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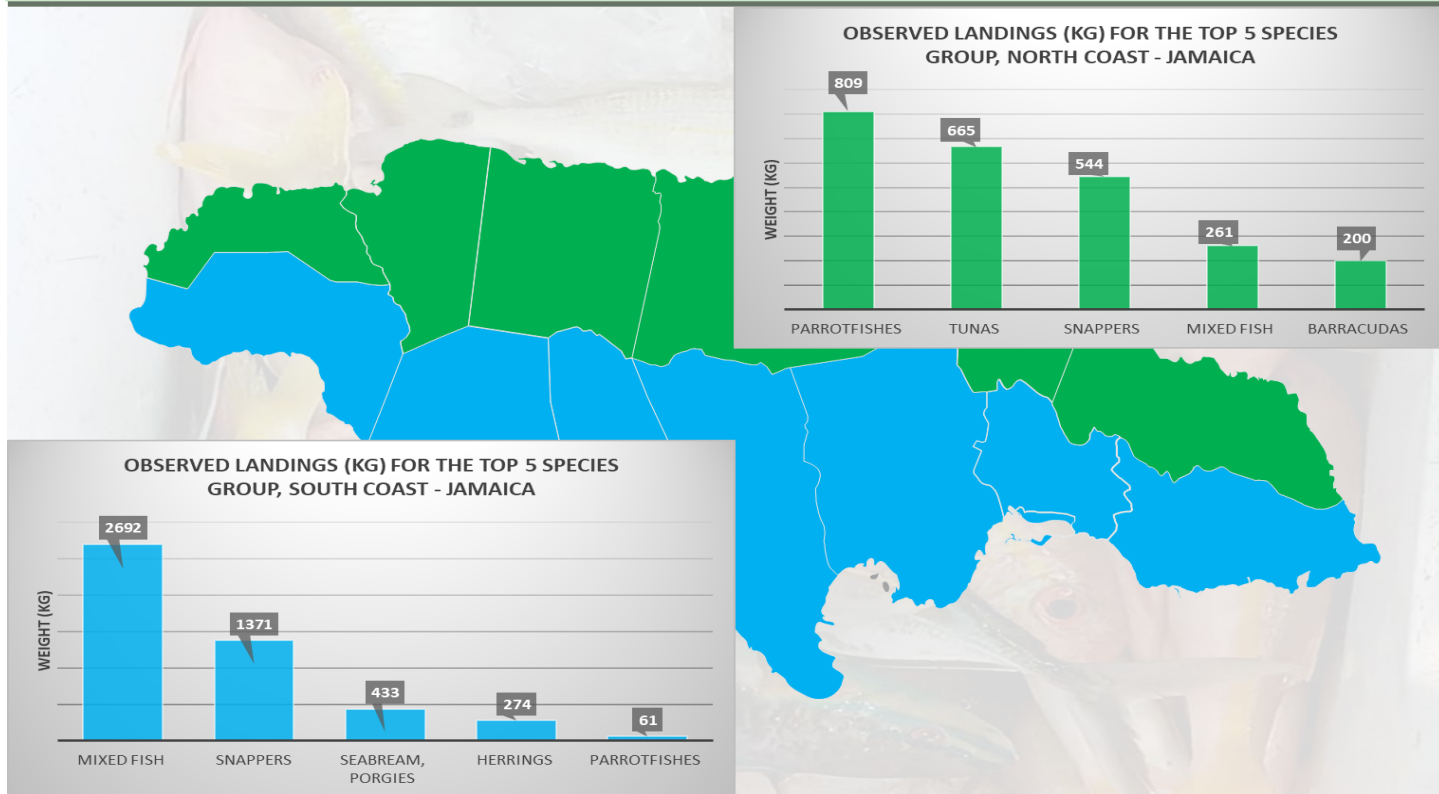
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Fish Eco-Stats



During April 2025, 167 site visits were made across the island. The highest finfish landings on the South Coast reportedly came from Pedro Bank (offshore), while on the North Coast, Duncans in Trelawny accounted for the greatest observed landings. During the period, the top five species landed were snappers, followed by parrotfish, tunas, seabreams, and herrings. Additionally, there was a disaggregated category labeled 'mixed fish'—including species such as snappers, grunts, and jacks—that could not be individually classified by weight.

