

## **THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF U.S. COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN**

### **ABSTRACT**

- This newsletter summarizes the changes in the demographic profiles of fishermen and owners of the U.S. commercial fishing industry.
- Demographic profiles include distribution by gender, race or ethnic origin, and age group.
- Results indicate that the percentage of fishers and owners 65 years old and above rose from 7.6% in 2016 to 12.4% in 2020 and 13.5% in 2024.
- The percentage of White fishers and owners also rose from 81.0% in 2016 to 81.3% in 2020 and 84.1% in 2024.
- The percentage of female fishers and owners rose from 6.8% in 2016 to 9.2% in 2020 but fell to 5.5% in 2024.

### **KEYWORDS**

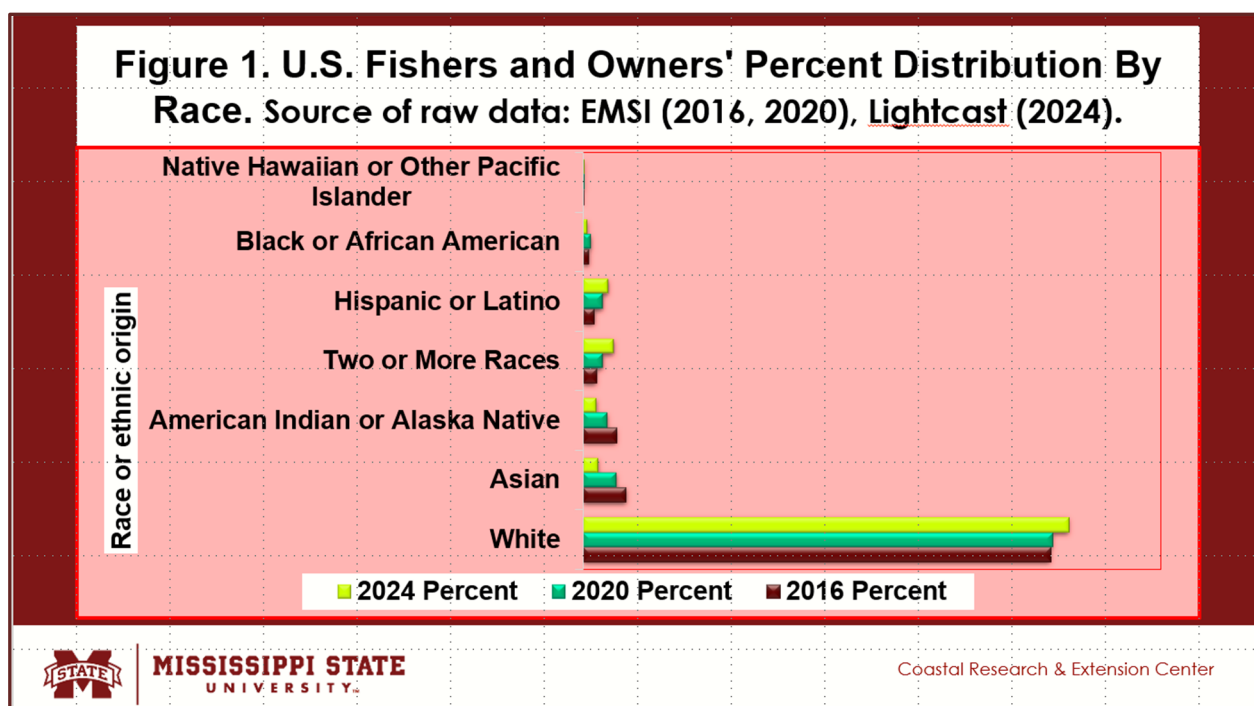
- Commercial fishermen, demographic characteristics, greying of the commercial fleet.

## METHODS

- Demographic profiles include distribution by gender, race or ethnic origin, and age group.
- The demographic data were compiled from the EMSI website in 2016 and 2020 and the Lightcast website in 2024.

