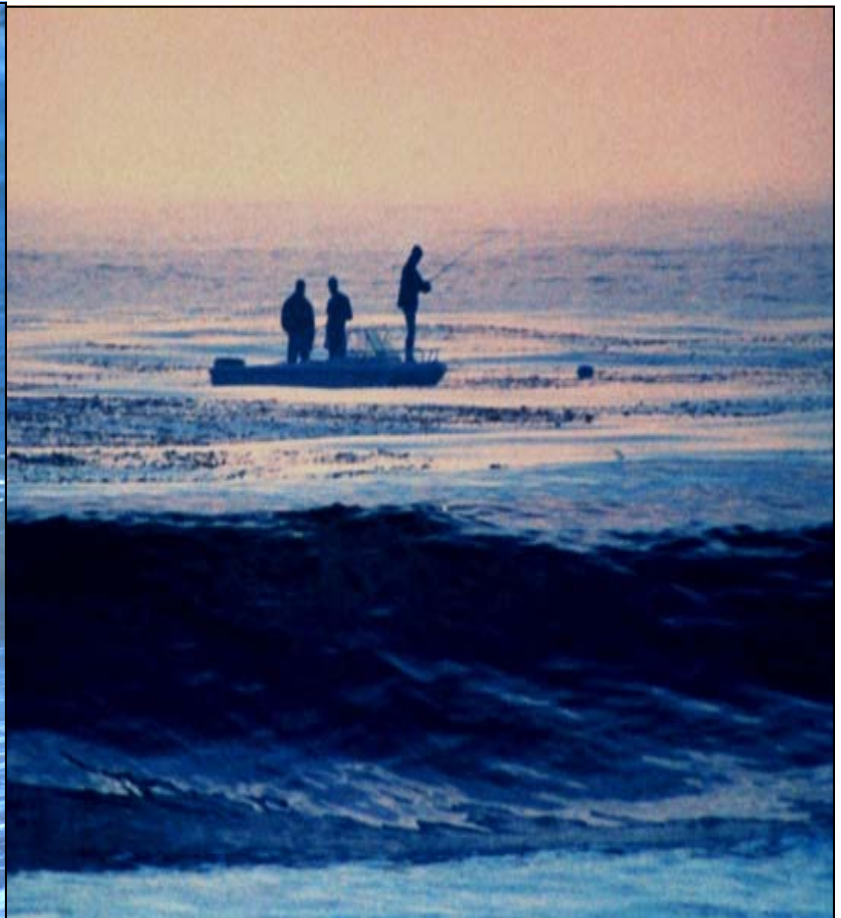


# Saltwater Recreational Fishing Attitudes and Preferences Survey



**Your Response Is Important!**

Sponsored by  
NOAA Fisheries Service

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is conducting a survey about **saltwater** recreational fishing and recreational fisheries management.

NMFS is the federal agency responsible for the stewardship of marine fishery resources and their habitat, works together with state agencies to manage fish stocks so that anglers have quality opportunities to participate in recreational fishing. NMFS is conducting this survey to improve our understanding of anglers' expectations and how they may be changing with fishing conditions. Responses to this survey will provide a basis for more informed decision- making for fisheries managers and to determine recreational anglers' preferred management approaches.

Your responses are strictly confidential and will not be associated with your personal identity.

The questions in this survey are about **YOU** and **YOUR** saltwater recreational fishing activities and preferences. Except when asked, please do not include any information from other household members or other saltwater fishing party members.

**Marine or saltwater** refers to open ocean or any portion of a bay, sound, or river that is saltwater or brackish water.

**Please print clearly.**

Write numbers as two digits: 2 trips =

Fill in boxes with a  or

## Section 1. Recreational Fishing Participation

In this section, we ask about your recreational fishing experience.

