The future of US seafood in a rapidly changing world

Halley E. Froehlich, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of California, Santa Barbara
US seafood is in a state of flux

- Trade War
- Covid-19
- Seafood Executive Order

......and don’t forget about climate change
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Resilience action cycle

Stressors:
- Climate change
- Natural disasters
- Political/econ instability
- Resource management
- Governance shortcomings

Love et al. in review
Disruptions & Reactions
Disruptions are common and seem to be increasing over time

Cottrell et al. 2019
COVID-19 is unique

Love et al. in review
Indicators of response
restaurant searches & foot traffic declined

Pre-COVID 65% of US consumer seafood expenditures ($$) were at restaurants

Easton, Froehlich et al in review; Love et 2020
Indicators of response
an up-tick in delivery & recipe searches

Pre-COVID US adults consumed 63% of seafood (by weight) at home

Easton, Froehlich et al in review; Love et al 2020
Indicators of response
Relief funding for businesses

Surveys of 600 (Jan-Mar) and 300 (Apr-June) aquaculture businesses
• Nearly all (80-90%) report being impacted
• <½ applied for support

• But, 56% Federal assistance or 33% State assistance would help
  • CARES funds (< 0.017% of the $1.8 trillion) delayed
  • Buyback < 1% total annual production

Easton et al. In review; Virginia Tech 2020
Resilience action cycle

WE ARE HERE

Learn ➔ Build robustness ➔ Absorb ➔ React ➔ Learn

Preventative actions

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Love et al. in review
Learn & (Re)build Robustness

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Deregulate fisheries and support aquaculture reform and growth (especially offshore)

Executive Order on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth

How?
5 guiding principles

1. Make precise and strategic fisheries reforms
2. Integrate fisheries & aquaculture through an ecosystem-based approach
3. Explicitly address social resistance to aquaculture
4. Collect more comprehensive aquaculture data
5. Reconcile nationalism in a global market

Froehlich et al. In review
5 guiding principles

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5. Reconcile nationalism in a global market
Recognize multiple goals of managing living marine resources and seek to improve alignment among ecological, social, & economic objectives of fished & farmed systems

Froehlich et al. In review
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Froehlich et al. In review
Summary

• Still in ‘reactive state’ from COVID-19 black swan event.

• Fishers, farmers, & seafood businesses are adapting short term, but federal assistance is critical.

• Co-occurring Executive Order may help aquaculture, but ecosystem approach is sorely need for better coordination.
Thank you

Photo: Rene Martin
WebFigure 2. Alaskan weekly landings (pounds) for halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) and sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) for 2020 (black line) and past years (grey lines). Data is updated at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/commercial-fishing/fisheries-catch-and-landings-reports