

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: October 24, 2023

Report Number: KS2023-0017

Report Name: Korea Seafood Market Update 2023

Country: Korea - Republic of

Post: Seoul ATO

Report Category: Fishery Products

Prepared By: Sunyoung Yoo

Approved By: Lisa Allen

Report Highlights:

Korean seafood imports totaled \$6.47 billion in 2022, up 12.7 percent from the year before. Seafood for human consumption imported from the United States to Korea in 2022 reached \$229 million, an increase of 5.6 percent year-to-year. The United States remains the fifth largest seafood exporter to Korea with a 3.5 percent market share. Korean consumers generally see U.S. fishery products as high-quality and unpolluted, but regional competitors often have lower prices.

Table of Contents

SECTION I: KOREAN SEAFOOD MARKET OVERVIEW	3
1. PRODUCTION	3
Table 1. Korean Seafood Production by Waters	3
Chart 1. Korean Seafood Production by Products	4
Table 2. Korean Total Allowable Catch in 2020-2023	5
Table 3. Korean Production of Processed Seafood	5
2. CONSUMPTION	6
Table 4. Korean Annual Per Capita Consumption of Seafood Products.....	6
SECTION II: TRADE, TARIFFS, COMPETITORS AND MARKETING	7
1. TRADE	7
Table 5. Korean Seafood Demand and Supply	8
Chart 2. South Korean Seafood Imports for Human Consumption by Year.....	9
Chart 3. 2022 South Korean Seafood Imports for Human Consumption by Country	9
Chart 4. South Korean Seafood Imports for Human Consumption from the United States by Year ..	10
Chart 5. 2022 Top 10 Korean Seafood Imports for Human Consumption from the United States in 10 Digit HS Code	11
2. TARIFFS & QUOTAS.....	11
Table 6. Korea-United States FTA Seafood Trade Tariff Rate Quotas.....	12
3. COMPETITORS	12
Chart 6. South Korean Seafood Imports from Top 7 Countries	13
4. MARKETING	13
SECTION III: FURTHER INFORMATION AND KEY CONTACTS	15
APPENDIX: KOREAN SEAFOOD TRADE STATISTICS	16
Table A1. Korea’s Total Seafood Imports by Year (\$million)	16
Table A1-1. Korean Seafood Imports from Major Countries (\$million)	16
Table A2. Korea’s Total Seafood Exports by Year (\$million)	17
Table A2-1. Korea’s Seafood Exports to Major Countries (\$million)	17
Table A3-1. Top 20 Fish Imported to Korea from USA in 2022 (In Value, \$1,000).....	18
Table A3-2. Top 20 Fish Imported to Korea from USA in 2022 (In Quantity, MT)	19
Table A4. Korean Imports of Fish Roes, Urchin Roes, Caviar & Liver by Country of Origin (MT) .	20
Table A4-1. Korean Imports of Fish Roes, Urchin Roes, Caviar and Liver by HS Code (MT)	20
Table A5. Korean Imports of Flatfish by Country of Origin (MT).....	20
Table A5-1. Korean Imports of Flatfish by HS Code (MT).....	21
Table A6. Korean Imports of Ground Fish by Country of Origin (MT).....	21
Table A6-1. Korean Imports of Ground Fish by HS Code (MT).....	21
Table A7. Korean Imports of Fillet/Surimi by Country of Origin (MT).....	22
Table A7-1. Korean Imports of Fillet/Surimi by HS Code (MT)	22
Table A8. Korean Imports of Crustaceans by Country of Origin (MT).....	23
Table A8-1. Korean Imports of Crustaceans by HS Code (MT).....	23
Table A8-2. Korean Imports of Lobsters: Live, Fresh, Chilled, Dried, Salted, In Brine, Not Frozen.	24
Table A8-3. Korean Imports of Lobsters: Including in Shell, Cooked by Steaming or by Boiling in Water, Frozen	24
Table A9. Korean Imports of Mollusks by Country of Origin (MT)	25
Table A9-1. Korean Imports of Mollusks by HS Code (MT).....	25
Table A10. Korean Tariff Schedule for Fishery Products	26

SECTION I: KOREAN SEAFOOD MARKET OVERVIEW

1. PRODUCTION

Korean seafood production totaled 3.6 million metric tons in 2022, down 5.7 percent from 2021. Shallow sea aquaculture production (including seaweed), the largest category, decreased 5.4 percent and production from adjacent waters was also down 5.7 percent. Production from distant waters showed the biggest decrease of 8.9 percent and only the inland waters produced more seafood in 2022, showing a 14 percent increase.

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

Year	Total	Adjacent Waters	Shallow Sea Aquaculture	Distant Waters ¹	Inland Waters
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
2022	3,604	887	2,268	400	49

