

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



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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 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 | |

2. 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) _____

3. What port did you primarily work out of in 2010?

Port _____ State _____

4. 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		

Within your primary fishery, consider the vessel you worked on the most in 2010. Please answer the following questions based on your fishing activities on that primary vessel.

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

Port _____ State _____

6. What was the main port of landing for that vessel in 2010?

Port _____ State _____

7. How many days did a typical trip last before returning to port?

_____ Days

8. What was the average size of the crew in 2010 (including the captain)?

_____ Members

9. How many hours per day did you usually work while on a fishing trip?

_____ Hours

10. 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
2. NO

Please think about the expenditures for your primary fishery in your primary vessel. Please tell us about how revenues and expenses are distributed amongst crew.

11. 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 #11 was "1. A share system" please continue to Question 12. If not, please go to Question 15.

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

_____ % Boat (owner) share
_____ % Captain share
_____ % Crew share
100 %

13. 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 _____ |

14. 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

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

23. 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 #24, below)
- 2. NO (If NO, Go to Question #25, below)

If no, please tell us why _____

24. 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).

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
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

25. 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).

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
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 equally 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

In the following questions, please tell us how you feel about the regulations in your primary fishery

26. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the rules and regulations in 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. Information about the rules and regulations that govern my primary fishery is easy to find	1	2	3	4	5
b. The rules and regulations are easy to follow	1	2	3	4	5
c. The rules and regulations change so quickly it is hard to keep up	1	2	3	4	5
d. We are told about any changes to the rules and regulations in plenty of time to be able to make any necessary adjustments	1	2	3	4	5
e. The fines that are associated with breaking the rules and regulations of my primary fishery are fair	1	2	3	4	5
f. I understand the rules and regulations in my primary fishery	1	2	3	4	5
g. I feel that the regulations in my primary fishery are too restrictive	1	2	3	4	5
h. Although I agree with most of the regulations in my primary fishery, I think some of them are unfair	1	2	3	4	5

27. 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

28. 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 |

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

- | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| | <i>Significantly decreasing</i> | <i>Decreasing</i> | <i>Not changing</i> | <i>Increasing</i> | <i>Significantly increasing</i> |
| 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 |

30. 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 |

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

31. Did you or members of your family have health insurance in 2010?

1. YES (If YES, Continue with Question #32, below)
 2. NO (If NO, Go to Question #34, on the next page)

32. If YES, does this health insurance cover (please check all that apply)

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| a. Yourself | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Your spouse or another adult | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Your or your spouse's children | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |

33. Where do you get your insurance coverage from?

1. Spouse's place of employment
2. Own private insurance
3. Federal or State insurance program
4. Other

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

34. 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
d. I feel a strong connection to other fishermen in the community.....	1	2	3	4	5
e. I feel a weak connection to other fishermen in my primary fishery	1	2	3	4	5
f. I enjoy fishing	1	2	3	4	5
g. Fishing is just a job to me	1	2	3	4	5
h. Leaving the fishing industry is something that I have considered.....	1	2	3	4	5
i. I want to continue fishing but only part-time.....	1	2	3	4	5

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

1. YES
2. NO

WHY? _____

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

1. YES
2. NO

WHY? _____

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

	Extremely dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Extremely satisfied
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

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

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

39. 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

40. How old you are? _____ Years

41. Which racial category best describes you? (please circle all the apply)

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

42. What is your ancestry or ethnic origin? (For example: Norwegian, Portuguese, Polish, Brazilian etc)

43. What is the primary language you speak at home?

44. 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 _____

45. Where did you live in 2010?

_____ Town

_____ State

46. What was your marital status in 2010?

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

47. How many people lived in your primary household in 2010?

_____ Adults and _____ children under 18

48. How many years have you been involved in commercial fishing?

_____ Years

49. How many generations of your family have fished commercially including yourself?

_____ Generations

50. 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

51. Which of the following categories best describes your annual fishing income in 2010?

- 1. Under \$5,000
- 2. \$5,000 to \$9,999
- 3. \$10,000 to \$14,999
- 4. \$15,000 to \$19,999
- 5. \$20,000 to \$24,999
- 6. \$25,000 to \$29,999
- 7. \$30,000 to \$34,999
- 8. \$35,000 to \$39,999
- 9. \$40,000 to \$44,999
- 10. \$45,000 to \$49,999
- 11. \$50,000 to \$59,999
- 12. \$60,000 to \$74,999
- 13. \$75,000 to \$99,999
- 14. \$100,000 to \$149,999
- 15. \$150,000 or More

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. Thank you!

Please direct all inquiries to:

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