



NOAA FISHERIES

The recreational fishing community is the primary source of data for NOAA Fisheries' estimates of recreational catch and number of trips.

Each of our mail, in-person, and telephone surveys plays a unique role in helping to improve our estimates.

Your Fishing Counts!

The information you share about your fishing helps ensure sustainable fisheries today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

One of America's favorite pastimes, saltwater recreational fishing contributes tens of billions of dollars annually to our nation's coastal economies and working waterfronts.



Collaboration

NOAA Fisheries' data collection program is a state-regional-federal partnership that develops, improves, and implements a national network of recreational fishing surveys to estimate total recreational catch.

Data Collection

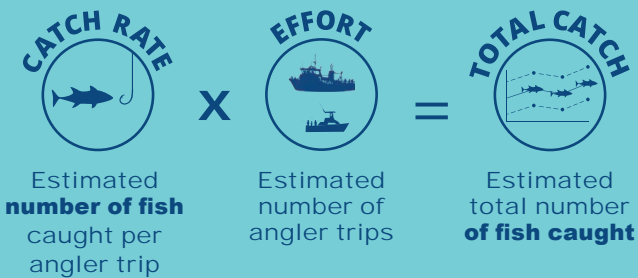
Because it's not possible to collect data from every angler on every trip, we use sound survey methods to collect information from a representative sample of the recreational fishing community.

We collaboratively develop, implement, and improve a suite of recreational fishing surveys. We use the data we collect to estimate total recreational catch: the number of fish, by species, that anglers catch, keep, and release.

Producing Estimates

The estimates we produce from our surveys are broken out by state, region, fishing mode (shore, private boat, and for-hire vessel), and fish species. Estimates are made publicly available on our website.

Estimating Total Recreational Catch



Continued Improvement

Our partnership is continually improving recreational fishing data collection and methodologies to ensure our estimates best reflect the actual health of our fisheries. This includes continued evaluation and testing of survey designs and working closely with state partners to reconcile differences between NOAA Fisheries and state data.



Credit: Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division

Your Data Makes a Difference

NOAA Fisheries collects catch and trip data from **for-hire captains** and hundreds of thousands of anglers.

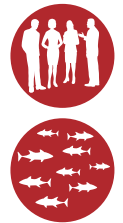


These estimates **complement other data**, such as **commercial catch, biological information, and direct observations of fish stocks.**



Stock assessment scientists evaluate this data to determine the **health of our fisheries.**

Working with **anglers and other partners**, fisheries managers use this information to ensure our marine fisheries resources **don't become depleted** and stocks are **sustainable** now and for future generations.



We continue to **evaluate and improve** our data collection program to provide fisheries scientists and managers with quality data.



countmyfish.noaa.gov

EACH YEAR: Field interviewers working for our state partners on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and in Hawaii gather information from about 100,000 fishing trips. About 300,000 households receive our fishing activity survey in the mail.

Note: Field interviewers play no role in law enforcement. We value your participation and privacy. Any personal information collected through our program is kept confidential.