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Report Highlights:

Korean seafood imports totaled \$5.93 billion in 2023, down 8.3 percent from 2022. Korean 2023 seafood imports from the United States totaled \$203 million, a decrease of 11.4 percent year-to-year. The United States was the sixth largest seafood exporter to Korea in 2023, with 3.4 percent of the market. Korean consumers generally view U.S. fishery products as high-quality, but U.S. supply of species favored by Korean consumers has declined in recent years and regional competitors are price competitive.

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SECTION I: KOREAN SEAFOOD MARKET OVERVIEW

1. PRODUCTION

Korean seafood production totaled 3.68 million metric tons in 2023, up slightly from 2022. Shallow sea aquaculture (including seaweed) remains the largest production category, followed by fishing in adjacent waters, distant waters, and then inland waters.

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

Year	Total	Adjacent Waters	Shallow Sea Aquaculture	Distant Waters ¹	Inland Waters
2023	3,678	956	2,269	410	43
2022	3,611	889	2,274	399	49
2021	3,832	943	2,401	445	43
2020	3,711	932	2,308	437	34
2019	3,861	912	2,410	504	35
2018	3,791	1,012	2,251	493	35
2017	3,725	927	2,316	446	36

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

FAS/Seoul forecasts domestic fish production to remain stable in 2025. Diminished fishery resources in adjacent waters due to rising water temperature, sea water contamination, and the disappearance or migration of traditionally popular fish species are impediments to increasing production. The Korean fisheries industry is also bound by bilateral and multilateral fishing accords that limit total harvest as well as the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of Japan and China.

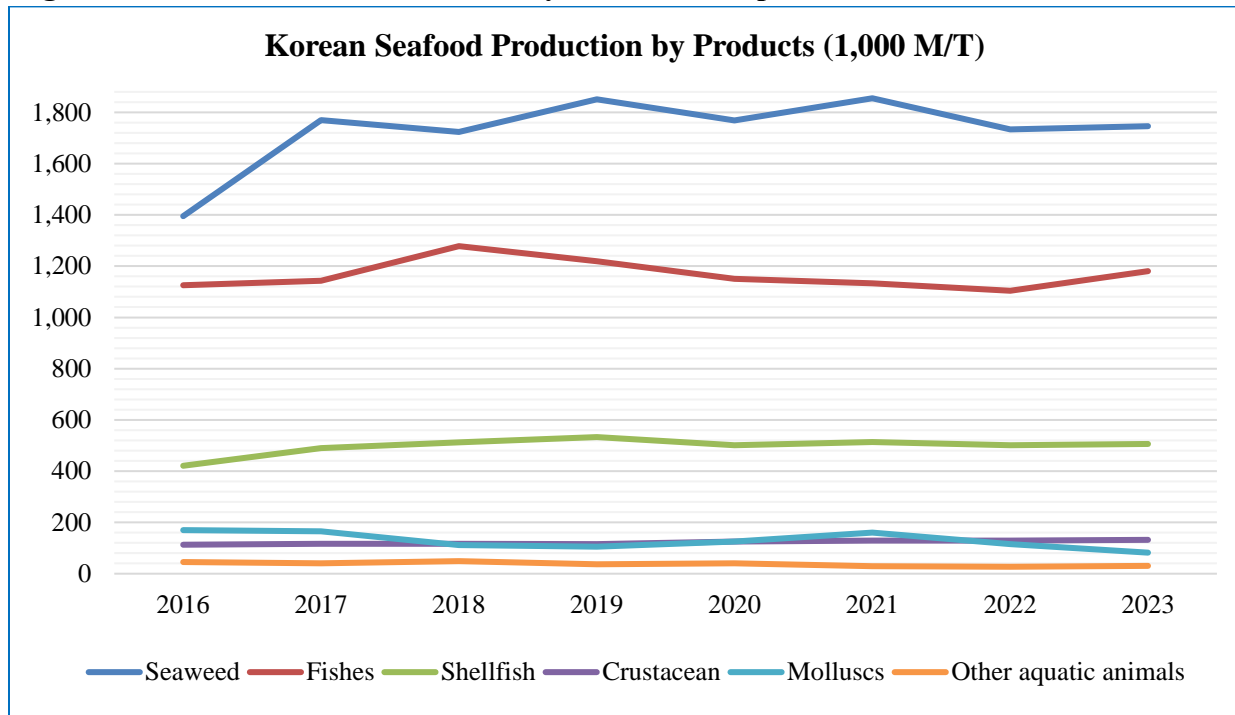
The number of Korean fishing vessels has steadily decreased over the past 20 years as fishery resources have depleted. The Korean government is working to accelerate downsizing of the fleet and has successfully promoted shallow water aquaculture production as an alternative. The aquaculture segment now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

Seaweed is a common ingredient in Korean dishes and is a significant part of shallow sea aquaculture in Korea. Seaweed production overtook fish production by weight in 2016 and has been expanding rapidly in response to increased consumption and exports of dried, seasoned seaweed (green laver) products, in part due to the expansion of K-Wave and K-Food.

¹ <https://www.iss-foundation.org/glossary/distant-water-fishing-nations/>

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

Figure 1. Korean Seafood Production by Product Group



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

The average temperature of Korea’s coastal waters has risen 1.44 degrees Celsius over the last 56 years, doubling the global average.² As a result, the local squid catch has dropped significantly in recent years, causing the price to double and increase demand for imported squid. In 2023, Korea imported 121,801 metric tons of squid at \$371 million, a 21 percent increase in value from 2022. To meet demand from domestic industry and consumers, importers seek diverse trading partners to secure squid stock.

Korea’s Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) establishes total allowable catch (TAC) 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.

