



OMB Control No. 2040-XXXX
Approval expires XX/XX/XX

Fish and Aquatic Habitat

A Survey of Northeast Residents

(CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)



The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response. Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the Director, Collection Strategies Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2822T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed survey to this address.

HUMAN ACTIVITIES, AQUATIC HABITAT AND FISH

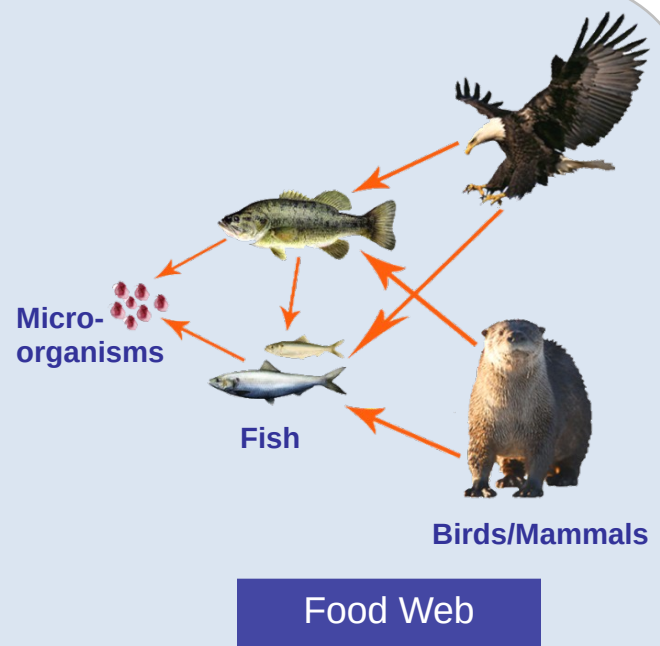
This survey asks for your opinions regarding policies that would affect fish and habitat in the Northeast U.S. Your answers will help the government decide which policies will be enacted. Background information in this survey was provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey and other state and federal offices.

Northeast fresh and salt waters support billions of fish. These include fish that are used by humans, as well as forage fish that are not used by humans, but serve as food for larger fish, birds, and animals.

Natural factors such as weather have always influenced fish, but in recent years human activities have had an increasing effect.

Activities that affect fish include fishing, pollution, commercial and residential development, and the extraction of cooling water at industrial facilities.

Declines in fish can affect the condition of ecological systems, food webs, and related human uses such as fishing.



This survey concerns proposed policies that would reduce fish losses caused by cooling water use by industrial facilities, including factories and power plants. These policies would benefit aquatic ecosystems but would increase the costs of some goods and services you buy, including electricity and common household products.

HOW DOES COOLING WATER AFFECT FISH?

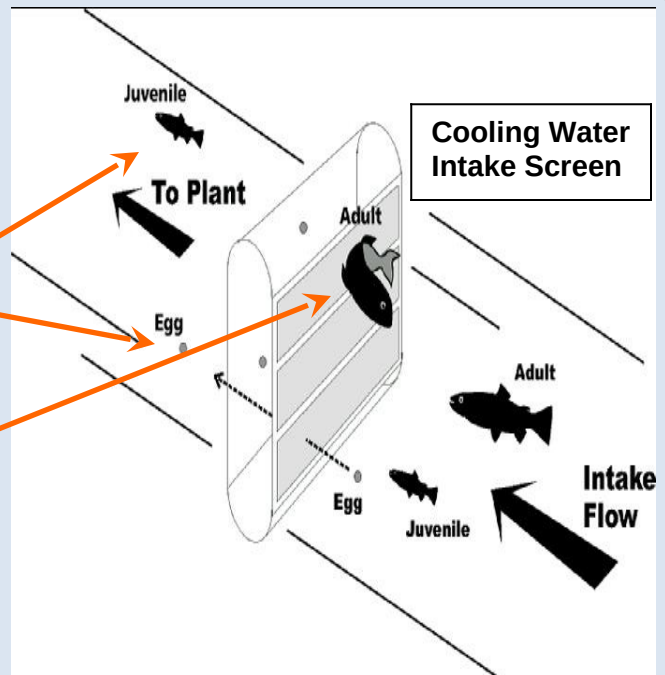
The water that industrial facilities use to cool equipment is pumped from bays, rivers, and lakes. The largest amount is used by power plants that produce electricity.