## THE PERCENTAGE OF U.S. FISHERS AND OWNERS ROSE AMONG THESE GROUPS FROM 2016 TO 2024.

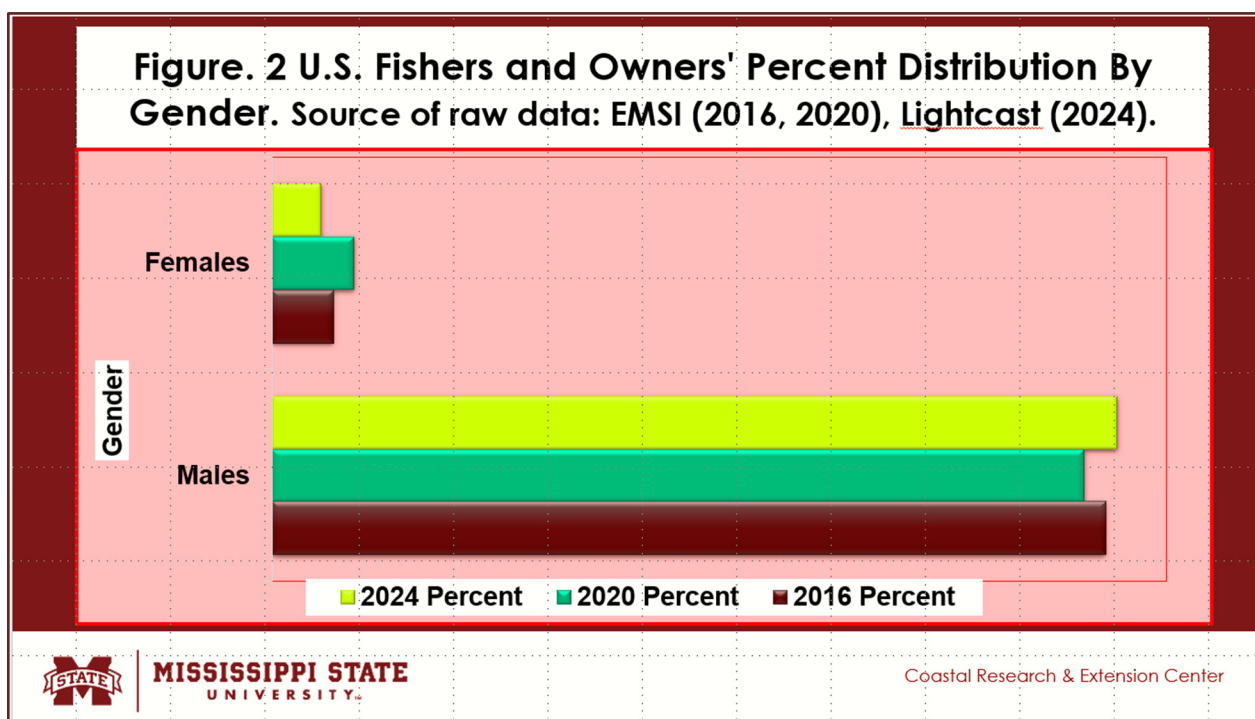
- White fishers and owners rose from 81.0% in 2016 to 81.3% in 2020 and 84.2% in 2024.
- Fishers and owners who reported two or more races increased from 2.4% in 2016 to 3.5% in 2020 and 5.3% in 2024.
- Hispanic or Latino fishers and owners increased from 2.0% in 2016 to 3.5% in 2020 and 4.5% in 2024.
- Native American or Other Pacific Islander fishers and owners increased from 0.2% in 2016 to 0.3% in 2020 and 0.4% in 2024.



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**THE DECLINE IN THE PERCENTAGES OF U.S. FISHERS AND OWNERS AMONG THESE GROUPS WAS OBSERVED FROM 2016 TO 2024.**

- Asian fishers and owners declined from 7.5% in 2016 to 5.8% in 2020 and 2.6% in 2024.
- American Indian or Alaska Native fishers and owners decreased from 5.9% in 2016 to 4.3% in 2020 and 2.4% in 2024.
- Black or African American fishers and owners rose from 1.0% in 2016 to 1.4% in 2020 but fell to 0.8% in 2024.



