

Social and Economic Survey

Instructions

Thank you very much for taking the time to fill out this survey. Included in this package you will find:

- 1) A set of Social and Economic Survey Questions designed for Northeast fishermen.
- 2) A stamped and addressed envelope for returning the completed questionnaire.

This is a sample set of questions from a variety of surveys that researchers have used in the past in order to learn more about how management affects fishermen and their communities. Many of the questions that follow ask you how to get good information from fishermen and ask you for your ideas for better questions. Other questions ask your opinion on topics that are important to you. Your collaboration in this research is appreciated. All information you provide will be kept confidential. Any public release of results, for example, to fishermen, will be in only a very summarized form, making it impossible for you to be identified. The survey is divided into six sections:

1. Households and Communities
2. Expenditure Impacts of Fishing Industry in New England
3. Fishing Business Practices
4. Management and Enforcement
5. Capacity and the Future
6. Fishing Family Assistance

NOTE: This questionnaire should be completed by the person to whom payment will be sent. Where the vessel is under corporate ownership, the principal owner or primary stockholder should complete the survey. Agents for vessels should not complete the survey.

Multiple vessel owners should answer vessel-specific questions with the vessel which produces the most groundfish revenue in mind.

If you would like to speak to someone about how to complete the survey call _____ at _____ in the Northeast Regional Office.

If you have any questions for Italian language interpretation please call Angela Sanfilippo or Nina Groppo at the Gloucester Fishing Family Assistance Center - (978) 283-2504.

If you have any questions for Portuguese language interpretation please call Rodney Avila at the New Bedford Fishing Family Assistance Center - (508) 979-1791.

Please Print your Name: _____

Please sign your name here: _____

Corporate Name (if applicable): _____

Your position in corporation (if applicable) _____

Your Address: _____
(corporate address if applicable)

Telephone Number: _____

Vessel #1 Name _____

Vessel #1 Multispecies Groundfish Permit Number:

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Vessel #1 US Coast Guard Documentation Number, or State Registration Number.

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Vessel #2 Name _____

Vessel #2 Multispecies Groundfish Permit Number:

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Vessel #2 US Coast Guard Documentation Number or State Registration Number

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Vessel #3 Name _____

Vessel #3 Multispecies Groundfish Permit Number:

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Vessel #3 US Coast Guard Documentation Number or State Registration Number

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If you need more room for answering questions, please use the other side of the page.

Please enter your Multispecies Groundfish Permit number in the space provided at the bottom of each answer page.

Please return all of the answered pages which contain your permit number using the stamped and addressed envelope - thank you!

Households and Communities

Section 1 asks questions about household and community topics, and also some direct questions about how different fishermen and fishing families go about fishing. By looking for patterns across all fishermen, we can see how different communities or other groups may be impacted by management decisions. ***Please use check marks and fill in with more information if appropriate.*** We appreciate you sharing your expertise and knowledge.

1a. Many surveys ask you to identify your race/ethnicity (e.g. Italian, Norwegian, Portugese, etc). This information can be important, since crews and work patterns are often based on ethnicity. Would a question about your ethnicity be too personal to ask in person in an interview setting?

- a. N (please go to question 2) b. Y (please continue to 1b)

1b. If yes, could such a question be improved by:

- a. Providing an explanation such as the one above
b. Wording the question in a different way. Please give an example of a question you would feel comfortable with _____
c. Deleting the question entirely
d. Other (please explain) _____

2a. Social researchers often ask you questions about what school grade you finished. This helps us know more about your background, in order for us to better understand the different people who live from fishing. Would asking for your education be too personal in an interview setting?

- a. N (please go to question 3) b. Y (please continue to 2b)

2b. If yes, could such a question be improved by:

- a. Providing an explanation such as the one above
b. Wording the question in a different way. Please give an example of a question you would feel comfortable with _____
c. Deleting the question entirely
d. Other (please explain) _____

Questions 3 through 7 are aimed at understanding you and your family's involvement in the fishing industry, since this helps us get a sense of your experience in fishing.

3. How long have you been in commercial fishing (including the recreational for-hire sector)?
_____ years

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15a. Would a question about the level of your household indebtedness (for example, as a percentage of your household income) be too personal to ask in an interview setting?

- a. ___ N (please go to question 16) b. ___ Y (please continue to 15b)

15b. If yes, could such a question be improved by:

- a. ___ Providing an explanation such as the one above
b. ___ Wording the question in a different way. Please give an example of a question you would feel comfortable with _____
c. ___ Deleting the question entirely
d. ___ Other (please explain) _____

16a. Would a question about whether your home mortgage is tied to your vessel be too personal to ask in an interview setting?