The equipment that pumps the cooling water kills small fish and fish eggs.

Juvenile fish and eggs move through screens and into the cooling system where they are killed by high temperature.

Large fish may be injured or killed against screens or filters.

Pumping warm water back into the environment (called *thermal discharge*) also affects ecological systems.



How Fish Are Affected by Water Intake

Cooling water use affects fresh and salt waters throughout the Northeast US, but 93% of all fish losses are in coastal bays, estuaries, and tidal rivers.

WHAT KINDS OF FISH ARE AFFECTED?

Cooling water use is **not** the largest cause of fish loss in most areas (fishing causes greater losses), but has affected some fish populations.

About 1/6 of the fish lost are species caught by commercial and recreational fishermen. Examples include striped bass, flounder, and cod.

The other 5/6 of the fish lost are forage species not caught by humans but serve as food for larger fish, birds, and animals. Examples include killifish, silverside, and stickleback.

Question 1. When thinking about how industrial facilities use cooling water, please rate the importance of the following to you. Check one box for each.

	Not Important	Somewhat Important			Very Important
1. Preventing the loss of fish that are caught by humans	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
2. Preventing the loss of fish that are not caught by humans	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
3. Maintaining the ecological health of rivers, lakes and bays	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
4. Keeping the cost of goods and services low	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
5. Making sure there is enough government regulation of industry	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
6. Making sure there is not too much government regulation of industry	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

HOW MANY FISH ARE AFFECTED?

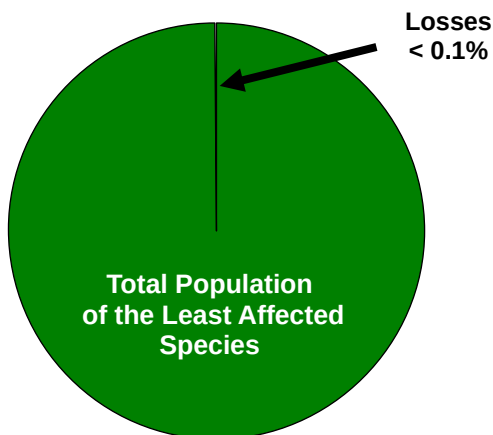
After accounting for the number of eggs and larvae that would be expected to survive to adulthood, scientists estimate that the equivalent of about 1.1 billion young adult fish (the equivalent of one year old) are lost each year in Northeast coastal and fresh waters due to cooling water use.

Scientists can predict the number of these fish that will be saved under different policies. This number ranges from less than 0.1 to 1.0 billion fish saved per year.

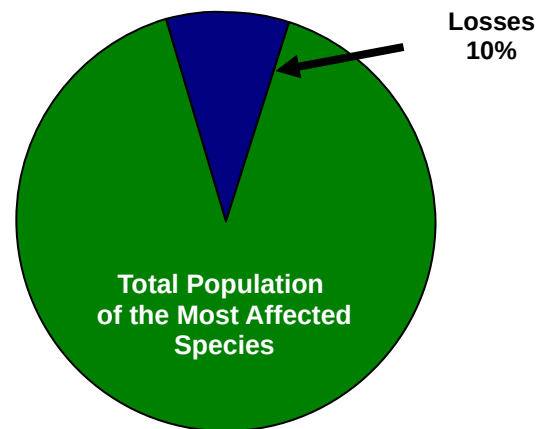
For commercial fish species, losses of young fish in cooling water intakes vary by species, from the equivalent of less than 0.1% to about 10% of a species' total population.

Scientists expect the yearly effects on other fish species are in the same 0.1% to 10% range. The number of young fish lost in cooling water intakes relative to the total number of fish in the water is relatively high for some species, but low for others.

Smallest Commercial Fish Losses per Year



Largest Commercial Fish Losses per Year



Although scientists can predict the number of fish saved each year, the effect on fish populations is uncertain. This is because scientists do not know the total number of all fish in Northeast waters and because many factors – such as cooling water use, fishing, pollution and water temperature – affect fish.

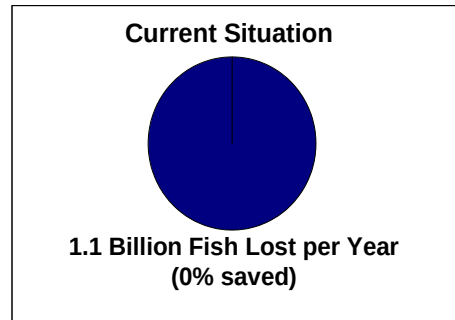
The following page provides information on policies that would be required to reduce fish losses.