Total Landed Weight (Kg) from the April Data Sampling

Parish	St. Thomas	Portland	St. Mary	St. Ann	Trelawny	St. James	Hanover	Westmoreland	St. Elizabeth	Manchester	St. Catherine
No. of sites visited	45	42	37	6	3	6	6	10	7	1	2
Weight Landed (Kg)	1151.6	1139.8	784.9	134.5	478.1	766.8	474.3	479.9	134.3	927.6	110.7

April 2025

Preliminary Estimates (MT)

Fin-Fish	Sea Cucumber	Conch	Lobster
993.18 MT*	6.52 MT	1 vessel out at sea	close season

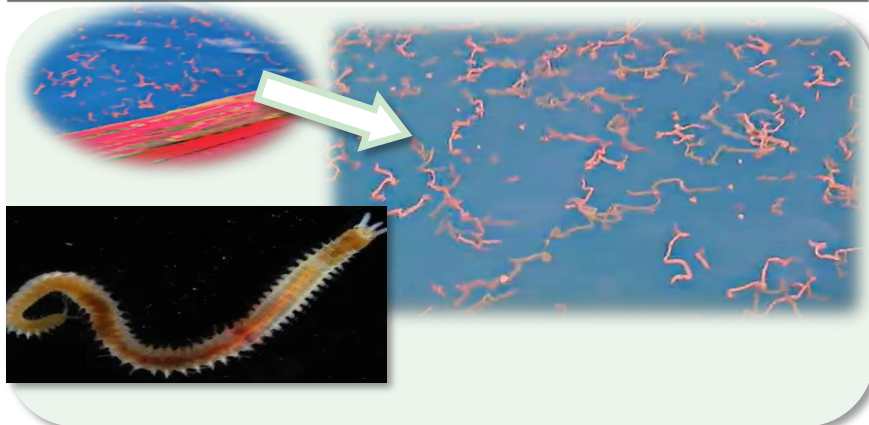
*(artisanal fishery) worth US\$14,384,010.74





APRIL 2025

Polychaete Worm Sighting, Discovery Bay



A large number of *Palola* sp., commonly known as bristle worms, were observed in Discovery Bay on April 11th by a local fisher. These polychaete worms are known for their mass spawning events, which typically occur at night during the spring months, often around the waning moon phase. During spawning, they rise to the surface of the water to release sperm and eggs, a process that unfolds over several nights. These worms play a valuable role in the ecosystem. Research indicates they assimilate organic carbon from seagrass debris into their body tissue, effectively reducing waste and contributing to nutrient cycling.

They are also an excellent food source for fish, making them an important to the marine food web. The fisher who reported the sighting noted that his fish pots performed poorly that day. He speculated that the abundance of bristle worms, a natural and tasty alternative, may have made his traditional bait less appealing to fish.



Port Antonio Spring Tournament

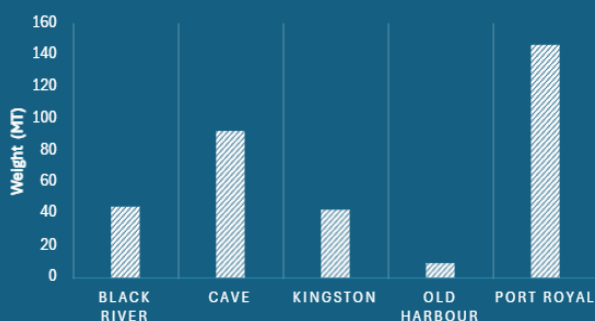
Seven vessels competed in the tournament held from April 10th to 12th at the Ole Marina in Portland, landing a total of 0.55 Kg of fish. The most frequently caught species were wahoo, goldeye snapper, and barracuda, which dominated the haul.

Factors Affecting Fishing Activities

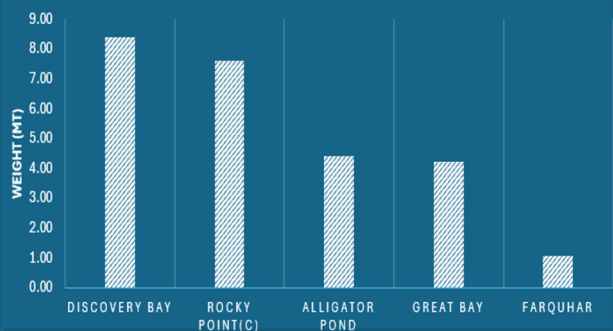
- During the month of April, the island experienced a number of red alerts for small craft advisories due to scattered showers, thunderstorms, lightning, and occasional hail. As a result, several fishing days were lost, with fishers opting to remain ashore for safety.
- Larceny of fish pots and fish from pots are a major complaint amongst fishers island wide.