² National Institute of Fisheries Science (NIFS), Annual Report for Climate Change Trends in Fisheries 2024

Table 2. Korean Total Allowable Catch in 2021-2024 (Metric Tons)

Species	2021 (July 2021 ~ June 2022)	2022 (July 2022 ~ June 2023)	2023 (July 2023 ~ June 2024)	2024 (July 2024 ~ June 2025)
Mackerel	101,715	145,905	126,072	122,993
Jack mackerel	31,779	41,024	41,693	39,675
Red snow crab	23,273	22,283	25,587	23,208
Snow crab	948	978	978	837
Purplish Washington clam	1,491	1,289	1,039	980
Pen shell	6,797	6,905	8,416	6,954
Horned turban	975	1,539	1,819	1,856
Blue crab	5,102	5,444	7,059	4,865 (Jul-Dec 2024) 6,702 (Jan-Dec 2025)
Squid	83,834	85,590	79,000	60,482
Sailfin sandfish	3,207	2,787	2,301	1,277
Mottled Skate	789	802	3,668	3,668
Hairtail	30,126	48,908	48,296	52,379
Manila clam	1,056	882	4,034	2,735
Yellow corvina	27,723	55,303	49,897	36,424
Spanish Mackerel	26,036	31,020	31,426	31,769
Total	359,728	450,659	431,285	396,804

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

Processed Seafood: Korean seafood processors produced 1.2 million metric tons of processed seafood products in 2023, down 7 percent from the year before. However, the production value increased from the previous year by 7.8 percent. Declining production is, in part, a response to a contraction in consumption, driven by high domestic retail prices and a slowdown in exports, reflecting a broader global economic downturn.

Table 3. Korean Production of Processed Seafood

Year	Production (MT)	Value (Million K/Won)
2023	1,208,452	7,581,294
2022	1,299,740	7,027,692
2021	1,373,402	7,155,468
2020	1,305,415	6,220,074
2019	1,085,523	6,063,543
2018	1,356,579	6,202,073
2017	1,291,639	5,916,672

Source: Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) Data Portal (www.mof.go.kr/statPortal/)

The largest production category in volume was frozen seafood, followed by surimi cake, processed seaweed, salted fish, seasoned seafood, and canned seafood.

2. CONSUMPTION

Korean per capita fish and shellfish consumption has held steady over the last decade despite declining consumption by young consumers. The Korean seafood industry has successfully promoted seafood as a healthy alternative source of protein. Between 2000 and 2018, seafood consumption grew, 3.5 percent a year on average, compared to an average growth of 3 percent for meat products. However, meat consumption more steadily increased between 2019 and 2022, surpassing seafood in terms of annual per capita consumption volume. The compound annual growth rate of meat consumption in Korea for 2016-2022 was 2.6 percent, while that of seafood was 1.4 percent. 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, hairtail, crabs, monkfish, eels, anchovy, oyster, and octopus. Domestic supply of the top several species are limited, and the Korean seafood market depends on imported seafood, which in most cases is frozen.

Among Korean consumers, there is concern that the release of wastewater from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station could impact the health of marine products. In a July 2023 public survey by Media Research, more than 60 percent of respondents said they would cut back or stop consuming seafood once the water is discharged, despite government assurances that it would closely monitor the release. To protect the local seafood industry from a potential slump in the seafood sales, the Korean government reported that it had found no scientific or technical problems with the release, which began in August 2023, but public concern remains high over possible contamination of seafood products.

Korea banned imports of seafood from eight Japanese provinces, including Fukushima. The Korean government is taking measures to assess the radiation levels in imported seafood, regardless of its origin. The government has published the results of all analysis on the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) [Ocean Safety Website](#).

Table 4. Korean Annual Per Capita Consumption of Seafood Products (Kg)

Product Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (est.)
Fish and Shellfish	36.3	38.2	41.8	42.0	40.7	40.4	37.7	37.1
Seaweed	21.1	27.7	26.6	28.1	27.1	28.0	25.6	25.4
Total (kg/year)	57.4	65.9	68.4	70.1	67.8	68.4	63.3	62.5

Source: Korea Rural Economy Institute (KREI) 2022 Food Balance Sheet, KMI Fishery Outlook 2024

Table 5. Korean Seafood Demand and Supply (Unit: 1,000 tons)

Total	Domestic Consumption	Domestic Production	Self-sufficiency Rate
2023 (est)	5,677	3,680	64.8%
2022	5,538	3,604	65.1%
2021	5,399	3,832	70.9%
2020	5,383	3,711	68.9%
2019	5,590	3,820	68.3%
2018	5,461	3,760	68.9%
2017	5,696	3,728	65.4%
2016	4,583	3,270	71.4%

Source: Korea Rural Economy Institute (KREI) 2022 Food Balance Sheet, KMI Fishery Outlook 2024

Korean consumers prefer the taste of fresh fish over frozen fish, even after cooking, so they eat fresh, chilled, and frozen fish in order of preference. Accordingly, fresh, or chilled fish tend to be substantially more expensive than frozen fish, and local products are priced higher than imported seafood products.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the importance of nutrition and health has emerged as major factor for consumer seafood purchasing, but the trend has reversed somewhat since the height of the pandemic. According to a recent consumer survey, most respondents said they still consider quality and taste when purchasing seafood but the number of consumers considering ‘price’ as the most important factor has increased significantly due to high inflation.

Demand for precooked and prepackaged convenient foods is growing quickly. This includes processed, ready-to-eat seafood products and home meal replacement (HMR) products that incorporate seafood ingredients. A steady rise in the labor participation rate of women and the increasing number of one-member households is driving a trend for more convenient ways to consume seafood products. Ready-to-eat kits simplify the handling of seafood ingredients and minimize the fishy smell during and after the preparation. The Korean government projected that seafood HMR sales will grow an average 14 percent annually by the year 2030. As of 2021, the estimated share of imported seafood was 68 percent of total ingredients.³

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, cod, and scallops. Retailers time these promotions 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 less expensive food ingredients. The most popular fish products in this market include frozen flatfish (mostly yellowfin sole), croaker

³ Korea Maritime Institute, Fishery Outlook 2023

(aka yellow corvina), mackerel (from Norway), Atka mackerel (from Russia and USA), shrimp (from Vietnam), frozen Alaska pollack (from Russia and USA), and farmed salmon (from Norway).

SECTION II: TRADE, TARIFFS, AND MARKETING

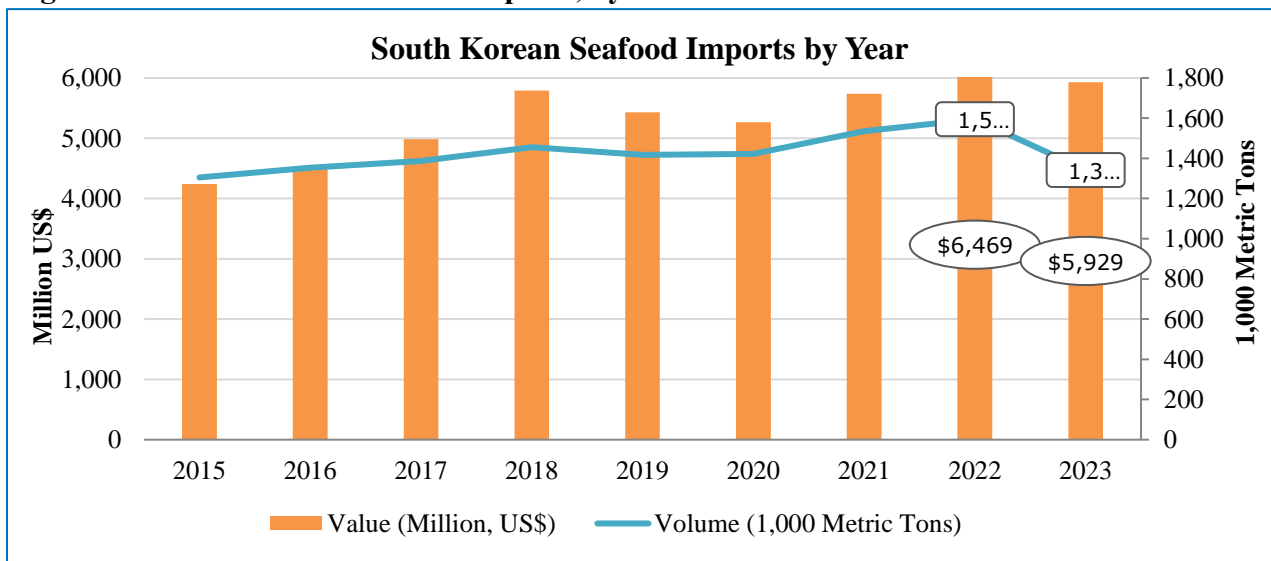
1. TRADE

Korea has been a net importer of seafood since 2001, driven by domestic demand and limited supplies. In 2023, Korea imported \$3.9 billion more in seafood than it exported. FAS/Seoul forecasts Korean seafood imports to remain stable, presenting opportunities for U.S. seafood exporters. Korea’s largest seafood export is seaweed.

a. Global Imports

Korea’s seafood imports from all origins totaled \$5.93 billion in 2023, down 8.3 percent from 2022. The largest import categories by value in 2023 were frozen Alaska pollack, mackerel, Alaska pollack roes, large yellow croaker, croaker, cod, other Pacific salmon, roes and milt of fish other than Alaska pollack, other fish frozen, and Pacific saury. The largest imports by volume were frozen Alaska pollack, mackerel, sand lance, sardines, monkfish, other fish frozen, herrings, Pacific saury, frozen anchovies (*Engraulis Spp.*), and plaice (other than *Pleuronectes platessa*).

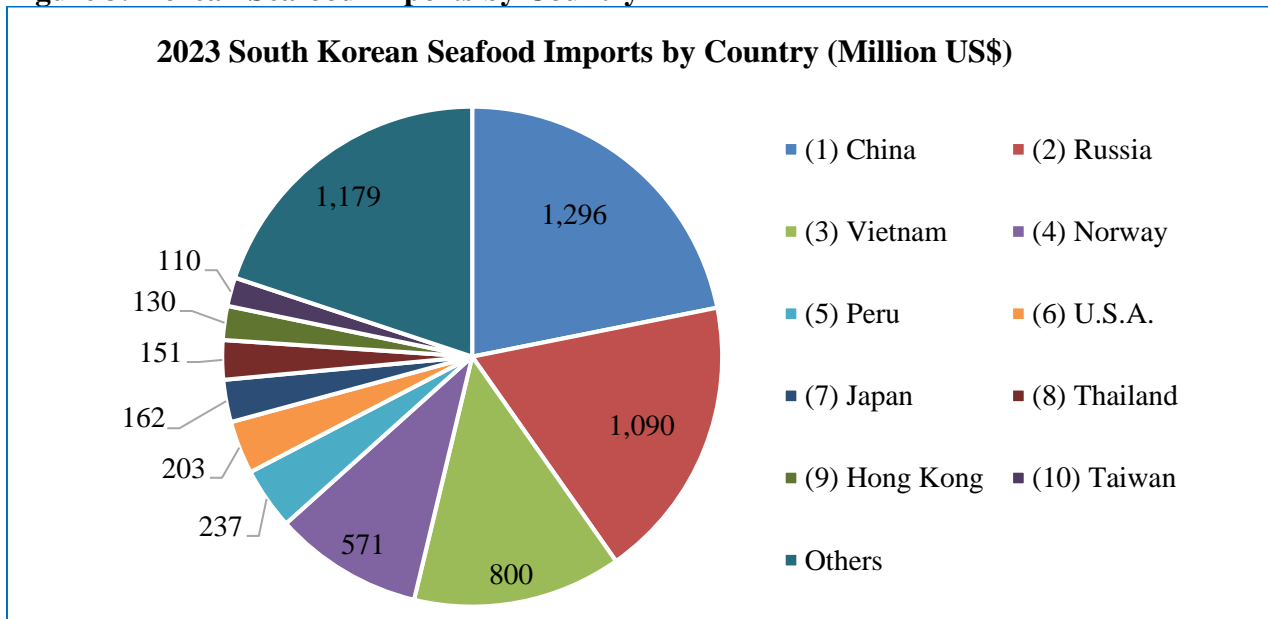
Figure 2. Korean Global Seafood Imports, by Year



