



## NOAA FISHERIES



### Example Assignment

**Sampling Date:** June 24, 2017

**Time Interval:** 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Mode:** shore

**Site Cluster:** 2 sites, medium pressure



**1:50 p.m.**

Arrive at Site 1 in cluster. Unpack gear and prepare to begin assignment. At 2:00 p.m., begin counting and interview all anglers. After 3 hours, depart site.



**5:22 p.m.**

Arrive at Site 2 in cluster, after drive time. Count & interview all anglers. At 8:00 p.m., conclude interviews and depart site. Assignment is complete.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check in with your state's marine fisheries agency, or visit

[www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov](http://www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov)



## APAIS At-a-Glance

### How does NOAA Fisheries collect angler catch data?

On the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts from Maine to Louisiana, NOAA Fisheries works in partnership with state agencies to gather recreational catch information through the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey, or APAIS.

Samplers are assigned to a publicly accessible fishing site during a specific time of day. Their job is to interview and count each angler coming in from a fishing trip, regardless of whether the angler caught any fish. During an interview, samplers measure and weigh all landed fish, and ask for the number and species of fish that were released.

### What changes have been made to APAIS recently?

As of 2016, all the specially trained samplers who count your catch work for the marine fisheries agency in the state where you've been fishing, or where you end your trip if you've been fishing in federal waters. Using local samplers allows us to:

- **Build stronger relationships with anglers.** The sampler counting your catch now works for the same agency you already connect with regularly to learn about where and when you can fish, and what you can keep.
- **Work better together toward shared goals.** State agencies and fishermen have the shared goal of keeping our fisheries sustainable while optimizing quality fishing experiences.
- **Broaden our reach.** Greater involvement by each state creates more opportunities for sharing information and collaborating among fisheries agencies and fishermen at the local, state, regional, and federal levels.

### How do sampling assignments work?

- Samplers conduct interviews during all parts of the day, including at night.
- Samplers stay at a specified location for a specified amount of time, regardless of the amount of fishing. That means you may see samplers at some sites where there's not much activity.
- Sampling assignments are built using an online database of every publicly accessible fishing site from Maine to Louisiana. Anglers can use this database too, and help keep it accurate by updating any incorrect or out-of-date information. Visit [st.nmfs.noaa.gov/siteregister/](http://st.nmfs.noaa.gov/siteregister/) to learn more.
- Each sampling assignment includes a date, a specific site cluster, a predetermined order in which to visit sites in that cluster, a time interval for the assignment, and a fishing mode to sample. Modes are either **shore, private boat, charter boat, or private and charter boat combined.**

#### What is a "site cluster?"

A group of sites with similar characteristics. Each cluster contains 1 or 2 sites. Sites are clustered by:

- Type of fishing, or mode
- Level of fishing activity, or "pressure"
- Geographic proximity

### How does APAIS affect me?

Many individuals and organizations play different roles in keeping our fisheries sustainable. As an angler, the data you provide to shoreside samplers helps shape the science and management decisions that directly impact you.