



# 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? Please contact Forbes Darby at (301) 427-8528 or [forbes.darby@noaa.gov](mailto:forbes.darby@noaa.gov).



## MRIP Angler Catch Surveys

### Information for Law Enforcement

#### What We Do

MRIP gathers catch information from anglers by conducting angler catch surveys at recreational fishing sites. Our 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 We Conduct Dockside Surveys

Our 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 the fishing regulations you enforce.

#### Who Conducts Dockside Surveys

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.

#### Do Samplers 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.

#### How We Can Work Together

While we understand that our role as data collectors and your role as law enforcement are very different, they can often appear similar to anglers at fishing sites. In an effort to avoid confusion, we have encouraged our samplers to explain they are not members of law enforcement when asked by anglers. We have also asked our field samplers to let you know when sampling is going to take place at a given site, so that our samplers can work with you to decide how to best work alongside one another.