

# North Atlantic Recreational Fishing Survey 2025



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](mailto:Scott.Steinback@noaa.gov)

OMB Control Number 0648-0783 expires ?

# SECTION A: YOUR RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING EXPERIENCES

These questions are about you and your recreational saltwater fishing experiences.

Please do not include any information about other people you go fishing with.

1. **Within the last five years**, which of the following species have you gone fishing for, even if you didn't catch or keep any? Please select all that apply.



Summer Flounder



Black Sea Bass



Scup

None of these species → Go to Section D on Page 11

2. **During 2024**, which of the following species did you go fishing for, even if you didn't catch or keep any? Please select all that apply.



Summer Flounder



Black Sea Bass



Scup

3. **During 2024**, on how many trips did you go fishing for **summer flounder, black sea bass, or scup**, even if you didn't catch or keep any? Please fill in the number of trips by fishing mode.

Party or head boat (usually 25 or more anglers per boat)..... #  2024 trips

Charter or guide boat (usually 1-6 anglers per boat)..... #  2024 trips

From shore..... #  2024 trips

Private boat (owned or rented by you, a friend, or a relative)..... #  2024 trips

4. Do you own, or have regular access to a boat used for recreational fishing?

Yes

No

5. How likely or unlikely are you to go recreational fishing for **summer flounder, black sea bass, or scup** in the next twelve months?

Very Likely

Somewhat likely

Somewhat unlikely

Very unlikely

# SECTION B: YOUR SALTWATER FISHING TRIP PREFERENCES

Your answers to the next six questions are extremely important to the success of the survey because they will be directly incorporated into the policy making process. Please make your voice heard by answering each of these questions.

Each question will present you with three alternative trips like in the example below. Trips A and B are hypothetical fishing trips with different catch levels and trip costs. Trip C is doing something other than saltwater fishing.

After comparing the three TRIPS, indicate which one would be your first choice.

Please do the following things to make sure we represent your thinking accurately.

1. Answer each question as if you were presented with the three options in the real world.
2. If you would not pay the amount listed for either fishing trip option, choose Trip C.
3. There are no right or wrong answers, we simply want to understand the tradeoffs that anglers like you are willing to make.

## EXAMPLE

Regulations			
You are legally allowed to keep: 3 Fluke, 18" or longer 15 Black sea bass, 13" or longer 50 Scup, 9" or longer			
Trip Features	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH</b> This number includes both undersized and legal size fish.	5 Fluke	2 Fluke	Do something other than saltwater fishing
<b>NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size fish</u> .	2 Fluke	0 Fluke	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH</b> Other fish you catch.	6 Black sea bass 4 Scup	3 Black sea bass 1 Scup	
<b>NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u> .	5 Black sea bass 4 Scup	1 Black sea bass 1 Scup	
<b>TOTAL TRIP COST</b> Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip	\$200	\$75	
If you were presented with these three options, which one would you choose? → (Choose only one option.)	<b>Trip A</b> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Trip B</b> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Trip C</b> <input type="radio"/>

## SECTION B: SALTWATER FISHING TRIPS

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

REGULATIONS
You are legally allowed to keep: 6 Fluke, 18" or longer 5 Black Sea Bass, 12.5" or longer 15 scup, 9" or longer

	TRIP FEATURES	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
CATCH	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH</b> This number includes both undersized and legal size fish.	6 Fluke	8 Fluke	Do something other than saltwater fishing.
	<b>NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u> .	6 Fluke	3 Fluke	
	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH</b> Other fish you catch.	5 Black Sea Bass 10 scup	3 Black Sea Bass 5 scup	
	<b>NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can</u> be <u>legally kept</u> .	5 Black Sea Bass 5 scup	3 Black Sea Bass 0 scup	
TRIP DETAILS	<b>TOTAL TRIP COST</b> Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip.	\$160	\$75	

If you were presented with these three options, which one would you choose? →

**(Choose only one option.)**

Trip A
○

Trip B
○

Trip C
○

## SECTION B: SALTWATER FISHING TRIPS

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

REGULATIONS
You are legally allowed to keep: 2 Fluke, 18" or longer 20 Black Sea Bass, 12.5" or longer 60 scup, 9" or longer