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

Korea imports seafood from roughly 100 different countries. As shown in the following chart, major suppliers of fishery products to Korea include China, Russia, Vietnam, Norway, Peru, United States, Japan, Thailand, Canada, and Taiwan.

Figure 3. Korean Seafood Imports by Country



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

China was the largest supplier of seafood to Korea, with a 3.8 percent value increase from 2022. Russia, which was the largest supplier in 2022, had a 23 percent decrease in exports to Korea. Industry sources report that some of the Russian fishery species were sold to China for further processing and finally exported to Korea from China. Out of the top ten supplying countries, only China, Peru, Hong Kong, and Chile saw export growths in 2023.

The United States is the sixth largest exporter of seafood to Korea. Despite strong competition, U.S. seafood has remained a top choice for Korean consumers as it has a reputation for good quality and a stable supply.

Consumer concerns regarding seafood safety after the August 2023 Fukushima water release continue to worsen and they may impact demand on seafood in general or seafood imported from countries in the Pacific. Some Korean seafood industry experts predict that the imports of seafood from the North-Atlantic may increase but to date, there is no supporting data officially available.

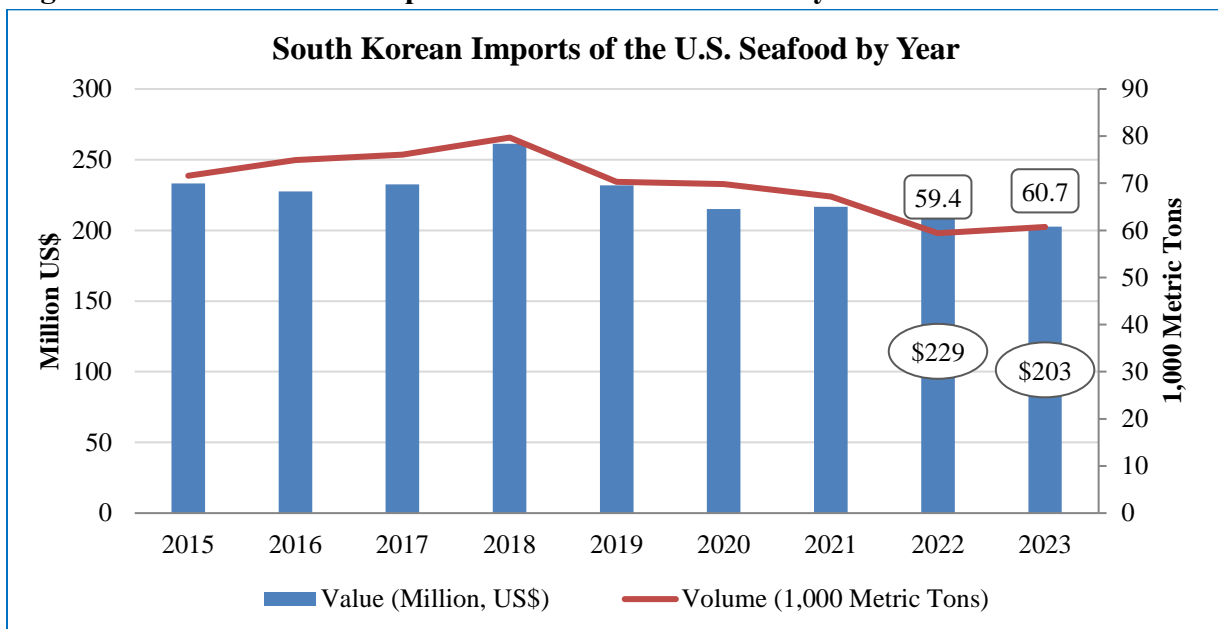
Korea has entered into new trade agreements with several competing seafood exporters in recent years, increasing competition in the Korean market. As an example, U.S. lobster exports to Korea jumped 50 percent in 2014 after tariffs were cut to eight percent as part of the KORUS FTA. The United States 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.

b. Imports from the United States

According to the FAS Global Agricultural Trade System, the United States exported \$479 million worth of seafood products to Korea in 2023. However, Korea is one of the largest intermediary importers of seafood in Asia and only \$203 million, down 11.5 percent from 2022, of U.S. seafood cleared Korean customs for distribution to the domestic market. U.S. market share remained 3.4 percent.

