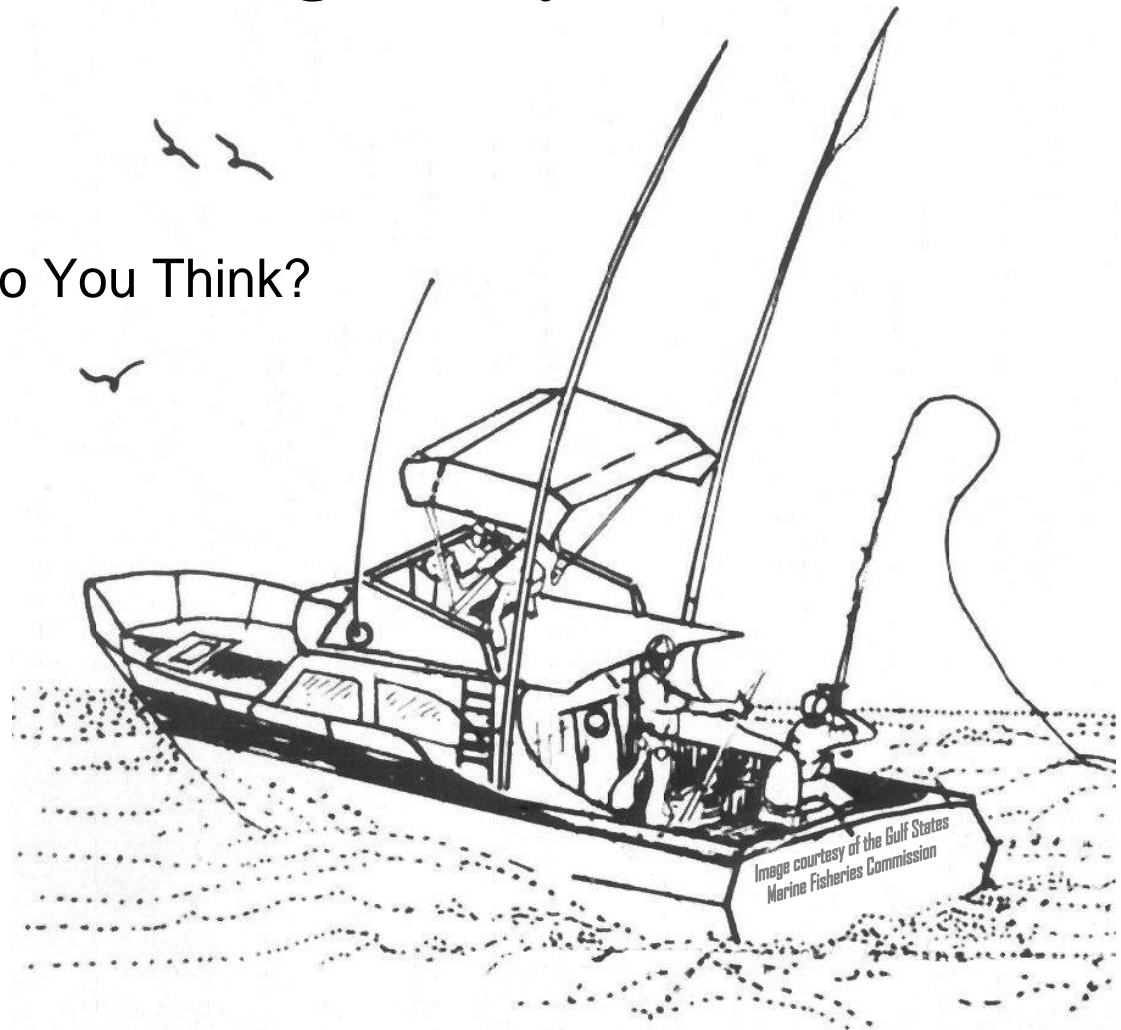


Gulf of Mexico Charter Fishing Survey

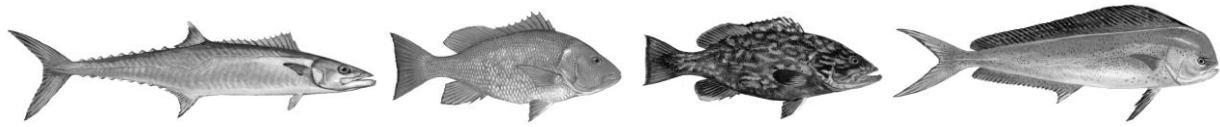
What Do You Think?