LOBSTER SEASON 2024 to 2025
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES

INDUSTRIAL LOBSTER WEIGHT JULY 2024 - MARCH 2025 (TOTAL 335 MT)



ARTISANAL LOBSTER WEIGHT JULY 2024 - MARCH 2025 (TOTAL 26 MT)



The 2024/2025 lobster season saw **335MT** landed from 9 industrial vessels. Comparatively, through data sampling it was observed that 388 artisanal vessels and 15 divers brought in **26 MT** lobster. In the close season, 139 declarations were made by fishers, restaurants, hotels, for **220 MT** of lobster.





GET HOOKED: FISHERIES STATISTICS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Conch Licence	Licences Stats					
<p>The bag limit for artisanal fishers is 10 conch in the shell per vessel per trip per day for inshore fishing.</p> <p>11 industrial fishers have been allocated their respective quota for offshore conch harvesting for export purposes.</p>	Fisher Licence & IDs - 770			Vessels - 421		
	Categories	Licences Renewed	New Licences	Categories	Licences Renewed	New Licences
	Artisanal	515	157	Artisanal	157	35
	Recreational	30	20	Recreational	3	3
	Vendor ID	2	2	Industrial	0	1
	Authorization	0	38	Cay Boat Licence	2	0
	Aquaculture	3	3	TOTAL	162	259
	TOTAL	550	220			

Aquaculture Industry (January—March 2025)

Ornamental Fish Sub-Sector 18 farmers visited

Fish Species	Min Selling Price (\$)	Max Selling Price (\$)
1-2" Sword tails	100	250
1-2" Tetras	60	150
Bettas	800	1000
Angelfish	>2000	
Cichlids*	300	500
Goldfish	1000	60000
Koi	1000	60000
Platys	50	250

Top Sellers

Angelfish
Cichlids
Goldfish
Guppy
Koi
Molly

Average Sale Prices Ornamental Fish (Ornamental Producers)

Guppy
Molly fish
Swordtail
Platys

\$3000 -
\$30000

*yellow labs, maingano, blue acaras, OB cichlids

Food Fish 143.55 MT from 109 fish farms: Clarendon, Hanover, St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth, St. Mary, Westmoreland

143.66 MT of fish were produced in the quarter January to March 2025. This was a 2.10% decrease of the previous quarter (October to December 2024) which had a production value of 145.61 MT.

Top Recorded Parish	No. of Farmers	Weight (MT)
Clarendon	11	53.27
St. Catherine	78	85.46

Aquaculture occurs on approximately 755.01 acres of land, of which 598.66 are currently in active production. The number of ponds and tanks ranges in size from small to medium and large, averaging between 0.1 to 1 acre. The selling price for tilapia at the farm gate starts from \$500/ lb up, and at retail outlets, \$650 and above.

A few small farmers produce fish in concrete tanks.

Did you
know?

According to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), fish and fish products imports amounted to 32,586 tonnes from 2013 to 2023. Since April 2025, fish price per lb ranges from \$200 to \$1500 for herring/ sprat to snappers respectively.