Larger effect
on Winter
Flounder

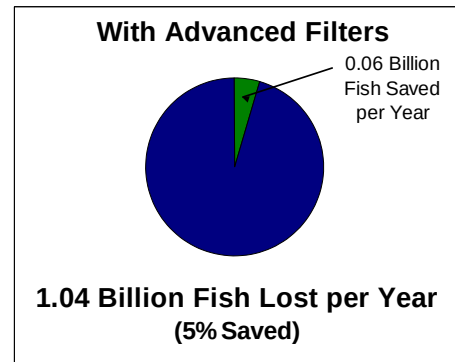
Flounder

NEW REGULATIONS ARE BEING PROPOSED TO PROTECT FISH

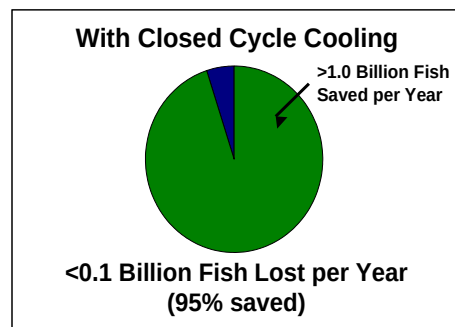
The government is considering new policies to improve the protection of fish.



One policy would require **advanced filters** that block fish from entering cooling water facilities. Requiring advanced filters could reduce fish losses about 5%.



Another possibility is **closed cycle cooling** that recycles and reuses cooling water, so that less water is needed. Requiring closed cycle cooling could reduce fish losses by 95% and also reduces thermal discharge. However, costs are higher than for advanced filters.



Advanced filters and closed cycle cooling are already in use at many facilities and are proven technologies. **New regulations would require a mix of advanced filters and closed cycle cooling at all facilities—with reductions in fish losses between 5% and 95%.**

HOW IMPORTANT ARE THESE ISSUES TO YOU?

While these policies would reduce fish losses, they would also increase the costs of producing many goods and services — these costs would be passed on to consumers like you.

Question 2. Compared to other issues that the government might address—such as public safety, education and health—how important is protecting aquatic ecosystems to you? Check one box.

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important		
Protecting aquatic ecosystems is	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5




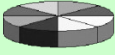

The government needs to know whether households are willing to pay the costs of these new policies.

This survey will ask you to compare policies with different effects on cooling water use, fish, and costs to your household. You will be asked to vote for the options you prefer.

You will also have the opportunity to support the current situation, with no new policies, and no new costs to your household.

THIS SURVEY IS SIMILAR TO A PUBLIC VOTE

The next part of this survey will ask you to consider different types of policies to protect fish, and indicate how you would vote. Effects of each possible policy will be described using the following scores:




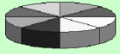

Effect of Policy	What It Means
 <p>Commercial Fish Populations (Fish Used by People)</p>	<p>A score between 0 and 100 percent showing the overall health of commercial and recreational fish populations. Higher scores mean more fish and greater fishing potential. A score of 100 means that these fish populations are at a size that maximizes long-term harvest; 0 means no harvest. The current score in Northeast waters is 42.</p>
 <p>Fish Populations (All Fish)</p>	<p>A score between 0 and 100 percent showing the estimated size of all fish populations compared to natural levels without human influence. A score of 100 means that populations are the largest natural size possible; 0 means no fish. The current score in Northeast waters is 26.</p>
 <p>Fish Saved (per Year)</p>	<p>A score between 0 and 100 percent showing the reduction in young fish lost compared to current levels. A score of 100 would mean that no fish are lost in cooling water intakes (all fish would be saved because of the new policy). The current score in Northeast waters is 0. This represents the status quo (no policy) with about 12% of plants already using advanced cooling systems.</p>
 <p>Condition of Aquatic Ecosystems</p>	<p>A score between 0 to 100 percent showing the ecological condition of affected areas, compared to the most natural waters in the Northeast. The score is determined by many factors including water quality and temperature, the health of aquatic species, and habitat conditions. Higher scores mean the area is more natural. The current score in Northeast waters is 50.</p>
 <p>Cost per Year</p>	<p>How much the policy will cost your household, in unavoidable price increases for products and services you buy, including electricity and common household products.</p>

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE EFFECTS?