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

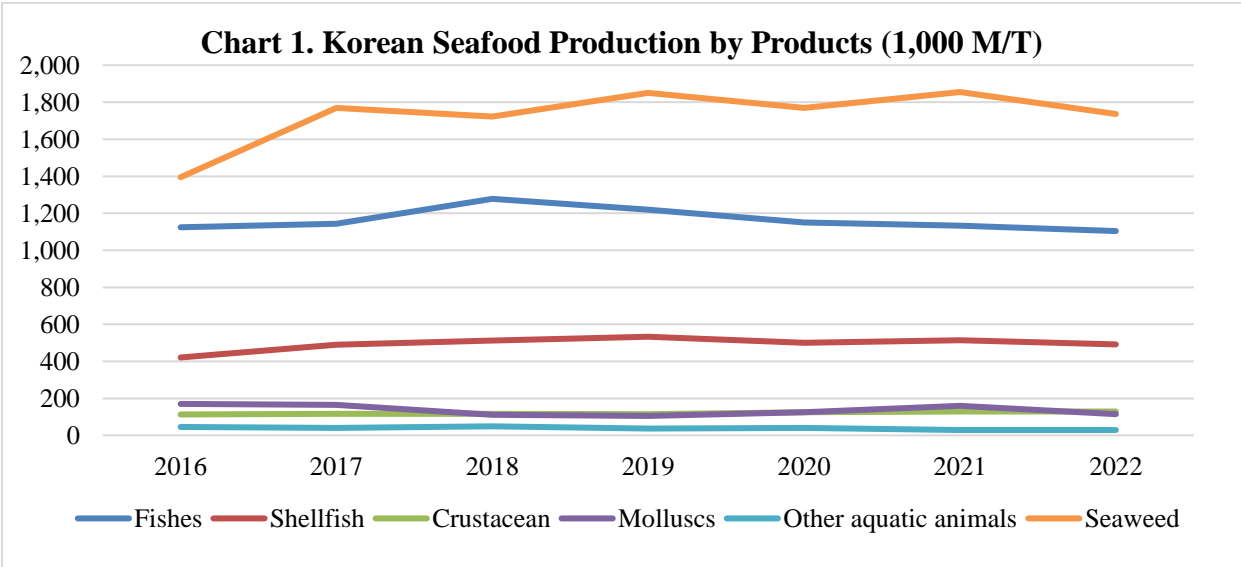
Korean domestic fish production has fluctuated between 100,000-400,000 metric tons over the past seven years. Domestic fish production is not expected to increase significantly in the future due to the depletion of fishery resources in adjacent waters resulting from aggravation of fishing ground environment such as rising water temperature, contamination of sea water, and disappearance of traditionally popular fish species. Bilateral and multilateral fishing accords also limit total harvest and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) by neighboring countries including Japan and China are being enforced.

The harvest from adjacent waters primarily consists of mackerel, squid, Spanish mackerel, hairtail, horse mackerel, anchovy, 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 and exports of dried, seasoned seaweed (green laver) products to new consumers worldwide thanks to the expansion of K-wave and K-Food.

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

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. For example, squid (HS 03074) imports surged 42 percent in 2018 to 118,796 metric tons. In 2022, Korea imported 107,986 metric tons of squid to keep meeting the demand. Year to date, domestic catch of squid has drastically dropped by more than 50 percent compared to previous several years' average. Most recently, the squid fishing vessels from Gangwon Province purchased catching quotas from Russia's Federal Agency for Fishery, paying 14 million Korean Won (\$10,500) per vessel valid until October 2023. Within the fishing right, one vessel is allowed to catch up to 91 metric tons of squid and 1.8 metric tons of balloon fish.



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 (TAC) limits for 16 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 2020-2023 (Metric Tons)

Species	2020 (July 2020 ~ June 2021)	2021 (July 2021 ~ June 2022)	2022 (July 2022 ~ June 2023)	2023 (July 2023 ~ June 2024)
Mackerels	123,527	101,715	145,905	126,072
Jack mackerels	29,424	31,779	41,024	41,693
Red snow crabs	25,516	23,273	22,283	25,587
Snow crabs	1,036	948	978	978
Purplish Washington clams	1,507	1,491	1,289	1,039
Pen shells	8,582	6,797	6,905	8,416
Horned turban	1,209	975	1,539	1,772
Blue crabs	5,033	5,102	5,444	7,059
Squids	89,078	83,834	85,590	81,075
Sailfin sandfish	2,196	3,207	2,787	2,301
Mottled Skate	447	789	802	3,668
Hairtails	21,350	30,126	48,908	55,616
Manila clams	1,638	1,056	882	4,034
Yellow corvina	22,935	27,723	55,303	49,897
Spanish Mackerel	27,876	26,036	31,020	27,253
Anchovies			116,904	117,504
Total	360,145	359,728	567,563	553,964

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

Korean seafood processors produced 1.3 million tons of processed seafood products in 2022, down 5.4 percent from 2021, facing higher production costs due to rising raw material costs. The downward trend seems partly due to a contraction in consumption caused by high consumer prices and to the export slowdown as a result of global economic downturn.

Table 3. Korean Production of Processed Seafood

Year	Production (MT)	Value (Million K/Won)
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
2022	1,299,740	7,027,692

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

2. CONSUMPTION

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

Product Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (est.)
Fish and Shellfish	41.6	38.5	36.3	38.2	41.8	42.0	40.7	40.4	39.7
Seaweed	16.9	18.6	21.1	27.7	26.6	28.1	27.1	28.0	26.7
Total (kg/year)	58.5	57.1	57.4	65.9	68.4	70.1	67.8	68.4	66.4

Source: Korea Rural Economy Institute (KREI) 2021 Food Balance Sheet, KMI Fishery Outlook 2023

Korean consumers believe fresh fish taste better than 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.

The major seafood species consumed in Korea are Alaska pollack, squid, mackerel, shrimp, flat fish, crabs, monkfish, anchovy, oyster, and octopus. Domestic supply of the top several species are very limited and Korean seafood market heavily depends on imported seafood, which is frozen most of the cases.

In Korea, demand for precooked and prepackaged convenient foods is growing quickly. This includes processed ready-to-eat seafood products and Home Meal Replacement (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 one-member households. The factory-processed kits simplify the handling of seafood ingredients and minimize the fishy smell during preparation. The 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 ingredients².

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. 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

² Korea Maritime Institute, Fishery Outlook 2023

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

Until recently, the Korean seafood industry had been successfully promoting seafood as a healthy alternative source of protein to red meat. Seafood consumption has continued to grow despite stagnant production, growing, 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.

