National Saltwater Angler Registry

Register 2010

New Federal Law
Affecting Maine Saltwater Recreational Fishermen

WHAT?
National Saltwater Angler Registry.

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

WHO MUST REGISTER?
Maine anglers who fish in federal waters, or target or catch anadromous species (saltwater fish that spawn in freshwater) like shad, striped bass or smelt in any tidal or salt waters.

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 commercially under a valid license; or are already registered through an exempted state.

HOW DO I REGISTER?
Starting Jan. 1, 2010, go online at **www.countmyfish.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.

MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

LEARN MORE
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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Registry?

The registry will serve as a national "phone book" of recreational 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 and tautog 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, 2010, fishermen will be able to register 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. A registration card will follow in the mail.

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