

NOAA Seeks Feedback on Angler Registry Rule Changes

The public is invited to comment on proposed amendments to the National Saltwater Angler Registry final rule. NOAA Fisheries determined that minor revisions to the registry rule are needed to clarify and update certain provisions. Comments are being accepted through April 6, 2012.

Based on experience implementing the registry, NOAA Fisheries proposes changes which will:

- Eliminate duplicative permitting and registration requirements for holders of Main Hawaiian Islands Non-commercial Bottomfish Permits;
- Allow states that exempt minors under the age of 17 from the state license or registration requirements to be eligible for Exempted State designation;
- Allow new anglers to fish for a day without a license, such as during a “free fishing day”, without impacting the eligibility of the state’s exempt designation;
- Allow the U.S. Virgin Islands to be designated as an Exempted State under the qualifying regional survey option of the rule; and
- Clarify and update various provisions of the rule.

Read the complete text of the proposed changes and learn more about submitting comments in the [Federal Register notice](#).

In 2010, NOAA Fisheries launched the National Saltwater Angler Registry. At that time, many saltwater recreational fishermen were required to register with the new federal registry before going fishing.

By 2011, every coastal state and territory - with the exception of Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands - had an agreement in place to share information with NOAA Fisheries about their state’s licensed, permitted, or registered recreational fishermen (having achieved so called “exempted state designation”).

Today, NOAA Fisheries is utilizing the registry to test improved methods for surveying anglers’ trip activities. To learn more about NOAA Fisheries’ ongoing effort to improve the quality recreational data, visit www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov.