

Know the Law | Make Your Catch Count

Most New Jersey Saltwater Anglers Must Sign up with Federal Registry Before They Fish

As saltwater recreational anglers from across the state and around the world come to New Jersey to enjoy its great coastline, welcoming seaside communities and legendary fishing, state and federal officials are urging them to remember the basics:

Bait, tackle, register.

A Federal law that went into effect last year requires most saltwater recreational spearfishermen and anglers fishing in New Jersey to sign up with the National Saltwater Angler Registry before they fish.

Specifically, the law applies to those who are either fishing in Federal waters; targeting anadromous species (fish like stripers, shad and river herring that live in saltwater but spawn in fresh water); or might catch anadromous species, regardless of whether they're targeting these fish.

In addition, people who registered in 2010 and are still required to do so have one year from their initial registration date to renew. The fee for registering or renewing is \$15, an amount meant to cover the cost of administering the Registry.

Fishermen are exempt from registering if they are under 16; only fish on federally permitted charter, party or guide boats; hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling permit; or are fishing commercially under a valid license.

Also, fishermen who purchase a saltwater fishing license from an exempted state, including all of New Jersey's neighbors, are automatically entered into the Registry and are not required to take further action.

Registration is the law, and fishermen can face stiff fines for not registering. But it is also a powerful new tool that will bring direct benefits to fishermen and others who care about the sustainability of recreational fishing.

"The Registry is good for recreational fishermen, and critical for the future of recreational fishing."

As a national "directory" of saltwater fishermen, the Registry will make it possible to collect better data about who's been fishing and how often.

Name, Title

And better data ultimately means better decision-making

when it comes to setting rules and regulations that are fair and effective.

Finally, the Registry is an important part of an overall effort known as the Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP. MRIP is changing the way NOAA collects and reports recreational fishing data to ensure a process that is transparent, scientifically robust, and deserving of the public's trust.

Learn more at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov.



Registration At a Glance

You MUST register if you:

- ← Fish in federal waters more than 3 miles off shore,
or
- ← Target or catch anadromous species (saltwater fish that spawn in freshwater like river herring, shad or striped bass) in **any** tidal waters,
and
- ← Do not meet any of the exemptions under the law.

You are EXEMPT if you:

- ← Are under 16, **or**
- ← Only fish on federally permitted charter, party or guide boats, **or**
- ← Hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling permit, **or**
- ← Are fishing commercially under a valid license, **or**
- ← Are already registered through an exempted state.

**REGISTER AND FISH
THE SAME DAY**

Visit www.countmyfish.noaa.gov

Call toll-free: 888-MRIP-411 (888-674-7411)