



NOAA FISHERIES

The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is the new way NOAA Fisheries is counting recreational catch.

MRIP is about:

- Getting better numbers through better science and statistics.
- Building greater confidence by involving anglers and others in every step of the process.
- Providing in-depth, open access so people can see for themselves what we're doing, why we're doing it, and help guide our course.

Questions or concerns?
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www.countmyfish.gov



MRIP Angler Catch Surveys

Information for Marinas and For-Hire Operators

Why are my customers getting interviewed on the dock?

MRIP gathers catch information from anglers by conducting angler catch surveys at recreational fishing sites. These voluntary surveys are conducted to gather accurate information about what anglers are catching, which is vital for producing scientifically sound recreational fishing estimates. These data, when combined with other fisheries information, form the basis for fisheries management decisions.

Who conducts the surveys and what do they do?

A team of trained field samplers conduct the angler catch surveys. States either manage their own survey programs, which puts them in charge of hiring and overseeing their field samplers, or work with our federal contractor on behalf of NOAA Fisheries. Samplers are assigned to a specific site during a specific time of day. Their job is to count and interview all anglers at each site and measure and weigh all catch. **Because it is important that we survey ALL potential fishing sites, there may be times when a sampler is on-site observing “zero activity.” This is an important part of the job.**

Why do they look at different fish on different days?

We conduct different surveys to gather catch data on different types of fish. So it may be that one day your customers are asked about common recreational species, and on another the sampler is only interested in large pelagics. This is part of a systemic program to ensure that we're gathering the right information for the right purpose.

Do interviewers report fishing regulation violations?

No. A sampler's ONLY job is to count and interview all anglers during their specific assignment period, and to weigh and measure all the fish they observe. We do not collect any personal information from the angler being sampled, nor check for licenses, registrations or permits. This is to maximize compliance with our voluntary survey to ensure we're collecting the most accurate information possible.

Am I or my customers required to cooperate?

No. However, we strongly encourage you to do so, and ask that you urge your customers to participate as well. Getting accurate information from these surveys is key to ensuring that fishing regulations are fair, effective, and capable of safeguarding the sustainability of recreational fishing – now, and for generations to come.