

North Atlantic Recreational Fishing Survey 2021



Improve your fishing experiences!



Sponsored by NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service), Northeast Fisheries Science Center
This survey is voluntary and all responses are confidential.
Questions? Email Scott Steinback at Scott.Steinback@noaa.gov

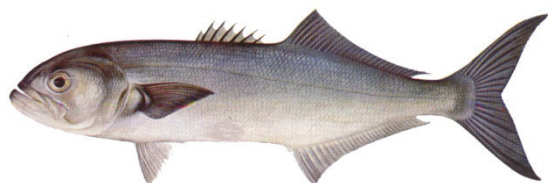
ATLANTIC SALTWATER FISH IN THIS SURVEY

Black Sea Bass



- Average catch is 1-3lbs., 12" to 20" total length
- Largest published recreational catch was 10lbs. 4oz.
- Minimum legal size varies by state, ranging from 10" to 13" total length
- Possession limit varies by state, ranging from 20 to 25 fish
- Popular bait include squid strips and small baitfish

Bluefish



- Average catch is 6-8lbs., 18" to 36" total length
- Largest published recreational catch was 31lbs. 12oz.
- Minimum legal size varies by state, ranging from no requirements to 12" total length
- Possession limit varies by state, ranging from 10 to 15 fish
- Popular bait include squid strips, silversides, and sand eels

Fluke/Summer Flounder



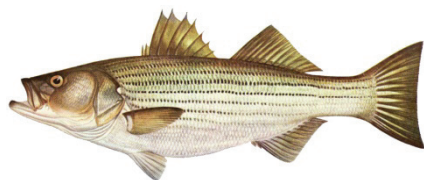
- Average catch is 2-5lbs., 14" to 20" total length
- Largest published recreational catch was 22lbs. 7oz.
- Minimum legal size varies by state, ranging from 14" to 21" total length
- Possession limit varies by state, ranging from 1 to 8 fish
- Popular bait include squid, small baitfish, and bluefish belly

Scup/Porgy



- Average catch is 1-2lbs., 10" to 14" total length
- Largest published recreational catch was 4lbs. 9oz.
- Minimum legal size varies by state, ranging from 8" to 11" total length
- Possession limit varies by state, ranging from 8 to 50 fish
- Popular bait include squid strips, small fish, sea worms, and clams

Striped Bass



- Average catch is 10-18lbs., 30" to 36" total length
- Largest published recreational catch was 125lbs.
- Minimum legal size varies by state, ranging from 18" to 32" total length
- Possession limit varies by state, ranging from 0 to 2 fish
- Popular bait include herring, menhaden, and mackerel

Weakfish



- Average catch is 1-6lbs., 14" to 22" total length
- Largest published recreational catch was 19lbs. 12oz.
- Minimum legal size varies by state, ranging from 12" to 16" total length
- Possession limit varies by state, ranging from 1 to 8 fish
- Popular bait include herring, menhaden, and mackerel

Section A: Your Saltwater Fishing Activities

The following questions help us understand the types of fishing trips anglers take.

1 How many **total** fishing trips for **saltwater** species did you make in 2020 during...

...the spring (March-May)?

...the fall (September-October)?

...the summer (June-August)?

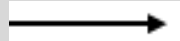
...the winter (November-February)?

2 Within the last five years, which of the following species have you caught or tried to catch?

Fluke (Summer Flounder)

Black Sea Bass

None of these Species



Go to Section C on Page X

Check this box if you go fishing sometimes without any particular species in mind:

3 For each of the following fishing modes, please fill in the number of recreational fishing trips on which you caught or targeted fluke or black sea bass during 2020.

...from shore?

...on a boat owned or rented by you or a friend?

...on a party boat or head boat (passenger fee covers a seat on the boat, usually 25 or more people fishing per boat)?

...on a private charter boat (charter fee pays for the entire boat and captain's services, usually 1-10 people per boat)?

4 Rate your fishing preference for the following species from 1 (least preferred) to 6 (most preferred):

Bluefish

Scup (Porgy)

Black Sea Bass

Striped Bass

Fluke (Summer Flounder)

Weakfish

Other Flounders (not Fluke)

Other Fish

5 Rate the impact of these factors on your decision to go fishing from 1 (no impact) to 6 (high impact):

Size Limits (the smallest sized fish you can legally keep)

Bag Limits (how many fish you can legally keep per day)

Number of fish you expect to catch

Number of fish you expect to keep

Number of fish you have to throw back until you get a keeper

Timing of the open fishing season

Trip Length

Trip Cost

Weather

SECTION B: SALTWATER FISHING TRIPS

Suppose that you have the choice between two recreational saltwater fishing trips (**Option 1** or **Option 2**) and not going recreational saltwater fishing (**Option 3**). Below the table, indicate which of these three options would be your first choice.

REGULATIONS

You are legally allowed to keep:
 3 Fluke (Summer Flounder), 18" or longer
 15 Black Sea Bass, 13" or longer

| TRIP FEATURES | | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
|---------------------|--|--|--|---|
| CATCH | <p>NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH This number includes both undersized and legal size fish.</p> <p>NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u>. Some fish are released if you catch more than the daily bag limit.</p> <p>NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH Other fish you catch.</p> <p>NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u>.</p> | <p>4 Fluke</p> <p>40% chance of 1 Fluke 60% chance of 2 Fluke No chance of more than 2 Fluke</p> <p>2 Black Sea Bass</p> <p>1 Black Sea Bass</p> | <p>3 Fluke</p> <p>60% chance of 1 Fluke 40% chance of 2 Fluke No chance of more than 2 Fluke</p> <p>2 Black Sea Bass</p> <p>1 Black Sea Bass</p> | <p>Do something other than saltwater fishing.</p> |
| TRIP DETAILS | <p>TRIP MODE</p> <p>TRIP LENGTH Time spent fishing on this trip.</p> <p>TOTAL TRIP COST Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip.</p> | <p>Small Private Boat (No fish finder available)</p> <p>4 Hours</p> <p>\$200</p> | <p>Shore Fishing</p> <p>4 Hours</p> <p>\$115</p> | |

If you were presented with these three options, which one would you choose? →
(Choose only one option.)

Option 1

Option 2

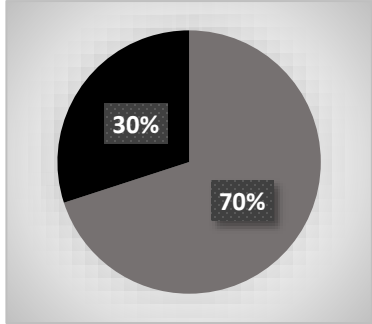
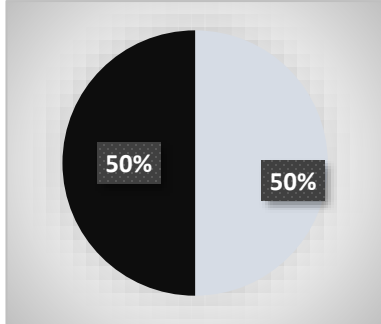
Option 3

SECTION B: SALTWATER FISHING TRIPS

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You are legally allowed to keep:
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| TRIP FEATURES | | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
|---------------|---|---|--|---|
| CATCH | <p>NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH This number includes both undersized and legal size fish.</p> <p>NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u>. Some fish are released if you catch more than the daily bag limit.</p> | <p>4 Fluke</p> <p>70% chance of 1 Fluke 30% chance of 2 Fluke No chance of more than 2 Fluke</p>  | <p>3 Fluke</p> <p>50% chance of 0 Fluke 50% chance of 2 Fluke No chance of more than 2 Fluke</p>  | <p>Do something other than saltwater fishing.</p> |
| | <p>NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH Other fish you catch.</p> <p>NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u>.</p> | <p>2 Black Sea Bass</p> <p>1 Black Sea Bass</p> | <p>2 Black Sea Bass</p> <p>1 Black Sea Bass</p> | |
| TRIP DETAILS | <p>TRIP MODE</p> <p>TRIP LENGTH Time spent fishing on this trip.</p> <p>TOTAL TRIP COST Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip.</p> | <p>Small Private Boat (Fish finder available)</p> <p>4 Hours</p> <p>\$150</p> | <p>Shore Fishing</p> <p>3 Hours</p> <p>\$115</p> | |

If you were presented with these three options, which one would you choose? →
 (Choose only one option.)

Option 1

Option 2

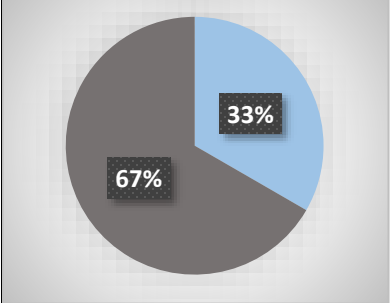
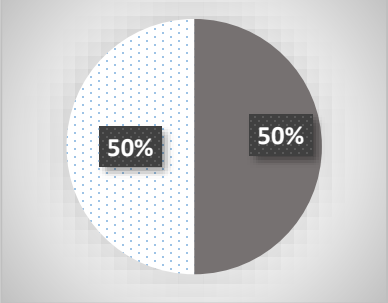
Option 3

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Suppose that you have the choice between two recreational saltwater fishing trips (**Option 1** or **Option 2**) and not going recreational saltwater fishing (**Option 3**). Below the table, indicate which of these three options would be your first choice.

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| TRIP FEATURES | | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
|---------------------|---|---|--|---|
| CATCH | <p>NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH This number includes both undersized and legal size fish.</p> <p>NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u>. Some fish are released if you catch more than the daily bag limit.</p> | <p>3 Fluke</p> <p>33% chance of 0 Fluke 67% chance of 3 Fluke No chance of more than 3 Fluke</p>  | <p>3 Fluke</p> <p>50% chance of 1 Fluke 50% chance of 3 Fluke No chance of more than 3 Fluke</p>  | <p>Do something other than saltwater fishing.</p> |
| | <p>NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH Other fish you catch.</p> <p>NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u>.</p> | <p>3 Black Sea Bass</p> <p>1 Black Sea Bass</p> | <p>3 Black Sea Bass</p> <p>0 Black Sea Bass</p> | |
| TRIP DETAILS | <p>TRIP MODE</p> <p>TRIP LENGTH Time spent fishing on this trip.</p> <p>TOTAL TRIP COST Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip.</p> | <p>Private Boat (Fish finder available)</p> <p>6 Hours</p> <p>\$300</p> | <p>Shore Fishing</p> <p>4.5 Hours</p> <p>\$275</p> | |

If you were presented with these three options, which one would you choose? →
(Choose only one option.)

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

SECTION B: SALTWATER FISHING TRIPS

Suppose that you have the choice between two recreational saltwater fishing trips (**Option 1** or **Option 2**) and not going recreational saltwater fishing (**Option 3**). Below the table, indicate which of these three options would be your first choice.

| REGULATIONS |
|--|
| You are legally allowed to keep: 3 Fluke (Summer Flounder), 18" or longer 15 Black Sea Bass, 13" or longer |

| TRIP FEATURES | | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|
| CATCH | NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH This number includes both undersized and legal size fish. | 3 Fluke | 3 Fluke | |
| | NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u> . Some fish are released if you catch more than the daily bag limit. | 100% chance of 2 Fluke No chance of more than 2 Fluke | 50% chance of 1 Fluke 50% chance of 3 Fluke No chance of more than 3 Fluke | |
| | NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH Other fish you catch. | 2 Black Sea Bass | 2 Black Sea Bass | Do something other than saltwater fishing. |
| | NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u> . | 1 Black Sea Bass | 1 Black Sea Bass | |
| TRIP DETAILS | TRIP MODE | Private Boat (Fish finder available) | Private Boat (No fish finder available) | |
| | TRIP LENGTH Time fishing on this trip. | 6 Hours | 6 Hours | |
| | TOTAL TRIP COST Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip. | \$300 | \$275 | |

