

Register 2010



New Federal Law Affecting MA Saltwater Fishermen



WHAT?
National Saltwater Angler Registry.

WHEN?
Registration will be required beginning Jan. 1, 2010.

WHO MUST REGISTER?

Massachusetts anglers who fish in federal waters, or target or catch anadromous species (saltwater fish that spawn in freshwater) like shad, striped bass or smelt.

WHO IS EXEMPT?

Anglers who are under 16; only fish on licensed charter, party or guide boats; hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling permit; are fishing under a valid commercial license; or are already registered through an exempted state.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Starting Jan. 1, 2010, go online at www.countrymyfish.noaa.gov. Registration is FREE in 2010.

WHY REGISTER?

Registration is the law. It is also an important new tool for NOAA and anglers to help ensure the longterm sustainability of saltwater fishing.



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Registry?

The registry will serve as a national “phone book” of anglers, allowing NOAA to quickly and easily reach current fishermen to learn about their most recent fishing activities. That information is a crucial part of our ability to estimate the health of fish stocks, and to check that protections put in place to preserve fisheries will be fair, effective, and based on sound science. The registry is also a tool for recreational fishermen. As the first full accounting of the scope of recreational saltwater fishing in the U.S., it will help to more fully demonstrate anglers’ economic, conservation and marine stewardship impacts.

Is the future of fishing really in doubt?

With the data necessary to effectively manage fisheries in hand, NOAA has no doubt that our nation’s tradition of saltwater recreational fishing will continue into the future. It is true, however, that there are numerous pressures like pollution, climate change, and in some cases overfishing, which have made the work of fisheries managers – and the data they rely upon – more important than ever.

Do recreational fishermen really have that great of an impact on the resource?

While many people assume the number of fish caught by recreational fishermen must pale in comparison to the commercial harvest, the truth is that for many popular species – such as striped bass, bluefish, tautog and black rockfish to name just a few – the recreational take is by far the largest proportion.

Can I register and fish the same day?

Yes. Beginning January 1, 2101, fishermen will be able to reregister online or by phone. Simply write down the registration number you receive and take it with you when you go fishing to present to Law Enforcement if requested.if requested. A permanent registration card will follow in the mail.

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