	TRIP FEATURES	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
CATCH	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH</b> This number includes both undersized and legal size fish.	15 Fluke	10 Fluke	Do something other than saltwater fishing.
	<b>NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u> .	2 Fluke	0 Fluke	
	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH</b> Other fish you catch.	30 Black Sea Bass 60 scup	5 Black Sea Bass 20 scup	
	<b>NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u> .	1 Black Sea Bass 60 scup	0 Black Sea Bass 5 scup	
TRIP DETAILS	<b>TOTAL TRIP COST</b> Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip.	\$160	\$45	

If you were presented with these three options, which one would you choose? →

**(Choose only one option.)**

Trip A
<input type="radio"/>

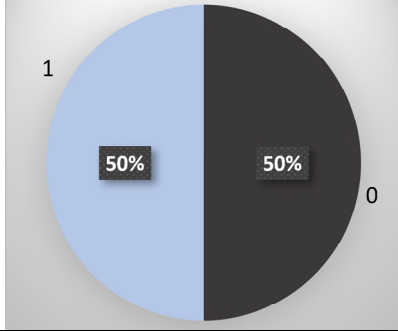
Trip B
<input type="radio"/>

Trip C
<input type="radio"/>

# SECTION B: SALTWATER FISHING TRIPS

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

REGULATIONS
You are legally allowed to keep: 2 Fluke, 18" or longer 20 Black Sea Bass, 12.5" or longer 40 scup, 9" or longer

TRIP FEATURES	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH</b> This number includes both undersized and legal size fish.	6 Fluke	1 Fluke	Do something other than saltwater fishing.
<b>NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u> .	2 Fluke	50% chance of 0 Fluke 50% chance of 1 Fluke No chance of more than 1 Fluke 	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH</b> Other fish you catch.  <b>NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u> .	20 Black Sea Bass 30 scup  15 Black Sea Bass 25 scup	15 Black Sea Bass 5 scup  10 Black Sea Bass 5 scup	
<b>TRIP DETAILS</b> <b>TOTAL TRIP COST</b> Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip.	\$340	\$160	

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

Trip A
<input type="radio"/>

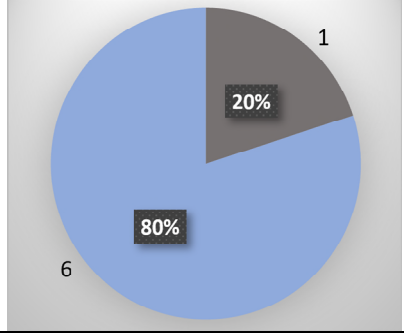
Trip B
<input type="radio"/>

Trip C
<input type="radio"/>

# SECTION B: SALTWATER FISHING TRIPS

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

REGULATIONS
You are legally allowed to keep: 6 Fluke, 18" or longer 3 Black Sea Bass, 12.5" or longer 15 scup, 9" or longer

TRIP FEATURES	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH</b> This number includes both undersized and legal size fish.	1 Fluke	8 Fluke	Do something other than saltwater fishing.
<b>NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u> .	1 Fluke	20% chance of 1 Fluke 80% chance of 6 Fluke No chance of more than 6 Fluke 	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH</b> Other fish you catch.	10 Black Sea Bass 30 scup	0 Black Sea Bass 20 scup	
<b>NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u> .	3 Black Sea Bass 3 scup	0 Black Sea Bass 15 scup	
<b>TOTAL TRIP COST</b> Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip.	\$30	\$420	

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

Trip A
○

Trip B
○

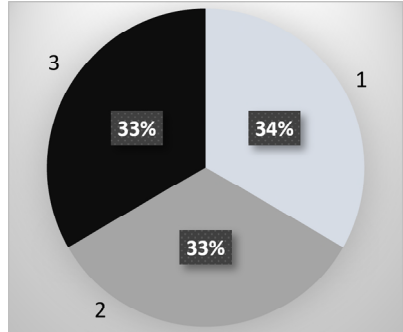
Trip C
○



# SECTION B: SALTWATER FISHING TRIPS

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

REGULATIONS
You are legally allowed to keep: 3 Fluke, 18" or longer 22 Black Sea Bass, 12.5" or longer 40 scup, 9" or longer