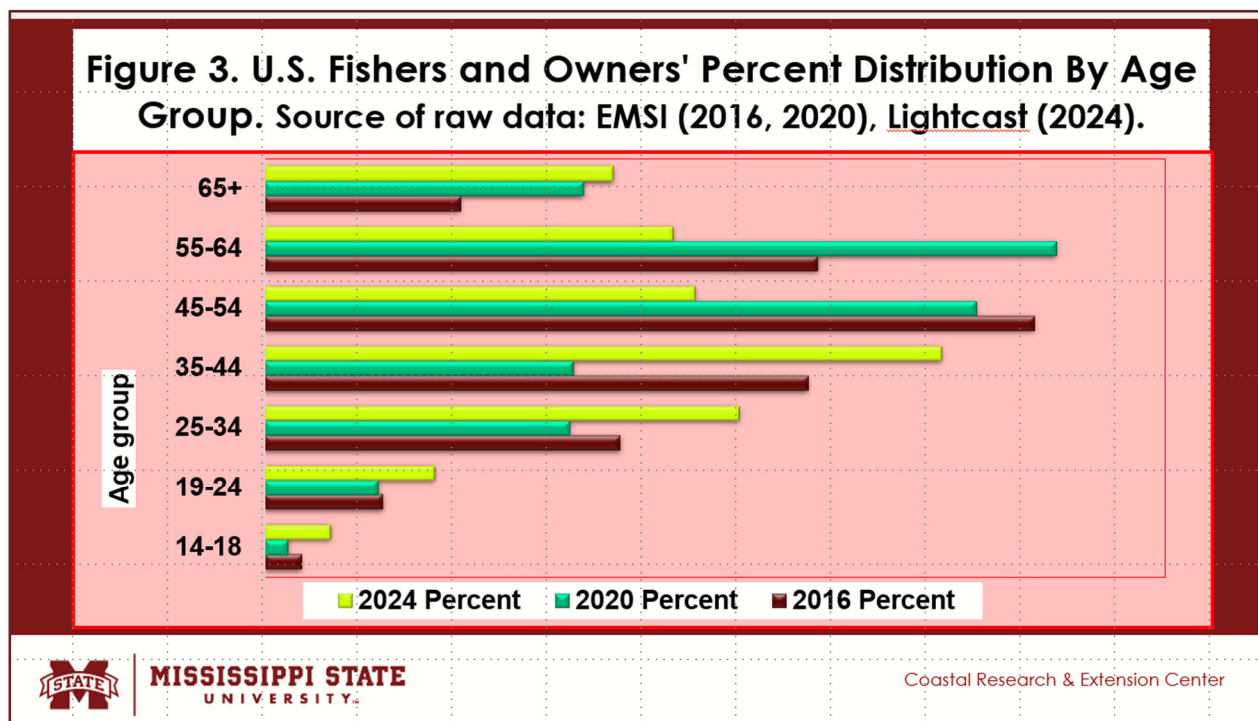
**OVERALL, THE PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE U.S. FISHERS AND OWNERS DECREASED FROM 2016 TO 2024.**

- Female U.S. fishers and owners among these groups increased from 2016 to 2020.
- However, female U.S. fishers and owners decreased from 2020 to 2024.

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**OVERALL, THE PERCENTAGE OF U.S. FISHERS AND OWNERS ROSE AMONG THE YOUNGER AGE GROUPS FROM 2016 TO 2024.**

- The 14-18-year-old fishers and owners rose from 1.4% in 2016 to 2.5% in 2024 but fell to 0.9% in 2020.
- The 19-24-year-old fishers and owners fell from 4.6% in 2016 to 4.4% in 2020 but rose to 6.6% in 2024.
- The 25-34-year-old fishers and owners fell from 13.8% in 2016 to 11.9% in 2020 but rose to 18.5% in 2024.
- The 35-44-year-old fishers and owners fell from 21.1% in 2016 to 12.0% in 2020 but rose to 26.3% in 2024.
- The percentage of fishers and owners 65 years old and above rose from 7.6% in 2016 to 12.4% in 2020 and 13.5% in 2024.



## **OVERALL, THE PERCENTAGE OF U.S. FISHERMEN AND OWNERS FELL AMONG 45- TO 64-YEAR-OLDS FROM 2016 TO 2024.**

- The 45-54-year-old fishers and owners fell from 29.9% in 2016 to 27.7% in 2020 and 16.7% in 2024.
- The 55-64-year-old fishers and owners rose from 21.5% in 2016 to 30.8% in 2020 but fell to 15.9% in 2024.

## **SUMMARY, LIMITATIONS, AND IMPLICATIONS**

- This newsletter provides detailed information about the changes in the demographic profiles of fishermen and owners of the U.S. commercial fishing industry.
- Demographic profiles include gender, race or ethnic origin, and age group.
- The demographic data were compiled from the EMSI website in 2016 and 2020 and the Lightcast website in 2024.
- Results indicate that the percentage of fishers and owners 65 years old and above almost doubled between 2016 and 2024.
- The percentage of White fishers and owners slightly rose from 2016 to 2024.
- The percentage of female fishers and owners generally fell from 2016 to 2024.

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