Questions? Dr. David Carter at david.w.carter@noaa.gov or (305) 361-4467



Sponsored by
NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service)
and
The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission



Section A: Your Saltwater Fishing Experiences and Activities

This survey is confidential!



A1 How many years have you been saltwater fishing?

years



A2 Do you, or does anyone in your household, own a motorized boat that is ever used for saltwater recreational fishing?

Yes No



A3 a) Do you have a current saltwater fishing license?

Yes No

b) **If Yes**, from which State(s)? (check all that apply)

- Louisiana Alabama Other U.S. State
 Mississippi Florida Other _____



A4 Are you familiar with the saltwater fishing regulations in the **State** waters where you have a saltwater fishing license or where you fish most often?

Yes No



A5 Are you familiar with the saltwater fishing regulations in **Federal** waters in the Gulf of Mexico?

Yes No



A6 Please fill in the table below with the number of **fishing trips** you took in the **last 12 months** for each type of trip. (blanks will be counted as zero)

Type of fishing trip	# of fishing trips
Saltwater charter (<i>passengers pay as a group for entire boat</i>)	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Saltwater head boat / party boat (<i>pay on a per person basis</i>)	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Saltwater with a privately owned boat or rental boat	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Saltwater from the shore or a pier	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Freshwater (all types)	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>



A7 How many **saltwater fishing trips** do you **plan** to take in the Gulf of Mexico in the **next 12 months**? (blanks will be counted as zero)

Charter Trips

Other Trips



A8 What is your **primary** source of **weather** information when planning saltwater fishing trips?

- Newspaper FM/AM radio Other website
 TV NOAA radio or website Other _____
 I do not check the weather before fishing trips



A9 What is your **primary** source for **fishing reports** when planning saltwater fishing trips?

- Newspaper FM/AM radio Internet
 Magazine TV Other _____
 I do not check fishing reports before fishing trips





A10 Below are a few things related to planning a **saltwater charter fishing trip**. Please indicate the extent you agree or disagree with each statement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Feel Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I only charter boats that someone has recommended to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I use the phone book to shop for charter trips	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I use the internet to shop for charter trips	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Charter fees posted on the internet are negotiable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I go to the dock to shop for charter trips	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I sometimes charter boats within 50 miles of my house	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



A11 Below are a few reasons why you might take a **saltwater charter fishing trip**. Please indicate the extent you agree or disagree with each statement.

"A reason I take <i>saltwater charter fishing trips</i> is to ..."	Strongly Agree	Agree	Feel Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
...fish a specific destination / season	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...learn fishing techniques and spots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... catch a trophy fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...catch a lot of fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...keep a lot of fish (for food)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...have more space than on my boat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...avoid the hassle of using my boat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...entertain clients / conduct business	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...commemorate a special event	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...compete in tournaments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section B: Your Most Recent Saltwater Charter Fishing Trip

Please answer the questions below regarding your most recent **saltwater charter fishing trip**.



B1 What city did the charter trip depart from? _____ , _____
(city) (state/country)



B2 Was this saltwater charter fishing trip part of a longer trip in which you spent at least one night away from your permanent residence? Yes No



B3 What was the month and year of the trip? , 201
(month) (year)



B4 How long was the charter fishing trip?
 ½ Day ¾ Day Full Day Overnight Other _____



B5 a) What was the total number of passengers on this trip (including yourself; excluding crew)? passengers

b) Who were the other passengers (check all that apply)?
 Family Colleagues Not applicable (I was alone)
 Friends Other fishing party Other _____



B6 Please describe your charter fishing trip by checking all of the boxes that apply.

