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Report Name: Korea Seafood Market Update 2022

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Report Highlights:

Korean seafood imports totaled \$5.74 billion in 2021, up 9 percent from 2020, with imports from the United States increasing slightly to \$217 million. The United States remains the fifth largest seafood exporter to Korea with a 3.8 percent market share. Korean consumers generally view U.S. fishery products as high quality and safe, but regional competitors often have lower prices. U.S. fishery exports to Korea are generally focused on lower volume/higher value market segments.

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SECTION I: KOREAN SEAFOOD MARKET OVERVIEW

1. PRODUCTION

Korean seafood production totaled 3.82 million metric tons in 2021, up 2.9 percent from 2020. Shallow sea aquaculture production (including seaweed), the largest category, increased 3.9 percent and production from adjacent waters was up by 1.0 percent. Production from distant waters and inland waters also increased 0.5 percent and 26.5 percent, respectively.

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

Year	Total	Adjacent Waters	Shallow Sea Aquaculture	Distant Waters	Inland Waters
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
2021	3,820	941	2,397	439	43

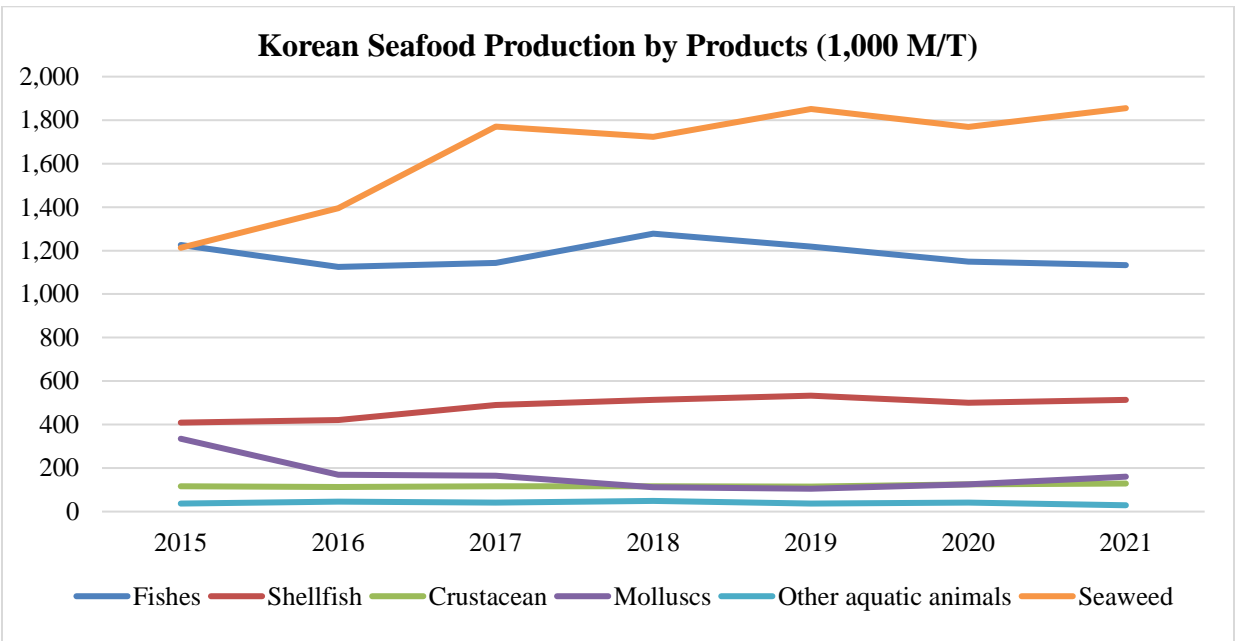
Source: Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), Fishery Information Portal (www.fips.go.kr)

Korean 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 including Japan and China. Bilateral and multilateral fishing accords also limit

total harvest. The harvest from adjacent waters consists primarily of mackerel, hairtail, horse mackerel, Spanish mackerel, herring, croaker, blue mackerel, blue crab, cod, balloon fish, and monkfish.

Seaweed is a common ingredient in Korean dishes and processed foods. Seaweed production overtook fish production by weight in 2016 for the first time and has been expanding rapidly in response to increased consumption of dried, seasoned seaweed (green laver) and exports of seaweed products to new consumers worldwide.

The local squid catch has dropped significantly in recent years due to changing water temperatures, causing the price of local squid to double and increasing demand for imported squid. Squid (HS 03074) imports surged 42 percent in 2018 to 118,796 metric tons. In 2021, Korean imports of squid fell 16.5 percent from the prior year to 105,699 metric tons due to reduced demands from the food service and processing industries amidst COVID-19 restrictions.



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 depleted. The Korean government is working to accelerate downsizing of the Korean fishing fleet and has successfully promoted shallow water aquaculture production as an alternative. The aquaculture segment now accounts for 63 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 additional fishing quotas from other countries, including Russia.

The Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) establishes Total Allowable Catch limits for 15 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 2021-2022 (Metric Tons)

Species	2019 (July 2019 ~ June 2020)	2020 (July 2020 ~ June 2021)	2021 (July 2021 ~ June 2022)	2022 (July 2022 ~ June 2023)
Mackerels	132,452	123,527	101,715	145,905
Jack mackerels	30,727	29,424	31,779	41,024
Red snow crabs	26,630	25,516	23,273	22,283
Snow crabs	1,003	1,036	948	978
Purplish Washington clams	1,551	1,507	1,491	1,289
Pen shells	7,437	8,582	6,797	6,905
Horned turban	1,275	1,209	975	1,539
Blue crabs	5,798	5,033	5,102	5,444
Squids	97,103	89,078	83,834	85,590
Sailfin sandfish	2,821	2,196	3,207	2,787
Mottled Skate	377	447	789	802
Hairtails	29,174	21,350	30,126	48,908
Manila clams	1,561	1,638	1,056	882
Yellow corvina	20,481	22,935	27,723	55,303
Spanish Mackerel	-	27,876	26,036	31,020
Total	358,390	360,145	359,728	567,563

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

Although there has been a COVID-19 driven decline in demand from institutional and food service sectors, Korean seafood processors produced 1.37 million tons of processed seafood products in 2021, up 5.2 percent from the year before while facing higher production costs due to minimum wage increases and higher raw material costs. This increase is partly due to rebounding grocery purchases through retail channels and increased exports of processed seafood products to global markets.

Table 3. Korean Production of Processed Seafood

Year	Production (MT)	Value (Million K/Won)
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
2020	1,305,415	6,220,074
2021	1,373,402	7,155,468

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

2. CONSUMPTION

Seafood consumption has continued to grow despite stagnant production. The Korean seafood industry has successfully promoted seafood as a healthy alternative source of protein 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, flat fish, crabs, monkfish, anchovy, oyster, and octopus.

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

Total	Domestic Consumption	Domestic Production	Self-sufficiency rate
2015	4,605	3,337	72.5%
2016	4,583	3,270	71.4%
2017	5,696	3,728	65.4%
2018	5,461	3,760	68.9%
2019	5,590	3,820	68.3%
2020 (Est.)	5,278	3,711	70.3%
2021 (Est.)	5,321	3,802	71.5%

Source: Korean Fisheries Yearbook 2021, KMI Fishery Outlook 2022

Price, quality, and shipping efficiency are the most important factors for U.S. seafood exports to Korea. U.S. seafood products are generally considered high quality but tend to be more expensive than other regional competitors. As a result, Korea primarily imports premium products at lower volumes from the United States. An example is Alaska pollock surimi, which enjoys a reputation for high quality but has limited supply in Korea.

Korean per capita fish and shellfish consumption has been steady over the last decade despite declining consumption by young consumers. Per capita seaweed consumption has nearly doubled over the last decade.

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

Product Category	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (est.)	2021 (est.)
Fish and Shellfish	37.2	41.6	38.5	36.5	38.2	41.8	42.3	39.6	39.7
Seaweed	17.4	16.9	18.6	21.1	27.7	26.6	27.6	27.0	27.1
Total (kg/year)	54.6	58.5	57.1	57.5	65.9	68.4	69.9	66.6	66.8

Source: Korea Rural Economy Institute (KREI) 2019 Food Balance Sheet, KMI Fishery Outlook 2022

Koreans eat fresh, chilled, and frozen fish in order of preference. Korean consumers believe fresh fish taste better than frozen fish even after cooking. Accordingly, fresh, or chilled fish tend to be substantially more expensive than frozen fish.

In Korea, demand for precooked, prepared, and preserved foods is growing quickly. This includes processed ready-to-eat seafood products and convenience cooking kit (HMR) products incorporating seafood ingredients. The convenience trend is driven by a steady rise in the labor participation rate for women and the increasing number of single-person households. The factory-processed kits simplify the handling of seafood ingredients and minimize the fishy smell during preparation. The COVID-19 pandemic also escalated this trend by increasing contactless (called “un-tact” in Korea) food sales through online channels. Industry experts project seafood HMR sales reached 60 billion won in 2021, 3.75 times higher than the 16 billion in sales in 2016.

Hotels and department stores generally use high quality seafood and charge higher prices. Some five-star hotels and leading department stores hold 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 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), shrimp (from Vietnam), frozen Alaska pollack (from Russia), and hairtail (from Senegal).