1. How many years have you been saltwater recreational fishing?

Number of years

2. During the past **12 months**, how many days have you spent **saltwater** recreational fishing?

Number of days, count partial days as full

I am unsure

3. During the past 12 months, has most of your fishing been from? (*Check one.*)

Three miles or less from shore

More than three miles from shore

I am unsure

4. During the past 12 months, which area did you most frequently fish from? (*Check one.*)

Washington

Oregon

Northern California

Southern California

Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. What species do you frequently target when you fish off the coast of California, Oregon or Washington? (*Check all that apply.*)

Rockfish, greenling, sculpin, other bottomfish

Halibut, other flatfish

Bonito, barracuda, seabass

Sturgeon, striped bass

Surfperches

Salmon

Crabs, clams, lobster, other shellfish

Tuna, yellowtail

Herring, smelt, grunion, sardine, mackerel, anchovy, baitfishes

Other \_\_\_\_\_

None, I don't typically target any particular species

	Shore (Beach, pier or bridge)	For-hire (Charter, party, or head boats)	Private boat
6. During the past 12 months..... Most of my fishing trips were taken from... <i>(check only one)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I took at least one fishing trip from... <i>(check all that apply)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Thinking ahead to the next 12 months, is it likely that the number of fishing trips you take will decrease?

- No**, the number of trips I intend to take will stay the same or increase. *Go to question 8.*
- Yes**, the number of trips I intend to take will decrease. *Go to question 7b.*

7b. In the next 12 months, the number of fishing trips you take will decrease for the following reasons...  
*(For each reason check one box.)*

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Not likely at all	I am unsure
a. Availability of leisure time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Personal finances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Fishing trip costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Change of residence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Recreational fishing regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Conditions of the fishery (e.g. change in the abundance of fish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Where do you get information about fishing and other marine related activities and issues?  
*(Check all that apply.)*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends or Family             | <input type="checkbox"/> Television             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers/magazines   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing websites/blogs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization newsletter/email | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal/state websites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please name) _____     |   |

The table below lists different characteristics of fishing trips. Please read each characteristic and state how important each one is to you. (For each characteristic check one box.)

9. On most of your fishing trips, how important is it to...	Extremely important	Somewhat important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all
a. Catch fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Catch as many fish as I can for consumption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Catch-and-release as many fish as possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Catch a trophy-sized fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Target a particular species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Catch the bag limit of a species I am targeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Know that I will encounter abundant fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Fish in an area that is not heavily congested	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Be close to amenities such as parking, restrooms, cleaning stations, boat launches, etc...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. See information concerning fishing regulations clearly posted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Have access to staff (park staff, marina operators, etc...) to answer questions or provide information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Have easy access to weather and tide information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Fish in a scenic area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Fish with family or friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Teach others about fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section 2. Your Preferences for Management Strategies

There are a variety of strategies that recreational fisheries managers can use in managing a fishery. Some strategies regulate the amount of effort (for example, shorter or longer fishing seasons), others regulate catch (for example, bag limits or size limits), and others focus on setting aside areas of the ocean (for example, marine reserves) that provide spawning habitat or shelter for fish.

In this section, we ask for your opinions about the types of strategies that you prefer for managers to use in recreational fisheries management.

10. Please state your preference for using each strategy listed below (For each strategy check one box).

	Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	Slightly prefer	Do not prefer at all	I am unsure
a. Establish minimum size limits of the fish you can keep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Establish maximum size limits of the fish you can keep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Limit the total number of fish you can keep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Manage some species as catch-and-release only	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Establish longer seasons with more restrictive bag limits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Establish shorter seasons with less restrictive bag limits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Establish shorter seasons with a larger variety of species you can legally catch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Increase the recreational harvest limit by decreasing the commercial harvest limit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Divide the recreational harvest limit among different modes (e.g. private anglers and for-hire/charter boat anglers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Restrict certain types of fishing gear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Require the use of release techniques that reduce fish mortality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Provide artificial fish habitat (e.g. artificial reef) in some areas of the ocean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Protect and restore fish habitat that has been degraded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Designate some areas of the ocean as marine reserves with catch-and-release fishing only	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Close some areas of the ocean for certain seasons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Section 3. Your Preferences for Management Objectives

There are a number of different management objectives that can be pursued by recreational fisheries management. Some objectives may conflict with each other, and some may be more important to you than others.

In this section, we ask for your opinions about the types of objectives that *you* think are important and should be pursued by recreational fisheries management.