However, among Korean consumers, there is a growing concern that the release of wastewater from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station will impact the health of marine products from the neighboring ocean in the near future. In a public survey by pollster Media Research done in July 2023, more than 60 percent of respondents said they would cut back or stop consuming seafood once the water discharge started, despite government assurances that it would closely monitor the release.

To protect local seafood industry from the 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 very high over the possible ocean contamination and aggravated seafood safety as a result.

Unlike China, the largest importer of Japanese seafood, which banned all imports of seafood from Japan, Korea is only banning imports of seafood from 8 Japanese provinces including Fukushima. Instead, the Korean government is taking measures to assess the radiation levels in imported seafood, regardless of its origin. The government's goal is to demonstrate and ensure the safety of seafood and the results of every analysis will be made public on the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS)'s [Radiation Safety Website](#) on a daily basis.

Post will keep close eyes on the situation and constantly checkup the trends of seafood consumption and changing trade volumes for upcoming months and years.

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 2022 Korea imported \$4.2 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 in 2022 was tuna (\$272 million) and, as one of the categories of sea-originated product, Korean seaweed export value was also high (\$274 million).

The following table shows the country’s self-sufficiency of seafood for the last seven years.

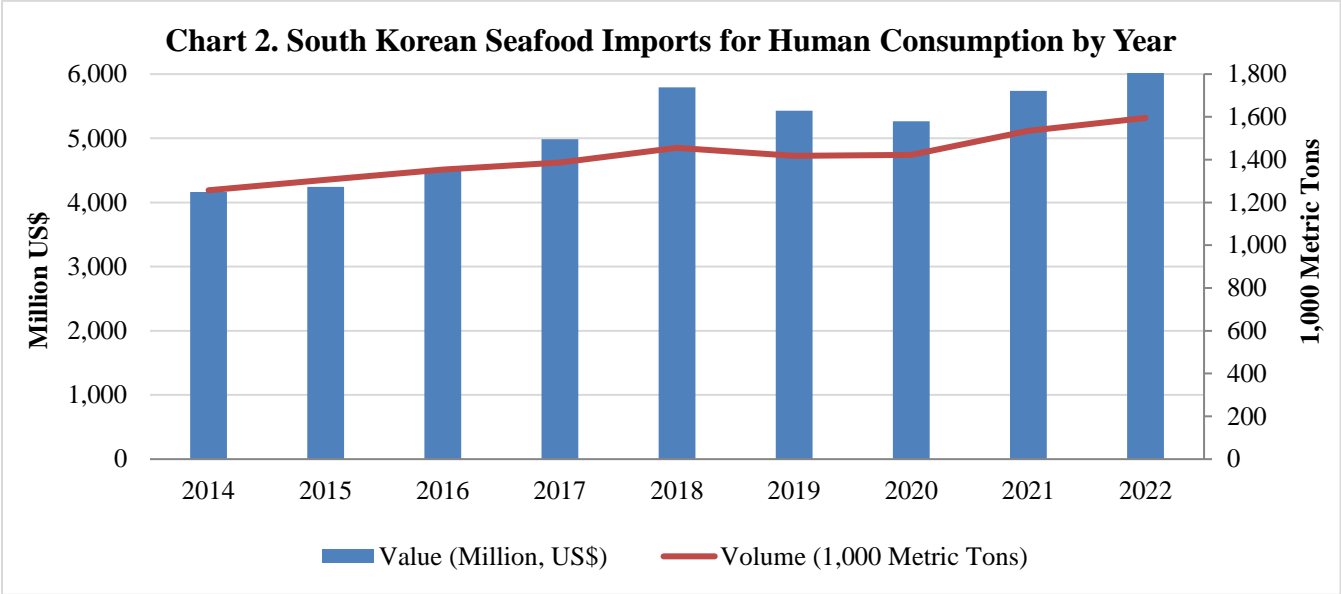
Table 5. Korean Seafood Demand and Supply (Unit: 1,000 tons)

Total	Domestic Consumption	Domestic Production	Self-sufficiency rate
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	5,114	3,711	72.6%
2021	5,399	3,820	70.8%
2022 (est.)	5,238	3,604	68.8%