SECTION II: TRADE, TARIFFS, COMPETITORS AND MARKETING

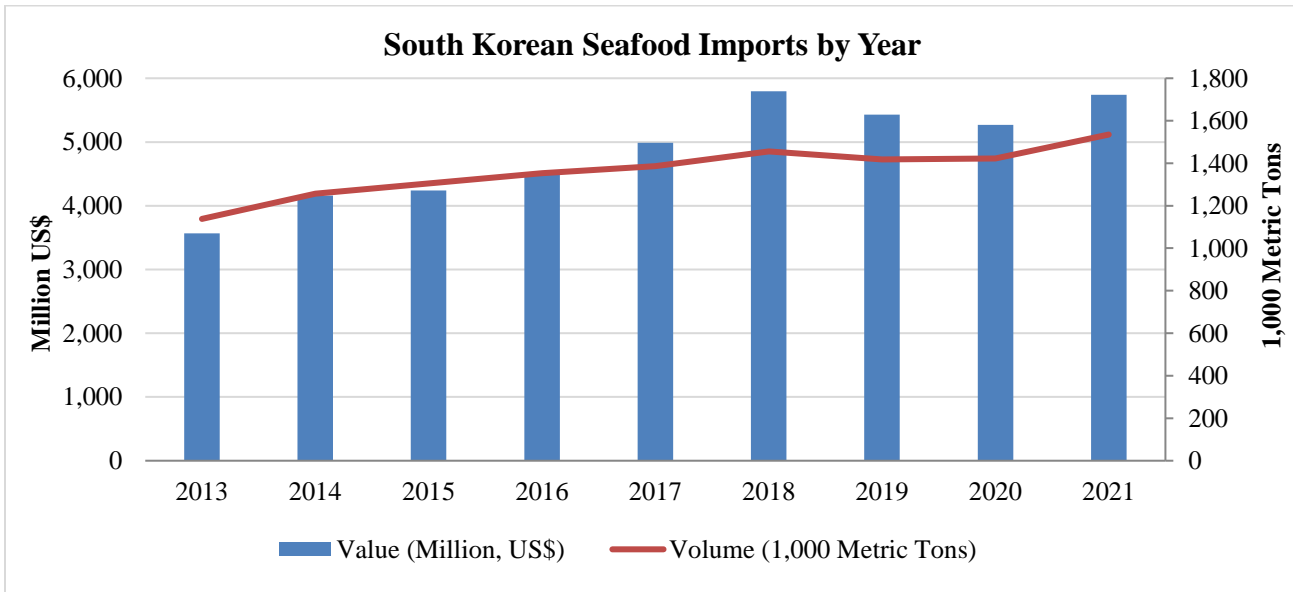
1. TRADE

Growing domestic demand and limited supplies have made Korea a net importer of seafood since 2001. In 2021 Korea imported \$3.8 billion more in seafood than it exported. Korean seafood imports are expected to continue growing, creating opportunities for U.S. seafood exporters. Korea’s largest seafood export is seaweed.

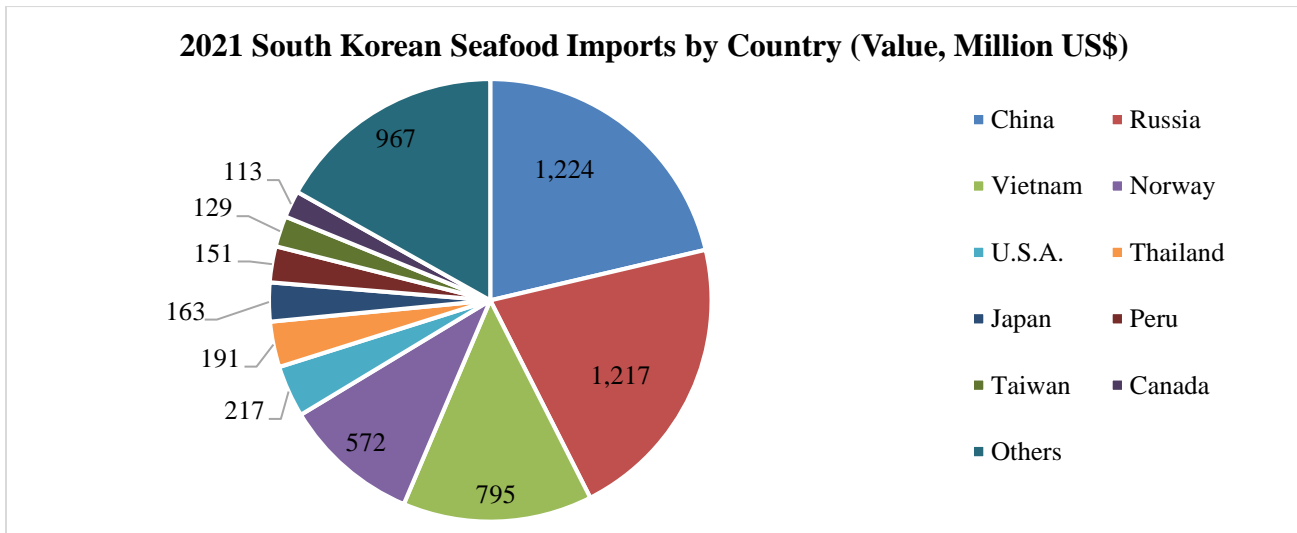
a. World Trade

Korea’s seafood imports from all origins totaled \$5.74 billion in 2021, up nine percent from 2020. China is the largest supplier, exporting \$1.2 billion in seafood to Korea in 2021. Russia is the second largest supplier, followed by Vietnam, Norway, and the United States. The largest import categories by value in

2021 were other shrimps & prawns peeled, Atlantic salmon, frozen Alaska pollack, live snow crab, live king crab, other squid, frozen webfoot octopus, white leg shrimps, other fish surimi, and frozen poulp squid. The largest imports by volume were frozen Alaska pollack, other fish surimi, other squid, sardine, mackerel, other shrimps & prawns peeled, cod, anchovies, Atlantic salmon, and frozen webfoot octopus.



