\$million)

Year	From World	From USA	U.S. Market Share
2012	3,646	169	4.6%
2013	3,565	211	5.9%
2014	4,161	222	5.3%
2015	4,241	233	5.5%
2016	4,502	227	5.1%
2017	4,985	233	4.7%
2018	5,794	261	4.5%
2019	5,431	232	4.3%
2020	5,267	215	4.1%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 12-1. Korean Seafood Imports from Major Countries (\$million)

Reporting Country: Korea, Republic of Top 15 Ranking	Import			Percent change (2019~2020)
	2018	2019	2020	
China	1,456	1,279	1,200	-6.2%
Russia	910	922	924	0.2%
Vietnam	850	789	742	-5.9%
Norway	408	418	429	2.5%
United States	261	232	215	-7.2%
Peru	161	201	194	-3.2%
Thailand	177	140	150	7.2%
Japan	144	133	127	-4.5%
Argentina	64	63	100	59.3%
Canada	119	119	94	-21.7%
Chile	149	84	87	3.2%
Taiwan	117	107	74	-31.0%
Indonesia	58	62	68	10.0%
Ecuador	73	71	56	-21.7%
Malaysia	42	64	54	-15.6%
Other	806	747	753	0.8%
Total	5,794	5,431	5,267	-3.0%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 13. Korea's Total Seafood Exports by Year (\$million)

Year	To World	To USA
2012	1,973	129
2013	1,749	136
2014	1,642	133
2015	1,481	146
2016	1,637	157
2017	1,671	180
2018	1,695	167
2019	1,739	167
2020	1,534	156

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 13-1. Korean Seafood Exports to Major Countries (\$million)

Reporting Country: Korea, Republic of Top 10 Ranking	Export		
	2018	2019	2020
Japan	564	520	454
China	296	385	331
United States	167	167	156
Thailand	140	131	121
Vietnam	108	123	112
Hong Kong	44	52	51
Italy	38	35	34
France	48	40	31
Taiwan	23	27	27
Other	266	259	218
Total	1,695	1,739	1,534

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 14-1. Top 30 Fish Imported to Korea from USA in 2020 (In Value, \$1,000)

Fish Species	HS Code Number	From USA (\$1,000)	From World (\$1,000)	U.S. Market Share
Surimi of Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0304.94.1000	74,699	74,699	100.0%
Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0303.67.0000	13,977	195,227	7.2%
Other Flat Fish (Excluding Fillets, Livers and Roes), Frozen	0303.39.0000	12,129	58,192	20.8%
Lobsters (<i>Homarus Spp.</i>), Live, Fresh, Or Chilled	0306.32.0000	9,483	56,392	16.8%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	9,360	67,788	13.8%
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>), Frozen	0303.63.0000	9,306	57,235	16.3%
Fish Fins (Other Than Shark), Heads, Tails, Maws and Other Edible Fish Offals, Frozen	0303.99.0000	9,301	16,902	55.0%
Other Squid, Frozen	0307.43.2090	6,633	296,227	2.2%
Hagfish, Live	0301.99.7000	6,627	8,542	77.6%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Fish other than Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2090	6,178	23,421	26.4%
Hagfish (Pacific, Atlantic), Frozen	0303.89.9070	5,385	6,603	81.6%
Fillet of Plaice, Frozen	0304.83.1000	5,126	6,288	81.5%
Atka Mackerel, Frozen	0303.89.9040	5,070	22,535	22.5%
Skates, Frozen	0303.82.2000	5,056	28,886	17.5%
Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0303.89.9099	4,947	44,628	11.1%
Angler (Monkfish), Frozen	0303.89.9060	4,654	42,967	10.8%
Rock fish (including Pacific Ocean perch), Frozen	0303.89.9050	4,610	22,725	20.3%
Fillet of Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0304.75.0000	3,477	49,016	7.1%
Adductors of Shellfish	0307.92.1000	1,835	10,778	17.0%
Lobsters (<i>Homarus Spp.</i>), Including in- shell, Cooked by Steaming or by Boiling in Water, Frozen	0306.12.9000	1,783	32,928	5.4%
Fillet of Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0304.89.9000	1,437	31,482	4.6%
Fillet of Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>), Frozen	0304.71.0000	1,352	4,680	28.9%
Cold-Water Shrimps and Prawns (<i>Pandalus Spp.</i> , <i>Crangon Crangon</i>), Frozen	0306.16.9090	1,282	4,591	27.9%
Other Pacific salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus keta</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus masou</i> and <i>Oncorhynchus rhodurus</i>)	0303.12.0000	1,210	24,358	5.0%
Surimi of Alaska Pollack (Other than <i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0304.99.1000	1,153	173,967	0.7%
Sea Urchin, Live, Fresh or Chilled	0308.21.0000	986	8,289	11.9%
Fillet of Pacific salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus keta</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus masou</i> and <i>Oncorhynchus rhodurus</i>), Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) and Danube salmon (<i>Hucho hucho</i>)	0304.81.0000	949	6,781	14.0%
Crabs (Other than King Crab and Blue Crab), Frozen	0306.14.9090	697	70,630	1.0%
King Crab, Live	0306.33.9000	588	239,729	0.2%
Surimi of Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Not Frozen	0304.94.9000	408	922	44.3%
Total		209,698	1,687,408	12.4%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 14-2. Top 30 Fish Imported to Korea from USA in 2020 (In Quantity, MT)

