

*Coming in 2009*



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



### What is the Marine Recreational Information Program?

The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is a public-private partnership working to improve saltwater recreational fishing data and provide for more informed fisheries conservation. A new saltwater angler registry will be an important part of this ongoing effort.

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## National Saltwater Angler Registry

### FAQs about the Proposed Rule

#### What is the National Saltwater Angler Registry?

Starting in 2009, anglers who fish in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) will have to register annually with NOAA Fisheries. The rule would also require registration by those who may catch anadromous species such as striped bass, salmon and shad that spawn in rivers and streams and spend their adult lives in estuaries and the ocean. The registry will provide a much needed list of all saltwater recreational fishermen -- essentially a phonebook of all recreational fishermen that is updated each year.

#### Why is the registry important?

Through the registry, managers will be able to gather important information about the fishing habits of recreational anglers. Information from all fishermen -- recreational as well as commercial -- is essential to managing our fisheries. It's also a way for you and your catch to be counted and support informed decisions that affect your fishing future.

#### Why is the registry being established?

The U.S. Congress passed a law requiring NOAA Fisheries Service to establish a national registry by January 1, 2009 in order to improve the quality of fishing data.

#### Will there be any exemptions from the registry requirement?

If states already have a program that gathers the data necessary for the registry (such as a complete saltwater fishing license that accounts for all anglers), NOAA Fisheries may exempt anglers from these states. However, the following states do not have a saltwater fishing license and cannot be exempt at present: Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Maine, Rhode Island and Hawaii.

#### Will there be costs associated with registering?

Not initially. However, an annual fee may be required beginning in 2011.

#### Will individuals fishing on party or charter boats have to register?

NOAA Fisheries is considering exempting individuals fishing from charter or party boats from the registration requirement. This fishing activity is already accounted for in current fishery surveys of party and charter boat fishing.

#### What can I do?

NOAA Fisheries is seeking comments on the proposal to establish the angler registry until August 11, 2008. To get more specific information about the program or comment on the proposal go to: [www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov](http://www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov).