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



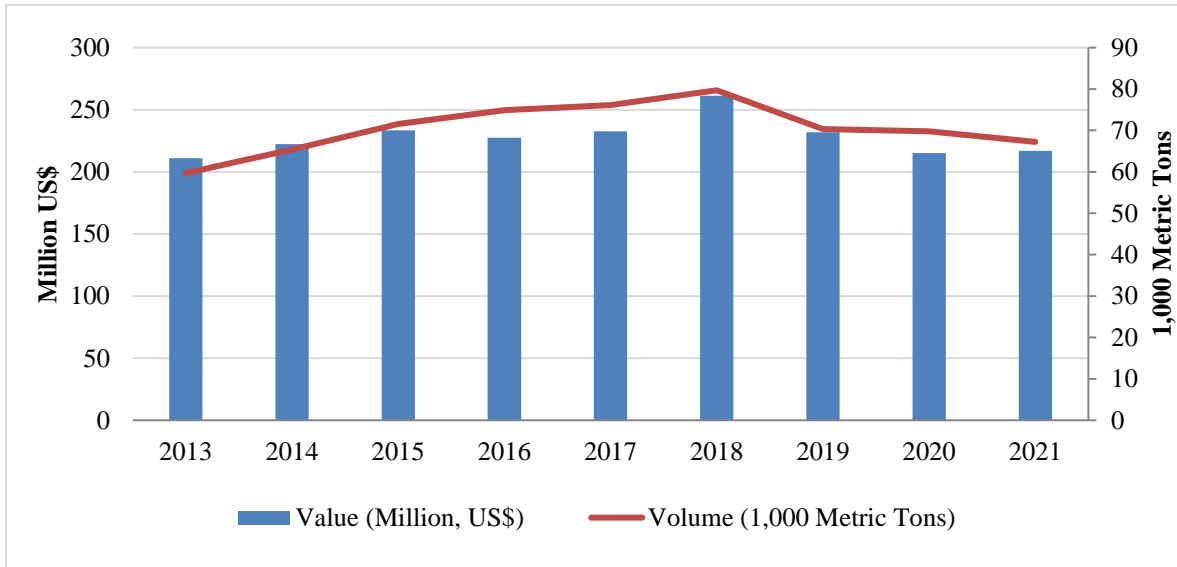
Source: Korean Government Import Data (www.kita.net, CIF Value)

b. U.S. Imports

Korea imported \$217 million worth of U.S. seafood in 2021, up slightly from 2020. U.S. market share remained around four percent. The top ten seafood imports from the United States by value in 2021 were

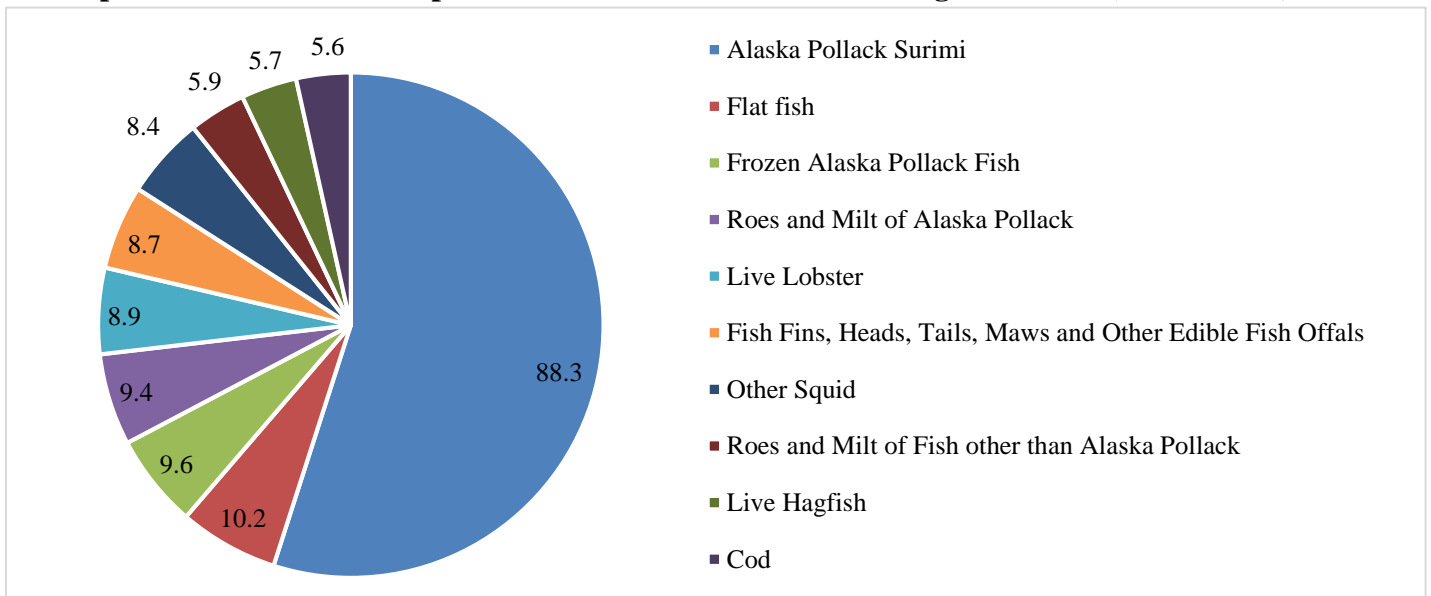
Alaska pollack surimi, flat fish, frozen Alaska pollack fish, roe and milt of Alaska pollack, live lobster, fish fins/heads/tails/maws/other edible fish offal, other squid, roe, and milt of fish other than Alaska pollack, live hagfish, and cod. The top ten imports by volume were Alaska pollack surimi, frozen Alaska pollack fish, flat fish, other squid, fish fins/heads/tails/maws/other edible fish offal, other fish frozen (NESOI), roe and milt of Alaska pollack, cod, Atka mackerel, and roes and milt of fish other than Alaska pollack.