Question 3. When considering policies that affect how facilities use cooling water, how important to you are effects on each of the following scores? Check one box for each. (For reminders of what the scores mean, please see page 7).

	Not Important	Somewhat Important			Very Important
1. Effect on commercial fish populations	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
2. Effect on the fish populations (for all fish)	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
3. Effect on fish saved	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
4. Effect on the condition of aquatic ecosystems	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
5. Effect on cost to my household	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

The next questions will ask you to choose between different policy options that would affect fish losses in cooling water systems. You will be given choices and asked to vote for the choice you prefer by checking the appropriate box. Questions will look similar to the sample on the next page.

Policy Effect	Current Situation (No policy)	Option A	Option B
 Commercial Fish Populations	42% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)	45% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)	48% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)
 Fish Populations (all fish) (in 3-5 Years)	26% (100% is populations without human influence)	27% (100% is populations without human influence)	28% (100% is populations without human influence)
 Fish Saved per Year (Out of 1.1 billion fish lost in water intakes)	0% No change in status quo	5% <0.1 billion fish saved	50% 0.6 billion fish saved
 Condition of Aquatic Ecosystems (in 3-5 Years)	50% (100% is pristine condition)	51% (100% is pristine condition)	52% (100% is pristine condition)
 Increase in Cost of Living for Your Household	\$0 No cost increase	\$36 per year (\$3 per month)	\$72 per year (\$6 per month)
HOW WOULD YOU VOTE? (CHOOSE ONE ONLY)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I would vote for NO POLICY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I would vote for OPTION A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I would vote for OPTION B

If you do not want A or B, check this box

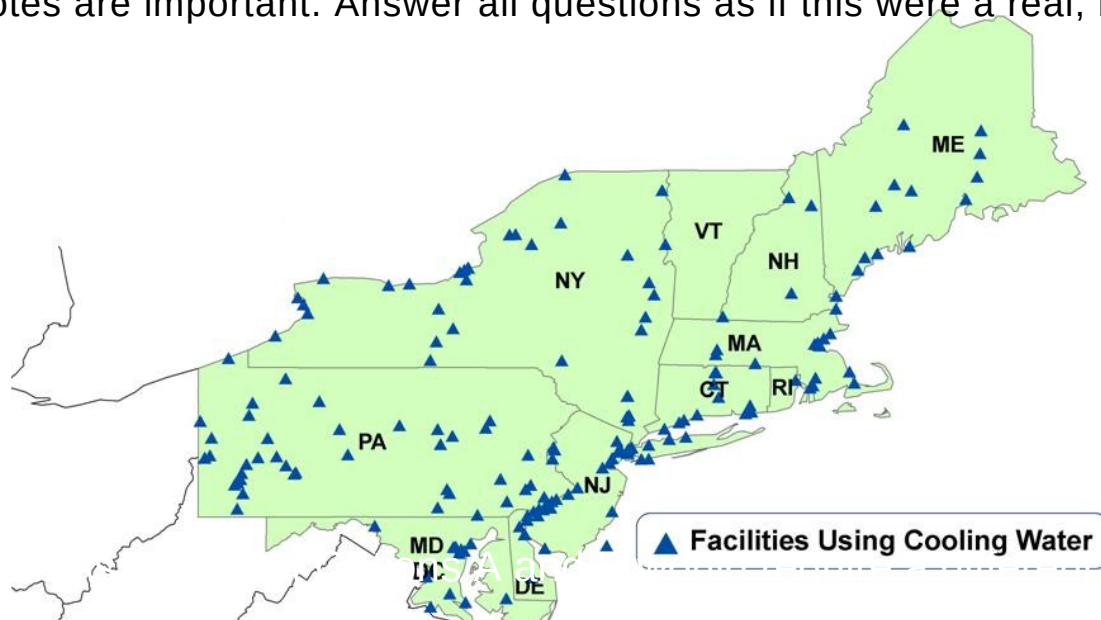
If you prefer **Option A**, check this box





If you prefer **Option B**, check this box

If do not want A or B, check this box.