- a. ___ N (please go to question 17) b. ___ Y (please continue to 16b)

16b. If yes, could such a question be improved by:

- a. ___ Providing an explanation such as the one above
b. ___ Wording the question in a different way. Please give an example of a question you would feel comfortable with _____
c. ___ Deleting the question entirely
d. ___ Other (please explain) _____

The next questions look at the links between community membership, and the fishing industry, and the kinds of practices that strengthen these links. The questions attempt to understand the different kinds of communities that may be important to fishermen and their families.

17. What town do you live in? _____

18. How long have you lived here? _____ years

19a. Do you consider this town a fishing community?

- a. ___ N b. ___ Y

19b. Why or why not? _____

19c. Has your view about this changed in the past few years?

- a. ___ N b. ___ Y Please explain _____

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20a. Is this community dependent on the fishing industry?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

20b. If Yes why is it dependent? _____

20c. Has your view about this changed in the past few years?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

Please explain _____

21. Would you have to move out of your town if fishing became more difficult because of more regulations? a. ___ N b. ___ Y

What else might you be able to do in your town? _____

22. Do you or your vessel participate in a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

Why or why not? _____

23. Do you or any household members participate in other community organizations?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

If so, can you describe further? _____

24. Do you have relatives who are fishermen and live in other towns than you?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y (If so, what town(s)? _____

25. Who (e.g. friends, relatives, co-workers) do you go to when you need advice:

About fishing? _____

About equipment? _____

About regulations or any other such issues? _____

26. We would like to know if the questions 17-25 let you identify your community and adequately characterize it. Are there any issues which you think are missing? _____

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Expenditure Impacts of Fishing Industry in New England

The fishing industry is not isolated from the rest of the New England economy. Commercial fishermen purchase fuel, ice, bait, insurance and other products and services from businesses that help make fishing possible. How fishermen and coastal communities are impacted by fishery regulation requires information about what fishermen buy, where they buy it and where captain and crew income is spent.

Information on what fishing businesses buy helps us understand what other types of shore-side businesses may be affected when fishing conditions change. Knowing where these businesses are located and where captain and crew live helps us understand how economic impacts are spread throughout the New England coastal region.

On the next page you will find a map of New England with several different coastal subregions identified along with towns and cities for reference. Each subregion has been identified with a number and a name. For example, subregion 2 has been called the "Upper Mid-Coast region of Maine." Altogether there are 11 coastal subregions for New England, one non-coastal region for the entire inshore part of New England (region 12), and one region for everything outside New England (region 13).

Following the map are tables for recording where you make purchases. Table 1 is for trip costs, annual repair and maintenance costs, and fixed costs. Table 2 asks for the home region of your vessel, your current crew and, if not yourself, your current captain.

If you buy goods and services from more than one region, try to give approximately what percent you purchase in each region. For example, if you operate out of Portland, Maine, then in 1999 you may have purchased 50% of your fuel within the Lower Mid-Coast region, 25% from Southern Maine and the remaining 25% from the Gloucester/North Shore region (the percentages should sum to 100). **Please use a best guess - do not go through your records.** For any listed item that you did not purchase over the course of 1999, please write a zero in the Total column for that item..

Fishing Regions of New England

with Major Fishing Ports
(region numbers for ports follow their names)



Fishing Regions by State

Counties within Each Region are Listed

Maine

- 1: Washington
- 2: Hancock, Knox, Waldo
- 3: Cumberland, Lincoln, Sagadahoc
- 4: York

New Hampshire

- 5: Hillsborough, Rockingham, Strafford

Massachusetts

- 6: Essex
- 7: Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk
- 8: Barnstable, Dukes, Nantucket
- 9: Bristol

Rhode Island

- 10: All Counties of RI

Connecticut

- 11: Fairfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London

Other regions

- 12: Near Coastal New England
- 13: Other US Regions

Table 1														
Annual Expenses	Downeast Maine	Upper Mid-Coast Maine	Lower Mid-Coast Maine	Southern Maine	New Hampshire Coast	Gloucester/North Shore	Boston/South Shore	Cape and Islands	New Bedford Area	Rhode Island	Connecticut Coast	Non-Coastal New England	Outside New England	
Region Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	Total
<i>Example</i>			50	25		25								100
Trip Needs (where bought)														
Fuel														
Ice														
Food														
Bait														
New Gear														
Repair Needs (where bought)														
Hull														
Engine														
Gear														
Electronics														
Fixed Needs (where bought)														
Insurance														
Accounting														
Legal														
Moorage														