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 Import Data (www.kita.net, CIF Value)

Note: These 10 products accounted for 74 percent of Korea’s seafood imports from the United States.

2. TARIFFS & QUOTAS

U.S seafood has benefited from the elimination of import duties under the KORUS FTA, with non-FTA rates ranging from 5 to 20 percent Customs duties for fishery products imported from the United States were either cut to zero or phased out over 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-served 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%

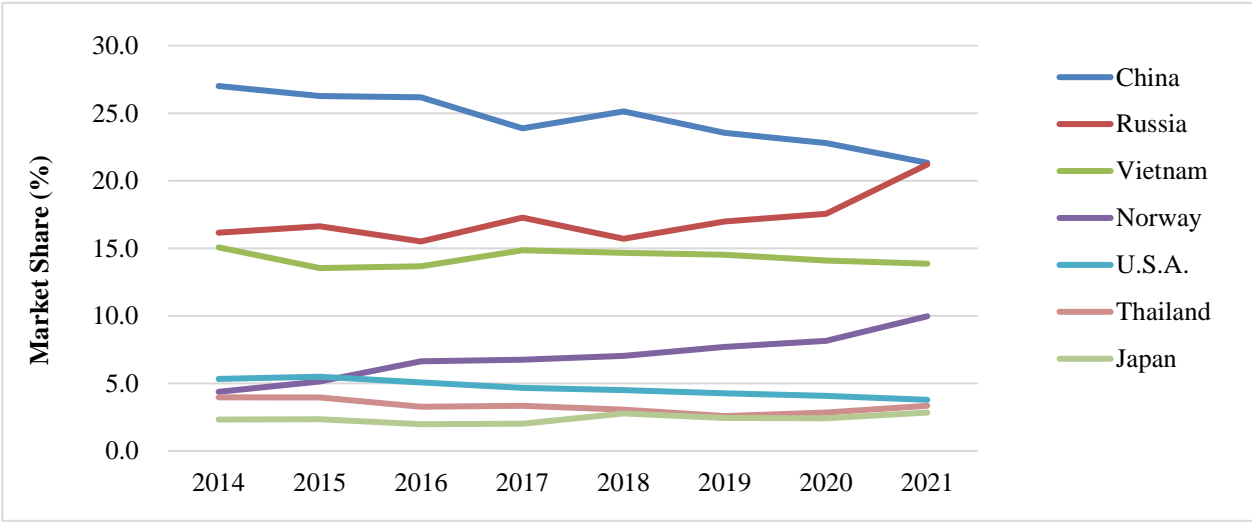
Korea has tried to insulate domestic seafood producers from import competition, particularly from China. “Adjustment tariffs” ranging from 22 to 50 percent were imposed on nine fish species not subject to tariff bindings under WTO agreements. These nine species previously were subject to tariffs ranging

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 9,469 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, Thailand, Japan, Peru, Taiwan, 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	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT
World	122,709	5,368	120,915	5,253	89,321	4,210	109,294	4,136
Canada	102,153	4,509	102,627	4,538	78,019	3,717	98,976	3,818
United States	20,106	830	17,790	673	11,266	489	10,288	318
Others	450	29	498	42	36	4	30	0

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

A dozen countries, including China, Russia, Japan, Norway, Thailand, Chile, Canada, and Indonesia, have participated 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 2021 Busan International Seafood and Fisheries Expo, partnering with Food Export USA Northeast and the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute to showcase U.S. seafood. Most exporting countries, however, canceled their in-person participation in the 2021 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 98 percent of Korea's seafood imports from the United States in 2021. 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 and the 2022 show was held on May 18-20, 2022. Check the [show website](#) for further details.

Busan International Seafood & Fisheries Expo (BIFSE) 2022 will be held in Busan at the BEXCO convention center, November 2-5, 2022. 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 17 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 [2021 Exporter Guide](#). For further information about the Korean market please contact:

U.S. Agricultural Trade Office (ATO)

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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@fas.usda.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

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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 \(MOFA\)](#)

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Appendix

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

Year	From World	From USA	U.S. Market Share
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%
2021	5,739	217	3.8%

Source: www.kita.net Korea’s Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

Reporting Country: Korea, Republic of Top 15 Ranking	Import			Percent change (2020~2021)
	2019	2020	2021	
China	1,279	1,200	1,224	2.0%
Russia	922	924	1,217	31.6%
Vietnam	789	742	795	7.0%
Norway	418	429	572	33.4%
United States	232	215	217	0.7%
Thailand	140	150	191	27.3%
Japan	133	127	163	28.3%
Peru	201	194	151	-22.3%
Taiwan	107	74	129	75.3%
Canada	119	94	113	20.8%
Ecuador	71	56	78	39.3%
Argentina	63	100	70	-30.4%

