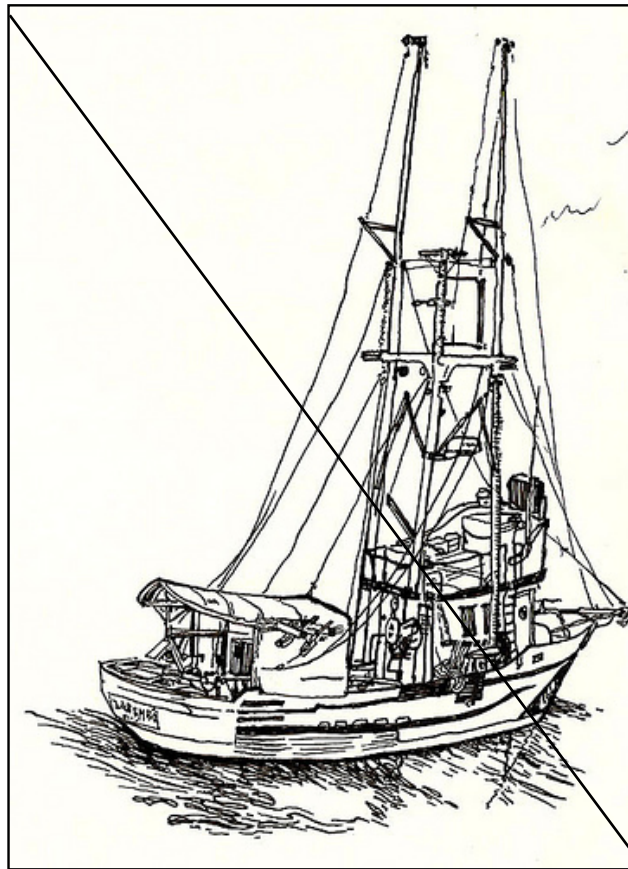


Survey on the Socio-economic Aspects of Commercial Fishing Vessel Owners in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic



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Responses to this information request are confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act as amended in 2006. Responses are also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics. 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.

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 are the top three species of fish you targeted during 2010, and what was your primary gear for each?

Species	Primary gear used
1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	

2. 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 | |

3. 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) _____

4. How many commercial fishing vessels do you own by yourself? _____ Vessel(s)

5. How many commercial vessels do you own with other people? _____ Vessel(s)

6. How many commercial vessels did you purchase or sell during 2010?

1. Number of commercial vessels that you own yourself that you sold _____ Vessel(s)
2. Number of group-owned commercial vessels that you sold your interest in _____ Vessel(s)
3. Number of commercial vessels that you purchased by yourself _____ Vessel(s)
4. Number of commercial vessels that you purchased an interest in _____ Vessel(s)

7. 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		

8. Was the level of fishing income in 2010 enough to sustain your fishing business over the following time frames? (Please circle one response for each time period)

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|----|
| 1. Short Term | YES | NO |
| 2. Medium Term | YES | NO |
| 3. Long Term | YES | NO |

Please think about your fishing business and answer the following questions about your family's involvement

9. 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 (If YES, Continue with Question #10, below)
 2. NO (If NO, Go to Question #15, below)

10. How many members of your family are involved in commercial fishing on *your* vessel?

_____ Family members (If the answer is NONE, go to Question #12, below)

11. For these family members, how has their level of involvement changed in the last year?

1. Increased
 2. Remained the same
 3. Decreased

12. How many members of your family are involved in other fishing-related activities that support *your* fishing business (refer to categories in question 9)?

_____ Family members (If the answer is NONE, go to Question #13, below)

13. For these family members, how do you think their level of involvement has changed in the last year?

1. Increased
2. Remained the same
3. Decreased.

14. How many members of your family are involved in commercial fishing or fishing-related businesses *other than your own*?

_____ Family members

Please answer the following questions based on your fishing activities on your primary vessel in your primary fishery.

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

Port _____ State _____

16. What was your primary port of landing in 2010?

Port _____ State _____

17. Which of the following factors contributed the most to your decision regarding the *amount of time* to spend fishing using your vessel during 2010?