AS YOU VOTE PLEASE REMEMBER

- The map below shows the facilities and areas that would be affected by the proposed policies.
- The policy options (A and B) given to you each require a different mix of advanced filters and closed cycle cooling in different areas, so effects on fish are different.
- You will be shown different questions, with different combinations of technology and different costs
- Depending on the policies chosen, costs to your household could range from \$0 per year to a maximum of \$72 per year (from \$0 per month to a maximum of \$6 per month).
- Depending on the type of technology required and other factors, effects on fish and ecosystems may be different—even if the annual reduction in fish losses is similar.
- Consider each pair of policy options separately—do not add them up or compare programs from different pages.
- Scientists expect that effects on the environment and economy not shown explicitly will be small. For example, studies of industry suggest that effects on employment will be close to zero.
- Your votes are important. Answer all questions as if this were a real, binding vote.






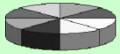

Policy Effect NE Waters	Current Situation (No policy)	Option A NE Waters	Option B NE Waters
 <p>Commercial Fish Populations</p>	<p>42% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)</p>	<p>45% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)</p>	<p>48% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)</p>
 <p>Fish Populations (all fish) (in 3-5 Years)</p>	<p>26% 100% is populations without human influence)</p>	<p>30% (100% is populations without human influence)</p>	<p>27% (100% is populations without human influence)</p>
 <p>Fish Saved per Year (Out of 1.1 billion fish lost in water intakes)</p>	<p>0% No change in status quo</p>	<p>5% <0.1 billion fish saved</p>	<p>5% <0.1 billion fish saved</p>
 <p>Condition of Aquatic Ecosystems (in 3-5 Years)</p>	<p>50% (100% is pristine condition)</p>	<p>52% (100% is pristine condition)</p>	<p>54% (100% is pristine condition)</p>
<p>\$</p> <p>Increase in Cost of Living for Your Household</p>	<p>\$0 No cost increase</p>	<p>\$48 per year (\$4 per month)</p>	<p>\$48 per year (\$4 per month)</p>
<p>HOW WOULD YOU VOTE? (CHOOSE ONE ONLY)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I would vote for NO POLICY</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I would vote for OPTION A</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I would vote for OPTION B</p>

POLICIES COULD REQUIRE DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY




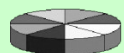
Now you will be asked to consider a new set of policy options for Northeast waters. As you vote, please remember—

- Questions 5 and 6 present new sets of policy options. These options require a different mix of technologies in different areas.
- Each question is a separate vote. Questions 5 and 6 cannot be directly compared to each other, or to Question 4.
- Do not add up effects or costs across different questions.
- Policy costs and effects depend on many factors. Saving more fish does not necessarily mean that all effects will improve.

Question 5. Assume that Options A and B would require a different mix of filters and closed cycle cooling in different areas. Assume all types of fish are affected. How would you vote?

Policy Effect NE Waters	Current Situation (No policy)	Option A NE Waters	Option B NE Waters
 Commercial Fish Populations (in 3-5 Years)	42% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)	48% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)	48% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)
 Fish Populations (all fish) (in 3-5 Years)	26% (100% is populations without human influence)	28% (100% is populations without human influence)	30% (100% is populations without human influence)
 Fish Saved per Year (Out of 1.1 billion fish lost in water intakes)	0% No change in status quo	50% 0.6 billion fish saved	95% 0.8 billion fish saved
 Condition of Aquatic Ecosystems (in 3-5 Years)	50% (100% is pristine condition)	51% (100% is pristine condition)	52% (100% is pristine condition)
 Increase in Cost of Living for Your Household	\$0 No cost increase	\$72 per year (\$6 per month)	\$60 per year (\$5 per month)
HOW WOULD YOU VOTE? (CHOOSE ONE ONLY)	<input type="checkbox"/> I would vote for NO POLICY	<input type="checkbox"/> I would vote for OPTION A	<input type="checkbox"/> I would vote for OPTION B


Question 6. Assume that Options A and B would require a different mix of filters and closed cycle cooling in different areas. Assume all types of fish are affected. How would you vote?