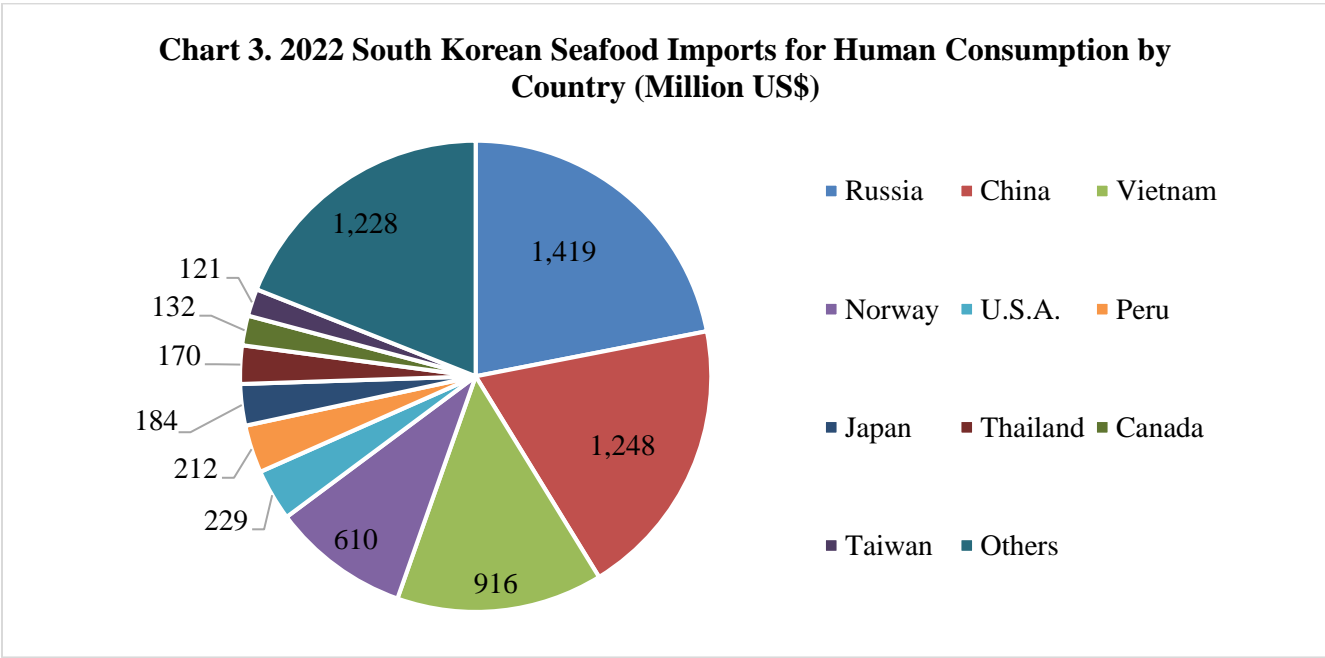
Source: Korea Rural Economy Institute (KREI) 2021 Food Balance Sheet, KMI Fishery Outlook 2023

World Trade

According to import statistics provided by the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) based on the Korea Customs Service (KCS) customs clearance data, Korea’s seafood imports for human consumption from all origins totaled \$6.47 billion in 2022, up 12.7 percent from 2021. Russia was the largest supplier, exporting \$1.4 billion in seafood to Korea in 2022. China was the second largest supplier, followed by Vietnam, Norway, and the United States. The largest import categories by value in 2022 were other shrimps & prawns peeled, frozen Alaska pollack, Atlantic salmon, other squid, live snow crabs, live king crabs, tuna fillets, frozen webfoot octopus, 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, Pacific salmon, cod, herring, and sand lance.



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



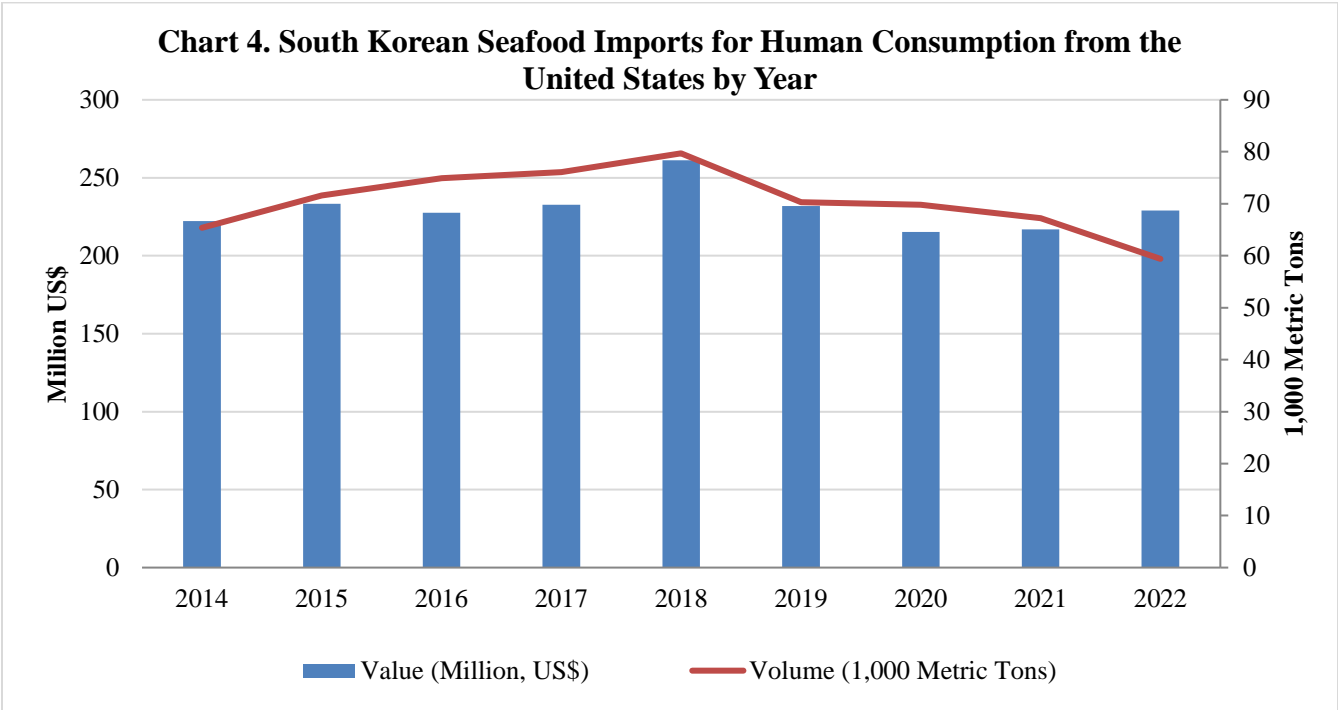
Source: Korean Government Import Data (www.kita.net, CIF Value)

Imports of U.S. Seafood

According to the Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS), the United States exported \$437 million in fishery products to South Korea in 2022. However, a large portion was transshipped to third countries, especially China and Japan, and did not enter Korea.