Figure 4. Korean Seafood Imports from the United States by Year

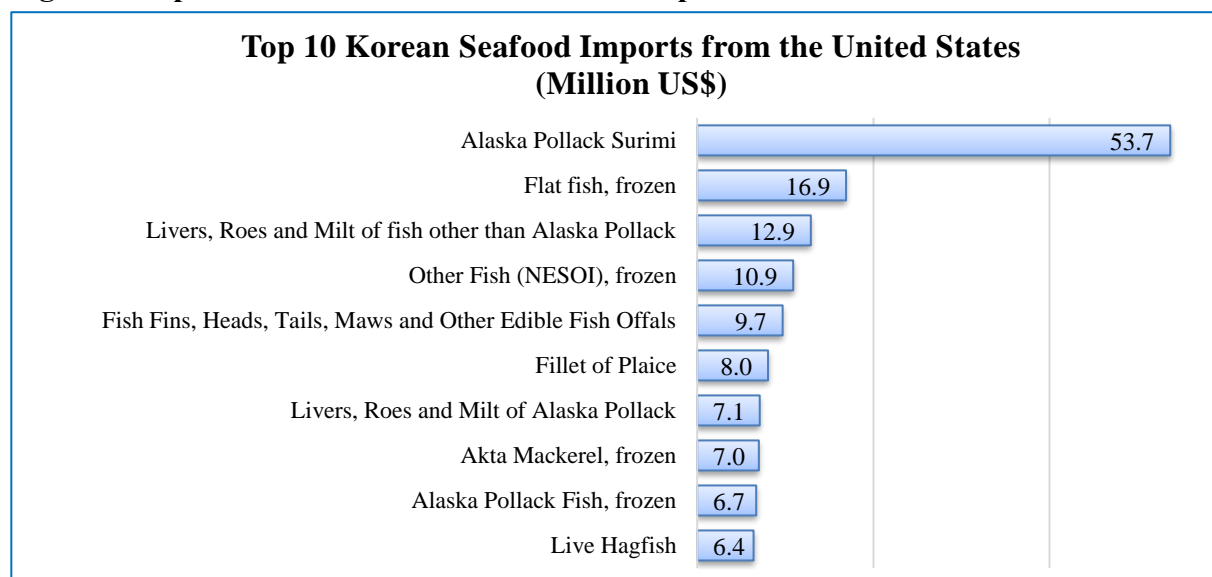


Source: Korean Government Import Data (www.kita.net, CIF Value)

Korean importers consider the price, quality, and shipping efficiency when deciding on imports of U.S. seafood. Korean consumers generally consider U.S. seafood products high quality, but they 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.

As shown in the following chart, the top ten seafood imports from the United States by value in 2023 were Alaska pollack surimi, frozen flat fish, roes and milt of fish other than Alaska pollack, other fish frozen, fish fins/heads/tails/maws/other edible fish offal, fillet of plaice, roes and milt of Alaska pollack, frozen Atka mackerel, frozen Alaska pollack fish, and live hagfish.

Figure 5. Top 10 U.S. Seafood Products Korea Imported in 2023



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

Note: These 10 products accounted for 69 percent of Korea’s seafood imports from the United States.

2. TARIFFS, QUOTAS, AND REGULATIONS

U.S. seafood has benefited from the elimination of import duties under the KORUS FTA (Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement), which went into effect in 2012. Prior to the FTA, tariffs ranged from 5 to 20 percent, but the FTA immediately eliminated or phased them out over 3 to 15 years. For example, duties on U.S. frozen Sockeye salmon were immediately eliminated, while duties on U.S. trout and Alaska pollack were scheduled for phase out over 3 and 15 years, respectively.

As of 2024, Korea assigns Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ) on only one fish product, frozen Alaska pollack, from the United States under the KORUS FTA. Importers can use the quota on a first-come first-served basis. Korea increases the duty-free allotments under the TRQs 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 6. Korea-United States FTA Seafood Tariff Rate Quotas (Metric Tons)

Year	Flatfish/Frozen (HS 0303.34, 0303.39)	Alaska pollack/Frozen (HS 0303.67.0000, 0303.69.9000)	Croaker/Frozen (HS 0303.79.9095)
2022	3,303	9,469	1,629
2023	unlimited	10,322	unlimited
2024		11,251	
2025		12,263	
2026		unlimited	

Source: Import/Export Customs Clearance General Guidebook of Korea, 2024

Korea has tried to insulate domestic seafood producers from import competition, particularly from China. Korea imposed “adjustment tariffs” ranging from 22 to 50 percent on nine fish species not subject to tariff bindings under WTO agreements. These nine species were previously subject to tariffs ranging from 10 to 20 percent. However, the Korea-China FTA, implemented in December 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 the adjustment tariffs. Currently, the first 11,251 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.

Imported products including seafood must meet all local rules to enter the market and suppliers need to check if their products conform to the guidelines. [The Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Country Report](#) and [FAIRS Export Certificate Report](#) provide an overview of relevant standards and regulations. For assistance in identifying or resolving regulatory issues, please refer to [the Office of Agricultural Affairs \(OAA\) Seoul](#).

3. 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 94 percent of Korea’s seafood imports from the United States in 2023. 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. Most exporting countries reduced their in-person participation in the 2022 and 2023 shows due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Now that these restrictions have ended, foreign exporters are likely to redouble efforts to promote their seafood exports in the Korean market.

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 2024 show was held in-person in Seoul and the 2025 show will be held on July 1-3, 2025. Check the [show website](#) for further details.

Busan International Seafood & Fisheries Expo (BIFSE): This show is held 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. BIFSE 2024 will be held in Busan at the BEXCO convention center, November 6-8, 2024. It offers an excellent opportunity to explore possible market opportunities in Korea. The U.S. Agricultural Trade Office in Seoul will set up a U.S. pavilion at the 2024 expo, partnering with Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) and Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to showcase U.S. seafood. Exporters from a dozen countries, including China, Russia, Japan, Norway, Thailand, Chile, Canada, and Indonesia, also regularly participate in the expo. Check [BIFSE's website](#) for detailed information on the show and contact [ATO Seoul](#) for questions on the USA Pavilion.