- Personal preference
- Regulations on days-at-sea
- Quota limitations
- Physical conditions of vessel or gear
- Limitations due to weather
- Price of fish
- Other _____

18. 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 #18 was "1. A share system" please continue to Question #19. If not, please go to Question #22.

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

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

20. 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 _____ |

21. 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

22. Was the vessel owner-operated or was a captain hired in 2010?

1. Owner-operated
2. Hired captain

23. What was the average size of the crew in 2010 for your vessel (include the captain, or include yourself if your vessel is owner-operated)?

_____ Members

24. Did you hire any new crew previously not employed by you for your vessel in 2010? If so how many?

_____ Members

In the following questions, please tell us how you feel about the amount of fish you are allowed to catch

**25. Did you purchase or lease additional quota in 2010 for your primary vessel in your primary fishery?
(Please circle one)**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. YES | (If YES, Continue with Question #26, below) |
| 2. NO | (If NO, Go to Question #29, below) |
| 3. Not an option in my fishery | (Go to Question #30, below) |

26. Do you feel the price you paid for quota was

1. Too high
2. Too low
3. About right

27. Please indicate below what factors, other than cost, influenced your ability to purchase quota in 2010?

28. Other than price considerations how difficult was it for you to obtain that quota?

1. Very easy
2. Easy
3. Neither difficult nor easy
4. Difficult
5. Very difficult

29. If you *did not* purchase or lease additional quota in 2010, why not? (If you purchased quota please go to Question 30, below)

1. No need
2. Too expensive
3. No sellers
4. Other _____

30. In terms of lease and share prices, how difficult is it for new people to enter your primary fishery?

- 1. Very easy
- 2. Easy
- 3. Neither easy nor difficult
- 4. Difficult
- 5. Very difficult

31. 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

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

	Significantly decreasing	Decreasing	Not changing	Increasing	Significantly increasing
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

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

33. Have you ever participated in any aspect of federal fisheries management (such as attending meetings, writing letters, or serving on a committee)?

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

If NO, please tell us why

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

34. 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. The rules and regulations in place during 2010 in my primary fishery caused my fishing costs to increase ...	1	2	3	4	5
g. I understand the rules and regulations in my primary fishery	1	2	3	4	5
h. I feel that the regulations in my primary fishery are too restrictive	1	2	3	4	5
i. Although I agree with most of the regulations in my primary fishery, I think some of them are unfair.....	1	2	3	4	5
j. Over the next five years, I expect the rules and regulations in my primary fishery to cause my fishing costs to increase	1	2	3	4	5

35. 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

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

36. Did you or members of your family have health insurance in 2010? (Please circle one)

- 1. YES (If YES, Continue with Question #36, below)
- 2. NO (If NO, Go to Question #38, below)

37. 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"/> |

38. 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

39. Did you have hull insurance in 2010?

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

40. Did you have liability insurance (protection and indemnity insurance) for your crew in 2010?

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

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

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

- | | <i>Extremely
dissatisfied</i> | <i>Somewhat
dissatisfied</i> | <i>Neither satisfied
or dissatisfied</i> | <i>Somewhat
satisfied</i> | <i>Extremely
satisfied</i> |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. Your actual earnings..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. The amount of time spent away from home | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. Adventure of the job | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

42. 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).

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
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

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

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

WHY? _____

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

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

WHY? _____

45. In 2010, did you regularly fish alone with or with a group of vessels?

- 1. Alone (Please continue to Question #45, below)
- 2. A group of vessels (Please go to Question #46, below)

46. If your answer to Question 44 was with “a group of vessels” is it typically the same group of vessels?

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

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

47. How old you are? _____ Years

48. Which racial category best describes you? (Please circle one or more)

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

49. Would you classify yourself as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino? (please circle one)

1. Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
2. Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino

50. What is your ancestry? _____ (For example: Norwegian, Portuguese, Polish etc)

51. What is the primary language you speak at home? _____

52. 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 _____

53. Where did you live in 2010? _____ Town _____ State

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

_____ Adults and _____ children under 18

55. What was your marital status in 2010?

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

56. How many years have you been involved in commercial fishing? _____ Years

57. How many generations of your family have fished commercially including yourself?
_____ Generations

58. 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

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. Please return your completed questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible. Thank you!

Please direct all inquiries to:

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