Fish Species	HS Code Number	From USA (1,000 Kg)	From World (1,000 Kg)	U.S. Market Share
Surimi of Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0304.94.1000	22,730	22,730	100.0%
Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0303.67.0000	8,941	159,761	5.6%
Other Flat Fish (Excluding Fillets, Livers and Roes), Frozen	0303.39.0000	6,805	26,463	25.7%
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>), Frozen	0303.63.0000	3,765	23,575	16.0%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Fish other than Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2090	2,880	12,357	23.3%
Fish Fins (Other Than Shark), Heads, Tails, Maws and Other Edible Fish Offals, Frozen	0303.99.0000	2,844	4,551	62.5%
Rock fish (including Pacific Ocean perch), Frozen	0303.89.9050	2,693	12,310	21.9%
Squid, Other, Frozen	0307.43.2090	2,349	114,761	2.0%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	2,172	15,489	14.0%
Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0303.89.9099	2,125	15,863	13.4%
Atka Mackerel, Frozen	0303.89.9040	2,119	9,979	21.2%
Hagfish (Pacific, Atlantic), Frozen	0303.89.9070	1,752	2,093	83.7%
Fillet of Plaice, Frozen	0304.83.1000	1,237	1,350	91.6%
Skates, Frozen	0303.82.2000	1,114	5,879	18.9%
Angler (Monkfish), Frozen	0303.89.9060	1,100	28,012	3.9%
Fillet of Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0304.75.0000	1,079	17,035	6.3%
Hagfish, Live	0301.99.7000	772	969	79.7%
Cold-Water Shrimps and Prawns (<i>Pandalus</i> Spp., <i>Crangon Crangon</i>), Frozen	0306.16.9090	453	1,061	42.7%
Lobsters (<i>Homarus</i> Spp.), Live, Fresh, Or Chilled	0306.32.0000	433	2,612	16.6%
Surimi of Alaska Pollack (Other than <i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0304.99.1000	391	106,335	0.4%
Fillet of Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0304.89.9000	353	6,530	5.4%
Other Pacific Salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus gorbusha</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus keta</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus masou</i> and <i>Oncorhynchus rhodurus</i>), Frozen	0303.12.0000	350	6,722	5.2%
Fillet of Pacific salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus gorbusha</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus keta</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> , <i>Oncorhynchus masou</i> and <i>Oncorhynchus rhodurus</i>), Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) and Danube salmon (<i>Hucho hucho</i>)	0304.81.0000	291	986	29.5%
Dogfish and other sharks	0303.81.0000	199	2,463	8.1%
Fillet of Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>), Frozen	0304.71.0000	186	836	22.2%
Sockeye salmon, Frozen	0303.11.0000	80	243	32.9%
Adductors of Shellfish	0307.92.1000	77	775	9.9%
Lobsters (<i>Homarus</i> Spp.), Including in- shell, Cooked by Steaming or by Boiling in Water, Frozen	0306.12.9000	56	1,598	3.5%
Surimi of Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Not Frozen	0304.94.9000	56	350	16.0%
Sable fish, Frozen	0303.89.1000	54	54	100.0%
Total		69,456	603,742	11.5%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 15. Korean Imports of Fish Roes, Urchin Roes, Caviar and Livers by Country of Origin (MT)