SECTION III: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND KEY CONTACTS

General information on the Korean market and exporting to Korea can be found in the [2024 Exporter Guide](#). For further information about the Korean market, please contact:

Agricultural Trade Office Seoul (ATO) Address: Room 303, Leema Building, 42 Jongro 1-gil, Jongro-gu, Seoul, Korea http://www.atoseoul.com	Phone: +82-2 6951-6848 Email: atoseoul@usda.gov
Agricultural Affairs Office, Seoul (AAO) Address: U.S. Embassy, 188 Sejong-daero Jongro-gu, Seoul, Korea https://kr.usembassy.gov/agricultural-affairs/	Phone: +82-2 397-4297 Email: agseoul@usda.gov

Host Country Government

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

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

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

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

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

USDA Cooperators, SRTG, State Offices and AMCHAM in Korea

[USDA Cooperators in Korea](#)

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

[U.S. State Offices in Korea / American Chamber of Commerce \(AMCHAM\)](#)

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

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Appendix

Table A1. Korea’s Total Seafood Imports by Year (\$million)

Year	From World	From USA	U.S. Market Share
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%
2022	6,469	229	3.5%
2023	5,929	203	3.4%

Source: www.kita.net Korea’s Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A1-1. Korean Seafood Imports from Major Countries (\$million)

Reporting Country: Korea, Republic of Top 15 Ranking	Import			Percent change (2022~2023)
	2021	2022	2023	
China	1,224	1,248	1,296	3.8%
Russia	1,217	1,419	1,090	-23.1%
Vietnam	795	916	800	-12.6%
Norway	572	610	571	-6.4%
Peru	151	212	237	12.0%
United States	217	229	203	-11.5%
Japan	163	184	162	-12.0%
Thailand	191	170	151	-11.3%
Hong Kong	32	112	130	15.9%
Taiwan	129	121	110	-9.4%
Chile	35	101	107	6.0%
Canada	113	132	85	-35.9%
Turkey	25	47	69	46.5%

Indonesia	65	72	68	-6.0%
France	33	44	65	47.4%
Other	778	851	784	-7.8%
Total	5,739	6,469	5,929	-8.3%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A2. Korea's Total Seafood Exports by Year (\$million)

Year	To World	To USA
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
2022	2,317	249
2023	2,018	231

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A2-1. Korean Seafood Exports to Major Countries (\$million)

Reporting Country: Korea, Republic of Top 10 Ranking	Export		
	2021	2022	2023
China	576	795	540
Japan	455	453	426
United States	210	249	231
Vietnam	130	164	180
Thailand	91	125	173
Hong Kong	46	60	45
France	58	66	44
Cote d'Ivoire	7	10	36
Taiwan	27	35	36
Other	346	360	307
Total	1,947	2,317	2,018

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A3-1. Top 30 Fish Imported to Korea from USA in 2023 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 (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0304.94.1000	53,718	75,943	70.7%
Other Flat Fish (Excluding Fillets, Livers and Roes), Frozen	0303.39.0000	16,919	61,551	27.5%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Fish other than Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2090	12,934	55,143	23.5%
Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0303.89.9099	10,949	52,870	20.7%
Fish Fins (Other Than Shark), Heads, Tails, Maws and Other Edible Fish Offals, Frozen	0303.99.0000	9,699	20,120	48.2%
Fillet of Plaice, Frozen	0304.83.1000	8,015	12,278	65.3%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	7,084	104,169	6.8%
Atka Mackerel, Frozen	0303.89.9040	7,017	25,367	27.7%
Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0303.67.0000	6,658	145,194	4.6%
Hagfish, Live	0301.99.7000	6,385	7,960	80.2%

Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus), Frozen	0303.63.0000	6,057	58,792	10.3%
Fillet of Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0304.75.0000	5,760	61,329	9.4%
Rock fish (including pacific ocean perch), Frozen	0303.89.9050	5,437	27,895	19.5%
Skates, Frozen	0303.82.2000	4,663	18,751	24.9%
Fillet of Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0304.89.9000	4,220	19,096	22.1%
Hagfish (Pacific, Atlantic), Frozen	0303.89.9070	4,087	6,124	66.7%
Sea Urchin, Live, Fresh or Chilled	0308.21.0000	2,935	14,307	20.5%
Other	0307.43.2090	2,812	281,242	1.0%
Angler (Monkfish), Frozen	0303.89.9060	2,561	49,311	5.2%
Lobsters (Homarus Spp.), Live, Fresh, Or Chilled	0306.32.0000	2,528	46,853	5.4%
Fillet of Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus), Frozen	0304.71.0000	2,301	6,906	33.3%
Sable Fish, Frozen	0303.89.1000	1,896	1,901	99.7%
Pacific salmon(Oncorhynchus nerka, Oncorhynchus gorbuscha, Oncorhynchus keta, Oncorhynchus tshawytscha, Oncorhynchus kisutch, Oncorhynchus masou and Oncorhynchus rhodurus), Atlantic salmon(Salmo salar) and Danube salmon(Hucho hucho)	0304.81.0000	1,856	20,591	9.0%
Lobsters (Homarus Spp.), Including in- shell, Cooked by Steaming or by Boiling in Water, Frozen	0306.12.9000	1,659	26,206	6.3%
Cold-Water Shrimps and Prawns (Pandalus Spp., Crangon Crangon), Frozen	0306.16.9090	1,616	12,199	13.2%
Other Pacific salmon(Oncorhynchus gorbuscha, Oncorhynchus keta, Oncorhynchus tshawytscha, Oncorhynchus kisutch, Oncorhynchus masou and Oncorhynchus rhodurus)	0303.12.0000	1,515	55,940	2.7%
Adductors Of Shell Fish	0307.92.1000	627	15,912	3.9%
Crabs (Other than King Crab and Blue Crab), Frozen	0306.14.9090	59	115,574	0.1%
Surimi of Alaska Pollack (Other than Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0304.99.1000	6	168,575	0.0%
Surimi of fish of the families Bregmacerotidae, Euclichthyidae, Gadidae, Macrouridae, Melanonidae, Merlucciidae, Moridae and Muraenolepipidae, other than Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0304.95.1000	0	21	0.0%
Total		191,973	1,568,120	12.2%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A3-2. Top 30 Fish Imported to Korea from USA in 2023 (In Volume, 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	16,827	26,709	63.0%
Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0303.67.0000	4,692	139,577	3.4%
Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0303.89.9099	3,399	23,380	14.5%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Fish other than Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2090	3,380	14,571	23.2%
Atka Mackerel, Frozen	0303.89.9040	2,933	10,843	27.0%
Rock fish (including pacific ocean perch), Frozen	0303.89.9050	2,749	12,556	21.9%
Fish Fins (Other Than Shark), Heads, Tails, Maws and Other Edible Fish Offals, Frozen	0303.99.0000	2,680	5,392	49.7%
Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus	0303.63.0000	2,306	18,397	12.5%