- | <u>Event</u> | <u>Boat</u> | <u>Amenities</u> | <u>Crew</u> |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabin | <input type="checkbox"/> Captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special occasion | <input type="checkbox"/> Outboard engine | <input type="checkbox"/> Air conditioning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business related | <input type="checkbox"/> Flybridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Head/lavatory | <input type="checkbox"/> Second Mate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tournament | <input type="checkbox"/> >45 feet | <input type="checkbox"/> Fighting chair | |



B7 What was the **primary** area/waters fished?

- Inshore State offshore Federal offshore Don't know



B8 What was the **primary** method of fishing? (Please check only one)

- Trolling Casting Drift fishing Other
 Bottom fishing Fly fishing Don't know _____



B9 a) Were you planning to target a specific type of fish **when the trip was booked**?

- Yes No Don't know

b) **If Yes**, which type of fish were you planning to target?

_____ (please write one type of fish)



B10 a) Were you targeting a specific type of fish **while you were fishing**?

- Yes No Don't know

b) **If Yes**, who determined the target? Passengers Captain Both



B11 Please check the boxes for the types of fish targeted, caught, and/or kept.

Type of Fish	Targeted	Caught	Kept
Dolphin fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Red snapper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other snappers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gag or black grouper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other groupers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mackerel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuna	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sailfish / swordfish / billfish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drum / flounder / inshore species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other type of fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know or don't remember			



B12 a) Did the crew or captain keep any fish? Yes No Don't know

b) Did anyone purchase a fish mount? Yes No Don't know

c) Did regulations force the discard of fish? Yes No Don't know

d) If Yes, why did you discard (check all that apply)?

Undersize Out of season Other reason

Over bag limit Restricted species _____



B13 a) How much was the charter fee? \$ __ , __ __ __ . 0 0 Don't know

b) How much was the tip? \$ __ , __ __ __ . 0 0 Don't know

c) What share of the fee did you pay for? Whole fare Portion Nothing



B14 What was the primary reason for hiring this particular boat? (check one)

Previous experience Size of boat Recommendation/
Captain reputation

Hotel setup Price

Availability (logistics) No reason / walk-on Don't know



B15 What activity would you have engaged in if your charter trip had been canceled the week before due to engine troubles and there was no other charter available?

Non-charter fishing trip Outdoor recreational activity: _____

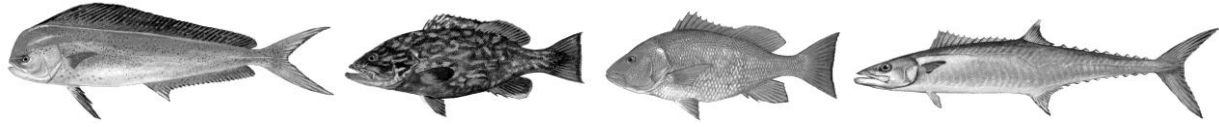
Work Indoor recreational activity: _____

Don't know Something else: _____



B16 How would you rate your trip?

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral / Don't know	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
○	○	○	○	○



Section C: Your Preferences for Gulf of Mexico Charter Fishing Trips

We want to know what you think about different types of saltwater charter fishing trips. **Please read these instructions carefully before going to the next page.**

On each of the following 6 pages you are asked to compare the features of two hypothetical offshore Gulf of Mexico charter fishing trips. You can take **up to 6 passengers** on these trips and you **might catch** dolphin fish, mackerel, snapper, grouper, sailfish, billfish, shark or many other types of fish. However, **catch is never guaranteed** on any charter trip.

