



January 17, 2023

John Smith 12345678A

980 Beaver Creek Drive

Martinsville, VA 24112

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Dear John Smith,

Commercial fishing cost data play an important role in informing fisheries regulations in New England and the Mid-Atlantic. Cost data can help economists at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center analyze the impacts of various alternatives in Fishery Management Plan frameworks and amendments. Without this information, economists are limited in their ability to inform management decisions or fully evaluate economic impacts.

We are asking you to help us improve the region's economic data by completing the Greater Atlantic Region Commercial Fishing Business Cost Survey for 2022. This voluntary survey asks for costs you have incurred on your vessel, [Vessel Name], such as repair and maintenance, trip expenditures, overhead costs, and crew/captain payments in calendar year 2022.

**To access the cost survey using the QR code:**  
1. Open the camera function of your smart phone device.  
2. Point the camera at the QR code until the camera focuses on the code (do not take a picture).  
3. By hovering over the QR code in your camera app, a link will appear in your smart phone's web browser. Follow the link to the mobile version of the cost survey.

You can access and respond to the survey by typing the following link into your web browser: [www.fishingcostsurvey.com](http://www.fishingcostsurvey.com) and entering access code: **12345678A** or by using the unique QR code provided in this letter.

The survey will take approximately 45 minutes to complete and your individual responses and participation will be kept confidential.

If you prefer to take the survey through a phone or virtual interview with a Science Center staff member, or if you have any questions regarding this letter, the survey, or the survey questions, please call 508-495-2015 so we may assist you.

For additional information on the data collected in this survey or to view data summaries from previous years, please visit our cost data visualization tool at: <https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/socialsci/cost-data>

Your participation is crucial for incorporating accurate cost information into our economic analyses which inform management decisions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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# Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) is collecting this economic information to improve its ability to conduct analyses required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and other applicable law. The NEFSC, the New England Fishery Management Council, and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will use this information to monitor, explain and predict changes in the economic performance and impacts of regional fisheries. Among other things, this will enable fisheries managers and the public to more fully consider the economic effects of proposed and existing regulations for regional 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 0648-0773 and its expiration date is XX/XX/20XX. Without this approval, we could not conduct this information collection. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 45 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 suggestions for reducing this burden to Gregory Ardini, NMFS NEFSC, 166 Water Street MB19, Woods Hole, MA 02543, [Gregory.Ardini@noaa.gov](mailto:Gregory.Ardini@noaa.gov).

# Confidentiality Statement

We appreciate the confidential nature of the data being collected by this survey. The NEFSC will handle individual survey data as confidential business information and a form of protected personal information and will maintain the confidentiality of the information consistent with legal authorities available to it, including but not limited to the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. Section 552a) and the Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. Section 1905). The NEFSC will protect individual survey data from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law and it has instituted procedures to provide that protection.