2019		2020	
USA	6,177	USA	5,055
Russia	19,934	Russia	21,856
Norway	1,083	Norway	1,109
New Zealand	1,471	New Zealand	650
Iceland	1,363	Iceland	423
Indonesia	203	Indonesia	178
Others	681	Others	734
Total	30,912	Total	30,005

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 15-1. Korean Imports of Fish Roes, Urchin Roes, Caviar and Liver by HS Code (MT)

Species	2020 H.S. Code	2019		2020	
		World	USA	World	USA
Livers, Frozen	0303.91.1000	10	1	75	0
Roes/AK Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	15,285	2,668	15,489	2,172
Roes/Other Fish, Frozen	0303.91.2090	12,782	3,487	12,357	2,880
Caviar and Caviar Substitutes	1604.31.0000 1604.32.0000	2,835	1	2,084	3
Total		30,912	6,177	30,005	5,055

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 16. Korean Imports of Flatfish by Country of Origin (MT)

2019		2020	
USA	8,882	USA	6,805
Russia	16,668	Russia	14,845
China	3,193	China	2,352
Guinea	2,576	Guinea	1,694
Senegal	865	Senegal	659
Italy	341	Italy	121
Others	43	Others	1,043
Total	32,568	Total	27,519

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 16-1. Korean Imports of Flatfish by HS Code (MT)

Species	2020 H.S. Code	2019		2020	
		World	USA	World	USA
Flat Fish, Live / Plaice, Fresh	0301.99.8000 0302.22.0000	554	0	529	0
Halibut, Frozen	0303.31.0000	384	0	110	0
Plaice, Frozen	0303.32.0000	695	225	142	0
Sole, Frozen	0303.33.0000	314	0	275	0
Others, Frozen	0303.39.0000	30,621	8,657	26,463	6,805
Total		32,568	8,882	27,519	6,805

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 17. Korean Imports of Ground Fish by Country of Origin (MT)

2019		2020	
USA	11,057	USA	15,450
Russia	150,581	Russia	177,889
Portugal	3,654	Portugal	4,870
Japan	2,207	Japan	1,798
Others	7,034	Others	6,141
Total	174,551	Total	206,148

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 17-1. Korean Import of Ground Fish by HS Code (MT)

Species	2020 H.S. Code	2019		2020	
		World	USA	World	USA
Cod, Fresh	0302.51.0000	815	0	555	0
Alaska Pollack, Fresh	0302.55.0000	2,240	0	1,700	0
Cod, Frozen	0303.63.0000	23,395	2,650	23,575	3,765
Hake, Frozen	0303.66.0000	294	51	94	51
Alaska Pollack	0303.67.0000	129,146	6,627	159,761	8,941
Rockfish (Pacific Ocean perch)	0303.89.9050	10,092	1,736	12,310	2,693
Alaska Pollack, Dried	0305.59.3000	8,569	11	8,153	0
Total		174,551	11,057	206,148	15,450

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 18. Korean Imports of Fillet/Surimi by Country of Origin (MT)

2019		2020	
USA	26,392	USA	26,382
Vietnam	59,068	Vietnam	54,782
China	29,255	China	39,063
Russia	17,654	Russia	16,233
India	6,315	India	5,966
Indonesia	5,104	Indonesia	5,766
Norway	3,242	Norway	4,479
Pakistan	2,372	Pakistan	1,955
Thailand	1,184	Thailand	1,627
Others	9,988	Others	10,161
Total	160,574	Total	166,414

