

Coming in 2009



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



NOAA Fisheries Service is an agency within the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social and environmental needs. The NOAA Fisheries Service provides world class science and stewardship.

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National Saltwater Angler Registry

Proposed Rule Overview

Information from all fishermen – recreational as well as commercial – is essential to managing our fisheries. Quality information that accurately reflects your catch ensures policy-makers can make informed decisions that affect your fishing future.

A public-private partnership is currently working to develop a new system of angler surveys called the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). This effort will improve the collection, analysis and use of recreational saltwater fishing data and result in significant improvements to our estimates of saltwater angler catch, the level of participation by the American public in saltwater fishing, and the economic effect of this fishing on local and national economies.

One of the most important improvements is the development of a national saltwater angler registry. This "phonebook" of recreational fishermen will provide a more efficient and effective route for collecting data than currently exists.

Beginning in January 2009, anglers who fish in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) or who may catch fish such as salmon, striped bass, American shad, hickory shad, river herring, or rainbow smelt in tidal waters will be required to register with the federal government's NOAA Fisheries Service.

NOAA is accepting public comments on implementation of the National Saltwater Angler Registry until August 11, 2008. To view the proposed rule and submit comments, visit www.regulations.gov.

To get more specific information about the registry and the effort to improve recreational fishing data go to: www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov.