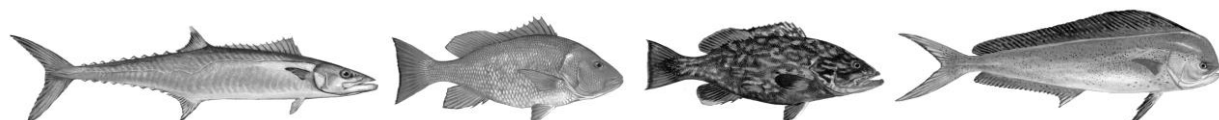
The two offshore Gulf of Mexico charter trips presented on each page differ only in **length of trip, vessel size, captain's reputation, charter fee (excluding tip)**, and the fishing **regulations** in effect at the place and time of trip. The two trips are **otherwise identical**.

Two forms of fishing regulations are presented for five types of fish that **might be caught** on each of the charter trips shown:

- **"Bag"** – The **bag limit** or the number of the given type of fish that each person is legally allowed to keep on a trip
- **"Closed"** – There is a **closed season** in effect for the given type of fish and no one is legally allowed to keep any of this type of fish

Regulations for other species are as in effect in the Gulf of Mexico in 2013 and are the same for each trip. Please note that the regulations presented in the following pages are hypothetical and are unrelated to current fishery management decisions.

Remember that you can contact Dr. David Carter at david.w.carter@noaa.gov or (305) 361-4461 if you have any questions on this survey.





C1 Please compare the features of Gulf of Mexico offshore charter fishing trips A and B and answer the questions below. Please keep in mind that:

- You can take up to **6 passengers**
- You **might catch** various types of fish, but **catch is not guaranteed**
- Trips A and B are **exactly the same** except for differences shown

Trip Features		Trip A	Trip B
Length of trip		Full-day	Full-day
Vessel size		50 ft	40 ft
Captain's reputation		Unknown	Known
Charter fee (excluding tip)		\$1,000	\$1,200
Regulations in effect at the place and time of trip	Dolphin fish	10 bag	5 bag
	All snappers / Red snapper	10 bag / 2 bag	5 bag / 1 bag
	All groupers	6 bag	closed
	King mackerel	closed	3 bag
	Other regulations	As in 2013	As in 2013



C1 a) Which of these two trips do you **prefer**? Trip A Trip B
 I don't know



C1 b) Please **circle** one trip feature in the table above which **most influenced** your preference of one trip over the other.



C1 c) If your **preferred trip** was the only option available for your next saltwater charter fishing trip, then what would you choose to do?

- Take my preferred trip
- Do something else, but not take a saltwater charter fishing trip
- I don't know





C2 Please compare the features of Gulf of Mexico offshore charter fishing trips A and B and answer the questions below. Please keep in mind that:

- You can take up to **6 passengers**
- You **might catch** various types of fish, but **catch is not guaranteed**
- Trips A and B are **exactly the same** except for differences shown

Trip Features		Trip A	Trip B
Length of trip		Full-day	Half-day
Vessel size		50 ft	40 ft
Captain's reputation		Known	Unknown
Charter fee (excluding tip)		\$1,200	\$400
Regulations in effect at the place and time of trip	Dolphin fish	10 bag	5 bag
	All snappers / Red snapper	5 bag / closed	10 bag / 1 bag
	All groupers	2 bag	closed
	King mackerel	closed	1 bag
	Other regulations	As in 2013	As in 2013



C2 a) Which of these two trips do you **prefer**? Trip A Trip B
 I don't know



C2 b) Please **circle** one trip feature in the table above which **most influenced** your preference of one trip over the other.



C2 c) If your **preferred trip** was the only option available for your next saltwater charter fishing trip, then what would you choose to do?