	TRIP FEATURES	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
CATCH	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH</b> This number includes both undersized and legal size fish.	3 Fluke	4 Fluke	Do something other than saltwater fishing.
	<b>NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u> .	0 to 3 Fluke	34% chance of 1 Fluke 33% chance of 2 Fluke 33% chance of 3 Fluke No chance of more than 3 Fluke 	
	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH</b> Other fish you catch.	25 Black Sea Bass 3 scup	10 Black Sea Bass 10 scup	
TRIP DETAILS	<b>NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u> .	0 Black Sea Bass 0 scup	1 Black Sea Bass 5 scup	
	<b>TOTAL TRIP COST</b> Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip.	\$160	\$340	

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

Trip A
<input type="radio"/>

Trip B
<input type="radio"/>

Trip C
<input type="radio"/>



## SECTION B: SALTWATER FISHING TRIPS

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

REGULATIONS
You are legally allowed to keep: 4 Fluke, 18" or longer 5 Black Sea Bass, 12.5" or longer 40 scup, 9" or longer

TRIP FEATURES	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH YOU CATCH</b> This number includes both undersized and legal size fish.	0 to 9 Fluke	3 Fluke	Do something other than saltwater fishing.
<b>NUMBER OF LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> These fish are <u>at least legal minimum size</u> .	0 to 3 Fluke	1 Fluke	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OTHER FISH YOU CATCH</b> Other fish you catch.	3 Black Sea Bass 50 scup	20 Black Sea Bass 10 scup	
<b>NUMBER OF OTHER LEGAL-SIZE FISH YOU CAN KEEP</b> Other fish you catch on this trip that <u>can be legally kept</u> .	3 Black Sea Bass 20 scup	0 Black Sea Bass 5 scup	
<b>TRIP DETAILS</b> <b>TOTAL TRIP COST</b> Your share of the fishing-related, transportation, and other expenses. This cost would not cover anyone else on the trip.	\$130	\$60	

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

Trip A
<input type="radio"/>

Trip B
<input type="radio"/>

Trip C
<input type="radio"/>

## SECTION C: SALTWATER FISHING TRIP FEATURES

This question will help us understand which features of the saltwater fishing trip options in Section B did not factor into the choices you made.

When you made your choices in Section B, were there any fishing trip features that you did **not** consider? Please select the trip features that you did **not** consider when you made those choices. If all the trip features factored into your choices, just skip this question.

Trip features from Section B questions that I did **not** consider. Select all that apply.

Number of fluke you catch  ← I did **not** consider this feature

Trip Cost per person  ← I did **not** consider this feature

Number of scup or black sea bass you keep  ← I did **not** consider this feature

Number of scup or black sea bass you catch  ← I did **not** consider this feature

Number of fluke you can keep  ← I did **not** consider this feature

## SECTION D: ABOUT YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD

These questions will help us understand whether our sample is representative of the angler population.

### 6. Gender: Select all that apply (Optional)

- Female  Male  Transgender, non-binary, or another gender  Prefer not to answer

### 7. In what year were you born?

Year born (YYYY)

### 8. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school  4-year degree  
 High school graduate or GED  Some graduate school  
 2-year degree or trade school graduate  Master's degree (ex: MA, MS, MBA)  
 Some college  Professional or doctoral degree

### 9. Which of the following categories best describes your household's total annual income before taxes in 2021?

- Less than \$20,000  \$80,000 to \$99,999  
 \$20,000 to \$39,999  \$100,000 to \$149,999  
 \$40,000 to \$59,999  \$150,000 to \$199,999  
 \$60,000 to \$79,999  \$200,000 or more

## THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please call 800-229-5220 Option 3 or email [Scott.Steinback@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Steinback@noaa.gov)