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 18-1. Korean Imports of Fillet/Surimi by HS Code (MT)

Species	2021 H.S. Code	2019		2020	
		World	USA	World	USA
Fillet of Alaska Pollack/frozen	0304.75.0000	18,257	1,210	17,035	1,079
Fillet of Cod/frozen	0304.71.0000	896	349	836	186
Fillet of Plaice/frozen	0304.83.1000	1,604	1,425	1,350	1,237
Fillet of Other Fish/frozen	0304.72.0000	16,321	679	16,123	659
	0304.73.0000				
	0304.74.0000				
	0304.79.0000				
	0304.81.0000				
	0304.82.0000				
	0304.83.9000				
	0304.84.0000				
	0304.85.0000				
	0304.86.0000				
0304.87.XXXX					
0304.88.XXXX					
0304.89.XXXX					
Surimi of Alaska Pollack/frozen	0304.94.1000	21,780	21,780	22,730	22,730
Other type of fish meat of Alaska Pollack/frozen	0304.94.9000	360	33	350	56
Surimi of other fish/frozen	0304.95.1000	99,208	916	106,355	411
	0304.99.1000				
Other type of fish meat of other fish/fresh or chilled, frozen	0304.91.9000	2,148	0	1,635	24
	0304.92.9000				
	0304.93.9000				
	0304.95.9000				
	0304.99.9000				
Total		160,574	26,392	166,414	26,382

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 19. Korean Imports of Crustaceans by Country of Origin (MT)

2019		2020	
USA	798	USA	536
Vietnam	36,505	Vietnam	37,004
China	40,101	China	33,832
Russia	9,717	Russia	10,324
Ecuador	10,054	Ecuador	8,506
Malaysia	5,174	Malaysia	4,356
Canada	4,605	Canada	3,789
India	2,925	India	2,721
Thailand	2,025	Thailand	2,490
Bahrain	2,608	Bahrain	1,776
Others	13,324	Others	19,684
Total	127,836	Total	125,018

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 19-1. Korean Imports of Crustaceans by HS Code (MT)

Species	2021 H.S. Code	2019		2020	
		World	USA	World	USA
Frozen lobsters (<i>Homarus</i> spp.)	0306.12.9000	2,431	98	1,598	56
Frozen peeled cold-water shrimps and prawns	0306.16.1090	7	0	9	0
Frozen other type of shrimps and prawns	0306.17.1090 0306.17.9090	56,939	1	57,328	0
Frozen crab meat	0306.14.1090	0	0		
Frozen king crabs	0306.14.2090	90	0	43	0
Frozen blue crabs	0306.14.3090	26,321	30	20,716	0
Frozen other type of crabs	0306.14.9090	10,977	93	12,237	37
Not frozen lobsters (<i>Homarus</i> spp.)	0306.32.0000	2,822	575	2,612	433
Live, fresh, or chilled shrimps and prawns	0306.35.0000 0306.36.0000	131	0	9	0
Salted or in brine shrimps and prawns	0306.95.1030 0306.95.9030	18,224	0	18,146	0
Live, fresh, or chilled snow crab	0306.33.2000	7,311	1	8,390	4
Frozen, Salted or in brine Rock Lobster, other sea crawfish, dried shrimps, crabs, etc.	0306.11.9000 0306.91.3000 0306.93.2000 0306.95.1020 0306.95.9020 0306.99.2000	2,583	1	3,930	6
Total		127,836	798	125,018	536

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 19-2. Korean Imports of Lobsters (*Homarus* Spp.): Live, Fresh, Chilled, Dried, Salted, In Brine, Not Frozen