- Take my preferred trip
- Do something else, but not take a saltwater charter fishing trip
- I don't know



C3 Please compare the features of Gulf of Mexico offshore charter fishing trips A and B and answer the questions below. Please keep in mind that:

- You can take up to **6 passengers**
- You **might catch** various types of fish, but **catch is not guaranteed**
- Trips A and B are **exactly the same** except for differences shown

Trip Features		Trip A	Trip B
Length of trip		Full-day	Full-day
Vessel size		50 ft	40 ft
Captain's reputation		Known	Unknown
Charter fee (excluding tip)		\$1,400	\$1,000
Regulations in effect at the place and time of trip	Dolphin fish	5 bag	10 bag
	All snappers / Red snapper	10 bag / 2 bag	5 bag / closed
	All groupers	closed	6 bag
	King mackerel	closed	2 bag
	Other regulations	As in 2013	As in 2013



C3 a) Which of these two trips do you **prefer**? Trip A Trip B
 I don't know



C3 b) Please **circle** one trip feature in the table above which **most influenced** your preference of one trip over the other.



C3 c) If your **preferred trip** was the only option available for your next saltwater charter fishing trip, then what would you choose to do?

- Take my preferred trip
- Do something else, but not take a saltwater charter fishing trip
- I don't know





C4 Please compare the features of Gulf of Mexico offshore charter fishing trips A and B and answer the questions below. Please keep in mind that:

- You can take up to **6 passengers**
- You **might catch** various types of fish, but **catch is not guaranteed**
- Trips A and B are **exactly the same** except for differences shown

Trip Features		Trip A	Trip B
Length of trip		Full-day	Full-day
Vessel size		40 ft	50 ft
Captain's reputation		Unknown	Known
Charter fee (excluding tip)		\$1,000	\$1,400
Regulations in effect at the place and time of trip	Dolphin fish	5 bag	10 bag
	All snappers / Red snapper	5 bag / 1 bag	10 bag / 3 bag
	All groupers	6 bag	closed
	King mackerel	1 bag	2 bag
	Other regulations	As in 2013	As in 2013



C4 a) Which of these two trips do you **prefer**? Trip A Trip B
 I don't know



C4 b) Please **circle** one trip feature in the table above which **most influenced** your preference of one trip over the other.



C4 c) If your **preferred trip** was the only option available for your next saltwater charter fishing trip, then what would you choose to do?

- Take my preferred trip
- Do something else, but not take a saltwater charter fishing trip
- I don't know



C5 Please compare the features of Gulf of Mexico offshore charter fishing trips A and B and answer the questions below. Please keep in mind that:

- You can take up to **6 passengers**
- You **might catch** various types of fish, but **catch is not guaranteed**
- Trips A and B are **exactly the same** except for differences shown

Trip Features		Trip A	Trip B
Length of trip		Half-day	Half-day
Vessel size		40 ft	50 ft
Captain's reputation		Known	Unknown
Charter fee (excluding tip)		\$800	\$800
Regulations in effect at the place and time of trip	Dolphin fish	10 bag	5 bag
	All snappers / Red snapper	5 bag / 3 bag	10 bag / closed
	All groupers	closed	4 bag
	King mackerel	3 bag	closed
	Other regulations	As in 2013	As in 2013



C5 a) Which of these two trips do you **prefer**? Trip A Trip B
 I don't know

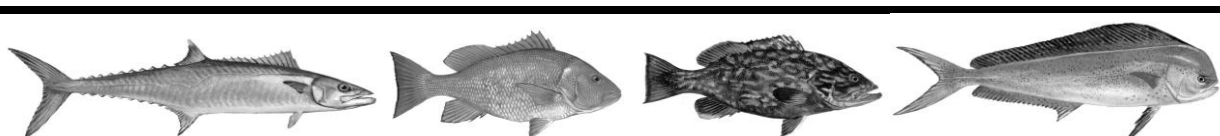


C5 b) Please **circle** one trip feature in the table above which **most influenced** your preference of one trip over the other.



C5 c) If your **preferred trip** was the only option available for your next saltwater charter fishing trip, then what would you choose to do?