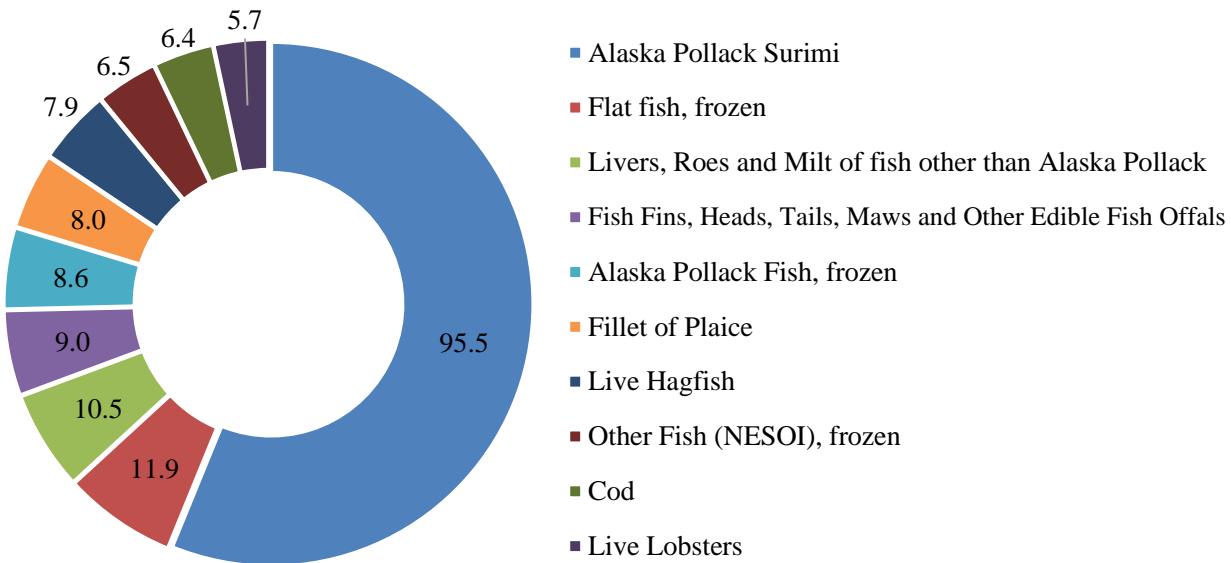
Based on KCS customs clearance data on a CIF basis, Korea imported \$229 million worth of U.S. seafood in 2022, up slightly from 2021. U.S. market share remained around four percent. The top ten seafood imports from the United States by value in 2022 were Alaska pollack surimi, flat fish, roes, and milt of fish other than Alaska pollack, fish fins/heads/tails/maws/other edible fish offal, frozen Alaska pollack fish, fillet of plaice, live hagfish, other fish frozen, cod, and live lobster. The top ten imports by volume were Alaska pollack surimi, frozen Alaska pollack fish, roes, and milt of fish other than Alaska pollack, other fish frozen, fish fins/heads/tails/maws/other edible fish offal, cod, Atka mackerel, fillet of plaice, rock fish, and frozen hagfish.

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 relatively smaller supply in Korea, compared to Russian products with strong price competitiveness.



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

Chart 5. 2022 Top 10 Korean Seafood Imports for Human Consumption from the United States in 10 Digit HS Code (Million US\$)



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

Note: The chart only covers seafood products fit for human consumption. The listed 10 seafood products accounted for 74 percent of Korea’s seafood imports from the United States. As a separate note, HS Code 2301.20.1000 (Flours, Meals, and Pellets of Fish or of Crustaceans, Mollusks, or other aquatic invertebrates) was imported in high value in 2022 (\$7.1 million) as feed ingredient.

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 when the agreement went into effect in 2012 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 6. 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	

According to the Table 6, any U.S. Alaska pollack fish imported to Korea out of the quota amounts set for year 2024 and 2025, are still subject to 10 percent of basic tariff rate.

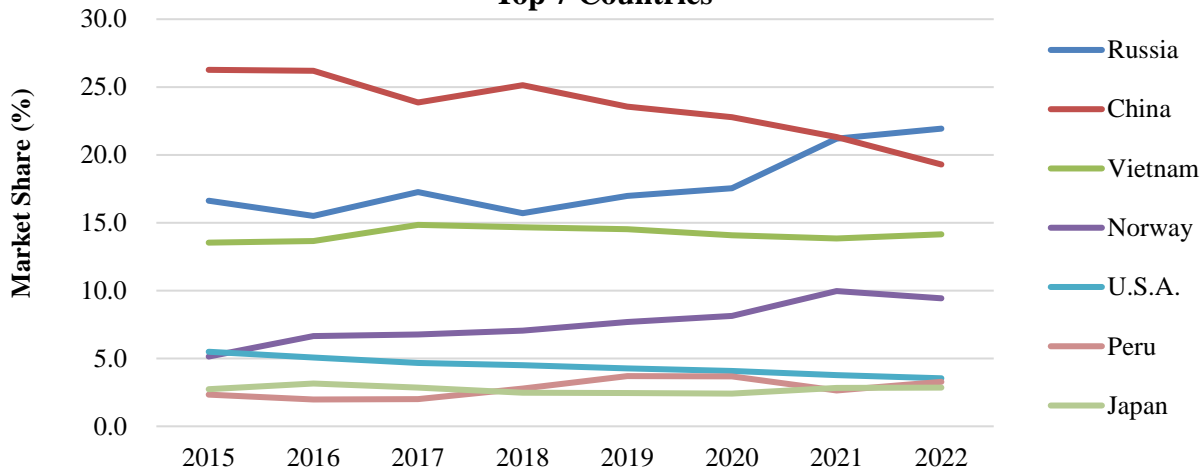
Korea has tried to insulate domestic seafood producers from import competition, particularly from China. “Adjustment tariffs” ranging from 22 to 50 percent were imposed on nine fish species not subject to tariff bindings under WTO agreements. These nine species previously were subject to tariffs ranging 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 10,322 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 Russia, China, Vietnam, Norway, United States, Peru, Japan, Thailand, Canada, and Taiwan. 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 remained a top choice for Korean consumers as it has established a reputation for good quality and stable supply.