Indonesia	62	68	65	-4.6%
Malaysia	64	54	57	6.5%
United Kingdom	51	52	50	-5.4%
Other	780	787	649	-17.6%
Total	5,431	5,267	5,739	9.0%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

Year	To World	To USA
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
2021	1,947	210

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

Reporting Country: Korea, Republic of Top 10 Ranking	Export		
	2019	2020	2021
China	385	331	576
Japan	520	454	455
United States	167	156	210
Vietnam	123	112	130
Thailand	131	121	91
France	40	31	58
Italy	35	34	52
Hong Kong	52	51	46
Spain	19	39	29
Other	267	206	299
Total	1,739	1,534	1,947

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

Table 14-1. Top 30 Fish Imported to Korea from USA in 2021 (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	88,321	89,244	99.0%
Other Flat Fish (Excluding Fillets, Livers and Roes), Frozen	0303.39.0000	10,218	61,574	16.6%
Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0303.67.0000	9,609	257,637	3.7%
Livers, Roes, and Milt of Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	9,436	87,586	10.8%
Lobsters (<i>Homarus Spp.</i>), Live, Fresh, Or Chilled	0306.32.0000	8,860	67,555	13.1%
Fish Fins (Other Than Shark), Heads, Tails, Maws and Other Edible Fish Offals, Frozen	0303.99.0000	8,674	19,531	44.4%
Other Squid	0307.43.2090	8,387	205,022	4.1%
Livers, Roes, and Milt of Fish other than Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2090	5,887	25,497	23.1%
Hagfish, Live	0301.99.7000	5,743	6,776	84.8%

Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus), Frozen	0303.63.0000	5,601	96,581	5.8%
Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0303.89.9099	5,500	38,508	14.3%
Hagfish (Pacific, Atlantic), Frozen	0303.89.9070	5,414	6,748	80.2%
Fillet of Plaice, Frozen	0304.83.1000	5,290	6,770	78.1%
Atka Mackerel, Frozen	0303.89.9040	5,117	20,515	24.9%
Fillet of Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0304.75.0000	4,323	70,885	6.1%
Skates, Frozen	0303.82.2000	3,459	19,896	17.4%
Rock fish (including pacific ocean perch), Frozen	0303.89.9050	3,369	22,654	14.9%
Angler (Monkfish), Frozen	0303.89.9060	3,325	42,821	7.8%
Fillet of Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0304.89.9000	2,424	37,736	6.4%
Sea Urchin, Live, Fresh or Chilled	0308.21.0000	2,389	10,796	22.1%
Cold-Water Shrimps and Prawns (Pandalus Spp., Crangon Crangon), Frozen	0306.16.9090	2,303	9,484	24.3%
Crabs (Other than King Crab and Blue Crab), Frozen	0306.14.9090	1,760	83,061	2.1%
Adductors Of Shell Fish	0307.92.1000	1,726	15,377	11.2%
Pacific salmon(Oncorhynchus nerka, Oncorhynchus gorbusha, Oncorhynchus keta, Oncorhynchus tshawytscha, Oncorhynchus kisutch, Oncorhynchus masou and Oncorhynchus rhodurus), Atlantic salmon(Salmo salar) and Danube salmon(Hucho hucho)	0304.81.0000	1,611	6,593	24.4%
Lobsters (Homarus Spp.), Including in- shell, Cooked by Steaming or by Boiling in Water, Frozen	0306.12.9000	1,428	41,739	3.4%
Fillet of Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus), Frozen	0304.71.0000	1,330	4,718	28.2%
Sable Fish, Frozen	0303.89.1000	765	790	96.8%
Other Shrimps and Prawns, Live, fresh or chilled	0306.36.0000	734	1,402	52.4%
Other Crabs, Live, fresh or chilled	0306.33.9000	448	225,809	0.2%
Herrings, Frozen	0303.51.0000	253	10,482	2.4%
Total		213,704	1,593,787	13.4%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

Table 14-2. Top 30 Fish Imported to Korea from USA in 2021 (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 (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0304.94.1000	24,007	24,307	98.8%
Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0303.67.0000	7,276	263,182	2.8%
Other Flat Fish (Excluding Fillets, Livers and Roes), Frozen	0303.39.0000	6,394	26,209	24.4%
Squid, Other, Frozen	0307.43.2090	2,727	94,946	2.9%
Fish Fins (Other Than Shark), Heads, Tails, Maws and Other Edible Fish Offals, Frozen	0303.99.0000	2,646	5,748	46.0%
Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0303.89.9099	2,545	17,620	14.4%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	2,484	15,731	15.8%
Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus), Frozen	0303.63.0000	2,365	34,934	6.8%
Atka Mackerel, Frozen	0303.89.9040	2,355	10,262	22.9%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Fish other than Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2090	2,327	11,250	20.7%