Policy Effect NE Waters	Current Situation (No policy)	Option A NE Waters	Option B NE Waters
 Commercial Fish Populations <small>(in 3-5 Years)</small>	42% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)	48% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)	45% (100% is populations that allow for maximum harvest)
 Fish Populations (all fish) <small>(in 3-5 Years)</small>	26% (100% is populations without human influence)	27% (100% is populations without human influence)	27% (100% is populations without human influence)
 Fish Saved per Year <small>(Out of 1.1 billion fish)</small>	0% No change in status quo	50% 0.6 billion fish saved	50% 0.6 billion fish saved
 Condition of Aquatic Ecosystems <small>(in 3-5 Years)</small>	50% (100% is pristine condition)	52% (100% is pristine condition)	52% (100% is pristine condition)
\$ Increase in Cost of Living for Your Household	\$0 No cost increase	\$72 per year (\$6 per month)	\$12 per year (\$1 per month)
HOW WOULD YOU VOTE? (CHOOSE ONE ONLY)	<input type="checkbox"/> I would vote for NO POLICY	<input type="checkbox"/> I would vote for OPTION A	<input type="checkbox"/> I would vote for OPTION B

Question 7. If you **always voted for NO POLICY** in questions 4-6, what was the primary reason? Check one. (Skip this question if you voted for Option A or B in any question above.)

- The cost to my household was too high
- Preventing fish losses is not important to me
- I do not trust the government to fix the problem
- I would rather spend my money on other things
- I did not believe the choices were realistic
- Since the problem was created by private facilities, they should fix it without passing costs on to consumers

Question 8. Indicate how strongly you agree with the following statements about questions 4 - 6 and the information provided. Check one box for each.

	Strongly Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree 				
The survey provided enough information for me to make informed choices	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
I feel confident about my answers	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Information in the survey was easy for me to understand	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Information in the survey was fair and unbiased	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Questions were easy for me to answer	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
I would vote the same way in an actual public vote	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
The effect of the proposed policies depends on many factors	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Future ecological conditions are never 100% guaranteed	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

Question 9. How much did the following factors affect your answers to questions 4 – 6? Check one box for each row.

	Effect on my answers to questions 4-6				
	Very Small Effect		Moderate Effect		Very Large Effect
Wanting to reduce taxes or costs to my household.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Wanting to prevent the loss of industrial jobs.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Wanting to preserve fish for commercial fishing.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Wanting to send a message that all environmental issues are important regardless of cost.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Wanting to preserve fish for recreation (fishing, etc.).	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Wanting to preserve fish to benefit aquatic ecosystems.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Wanting to know that fish exist in local lakes, rivers and bays.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Wanting to pay my fair share for government programs.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Wanting to sustain the competitiveness of US business	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Wanting to preserve fish as a source of food for people.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Wanting to preserve fish and ecosystems for future generations.	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

	Number of days you did the activity during the past year				
	0	1-5	6-10	11-15	16+
Boating / Canoeing / Kayaking	● ₁	● ₂	● ₃	● ₄	● ₅
Swimming / Going to the Beach	● ₁	● ₂	● ₃	● ₄	● ₅
Recreational Fishing (Fresh Water)	● ₁	● ₂	● ₃	● ₄	● ₅
Recreational Fishing (Salt Water)	● ₁	● ₂	● ₃	● ₄	● ₅
Shellfishing / Crabbing	● ₁	● ₂	● ₃	● ₄	● ₅
Scuba Diving / Snorkeling	● ₁	● ₂	● ₃	● ₄	● ₅

Question 11. Do you consume commercially caught fish or seafood? Yes No

Do you consume recreationally caught fish or seafood? Yes No

***The following questions ensure that all groups are fairly represented.
All answers are kept confidential to the extent provided by law.***

12. What is your age? ____ years

13. What is your gender? Male Female

14. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

Less than high school One or more years of college

High school or equivalent Bachelor's Degree

High school + technical school Graduate Degree

15. How many people live in your household? _____

16. How many of these people are 16 years of age or older? _____

17. How many of these people are 6 years of age or younger? _____

18. What is your zip code? _____

19. Are you currently employed? Yes No

20. Are you currently employed in the commercial fish industry? Yes No

21. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin? Yes No

22. Which of the following racial categories describes you? You may select more than one.

American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian

Black or African American White

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

23. What category comes closest to your total household income?

• Less than \$10,000

• \$10,000 to \$19,999

• \$20,000 to \$39,999

• \$40,000 to \$59,999

• \$60,000 to \$79,999

• \$80,000 to \$99,999

• \$100,000 to \$249,999

• \$250,000 or more

24. If you have any comments on this survey, please write them below:

Thank you for your participation in this important survey!