However, Korean consumers’ stress over the seafood safety after Fukushima water release in August 2023 is getting worse and may impact the country’s demand on seafood in general and/or seafood imported from countries neighboring Pacific Ocean. Some Korean seafood industry experts predict that the imports of seafood from the north-Atlantic Ocean may increase but to date, there is no supporting data officially available.

Chart 6. South Korean Seafood Imports for Human Consumption 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, which went into effect in 2014.

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. The U.S. Agricultural Trade Office in Seoul organized a U.S. pavilion at the 2022 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 still reduced their in-person participation in the 2022 show due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Now that these restrictions have ended, many competitors such as Norway, Canada, and Japan are expected to redouble efforts to promote their seafood exports in the Korean market.

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 2022. 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 2023 show was held in-person in Seoul and the 2024 show will be held on May 15-17, 2024. Check the [show website](#) for further details.

Busan International Seafood & Fisheries Expo (BIFSE) 2023 will be held in Busan at the BEXCO convention center, November 1-3, 2023. 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 18 years in cooperation with State Regional Trade Groups and USDA cooperator group such as Southern United States Trade Association (SUSTA), Food Export USA Northeast and Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (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 [2022 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

Telephone: +82-2 725-5495 Fax: +82-2 725-5496

E-mail: yunhee.kim@usda.gov Internet Homepage: www.aphis.usda.gov

USDA Cooperators, States, 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 \(AMCHAM\)](#)

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 FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION TRADE STATISTICS

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

Year	From World	From USA	U.S. Market Share
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%
2022	6,469	229	3.5%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

Reporting Country: Korea, Republic of Top 15 Ranking	Import			Percent change (2021~2022)
	2020	2021	2022	
Russia	924	1,217	1,419	16.6%
China	1,200	1,224	1,248	2.0%
Vietnam	742	795	916	15.3%
Norway	429	572	610	6.6%
United States	215	217	229	5.6%
Peru	194	151	212	40.2%
Japan	127	163	184	13.4%
Thailand	150	191	170	-10.9%
Canada	94	113	132	17.0%
Taiwan	74	129	121	-6.0%
Hong Kong	100	32	112	249.4%
Chile	87	35	101	188.6%
Indonesia	68	65	72	11.0%
Spain	28	39	68	73.7%
Ecuador	56	78	62	-20.6%
Other	779	719	813	13.1%
Total	5,267	5,739	6,469	12.7%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

Year	To World	To USA
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
2022	2,317	249

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

Reporting Country: Korea, Republic of Top 10 Ranking	Export		
	2020	2021	2022
China	331	576	795
Japan	454	455	453
United States	156	210	249
Vietnam	112	130	164
Thailand	121	91	125
France	31	58	66
Hong Kong	51	46	60
Italy	34	52	47
Indonesia	9	20	42
Other	236	308	316
Total	1,534	1,947	2,317

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

Table A3-1. Top 20 Fish Imported to Korea from USA in 2022 (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	95,513	100,241	95.3%
Other Flat Fish (Excluding Fillets, Livers and Roes), Frozen	0303.39.0000	11,907	55,384	21.5%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Fish other than Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2090	10,489	41,390	25.3%
Fish Fins (Other Than Shark), Heads, Tails, Maws and Other Edible Fish Offals, Frozen	0303.99.0000	8,994	18,932	47.5%
Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0303.67.0000	8,581	352,662	2.4%
Fillet of Plaice, Frozen	0304.83.1000	8,043	10,846	74.2%
Hagfish, Live	0301.99.7000	7,906	8,813	89.7%
Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0303.89.9099	6,512	51,829	12.6%
Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus), Frozen	0303.63.0000	6,380	121,223	5.3%
Lobsters (Homarus Spp.), Live, Fresh, Or Chilled	0306.32.0000	5,716	55,128	10.4%
Hagfish (Pacific, Atlantic), Frozen	0303.89.9070	5,270	7,059	74.7%
Fillet of Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0304.75.0000	5,092	71,060	7.2%
Atka Mackerel, Frozen	0303.89.9040	4,988	20,191	24.7%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	4,005	92,514	4.3%
Sea Urchin, Live, Fresh or Chilled	0308.21.0000	3,542	15,236	23.2%
Skates, Frozen	0303.82.2000	3,516	17,473	20.1%
Cold-Water Shrimps and Prawns (Pandalus Spp., Crangon Crangon), Frozen	0306.16.9090	3,266	21,346	15.3%
Other	0307.43.2090	3,179	222,016	1.4%
Fillet of Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0304.89.9000	3,099	18,784	16.5%
Rock fish (including pacific ocean perch), Frozen	0303.89.9050	2,847	20,953	13.6%
Total		208,845	1,323,080	15.8%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

