In 2008, 44.9 million people were directly engaged, full or part-time, in capture fisheries or aquaculture, showing a 167% increase from the 16.7 million people who were engaged in 1980. This calculation accounts for the average annual population growth rate of 1.5% between 1980 and 2008.

Marine-Related Employment is Shifting Worldwide

Marine-Related Employment Encompasses Many Sectors

- Tourism
- Transportation & Shipping
- Marine Mammal Watching
- Ship & Boatbuilding
- Ports & Harbors
- Commercial Fishing
- Mariculture
- Aquaculture Fishing
- Wave & Tidal Energy

People rely on the ocean to provide livelihoods (i.e. jobs with steady wages) and stable economies for coastal communities. The jobs produced from marine-related industries directly benefit those who are employed, but also have substantial indirect importance to many others.

Trends in Global Employment in Fisheries and Aquaculture

While fish farming worldwide has grown extensively, the majority of growth is occurring in Asia, particularly in China. Meanwhile, employment in fishing industries is decreasing in capital-intensive economies, in particular in most European countries, North America and Japan. The imbalance is a result of several factors, including decreased catches, capacity reduction programs and increased productivity due to technical progress.

Sources:
- NOAA: http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/oceaneconomy.html