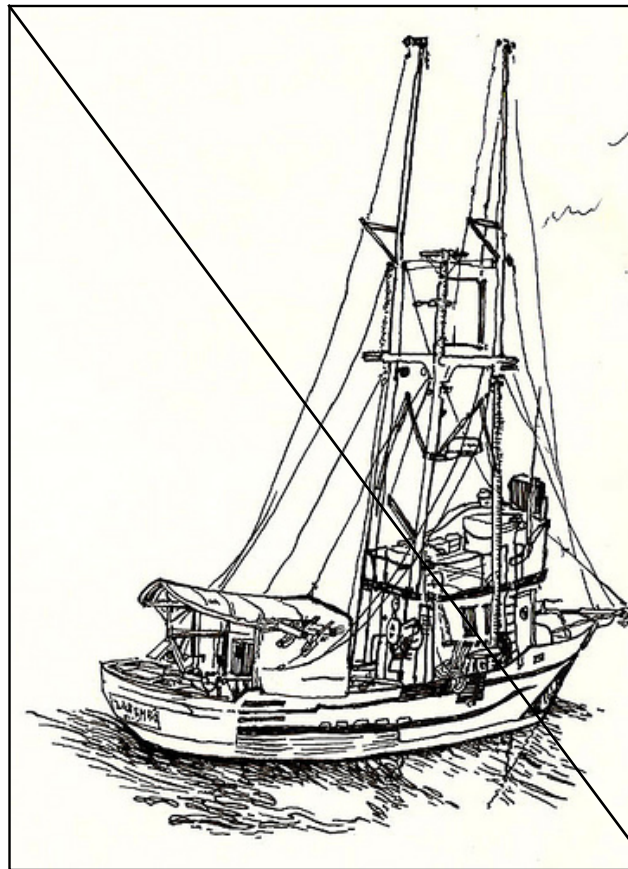


Survey on the Socio-economic Aspects of Commercial Fishing Vessel Owners in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic



Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Matthew McPherson, NOAA Line office, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA, 02543-1026.

Responses to this information request are confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act as amended in 2006. Responses are also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

In the following questions, please tell us about your fishing in 2010. The information you provide will remain strictly confidential and you will not be identified with your answers.

1. What are the top three species of fish you targeted during 2010, and what was your primary gear for each?

Species	Primary gear used
1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	

2. What is your primary fishery? (Please circle one)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Black Sea Bass | 12. Scup |
| 2. Herring | 13. Skate |
| 3. Lobster | 14. Spiny Dogfish |
| 4. Mackerel | 15. Squid, Illex |
| 5. Monkfish | 16. Squid, Loligo |
| 6. Multispecies, sectors | 17. Summer Flounder |
| 7. Multispecies, common pool | 18. Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog |
| 8. Red Crab | 19. Tilefish |
| 9. Scallop, general category IFQ | 20. Other _____ |
| 10. Scallop, general category non-IFQ | |
| 11. Scallop, limited access | |

3. Why do you consider it to be your primary fishery? (Please circle one)

1. I earn the most revenue from this fishery
2. I spend the most time in this fishery
3. It is the fishery I most want to continue in
4. Other (please state) _____

4. How many commercial fishing vessels do you own by yourself? _____ Vessel(s)

5. How many commercial vessels do you own with other people? _____ Vessel(s)

6. How many commercial vessels did you purchase or sell during 2010?

1. Number of commercial vessels that you own yourself that you sold _____ Vessel(s)
2. Number of group-owned commercial vessels that you sold your interest in _____ Vessel(s)
3. Number of commercial vessels that you purchased by yourself _____ Vessel(s)
4. Number of commercial vessels that you purchased an interest in _____ Vessel(s)

7. In the table below, please list all major activities (including investments) that you earned income from in 2010, including fishing, starting with the most important. Estimate the percentage that each contributed to your total household income.

	Activity	% Household Income
Most important		
Second most important		
Third most important		
Fourth most important		

8. Was the level of fishing income in 2010 enough to sustain your fishing business over the following time frames? (Please circle one response for each time period)

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|----|
| 1. Short Term | YES | NO |
| 2. Medium Term | YES | NO |
| 3. Long Term | YES | NO |

Please think about your fishing business and answer the following questions about your family's involvement

9. Are any members of your family (for example, parents, children, siblings, uncles/aunts, cousins, in-laws) involved in commercial fishing or other fishing related activities (for example, book-keeping, provisioning the vessel, marketing)?

1. YES (If YES, Continue with Question #10, below)
 2. NO (If NO, Go to Question #15)

10. How many members of your family are involved in commercial fishing on *your* vessel?

_____ Family members (If the answer is NONE, go to Question #13, below)

11. For these family members, how has their level of involvement changed in the last year?

1. Increased
 2. Remained the same
 3. Decreased

12. How many members of your family are involved in other fishing-related activities that support *your* fishing business (refer to categories in question 9)?

_____ Family members (If the answer is NONE, go to Question #14, below)

13. For these family members, how do you think their level of involvement has changed in the last year?

1. Increased
2. Remained the same
3. Decreased.

14. How many members of your family are involved in commercial fishing or fishing-related businesses *other than your own*?