If you were presented with these three options, which one would you choose? →
(Choose only one option.)

| Option 1 |
|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> |

| Option 2 |
|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> |

| Option 3 |
|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> |

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 3 Fluke (Summer Flounder), 18" or longer
 15 Black Sea Bass, 13" or longer

| TRIP FEATURES | | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
|---------------|---|---|--|--|
| CATCH | NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH This number includes both undersized and legal size fish. | 4 Fluke | 3 Fluke | |
| | NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u> . Some fish are released if you catch more than the daily bag limit. | 40% chance of 1 Fluke 60% chance of 2 or 3 Fluke No chance of more than 3 Fluke | 60% chance of 1 Fluke 40% chance of 2 Fluke No chance of more than 2 Fluke | |
| TRIP DETAILS | NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH Other fish you catch. | 2 Black Sea Bass | 2 Black Sea Bass | Do something other than saltwater fishing. |
| | NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u> . | 1 Black Sea Bass | 1 Black Sea Bass | |
| | TRIP MODE TRIP LENGTH Time spent fishing on this trip. | Small Private Boat (No fish finder available) 4 Hours | Shore Fishing 3 Hours | |
| | TOTAL TRIP COST Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip. | \$200 | \$115 | |

If you were presented with these three options, which one would you choose? →
 (Choose only one option.)

Option 1



Option 2



Option 3



SECTION B: SALTWATER FISHING TRIPS

Suppose that you have the choice between two recreational saltwater fishing trips (**Option 1** or **Option 2**) and not going recreational saltwater fishing (**Option 3**). Below the table, indicate which of these three options would be your first choice.

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| TRIP FEATURES | | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| CATCH | NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH This number includes both undersized and legal size fish. | 4 Fluke | 3 Fluke | |
| | NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u> . Some fish are released if you catch more than the daily bag limit. | 50% chance of 0 or 1 Fluke 50% chance of 2 or 3 Fluke No chance of more than 3 Fluke | 60% chance of 1 Fluke 40% chance of 2 Fluke No chance of more than 2 Fluke | |
| TRIP DETAILS | NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH Other fish you catch. | 2 Black Sea Bass | 2 Black Sea Bass | Do something other than saltwater fishing. |
| | NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can</u> be <u>legally kept</u> . | 1 Black Sea Bass | 1 Black Sea Bass | |
| | TRIP MODE TRIP LENGTH Time spent fishing on this trip. | Small Private Boat (No fish finder available) 4 Hours | Shore Fishing 4 Hours | |
| TOTAL TRIP COST Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip. | \$145 | \$115 | | |

If you were presented with these three options, which one would you choose? →
 (Choose only one option.)

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

SECTION C: ABOUT YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD

The questions on this page are only to ensure that we have a representative sample of the angling population and will not be used to identify any specific individuals. Your answers are completely confidential.

1 Are you male or female? Male Female

2 What is your year of birth?

3 What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Please mark only **one** category)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 9 th Grade | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree (ex: BA or BS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 th to 12 th Grade | <input type="checkbox"/> Some graduate school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate or GED | <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree (ex: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some college, no degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Degree (ex: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Degree (ex: AA or AS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate Degree (ex: PhD, EdD) |

4 Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- No**, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin: _____

5 What is your race? (Check **all** that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black, African Am., or Negro | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian or Chamorro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian or Pacific Islander: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

6 Which of the following categories best describes your household's **total annual income before taxes** in 2018? (Please mark only **one** category)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$80,000-\$99,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$39,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000-\$149,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000-\$59,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000-\$199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000-\$79,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200,000 or more |

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

Fish images courtesy of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0648-0783. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Scott Steinback, NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543 or email Scott.Steinback@noaa.gov.