

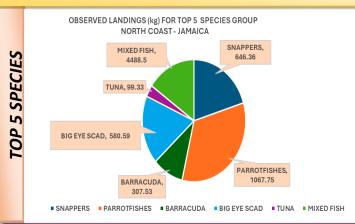
## **GET HOOKED ON FISHERIES**

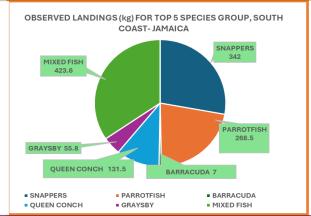
# NEWSLETTER

**MAY 2025** In This Issue:

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Mixed fish, as indicated above, is a collective term for various fish species caught without separating or recording their individual weights.

### **SEA MOSS**



Eucheuma cottonii

NFA Sea Moss By-Product

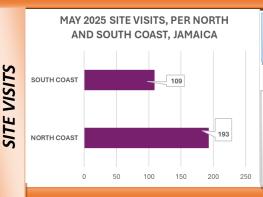
Irish moss is valued as a superfood, rich in iodine and antioxidants that support thyroid health, which aids growth, reproduction, and cell repair. Four wild sea moss species are

abundant in Bowden and Whitehorses (St. Thomas), Manchioneal (Portland), Discovery Bay (St. Ann), Big Bridge (Westmoreland), and Alligator Pond (Manchester).

There are currently three initiatives aimed to train and support sea moss farmers:

- A national sea moss survey and report
- A husbandry pilot testing growth and regulatory monitoring at Bowden Bay
- Guidelines for cultivation and production are currently being drafted

In early 2025, cultivated sea moss of 363 lbs (wet weight) yielded 14.1 lbs of dry sea moss. A second harvest in May, yielded 13.42 lbs. dry sea moss from 268 lbs. of wet weight. This is a conversion factor of 4% for wet to dry weight.



### **MAY 2025** Preliminary Estimates (MT)

### **Artisanal Fin-Fish**

#### **Production**

791.1 MT valued at US \$11,457,242.17

May Statistics for Licensing and Registration Unit	
Fisherman Licence & IDs	

Categories	Renewals	New	Total	
Artisanal	292	112	404	
Recreational	9	19	28	
Vendor	1	2	3	
Authorization	4	0	4	
Aquaculture	0	1	1	
TOTAL	306	151	457	
Vessels				
Categories	Renewals	New	Total	
Vessels	Reflewais	ivew	Total	
Artisanal	111	26	137	
Recreational	4	1	5	
Temporary Recreational	1	0	1	
Industrial	1	0	1	
Sport Charter	2	0	2	
TOTAL	119	27	146	



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### **SEA MOSS (CONT'D)**

Comparison of the potential revenue to be generated between selling wet sea moss versus dry sea moss.

Based on current local market prices

Description	Unit Price (\$/Lb) Quantity (Lb)		Income (\$)	
Wet Sea Moss	1 000.00	366.86	366 860.00	
Dry Sea Moss	16 000.00	14.3	288 800.00	

#### **Social Outreach**

On May 23, 2025, a collaborative beach cleanup effort took place at the St. Ann's Bay landing site, bringing together 43 soldiers from the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Coast Guard, four representatives from the National Fisheries Authority (NFA), and 10 local fisherfolk. The group focused on a 500-meter stretch of beach, where they successfully collect-

ed and removed 30 bags of solid waste. In addition, three holes were dug in the sand to bury large amounts washed-up of sargassum, helping to restore the natural aesthetics and environmental health of the shoreline. This lights the ongoing partnership government agencies





initiative highthe ongoing Rank Officers, NFA Compliance and ship between Statistics & Data Management Unit

and local stakeholders in preserving Jamaica's coastal environments and promoting sustainable use of marine resources.



In St. Ann's Bay, seagrass was separated from solid waste and placed in dug-out holes for composting to support coastal restoration, by JDF, NFA and local fishers.

# Statistics and Data Management Unit Fisheries Compliance, Licensing and Statistics Division

iisheries Compliance, Licensing and Statistics Divis statistics@nfa.gov.jm; www.fisheries.gov.jm

#### MAY BITES

#### Another Sanctuary

Grange Pen sanctuary was designated in 2024. This marked a significant step in Jamaica's ongoing efforts promote to marine conservation sustainable fishing practices. In May 2025 an official ceremony took place at the Iberostar Hotel in St. James to sign a MOU. The event was attended by several key stakeholders, including the Honourable Floyd Green, representatives from the Environment and National Planning Agency (NEPA), and



members of the National Fisheries Authority (NFA), led by CEO Dr. Gavin Bellamy. Their presence underscored the government's commitment to safeguarding the country's marine resources for future generations.

#### **Shells on Conch**

The conch harvesting season runs from March 1 to July 31, 2025, where fishing is permitted with a valid licence. Conch are tropical marine molluscs with spiral shells, found in warm, shallow waters.

Landed conchs reflect the processing grades:

- Dirty: all features intact
- 50% clean: guts and organs removed
- 100% clean: white meat only

In May 2025, total industrial landings were 52,698.4 kg, and artisanal landings were 6,518.5 kg.

Average weight per conch at 50% clean was 0.110 kg; for other processed grades, 0.098 kg.