_____ Family members

Please answer the following questions based on your fishing activities on your primary vessel in your primary fishery.

15. In what port did you usually moor your vessel between fishing trips during 2010?

Port _____ State _____

16. What was your primary port of landing in 2010?

Port _____ State _____

17. Which of the following factors contributed the most to your decision regarding the *amount of time* to spend fishing using your vessel during 2010?

- Personal preference
- Regulations on days-at-sea
- Quota limitations
- Physical conditions of vessel or gear
- Limitations due to weather
- Price of fish
- Other _____

18. For your vessel in 2010, which best describes how the crew were paid:

1. A share system (revenues and expenses were shared between the vessel owner and crew)
2. Per-trip
3. Hourly wage
4. Other _____

If your answer to Question #18 was "1. A share system" please continue to Question #19. If not, please go to Question #22.

19. For share systems, what were the typical percentages share that you distributed to the boat, captain and crew?

_____ % Boat (owner) share

_____ % Captain share

_____ % Crew share

100 %

20. For share systems, which trip expenses were usually deducted? (Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel | <input type="checkbox"/> Unloading fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Settlement fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oil/lubrication | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost/damaged gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing quota or days-at-sea | <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> General fishing supplies (hooks, bags, totes, gloves, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bait | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

21. How were the expenses for each trip deducted?

1. Expenses were deducted from gross sales (total) and the remainder were split between the boat and crew
2. Expenses were deducted from the crew's share *after* the gross sales (total) were divided between boat and crew
3. Expenses were deducted from the boat's share *after* the gross sales (total) were divided between boat and crew
4. Not applicable

22. Was the vessel owner-operated or was a captain hired in 2010?

1. Owner-operated
2. Hired captain

23. What was the average size of the crew in 2010 for your vessel? (include the captain, or include yourself if your vessel is owner-operated)?

_____ Members

24. Did you hire any new crew previously not employed by you for your primary vessel in 2010? If so how many?

_____ Members

In the following questions, please tell us how you feel about the amount of fish you are allowed to catch

25. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the amount of fish you are able to catch in your primary fishery under current management conditions. (Please circle one number for each of the following items).

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a. I feel that the amount of fish I catch under current management regulations is too low because it does not cover my investment in my boat.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. It would be fairer if everyone could catch the same amount of fish each year.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. Restrictions on the amount of fish I am allowed to catch are unfair because I need to be able to catch more in order to sustain my livelihood as a fisherman.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. The resource should be allocated to those who need it most to survive as fishermen.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. I feel like the amount of fish I am able to catch is fair	1	2	3	4	5

26. In terms of lease and share prices, how difficult is it for new people to enter your primary fishery?

- 1. Very easy
- 2. Easy
- 3. Neither easy nor difficult
- 4. Difficult
- 5. Very difficult

In the following questions, please tell us about any insurance you may have

27. Did you or members of your family have health insurance in 2010?(Please circle one)

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

28. Did you have hull insurance in 2010?

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

In the following questions, please tell us how you feel about fisheries management

29. Have you ever participated in any aspect of federal fisheries management (such as attending meetings, writing letters, or serving on a committee)?

- 1. YES (If YES, Continue with Question #30, below)
- 2. NO (If NO, Go to Question #31, below)

If NO, please tell us why

30. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the most recent federal government-led fisheries management process you participated in. (Please circle one number for each item).

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a. Commercial fishermen have been effectively integrated into fisheries management decisions	1	2	3	4	5
b. I feel like fisheries managers are serious about involving commercial fishermen in the process of fisheries management	1	2	3	4	5
c. I do not feel welcome in public meetings about fisheries management	1	2	3	4	5
d. I feel like my opinions on fishing issues would be taken seriously if I chose to voice them in a formal setting	1	2	3	4	5
e. I do not trust the managing authorities to make the right decision when it comes to regulating fisheries	1	2	3	4	5

31. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the management of your primary fishery. (Please circle one number for each item).

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a. Opportunities for existing fishermen should not be reduced by new entrants	1	2	3	4	5
b. Management should aim to maximize the possible number of fishermen.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. Fishing areas should belong to the fishermen who use them and should be off limits to others	1	2	3	4	5
d. Management can change quickly when conditions (income, stock levels, safety) change	1	2	3	4	5
e. I think the goals of the management plan for my primary fishery are being met	1	2	3	4	5
f. I think the management plan for my primary fishery helps protect the number of fish.....	1	2	3	4	5
g. In my primary fishery, I am able to fish when I want	1	2	3	4	5
h. In my primary fishery, I am able to fish where I want	1	2	3	4	5

32. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning the federal government’s role in creating the regulations that govern your primary fishery. (Please circle one number for each item).

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a. I did not believe the information the people in charge of the process presented.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. The people in charge of the process were not fair to everyone involved	1	2	3	4	5
c. I had the right to appeal decisions that were being made that I thought were unfair	1	2	3	4	5
d. I had no opportunity to correct information that I thought was inaccurate	1	2	3	4	5
e. I had the opportunity to add new information that was relevant to the decision making process.....	1	2	3	4	5
f. I felt like the opinions of commercial fishermen were not taken seriously	1	2	3	4	5

33. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about the responsibilities fishermen have. (Please circle one number for each item).

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a. Fishermen have a responsibility to participate in the fisheries management process	1	2	3	4	5
b. I make every effort to ensure my actions do not harm the fishery unnecessarily	1	2	3	4	5
c. The ocean is very large, there is no way we can over fish it	1	2	3	4	5
d. The natural environment is important to me because that is how I make my living	1	2	3	4	5
e. The ocean is big enough to replenish itself.....	1	2	3	4	5

34. For your primary fishery please indicate if you think the current levels of each of the following items are high, medium or low. (Please circle one number for each item).

a. Level of bycatch (catch of non-target species)	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
b. Level of discards (catch of target or non-target species that is thrown overboard)	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
c. Level of highgrading (low value fish thrown overboard in order to keep higher value fish)	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW

35. For your primary fishery please indicate the extent to which you think each of the following items is increasing, decreasing or staying the same (Please circle one number for each item).

	Significantly decreasing	Decreasing	Not changing	Increasing	Significantly increasing
a. Level of bycatch (catch of non-target species)	1	2	3	4	5
b. Level of discards (catch of target or non-target species that is thrown overboard)	1	2	3	4	5
c. Level of highgrading (low value fish thrown overboard in order to keep higher value fish)	1	2	3	4	5

In the following section, we are interested in commercial fishing as a lifestyle and how satisfied you are with that lifestyle

36. Would you advise a young person to enter fishing?

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

WHY? _____

37. Would you still be a commercial fisherman if you had your life to live over?

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

WHY? _____

38. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about fishing as a career. (Please circle one number for each item).

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a. I feel like I am a leader in my local community	1	2	3	4	5
b. I feel like I am a leader in my primary fishery.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. I am proud to identify myself as a fishermen.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. I feel a strong connection to other fishermen in the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
d. I feel a weak connection to other fishermen in my primary fishery	1	2	3	4	5
e. I enjoy fishing	1	2	3	4	5
f. Fishing is just a job to me	1	2	3	4	5
g. Leaving the fishing industry is something that I have considered.....	1	2	3	4	5
h. I want to continue fishing but only part-time.....	1	2	3	4	5

39. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following items relating to the job of fishing? (Please circle one number for each item).

	<i>Extremely dissatisfied</i>	<i>Somewhat dissatisfied</i>	<i>Neither satisfied or dissatisfied</i>	<i>Somewhat satisfied</i>	<i>Extremely satisfied</i>
a. Your actual earnings.....	1	2	3	4	5
b. The predictability of your earnings.....	1	2	3	4	5
c. Job safety	1	2	3	4	5
d. The amount of time spent away from home	1	2	3	4	5
e. Physical fatigue of the job	1	2	3	4	5
f. Healthfulness of the job	1	2	3	4	5
g. Adventure of the job	1	2	3	4	5
h. Challenge of the job	1	2	3	4	5
i. Opportunity to be your own boss.....	1	2	3	4	5
j. The overall health of the marine environment.....	1	2	3	4	5

40. In general, how satisfied are you with the following items? (Please circle one number for each item)

	<i>Extremely dissatisfied</i>	<i>Somewhat dissatisfied</i>	<i>Neither satisfied or dissatisfied</i>	<i>Somewhat satisfied</i>	<i>Extremely satisfied</i>
a. Your life	1	2	3	4	5
b. Your physical health.....	1	2	3	4	5

41. How often do you feel happy?

1. Never
2. Not often
3. Neutral
4. Often
5. All the time

The following questions will help us improve our understanding of commercial fishermen. The information you provide us will remain strictly confidential. Your name will never be associated with your answers

42. How old you are? _____ Years

43. Which racial category best describes you? (Please circle one or more)

1. American Indian or Alaskan Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White
6. Some other race (alone)

44. Would you classify yourself as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino? (Please circle one)

1. Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
2. Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino

45. What is your ancestry? _____

(For example: Norwegian, Portuguese, Polish, Brazilian etc)

46. What is the primary language you speak at home? _____

47. Where were you born?

1. In the United States - print the name of the State _____
2. Outside the United States - print the name of the foreign country _____

48. Where did you live in 2010? _____ Town _____ State

49. What was your marital status in 2010?

1. Married
2. Widowed
3. Divorced
4. Separated
5. Single
6. Living with a partner

50. How many people lived in your primary household in 2010? _____ Adults and _____ children under 18

51. How many years have you been involved in commercial fishing _____ Years

52. How many generations of your family have fished commercially including yourself? _____ Generations

53. Which category best describes the highest level of education that you have completed?

- 1. Did not complete high school _____ Grade completed
- 2. High school diploma/equivalency
- 3. Associate's/ two year degree
- 4. Bachelor's/ four year degree
- 5. Graduate degree

Is there anything else about commercial fishing or this questionnaire you would like to share with us?

Your contribution to this effort is greatly appreciated. Please return your completed questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible. Thank you!

Please direct all inquiries to:

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