macrocephalus), Frozen				
Fillet of Plaice, Frozen	0304.83.1000	1,744	2,169	80.4%
Fillet of Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0304.75.0000	1,684	21,845	7.7%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	1,276	15,906	8.0%
Hagfish (Pacific, Atlantic), Frozen	0303.89.9070	1,212	1,846	65.7%
Skates, Frozen	0303.82.2000	944	3,690	25.6%
Fillet of Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0304.89.9000	904	3,877	23.3%
Squid, Other, Frozen	0307.43.2090	877	112,211	0.8%
Hagfish, Live	0301.99.7000	622	769	80.9%
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	605	12,017	5.0%
Cold-Water Shrimps and Prawns (<i>Pandalus</i> Spp., <i>Crangon</i> <i>Crangon</i>), Frozen	0306.16.9090	597	1,393	42.9%
Angler (Monkfish), Frozen	0303.89.9060	564	25,699	2.2%
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	464	2,053	22.6%
Fillet of Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>), Frozen	0304.71.0000	274	974	28.1%
Lobsters (<i>Homarus</i> Spp.), Live, Fresh, Or Chilled	0306.32.0000	89	1,743	5.1%
Dogfish and other sharks	0303.81.0000	86	988	8.7%
Other	0306.12.9000	38	913	4.2%
Adductors of shell fish	0307.92.1000	18	1,240	1.5%
Surimi of Alaska Pollack (Other than <i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0304.99.1000	3	104,389	0.0%
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	0303.32.0000	0	563	0.0%
Other Flat Fish (Excluding Fillets, Livers and Roes), Frozen	0303.39.0000	0	0	0.0%
Anchovies (<i>Engraulis</i> Spp.), Excluding Livers and Roes, Frozen	0303.59.9000	0	21,206	0.0%
Surimi of fish of the families <i>Bregmacerotidae</i> , <i>Euclichthyidae</i> , <i>Gadidae</i> , <i>Macrouridae</i> , <i>Melanonidae</i> , <i>Merlucciidae</i> , <i>Moridae</i> and <i>Muraenolepididae</i> , other than Alaska Pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>), Frozen	0304.95.1000	0	2	0.0%
Total		50,967	586,918	8.7%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A4. Korean Imports of Fish Roes, Urchin Roes, Caviar and Livers by Country of Origin (MT)

2022		2023	
USA	3,525	USA	4,658
Russia	21,281	Russia	24,458
Norway	1,428	New Zealand	1,738
Iceland	823	Ireland	755
New Zealand	538	United Kingdom	366
Peru	380	Norway	205
Others	783	Others	993

Total	28,758	Total	33,173

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A4-1. Korean Imports of Fish Roes, Urchin Roes, Caviar and Liver by HS Code (MT)

Species	2023 H.S. Code	2022		2023	
		World	USA	World	USA
Livers, Frozen	0303.91.1000	68	0	4	0
Roes/AK Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	12,999	630	15,936	1,276
Roes/Other Fish, Frozen	0303.91.2090	12,651	2,890	14,571	3,380
Caviar and Caviar Substitutes	1604.31.0000 1604.32.0000	3,040	5	2,692	2
Total		28,758	3,525	33,173	4,658

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A5. Korean Imports of Flatfish by Country of Origin (MT)

2022		2023	
USA	6,389	USA	8,710
Russia	13,410	Russia	13,856
China	2,144	China	1,745
Guinea	1,581	Guinea	1,394
Senegal	409	Senegal	561
Sierra Leone	313	Sierra Leone	355
Others	672	Others	748
Total	24,918	Total	27,369

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A5-1. Korean Imports of Flatfish by HS Code (MT)

Species	2023 H.S. Code	2022		2023	
		World	U.S.A.	World	U.S.A.
Flat Fish, Live / Plaice, Fresh	0301.99.8000 0302.22.0000	449	0	466	0
Halibut, Frozen	0303.31.0000	451	0	319	4
Plaice, Frozen	0303.32.0000	490	14	563	0
Sole, Frozen	0303.33.0000	414	0	524	0
Others, Frozen	0303.39.0000	23,114	6,375	25,497	8,706
Total		24,918	6,389	27,369	8,710

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A6. Korean Imports of Ground Fish by Country of Origin (MT)

2022		2023	
USA	8,974	USA	9,747
Russia	347,076	RUSSIA	149,773
Portugal	4,673	Portugal	4,658
Japan	1,813	Japan	1,277
Netherlands	1,514	Netherlands	1,224
Others	5,171	Others	5,977
Total	369,221	Total	172,656

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A6-1. Korean Import of Ground Fish by HS Code (MT)

Species	2023 H.S. Code	2022		2023	
		World	USA	World	USA
Cod, Fresh	0302.51.0000	480	0	425	0
Alaska Pollack, Fresh	0302.55.0000	1,628	0	1,439	0
Cod, Frozen	0303.63.0000	32,550	2,173	18,397	2,306
Hake, Frozen	0303.66.0000	1,205	0	262	0
Alaska Pollack	0303.67.0000	323,758	5,176	139,577	4,692
Rockfish (Pacific ocean perch)	0303.89.9050	9,585	1,625	12,556	2,749
Alaska Pollack, Dried	0305.59.3000	15	0	0	0
Total		369,221	8,974	172,656	9,747