Rock fish (including pacific ocean perch), Frozen	0303.89.9050	2,124	11,489	18.5%
Hagfish (Pacific, Atlantic), Frozen	0303.89.9070	1,726	2,159	79.9%
Fillet of Plaice, Frozen	0304.83.1000	1,483	1,661	89.3%
Fillet of Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0304.75.0000	1,242	24,596	5.0%
Cold-Water Shrimps and Prawns (Pandalus Spp., Crangon Crangon), Frozen	0306.16.9090	822	1,687	48.7%
Angler (Monkfish), Frozen	0303.89.9060	801	29,225	2.7%
Skates, Frozen	0303.82.2000	728	4,614	15.8%
Hagfish, Live	0301.99.7000	649	735	88.3%
Fillet of Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0304.89.9000	590	8,285	7.1%
Pacific salmon(Oncorhynchus nerka, Oncorhynchus gorbusha, Oncorhynchus keta, Oncorhynchus tshawytscha, Oncorhynchus kisutch, Oncorhynchus masou and Oncorhynchus rhodurus), Atlantic salmon(Salmo salar) and Danube salmon(Hucho hucho)	0304.81.0000	388	1,004	38.6%
Herrings, Frozen	0303.51.0000	302	18,429	1.6%
Lobsters (Homarus Spp.), Live, Fresh, Or Chilled	0306.32.0000	292	2,293	12.7%
Anchovies (Engraulis Spp.), Excluding Livers and Roes, Frozen	0303.59.9000	254	34,501	0.7%
Fillet of Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus), Frozen	0304.71.0000	187	876	21.3%
Crabs (Other than King Crab and Blue Crab), Frozen	0306.14.9090	90	11,594	0.8%
Sable Fish, Frozen	0303.89.1000	66	67	98.2%
Adductors of shell fish	0307.92.1000	59	1,098	5.4%
Dogfish and other sharks	0303.81.0000	53	1,278	4.1%
Sardines, Frozen	0303.53.0000	29	75,778	0.04%
Lobster, Frozen	0306.12.9000	26	1,843	1.4%
Total		67,037	737,401	9.1%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

2020		2021	
USA	5,055	USA	4,814
Russia	21,914	Russia	21,261
Norway	1,110	Norway	1,006
New Zealand	650	Iceland	725
Iceland	423	New Zealand	626
Peru	124	Peru	354
Others	730	Others	840
Total	30,006	Total	29,626

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

Species	2021 H.S. Code	2020		2021	
		World	USA	World	USA
Livers, Frozen	0303.91.1000	75	0	73	2
Roes/AK Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	15,489	2,172	15,731	2,484
Roes/Other Fish, Frozen	0303.91.2090	12,357	2,880	11,250	2,327

Caviar and Caviar Substitutes	1604.31.0000 1604.32.0000	2,084	3	2,571	1
Total		30,006	5,055	29,626	4,814

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

2020		2021	
USA	6,815	USA	6,399
Russia	14,845	Russia	16,197
China	2,138	China	2,395
Guinea	1,895	Guinea	1,689
Senegal	659	Senegal	488
Italy	121	Italy	213
Others	1,046	Others	888
Total	27,519	Total	28,269

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

Species	2021 H.S. Code	2020		2021	
		World	U.S.A.	World	U.S.A.
Flat Fish, Live / Plaice, Fresh	0301.99.8000 0302.22.0000	529	0	614	0
Halibut, Frozen	0303.31.0000	110	0	679	5
Plaice, Frozen	0303.32.0000	142	0	235	0
Sole, Frozen	0303.33.0000	275	0	532	0
Others, Frozen	0303.39.0000	26,463	6,805	26,209	6,394
Total		27,519	6,815	28,269	6,399

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

2020		2021	
USA	15,450	USA	11,765
Russia	177,889	Russia	295,236
Portugal	4,870	Portugal	4,343
Japan	1,798	Japan	1,798
Norway	401	Norway	1,481
Others	5,740	Others	4,580
Total	206,148	Total	319,203

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

Species	2021 H.S. Code	2020		2021	
		World	USA	World	USA
Cod, Fresh	0302.51.0000	555	0	290	0
Alaska Pollack, Fresh	0302.55.0000	1,700	0	1,658	0
Cod, Frozen	0303.63.0000	23,575	3,765	34,934	2,365
Hake, Frozen	0303.66.0000	94	51	71	0
Alaska Pollack	0303.67.0000	159,761	8,941	263,182	7,276
Rockfish (Pacific ocean perch)	0303.89.9050	12,310	2,693	11,489	2,124
Alaska Pollack, Dried	0305.59.3000	8,153	0	7,579	0
Total		206,148	15,450	319,203	11,765

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

2020		2021	
USA	26,382	USA	27,950
Vietnam	54,782	Vietnam	56,166
China	39,063	China	35,267
Russia	16,233	Russia	24,783
India	5,966	Norway	5,917
Indonesia	5,776	India	5,427
Norway	4,390	Indonesia	4,468
Pakistan	1,955	Pakistan	2,421
Thailand	1,627	Thailand	1,251
Others	10,240	Others	9,000
Total	166,414	Total	172,650

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

Species	2021 H.S. Code	2020		2021	
		World	USA	World	USA
Fillet of Alaska Pollack/frozen	0304.75.0000	17,035	1,079	24,596	1,242
Fillet of Cod/frozen	0304.71.0000	836	186	876	187
Fillet of Plaice/frozen	0304.83.1000	1,350	1,237	1,661	1,483
Fillet of Other Fish/frozen	0304.72.0000	16,123	659	18,161	1,010
	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	22,730	22,730	24,307	24,007
Other type of fish meat of Alaska Pollack/frozen	0304.94.9000	350	56	264	20
Surimi of other fish/frozen	0304.95.1000	106,355	411	101,836	0
	0304.99.1000				
Other type of fish meat of other fish/fresh or chilled, frozen	0304.91.9000	1,635	24	949	1
	0304.92.9000				
	0304.93.9000				
	0304.95.9000				
	0304.99.9000				
Total		166,414	26,382	172,650	27,950