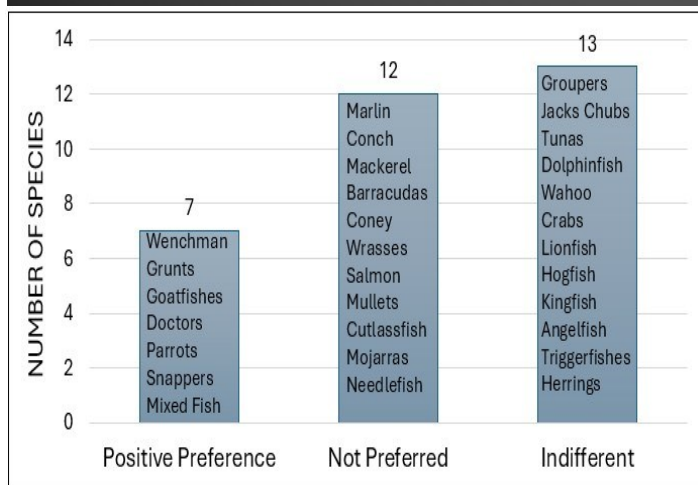
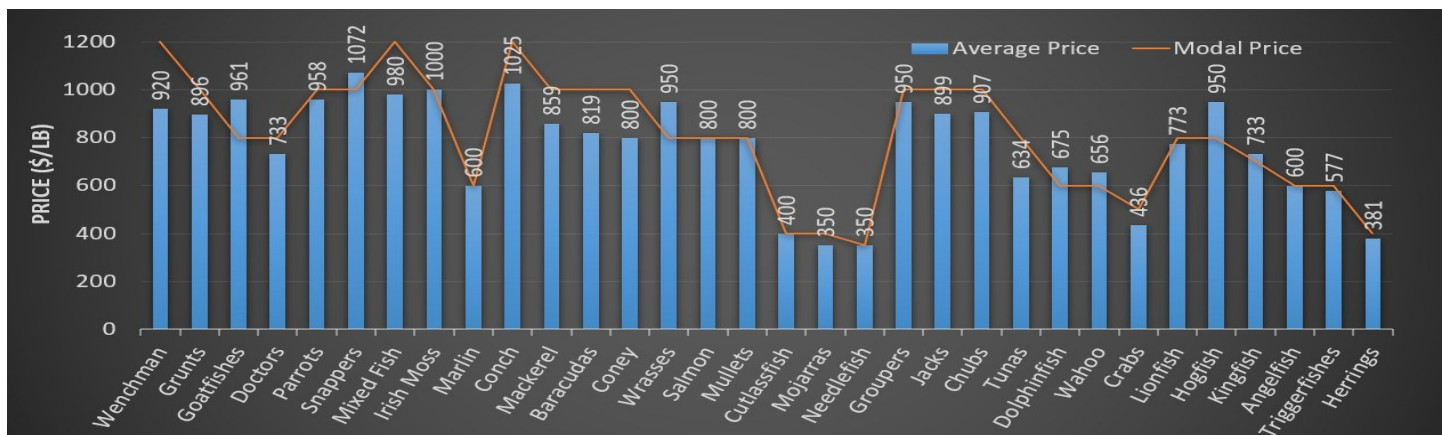


GET HOOKED: FISHERIES STATISTICS NEWSLETTER

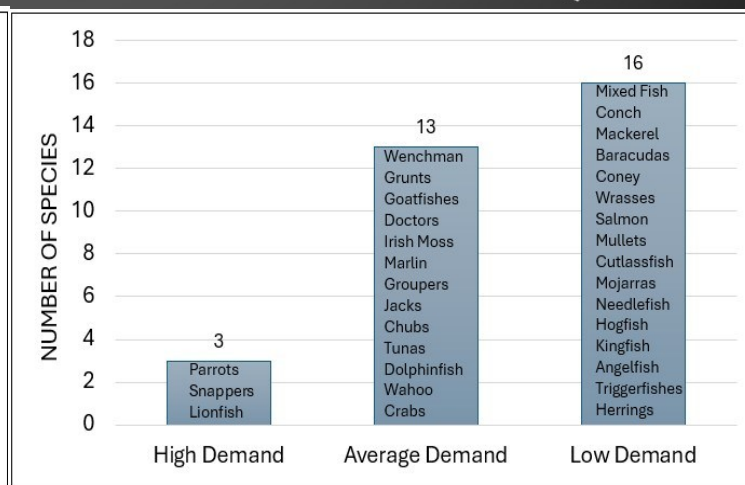
Artisanal Fish Market Conditions

APRIL 2025

Fish market prices are important indicators of market demand, fish supply, cost of fishing, consumer perceptions, consumer preferences, and the potential state of fish stocks. Fish prices per lb ranged from \$200/lb (\$440.92/Kg) for herring to a high of \$1500/lb (\$3 306.90/Kg) for snappers, groupers, and wenchman. Positive customer preferences favoured Wenchman, Grunts, Goatfishes, Doctors, Parrots, Snappers, and Mixed Fish (assorted fish).



Consumer preference from the artisanal fish



Consumer demand from the artisanal fish

Aquaculture Bioeconomic Assessment

A bioeconomic analysis of Tilapia aquaculture at different scales of production was conducted to assess their technical, operational, and economic feasibility. Findings included the following:

- Initial investment costs range from \$4.8 to \$36 million (~ \$1.2 million per pond).
- Operational costs range from \$8.4 to \$83 million.
- Expected 6-month return on investment ranged from 17% to 133% based on farm size.
- Tilapia aquaculture is technically and economically feasible using current technology especially at larger scales.
- Operational and technical inefficiencies are causing losses (e.g. high feed costs, and low investment in technology and genetics).
- Economic and production efficiency are greatly affected by Economies of scale.

Comparison of revenue and cost functions for medium (5.1-20 acres; average 15 acres) and large (<20 acres; average 30 acres) tilapia farms below.