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A7. Korean Imports of Fillet/Surimi by Country of Origin (MT)

2022		2023	
USA	26,239	USA	21,933
Vietnam	53,296	Vietnam	46,518
China	50,895	China	45,822
Russia	23,202	Russia	33,142
India	6,430	India	8,139
Norway	5,508	Norway	6,861
Indonesia	4,056	Pakistan	3,279
Pakistan	2,122	Indonesia	3,109
Thailand	1,779	Thailand	1,070
Others	10,099	Others	10,428
Total	183,626	Total	180,301

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A7-1. Korean Imports of Fillet/Surimi by HS Code (MT)

Species	2023 H.S. Code	2022		2023	
		World	USA	World	USA
Fillet of Alaska Pollack/frozen	0304.75.0000	21,406	1,222	21,845	1,684
Fillet of Cod/frozen	0304.71.0000	977	219	974	274
Fillet of Plaice/frozen	0304.83.1000	2,157	1,840	2,169	1,744
Fillet of Other Fish/frozen	0304.72.0000	20,365	1,127	21,672	1,379
	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	23,084	21,627	26,709	16,827
Other type of fish meat of Alaska Pollack/frozen	0304.94.9000	798	43	1,792	2
Surimi of other fish/frozen	0304.95.1000	114,298	161	104,391	3
	0304.99.1000				
Other type of fish meat of other	0304.91.9000	541	0	749	20

fish/fresh or chilled, frozen	0304.92.9000 0304.93.9000 0304.95.9000 0304.99.9000				
Total		183,626	26,239	180,301	21,933

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A8. Korean Imports of Crustaceans by Country of Origin (MT)

2022		2023	
USA	229	USA	136
Vietnam	38,357	Vietnam	34,061
China	23,520	China	23,640
Russia	13,374	Russia	18,175
Canada	4,049	Pakistan	3,998
India	3,036	India	3,952
Pakistan	2,495	Canada	2,507
Bahrain	2,275	Tunisia	2,451
Tunisia	2,172	Bahrain	2,393
Thailand	1,481	Thailand	1,694
Others	4,431	Others	3,716
Total	95,419	Total	96,595

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A8-1. Korean Imports of Crustaceans by HS Code (MT)

Species	2023 H.S. Code	2022		2023	
		World	USA	World	USA
Frozen lobsters (<i>Homarus spp.</i>)	0306.12.9000	2,244	19	913	38
Frozen peeled cold-water shrimps and prawns	0306.16.1090	35	0	107	0
Frozen other type of shrimps and prawns	0306.17.1090 0306.17.9090	44,206	0	39,613	0
Frozen crab meat	0306.14.1090	112	0	135	0
Frozen king crabs	0306.14.2090	0	0	0	0
Frozen blue crabs	0306.14.3090	12,868	0	12,754	0
Frozen other type of crabs	0306.14.9090	12,997	16	19,745	9
Not frozen lobsters (<i>Homarus spp.</i>)	0306.32.0000	1,985	194	1,743	89
Live, fresh or chilled shrimps and prawns	0306.35.0000 0306.36.0000	10	0	27	0
Salted or in brine shrimps and prawns	0306.95.1030 0306.95.9030	9,658	0	10,523	0
Live, fresh or chilled snow crab	0306.33.2000	9,587	0	9,183	0
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	1,717	0	1,852	0
Total		95,419	229	96,595	136

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A8-2. Korean Imports of Lobsters (*Homarus Spp.*): Live, Fresh, Chilled, Dried, Salted, In Brine, Not Frozen

Country	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT
World	56,392	2,612	67,555	2,293	55,128	1,985	46,853	1,743
Canada	46,893	2,178	58,666	2,001	49,405	1,791	44,325	1,654
United States	9,483	433	8,860	292	5,716	194	2,528	89
Others	16	1	29	0	7	0	0	0

Source: Korea Customs and Trade Development Institute, HS 0306.32.0000

Table A8-3. Korean Imports of Lobsters (*Homarus Spp.*): Including In Shell, Cooked by Steaming or by Boiling in Water, Frozen

Country	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT
World	32,928	1,598	41,739	1,843	67,694	2,244	26,206	913
Canada	31,126	1,539	40,310	1,817	66,792	2,225	23,748	761
United States	1,783	56	1,428	26	901	19	1,659	38
Others	19	3	1	0	1	0	799	114

Source: Korea Customs and Trade Development Institute, HS 0306.12.9000

Table A9. Korean Imports of Mollusks by Country of Origin (MT)

2022		2023	
USA	1,393	USA	979
China	112,893	China	114,064
Vietnam	32,347	Peru	39,005
Peru	24,319	Vietnam	31,132
Chile	14,921	Chile	18,836
Japan	12,796	Japan	11,251
Thailand	7,899	Thailand	6,544
Russia	6,485	Argentina	5,149
Argentina	5,703	Indonesia	3,333
Spain	4,146	Russia	3,033
Others	13,511	Others	16,232
Total	236,413	Total	249,558

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A9-1. Korean Imports of Mollusks by HS Code (MT)

Species	2023 H.S. Code	2022		2023	
		World	USA	World	USA
Scallops	0307.2X.XXXX	13,892	0	12,822	36
Cuttlefish	0307.4X.XXXX	107,986	1,336	121,801	925
Octopus	0307.5X.XXXX	66,485	0	63,591	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	47,909	57	51,072	18
	0307.8X.XXXX				
	0307.9X.XXXX				
Oysters, mussels	0307.1X.XXXX	141	0	272	0
	0307.3X.XXXX				
Total		236,413	1,393	249,558	979

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2023

Table A10. Korean Tariff Schedule for Fishery Products

Description	H.S. Code (Korea)	2024 Base	KORUS FTA
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		Rate	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 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, 2024

Attachments:

No Attachments.