- Take my preferred trip
- Do something else, but not take a saltwater charter fishing trip
- I don't know





C6 Please compare the features of Gulf of Mexico offshore charter fishing trips A and B and answer the questions below. Please keep in mind that:

- You can take up to **6 passengers**
- You **might catch** various types of fish, but **catch is not guaranteed**
- Trips A and B are **exactly the same** except for differences shown

Trip Features		Trip A	Trip B
Length of trip		Half-day	Half-day
Vessel size		50 ft	40 ft
Captain's reputation		Unknown	Known
Charter fee (excluding tip)		\$400	\$600
Regulations in effect at the place and time of trip	Dolphin fish	5 bag	10 bag
	All snappers / Red snapper	10 bag / closed	5 bag / 2 bag
	All groupers	2 bag	4 bag
	King mackerel	2 bag	closed
	Other regulations	As in 2013	As in 2013



C6 a) Which of these two trips do you **prefer**? Trip A Trip B
 I don't know

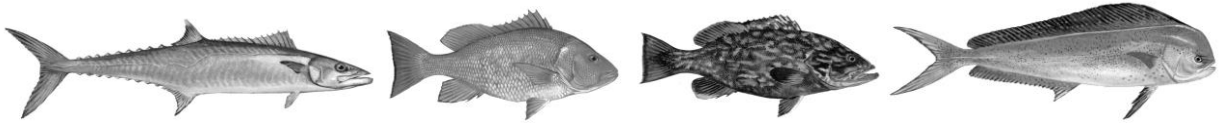


C6 b) Please **circle** one trip feature in the table above which **most influenced** your preference of one trip over the other.





C6 c) If your **preferred trip** was the only option available for your next saltwater charter fishing trip, then what would you choose to do?


- Take my preferred trip
- Do something else, but not take a saltwater charter fishing trip
- I don't know




Section D: About You and Your Household


 **D1** What is the Zip Code of your current home residence?

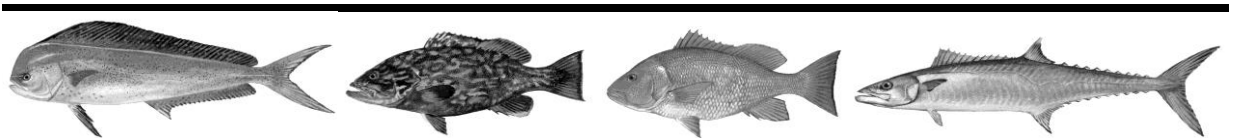
 **D2** What is your gender? Male Female

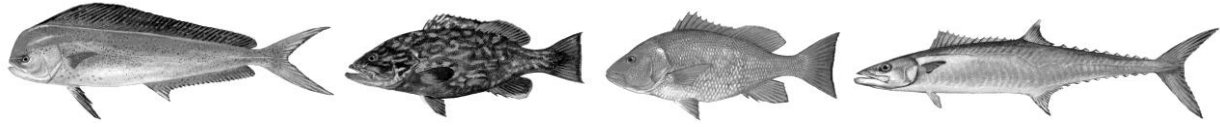
 **D3** What year were you born? 19

 **D4** Which of the following categories best describes your household's total annual income before taxes in 2012?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$24,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 - \$124,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200,000 - \$224,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 - \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125,000 - \$149,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$225,000 - \$249,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 - \$74,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000 - \$174,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than \$250,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 - \$99,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$175,000 - \$199,999 | |

 **D5** Was this survey completed by the person to whom it was mailed?
 Yes No





Thank You for Participating!

Your contribution to this study is greatly appreciated. We welcome any additional comments you would like to share with us. Please use the space provided below. Please return the completed questionnaire in the attached postage paid envelope as soon as possible.

Questions? Dr. David Carter at david.w.carter@noaa.gov or (305) 361-4467

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law; no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirement of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Public reporting burden for this survey is estimated to average 15 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 aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Robert Walker, NMFS SSRG, 75 Virginia Beach Dr, Miami, FL 33149. Information submitted will be treated as confidential in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100. NMFS collects this information for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. These data will be used to evaluate the economic effects of proposed regulations in the fishery.