Table A3-2. Top 20 Fish Imported to Korea from USA in 2022 (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	21,627	23,084	93.7%
Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0303.67.0000	5,176	323,758	1.6%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Fish other than Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2090	2,890	12,651	22.8%
Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0303.89.9099	2,536	26,210	9.7%
Fish Fins (Other Than Shark), Heads, Tails, Maws and Other Edible Fish Offals, Frozen	0303.99.0000	2,341	5,157	45.4%
Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus), Frozen	0303.63.0000	2,173	32,550	6.7%
Atka Mackerel, Frozen	0303.89.9040	1,937	9,823	19.7%
Fillet of Plaice, Frozen	0304.83.1000	1,840	2,157	85.3%
Rock fish (including pacific ocean perch), Frozen	0303.89.9050	1,625	9,585	17.0%
Hagfish (Pacific, Atlantic), Frozen	0303.89.9070	1,576	2,088	75.5%
Fillet of Alaska Pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), Frozen	0304.75.0000	1,222	21,406	5.7%
Squid, Other, Frozen	0307.43.2090	1,220	99,171	1.2%
Cold-Water Shrimps and Prawns (Pandalus Spp., Crangon Crangon), Frozen	0306.16.9090	1,150	2,551	45.1%
Hagfish, Live	0301.99.7000	789	885	89.2%
Fillet of Other Fish (NESOI), Frozen	0304.89.9000	702	4,090	17.2%
Skates, Frozen	0303.82.2000	687	3,553	19.3%
Livers, Roes and Milt of Alaska Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	630	12,999	4.8%
Angler (Monkfish), Frozen	0303.89.9060	614	24,903	2.5%
Pacific salmon(Oncorhynchus nerka, Oncorhynchus gorboscha, Oncorhynchus keta, Oncorhynchus tshawytscha, Oncorhynchus kisutch, Oncorhynchus masou and Oncorhynchus rhodurus), Atlantic salmon(Salmo salar) and Danube salmon(Hucho hucho)	0304.81.0000	414	1,211	34.2%
Fillet of Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus), Frozen	0304.71.0000	219	977	22.4%
Total		51,368	618,809	8.3%

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

2021		2022	
USA	4,814	USA	3,525
Russia	21,261	Russia	21,281
Norway	1,006	Norway	1,428
Iceland	725	Iceland	823
New Zealand	626	Peru	538
Peru	354	New Zealand	380
Others	840	Others	783
Total	29,626	Total	28,758

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

Species	2022 H.S. Code	2021		2022	
		World	USA	World	USA
Livers, Frozen	0303.91.1000	73	2	68	0
Roes/AK Pollack, Frozen	0303.91.2010	15,731	2,484	12,999	630
Roes/Other Fish, Frozen	0303.91.2090	11,250	2,327	12,651	2,890
Caviar and Caviar Substitutes	1604.31.0000	2,571	1	3,040	5
Total		29,626	4,814	28,758	3,525

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

2021		2022	
USA	6,399	USA	6,389
Russia	16,197	Russia	13,409
China	2,395	China	2,144
Guinea	1,689	Guinea	1,581
Senegal	488	Senegal	409
Italy	213	Sierra Leone	313
Others	888	Others	673
Total	28,269	Total	24,918

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

Species	2022 H.S. Code	2021		2022	
		World	U.S.A.	World	U.S.A.
Flat Fish, Live / Plaice, Fresh	0301.99.8000 0302.22.0000	614	0	449	0
Halibut, Frozen	0303.31.0000	679	5	451	0
Plaice, Frozen	0303.32.0000	235	0	490	14
Sole, Frozen	0303.33.0000	532	0	414	0
Others, Frozen	0303.39.0000	26,209	6,394	23,114	6,375
Total		28,269	6,399	24,918	6,389

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

2021		2022	
USA	11,765	USA	8,974
Russia	295,236	RUSSIA	347,076
Portugal	4,343	Portugal	4,673
Japan	1,798	Japan	1,814
Norway	1,481	Netherlands	1,515
Others	4,580	Others	5,169
Total	319,203	Total	369,221

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

Species	2022 H.S. Code	2021		2022	
		World	USA	World	USA
Cod, Fresh	0302.51.0000	290	0	480	0
Alaska Pollack, Fresh	0302.55.0000	1,658	0	1,628	0
Cod, Frozen	0303.63.0000	34,934	2,365	32,550	2,173
Hake, Frozen	0303.66.0000	71	0	1,205	0
Alaska Pollack	0303.67.0000	263,182	7,276	323,758	5,176
Rockfish (Pacific ocean	0303.89.9050	11,489	2,124	9,585	1,625
Alaska Pollack, Dried	0305.59.3000	7,579	0	15	0
Total		319,203	11,765	369,221	8,974

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

2021		2022	
USA	27,950	USA	26,239
Vietnam	56,166	Vietnam	53,296
China	35,267	China	50,895
Russia	24,783	Russia	23,202
Norway	5,917	India	6,430
India	5,427	Norway	5,508
Indonesia	4,468	Indonesia	4,056
Pakistan	2,421	Pakistan	2,122
Thailand	1,251	Thailand	1,779
Others	9,000	Others	10,099
Total	172,650	Total	183,626

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

Species	2022 H.S. Code	2021		2022	
		World	USA	World	USA
Fillet of Alaska Pollack/frozen	0304.75.0000	24,596	1,242	21,406	1,222
Fillet of Cod/frozen	0304.71.0000	876	187	977	219
Fillet of Plaice/frozen	0304.83.1000	1,661	1,483	2,157	1,840
Fillet of Other Fish/frozen	0304.72.0000, 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	18,161	1,010	20,365	1,127
Surimi of Alaska Pollack/frozen	0304.94.1000	24,307	24,007	23,084	21,627
Other type of fish meat of Alaska Pollack/frozen	0304.94.9000	264	20	798	43
Surimi of other fish/frozen	0304.95.1000, 0304.99.1000	101,836	0	114,298	161
Other type of fish meat of other fish/fresh or chilled, frozen	0304.91.9000, 0304.92.9000 0304.93.9000, 0304.95.9000 0304.99.9000	949	1	541	0
Total		172,650	27,950	183,626	26,239