Country	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT
World	82,905	3,708	85,552	3,581	69,044	2,822	56,393	2,612
Canada	61,734	2,706	67,777	2,811	55,070	2,246	46,893	2,178
United States	21,116	1,001	17,751	769	13,945	575	9,483	433
Others	55	1	24	1	29	1	17	1

Source: Korea Customs and Trade Development Institute, HS 0306.32.0000

Table 19-3. Korean Imports of Lobsters (*Homarus* Spp.): Including In Shell, Cooked by Steaming or by Boiling in Water, Frozen

Country	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT
World	24,303	1,022	37,157	1,787	51,871	2,431	32,928	1,598
Canada	20,269	898	34,376	1,698	47,557	2,292	31,126	1,539
United States	4,012	123	2,355	61	3,845	98	1,783	56
Others	22	1	426	28	469	41	19	3

Source: Korea Customs and Trade Development Institute, HS 0306.12.9000

Table 20. Korean Imports of Mollusks by Country of Origin (MT)

	2019		2020	
USA		985	USA	2,436
China		118,694	China	119,763
Peru		40,850	Peru	34,614
Vietnam		33,210	Vietnam	32,231

Argentina	4,659	Argentina	14,051
Chile	11,273	Chile	13,940
Japan	6,308	Japan	9,217
Thailand	6,717	Thailand	7,548
Indonesia	2,249	Indonesia	3,467
Mauritania	3,001	Mauritania	2,126
Others	10,645	Others	12,815
TOTAL	238,591	TOTAL	252,208

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 20-1. Korean Imports of Mollusks by HS Code (MT)

Species	2021 H.S. Code	2019		2020	
		World	USA	World	USA
Scallops	0307.2X.XXXX	7,419	1	10,088	0
Cuttlefish	0307.4X.XXXX	108,577	884	126,526	2,349
Octopus	0307.5X.XXXX	64,992	0	66,338	10
Hard clams, abalones, top shells, pearl oyster, ark shells, cockles, adductors of shellfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, hen clams, baby clams, jelly fish	0307.7X.XXXX 0307.8X.XXXX 0307.9X.XXXX	57,542	100	49,130	77
Oysters, mussels	0307.1X.XXXX 0307.3X.XXXX	61	0	126	0
Total		238,591	985	252,208	2,436

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2020

Table 21. Korean Tariff Schedule for Fishery Products

Description	H.S. Code	2012 Base Rate
Live Fish , Ornamental, Other Live	0301.XX.XXXX except 0301.92.1000, 0301.92.2000 and 0301.99.4010	10%
Live Fish , Other, Eels, Glass Eels (not exceeding 0.3g per unit, for aquaculture) and Sea Bream Fry (for aquaculture)	0301.92.1000 and 0301.99.4010	0%
Live Fish , Other, Eels, Young Eels (exceeding 0.3g and not exceeding 50g per unit, for aquaculture)	0301.92.2000	5%
Fish, Fresh or Chilled	0302.XX.XXXX	20%
Fish, Frozen	0303.XX.XXXX	10%
Fish Fillets and Other Fish Meat - Fresh or Chilled Fillets of Tilapias, Catfish, Pacific Salmon, Trout, Flat Fish, Swordfish, Toothfish, and Other Fish	0304.3X.XXXX, 0304.4X.XXXX, 0304.5X.XXXX	20%
Fish Fillets and Other Fish Meat - Frozen Fillets of Tilapias, Catfish, Cod, Haddock, Coalfish, Hake, Alaska Pollack, Pacific Salmon, Trout, Flat Fish, Swordfish, Toothfish, Herrings, Tunas and Other Fish	0304.6X.XXXX, 0304.7X.XXXX, 0304.8X.XXXX, 0304.9X.XXXX	10%
Fish, Dried, Salted or in Brine, Smoked Fish , whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process, Flours, Meals and Pellets of Fish, Fit for Human Consumption	0305.XX.XXXX	20%
Crustaceans , whether in shell or not, Live, Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Dried, Salted or in Brine, Smoked Crustaceans, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process, Crustaceans, in shell or not, Cooked by Steaming or by Boiling in Water, whether or not chilled, Frozen, Dried, Salted in Brine, Flours, Meals and Pellets of Crustaceans, Fit for Human Consumption	0306.XX.XXXX	10%