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

2020		2021	
USA	536	USA	412

Vietnam	37,004	Vietnam	34,112
China	33,832	China	33,190
Russia	10,324	Ecuador	12,131
Ecuador	8,506	Russia	9,527
Malaysia	4,356	Malaysia	4,606
Canada	3,789	Canada	3,825
India	2,721	Thailand	3,222
Thailand	2,490	India	2,420
Bahrain	1,776	Bahrain	1,819
Others	19,684	Others	13,316
Total	125,018	Total	118,580

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

Species	2021 H.S. Code	2020		2021	
		World	USA	World	USA
Frozen lobsters (<i>Homarus spp.</i>)	0306.12.9000	1,598	56	1,843	26
Frozen peeled cold-water shrimps and prawns	0306.16.1090	9	0	15	0
Frozen other type of shrimps and prawns	0306.17.1090 0306.17.9090	57,328	0	61,428	0
Frozen crab meat	0306.14.1090	5	0	52	0
Frozen king crabs	0306.14.2090	43	0	103	0
Frozen blue crabs	0306.14.3090	20,716	0	17,107	0
Frozen other type of crabs	0306.14.9090	12,237	37	11,594	90
Not frozen lobsters (<i>Homarus spp.</i>)	0306.32.0000	2,612	433	2,293	292
Live, fresh or chilled shrimps and prawns	0306.35.0000 0306.36.0000	9	0	8	1
Salted or in brine shrimps and prawns	0306.95.1030 0306.95.9030	18,146	0	14,382	0
Live, fresh or chilled snow crab	0306.33.2000	8,390	4	7,768	3
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	3,930	6	2,039	0
Total		125,018	536	118,580	412

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

Country	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT
World	85,552	3,581	69,044	2,822	56,392	2,612	67,555	2,293
Canada	67,777	2,811	55,070	2,246	46,893	2,178	58,666	2,001
United States	17,751	769	13,945	575	9,483	433	8,860	292
Others	24	1	29	1	16	1	29	0

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	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT
World	37,157	1,787	51,871	2,431	32,928	1,598	41,739	1,843
Canada	34,376	1,698	47,557	2,292	31,126	1,539	40,310	1,817
United States	2,355	61	3,845	98	1,783	56	1,428	26
Others	426	28	469	41	19	3	1	0

Source: Korea Customs and Trade Development Institute, HS 0306.12.9000

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

2020		2021	
USA	2,436	USA	2,787
China	119,436	China	108,079
Peru	34,614	Vietnam	33,252
Vietnam	32,231	Peru	31,744
Argentina	14,051	Chile	11,042
Chile	13,940	Japan	10,783
Japan	9,217	Argentina	8,721
Thailand	7,548	Thailand	7,652
Indonesia	3,473	Indonesia	3,112
Taiwan	1,996	Taiwan	1,564
Others	13,266	Others	15,015
Total	252,208	Total	233,751

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

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

Species	2021 H.S. Code	2020		2021	
		World	USA	World	USA
Scallops	0307.2X.XXXX	10,088	0	13,036	0
Cuttlefish	0307.4X.XXXX	126,526	2,349	105,699	2,727
Octopus	0307.5X.XXXX	66,338	10	66,680	0
Hard clams, abalones, top shells, pearl oyster, ark shells, cockles, adductors of shell fish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, hen clams, baby clams, jelly fish	0307.7X.XXXX 0307.8X.XXXX 0307.9X.XXXX	49,130	77	48,144	60
Oysters, mussels	0307.1X.XXXX 0307.3X.XXXX	126	0	192	0
Total		252,208	2,436	233,751	2,787

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2021

Table 21. Korean Tariff Schedule for Fishery Products

Description	H.S. Code (Korea)	2022 Base Rate
Live Fish , Ornamental, Other Live	0301.XX.XXXX except 0301.92.1000, 0301.92.2000, 0301.99.4010 and 0301.99.9051	10%
Live Fish , Other, Eels, Young Eels (exceeding 0.3g and not exceeding 50g per unit, for aquaculture)	0301.92.2000	5%
Live Fish , Other, Eels, Glass Eels (not exceeding 0.3g per unit, for aquaculture), Sea Bream Fry (for aquaculture), and Sea Bass Fry (for aquaculture)	0301.92.1000, 0301.99.4010, and 0301.99.9051	0%
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	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 – 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 0307.11.10XX, 0307.42.1010, 0307.42.2010, 0307.43.1010, 0307.43.2010, 0307.49.2010, 0307.49.3010, 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	0307.42.1010, 0307.42.2010, 0307.43.1010, 0307.43.2010, 0307.49.2010, 0307.49.3010	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%
Flours, Meals and Pellets of Fish , Crustaceans, Mollusks and Other Aquatic Invertebrates, fit for human consumption	0309.XX.XXXX	20%
Extracts and Juices of Fish or Crustaceans, Mollusks or Other Aquatic	1603.00.3000 and 1603.00.4000	30%

Invertebrates		
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, 2022

Attachments:

No Attachments.