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

2021		2022	
USA	412	USA	229
Vietnam	34,112	Vietnam	38,357
China	33,190	China	23,520
Ecuador	12,131	Russia	13,374
Russia	9,527	Canada	4,049
Malaysia	4,606	India	3,036
Canada	3,825	Pakistan	2,495
Thailand	3,222	Bahrain	2,275
India	2,420	Tunisia	2,172
Bahrain	1,819	Thailand	1,481
Others	13,316	Others	4,431
Total	118,580	Total	95,419

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

Species	2022 H.S. Code	2021		2022	
		World	USA	World	USA
Frozen lobsters (<i>Homarus spp.</i>)	0306.12.9000	1,843	26	2,244	19
Frozen peeled cold-water shrimps and prawns	0306.16.1090	15	0	35	0
Frozen other type of shrimps and prawns	0306.17.1090 0306.17.9090	61,428	0	44,206	0
Frozen crab meat	0306.14.1090	52	0	112	0
Frozen king crabs	0306.14.2090	103	0	0	0
Frozen blue crabs	0306.14.3090	17,107	0	12,868	0
Frozen other type of crabs	0306.14.9090	11,594	90	12,997	16
Not frozen lobsters (<i>Homarus spp.</i>)	0306.32.0000	2,293	292	1,985	194
Live, fresh or chilled shrimps and prawns	0306.35.0000, 0306.36.0000	8	1	10	0
Salted or in brine shrimps and prawns	0306.95.1030, 0306.95.9030	14,382	0	9,658	0
Live, fresh or chilled snow crab	0306.33.2000	7,768	3	9,587	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	2,039	0	1,717	0
Total		118,580	412	95,419	229

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

Country	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT
World	69,044	2,822	56,392	2,612	67,555	2,293	55,128	1,985
Canada	55,070	2,246	46,893	2,178	58,666	2,001	49,405	1,791
United States	13,945	575	9,483	433	8,860	292	5,716	194
Others	29	1	16	1	29	0	7	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	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT	\$1,000	MT
World	51,871	2,431	32,928	1,598	41,739	1,843	67,694	2,244
Canada	47,557	2,292	31,126	1,539	40,310	1,817	66,792	2,225
United States	3,845	98	1,783	56	1,428	26	901	19
Others	469	41	19	3	1	0	1	0

Source: Korea Customs and Trade Development Institute, HS 0306.12.9000

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

2021		2022	
USA	2,787	USA	1,393
China	108,079	China	112,893
Vietnam	33,252	Vietnam	32,347
Peru	31,744	Peru	24,319
Chile	11,042	Chile	14,921
Japan	10,783	Japan	12,796
Argentina	8,721	Thailand	7,905
Thailand	7,652	Russia	6,485
Indonesia	3,112	Argentina	5,703
Taiwan	1,564	Spain	74
Others	15,015	Others	17,787
Total	233,751	Total	236,623

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

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

Species	2022 H.S. Code	2021		2022	
		World	USA	World	USA
Scallops	0307.2X.XXXX	13,036	0	13,892	0
Cuttlefish	0307.4X.XXXX	105,699	2,727	107,986	1,336
Octopus	0307.5X.XXXX	66,680	0	66,485	0
Hard clams, abalones, top shells, pearl	0307.7X.XXXX	48,144	60	47,909	57
Oysters, mussels	0307.1X.XXXX	192	0	351	0
Total		233,751	2,787	236,623	1,393

Source: www.kita.net Korea's Trade Statistics Database for 2022

Table A10. Korean Tariff Schedule for Fishery Products

Description	H.S. Code (Korea)	2023 Base Rate
Live Fish , Ornamental, Other Live (HS0301)	Except 0301.92.XXXX, 0301.99.4010 and 0301.99.9051	10%
Live Fish , Eels, Young Eels (0.3g~50g per unit)	0301.92.2000	5%
Live Fish , Eels, Glass Eels (not exceeding 0.3g per unit, for aquaculture), Sea Bream & 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	0304.3X.XXXX~0304.5X.XXXX	20%
Fish Fillets and Other Fish Meat - Frozen	0304.6X.XXXX~0304.9X.XXXX	10%
Fish, Dried, Salted or in Brine, Smoked Fish , whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process	0305.XX.XXXX	20%
Crustaceans , whether in shell or not, Live, Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Dried, Salted or in Brine, Smoked Crustaceans	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 - Oysters, Scallops, Mussels, Smoked Cuttle Fish and Squid, Octopus, Snails, Clams, Abalone, Top Shells, Adductors of Shellfish, etc.	0307.1X.XXXX~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%
	0307.11.1010, 0307.71.2010, 0307.91.2010	0%
	0307.11.1090	5%
	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, Smoked - Sea Cucumber, Sea Urchins, Jellyfish, etc.	0308.XX.XXXX except 0308.90.1011	20%
	0308.90.1011	0%
Flours, Meals and Pellets of Fish , Crustaceans, Mollusks and Other Aquatic Invertebrates	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	1604.XX.XXXX	20%
Prepared or Preserved Crustaceans, Mollusks and Other Aquatic Invertebrates	1605.XX.XXXX	20%

Source: Korea Customs and Trade Development Institute, Import/Export Customs Clearance General Guidebook of Korea, 2023

Attachments:

No Attachments.