11. Please state how important you believe each objective is for recreational fisheries management (*For each objective check one box*).

	Extremely important	Somewhat important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all	I am unsure
a. Ensure that large quantities of fish are available to catch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Ensure that many different fish species are available to catch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Ensure that adequate numbers of trophy-sized fish are available to catch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Reduce the mortality associated with releasing fish that are not legal to keep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Ensure that future generations will have high quality fishing opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Allocate some quota from commercial fisheries to recreational fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Recover fish stocks that have been depleted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Protect marine biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Protect threatened or endangered marine species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Achieve consistency between state and federal fishing regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Simplify recreational fishing regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Monitor and enforce recreational fishing regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Ensure that the opinions of all recreational fisheries stakeholders are considered in policy-making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Ensure opportunities to fish in high quality fishing areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Ensure that fishing sites are not heavily congested	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section 4. Your Satisfaction with Recreational Fisheries Management

In this section, we ask about your satisfaction level with recreational fisheries management.

12. How satisfied are you that recreational fisheries management is adequately addressing each item below  
(For each item, check one box).

	Extremely satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Not satisfied at all	I am unsure
a. Managing fish stocks to provide high quality fishing opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Restoring fish stocks that have been depleted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Adjust regulations in a timely manner to address changing conditions of the fishery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Using management strategies that minimize costs to anglers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Ensure that the annual harvest limit provides enough fish for recreational fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Ensuring that state and federal regulations are consistent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Monitoring and enforcing recreational fishing regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Using high quality data and assessments in policy-making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Incorporating stakeholder interests in policy-making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Protecting fish or shellfish species that are declining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Protecting marine habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Addressing conflicts between anglers and marine mammals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Section 5. Managing the Marine Environment

In this section, we ask about broader issues concerning management of the marine environment.

13. In your opinion, how much of a threat, if any, does each of the following factors pose to the marine environment? (For each factor, check one box.)

	Severe threat	Moderate threat	Not a very severe threat	Not a threat at all	I am unsure
a. Industrial pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Oil and gas extraction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Ocean acidification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Shipping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Overfishing in commercial fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Overfishing in recreational fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Non-native species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Aquaculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Alternative energy (e.g. wave or wind) development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Coastal development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Algal blooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Marine habitat loss or degradation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Dams/barriers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section 6. About You and Your Household**

The following questions will help us know more about recreational saltwater anglers. The information you provide will remain STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL and will not be associated with your personal identity.

14. In the past 12 months, how many hours per week did you typically work for pay?

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15. Which of the following categories best describes your household's total annual income before taxes in 2010? *(Please check only one category.)*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$80,000-\$99,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$39,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000-\$149,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000-\$59,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000-\$199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000-\$79,999  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200,000 or more   |

16. Do you or anyone in your household make a living part-time or full-time from work directly associated with marine resources or the marine environment? *(Please check one.)*

- Yes       No       I am unsure



If yes, how concerned are you that fisheries management decisions will impact your livelihood? *(Please check one.)*

- Very concerned  
 Somewhat concerned  
 Slightly concerned  
 Not concerned at all

17. Are you male or female?

- Male       Female

18. In what year were you born?

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 (Year)

19. What is your ethnicity? *(Please check one.)*

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

20. What is your race? *(Please check all that apply.)*

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

21. What is the highest level of education you have completed? *(Please mark only **one** category.)*

- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade or less
- High school graduate or GED
- Associate or technical school degree or college coursework
- Bachelor's degree (ex: BA or BS)
- Advanced, professional, or doctoral degree or coursework

## Thank You For Completing This Survey!

We appreciate your participation in this survey. If you would like further information on prior surveys or economic information related to marine recreational angling, please visit our website at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5/RecFishEcon.html>.

Please write any additional comments you have in the space below:

Please check this box if you would like a copy of the survey results.

OMB Control No. XXXX-XXXX. Expiration Date: XX/XX/20XX

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average XX 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 Kristy Wallmo, NOAA Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910. This is a voluntary survey, and responses are kept confidential as required by section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source. 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.