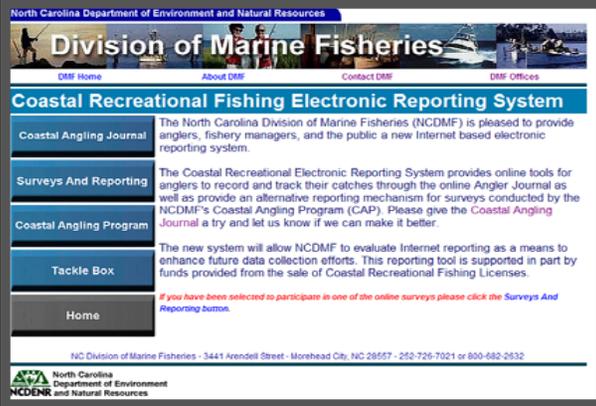


Electronic Reporting System Angling Journal



The Coastal Angling Journal is a tool that anglers can use to record their individual fishing trips to monitor their fishing success. Information from the Coastal Angling Journal will enable the division to better characterize and assess recreational fisheries. To participate in the Angler Journal go to, www.ncfisheries.net/ncrecfish.

Coastal Pier Reporting



To meet a National Angler Registry exemption, North Carolina must provide the total number of anglers fishing from piers each day. Pier operators will soon be required to report these numbers, either through an electronic reporting system or logbooks.

Commonly Asked Questions

What Is the Goal of the N.C. Coastal Angling Program?

The goal of the Coastal Angling Program (CAP) is to improve the quality and quantity of recreational fisheries data. Information gathered through CAP is essential for the development of the state's fisheries management plans. This program is supported from the sales of Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses. CAP consists of several components described throughout this document.

What Kind of Questions Do These Surveys Ask?

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries sends written questionnaires through the mail throughout the year. The questionnaires ask for information such as where an angler fished, how many fish they caught, and how many they throw back.

How Does This Information Get Used?

These statistics guide managers as they determine the health of fish populations and how to determine what size and bag limits or seasons are needed to ensure sustainable fish populations. The landings data and the fish lengths and weights obtained are critical in the development of Stock Assessments, the backbone of our Fishery Management Plans.

For more information, contact:

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Recreational Statistics Coordinator
N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries
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North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

Coastal Angling Program CAP



CAP is the collective title that encompasses a set of recreational fishing sampling and survey programs run by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

It includes mail, telephone and electronic surveys of those who hold a N.C. Coastal Recreational Fishing License. It also includes people survey fishermen at boat ramps, on the beach and piers, sampling of upper estuarine waters species such as striped bass and participation in the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), a national survey program.



How is Marine Fisheries Improving the Way Recreational Fishing Data is Collected?

Increasing Angler Interviews



It doesn't take rocket science to produce estimates of recreational fishing catch and effort, but it does take real science and science that requires sound methodology, attention to detail and vigorous review. The precision of an estimate is impacted greatly by the number of anglers interviewed. In 2010, the N.C. Division of Marine increased the number of anglers it interviews from 15,000 to roughly 20,000 per year. This will significantly improve the accuracy of recreational catch estimates. In addition, interviewers have the opportunity to weigh and measure many more fish. The additional lengths and weights will provide biologists with much needed data to help fisheries managers make decisions about what size and bag limits and research that is needed. For more information regarding the Marine Recreational Information Program, go to <https://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/>.

Flounder Gigging Data



Flounder gigging is a popular recreational fishing activity in North Carolina. The division began conducting flounder gigging surveys in July 2010.

Recreational Shellfish Harvest



More than 10 percent of the Coastal Recreational Fishing Activity Survey respondents reported shellfishing activity. During 2010, surveys will be conducted to determine access area, locations fished and estimates of annual catch and effort.

Sampling Nighttime Fishing



A variety of night fishing activity occurs in North Carolina from the shore, on the piers and in the estuarine private boat and guide fisheries. Night fishing access sites are located throughout the state but fluctuate greatly by county. The division is participating in a federal pilot survey project that distributes sampling around the clock. This will provide additional information needed to characterize night fishing catches.

Assessment of Private Access

Estimates of recreational private access trips comprise about 25 percent of the total trips nationally. North Carolina's current survey methods assume catch rates of anglers accessing the water through private access sites are not significantly different than those using public access sites. In 2011, North Carolina will begin surveying individuals to see if there are differences between catches from private and public fishing.