Mollusks , whether in shell or not, Live, Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Dried, Salted or in Brine, Smoked Mollusks, whether in shell or not, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process, Flours, Meals and Pellets of Mollusks, Fit for Human Consumption – Oysters, Scallops, Mussels, Smoked Cuttle Fish and Squid, Octopus, Snails, Clams, Cockles, Ark Shells, Abalone, Top Shells and Adductors of Shellfish	0307.1X.XXXX, 0307.2X.XXXX, 0307.3X.XXXX, 0307.4X.XXXX, 0307.5X.XXXX, 0307.6X.XXXX, 0307.7X.XXXX, 0307.8X.XXXX and 0307.9x.XXXX except 0307.11.1010, 0307.11.1090, 0307.41.XXXX, 0307.49.10XX, 0307.49.2000, 0307.49.3000, 0307.71.2010 and 0307.91.2010	20%
Mollusks , whether in shell or not, Live, Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Dried, Salted or in Brine, Smoked Mollusks, whether in shell or not, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process, Flours, Meals and Pellets of Mollusks, Fit for Human Consumption - Live, Fresh or Chilled Oyster Spat, Ark Shell and Pearl Oyster for Seed	0307.11.1010, 0307.71.2010, 0307.91.2010	0%
Mollusks , whether in shell or not, Live, Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Dried, Salted or in Brine, Smoked Mollusks, whether in shell or not, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process, Flours, Meals and Pellets of Mollusks, Fit for Human Consumption - Live, Fresh or Chilled Oyster Spat Other	0307.11.1090	5%
Mollusks , whether in shell or not, Live, Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Dried, Salted or in Brine, Smoked Mollusks, whether in shell or not, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process, Flours, Meals and Pellets of Mollusks, Fit for Human Consumption – Cuttle Fish, Squid	0307.41.XXXX, 0307.49.10XX, 0307.49.2000, 0307.49.3000	10%
Aquatic Invertebrates Other Than Crustaceans and Mollusks , Live, Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Dried, Salted or in Brine, Smoked Aquatic Invertebrates Other Than Crustaceans and Mollusks, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process, Flours, Meals and Pellets of Aquatic Invertebrates Other Than Crustaceans and Mollusks, Fit for Human Consumption – Sea Cucumber, Sea Urchins, Jellyfish and Other	0308.XX.XXXX except 0308.90.1011	20%
Aquatic Invertebrates Other Than Crustaceans and Mollusks , Live, Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Dried, Salted or in Brine, Smoked Aquatic Invertebrates Other Than Crustaceans and Mollusks, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process, Flours, Meals and Pellets of Aquatic Invertebrates Other Than Crustaceans and Mollusks, Fit for Human Consumption – Live, Fresh or Chilled Sea-Squirts for Seed	0308.90.1011	0%
Extracts and Juices of Fish or Crustaceans, Mollusks or Other Aquatic Invertebrates	1603.00.3000 and 1603.00.4000	30%
Prepared or Preserved Fish , Caviar and Substitutes Prepared from Fish Eggs – Salmon, Herrings, Sardines, Tunas, Mackerel, Anchovies, Eels, Saury, Jerk Filefish, Fish Pastes, Fish Marinade, Fish Cake, Caviar and Caviar Substitutes	1604.XX.XXXX	20%
Crustaceans, Mollusks and Other Aquatic Invertebrates, Prepared or Preserved – Crab, Shrimps and Prawns, Lobster, Oysters, Scallops, Mussels, Cuttle Fish, Squid, Octopus, Clams, Abalone, Snails, Sea Cucumber, Sea Urchins, Jellyfish and Other Fish	1605.XX.XXXX	20%

Source: Korea Customs and Trade Development Institute, Import/Export Customs Clearance General Guidebook of Korea, 2021

Attachments:

No Attachments.