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3. Compared to the way you would prefer to operate, have area closures shifted where you make purchases? (Check one)

a. N b. Y

If yes, what changes in your purchasing pattern have you made? _____

4. Besides area closures, are there any other regulations that have shifted where you make purchases? (Check one)

a. N b. Y

If yes, what are these regulations and what changes have you made? _____

5. Are there better ways of asking fishermen about where they make their purchases? (Check one)

a. N b. Y

If yes, what improvements do you suggest? _____

6. Are there any other questions you think fishermen want to be asked about their industry's impact on the broader New England Economy or on the economy of the Town or Port?

(Check one)

a. N b. Y

If yes, what questions do you recommend? _____

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Management and Enforcement

The following questions ask for your perspective, as a fisherman, on the fisheries management process, the use of economic information in that process, the role of fishermen in the process, and on enforcement issues. Besides getting these perspectives, we also want to know what information you feel is important for managers to understand about fishermen's roles in enforcement and fisheries management, and which management measures you view as effective. *Please use check marks and fill in with more information if appropriate.*

1. What local, informal, traditional fishing rules or codes or agreements (not federal or state regulations) affect how you fish? (**Check all that apply**)

- a. Rules that designate areas for different gears
- b. Rules for cooperation among same gear vessels
- c. Rules for first establishing a fishing area
- d. Rules for accommodating same gear vessel from somewhere else
- e. Rules or traditions for avoiding gear damage to other gears
- f. Rules or traditions to minimize waste and discards and encourage conservation
- g. Rules that limit my total effort
- h. Rules that limit when I fish
- i. Rules that limit where I fish
- j. Other rules (please list) _____
- k. _____
- l. _____
- m. _____

2. What other questions do fishermen want to be asked in order to tell their story of how they self-regulate? (**Please list**) _____

3. Do you feel your views get expressed (if not adopted) in the Formal Council/Committee management process?

- a. N b. Y

4. If no, then why not? _____

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5. Do you feel you understand the Council/Committee management system?

a. ___ N (go to 6.) b. ___ Y (go to 7.)

6. If no, what isn't clear? _____

7. How often do you express your views to the Council or a Committee of the Council in person or in writing over a year?

a. ___ Never b. ___ Seldom c. ___ Frequently

8. Do you think you understand the basics of fish population dynamics?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

9. What do you think fishermen want to know about fish population dynamics/biology that they don't already know? _____

10. Do you feel you know the important laws (like the Magnuson Act) that guide fisheries management? a. ___ N b. ___ Y

11. What do you think fishermen want to know about the laws that apply to fisheries management?

12. Do you feel you know how economic information is used in the management process?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

13. What do you think fishermen want to know about how economic information is used?

14. Do you feel you know why social/cultural information is needed in the management process?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

15. Do you know how social/cultural information is used in the management process?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

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24. Please estimate as best you can, what percent of commercial fishermen frequently VIOLATE the groundfish laws and regulations? (**Check the ONE category that is closest to your answer**)

- a. ___ Zero %
- b. ___ 1 - 4%
- c. ___ 5 - 9%
- d. ___ 10 - 24%
- e. ___ 25 - 49%
- f. ___ 50 - 74%
- g. ___ 75 - 89%
- h. ___ 90 - 94%
- i. ___ 95 - 98%
- j. ___ 99 - 100%

25. What percent of the management meetings (Council or Committee or Advisors' meetings) **that you would like to attend** are you able to get to? ___ %

26. Which of the following general tools of fisheries management do you feel are most effective in reducing fishing mortality? **Please Rank: Most effective = 1, Least effective = 6.**

- a. ___ Days At Sea (DAS) limits
- b. ___ Large and long closed areas
- c. ___ Short term closed areas
- d. ___ Mesh size regulations
- e. ___ Trip Limits
- f. ___ Overall TAC

27. Which of the following general tools of fisheries management do you feel are most difficult for a family to adjust to? **Please Rank: Most difficult to adjust to = 1, Easiest = 6.**

- a. ___ Days At Sea (DAS) limits
- b. ___ Large, long-time closed areas
- c. ___ Short term closed areas
- d. ___ Mesh size regulations
- e. ___ Trip Limits
- f. ___ Overall Quota (TAC)

28. Which of the same tools are hardest on net income or profits? **Please Rank: Most impact on net income = 1, Least impact on net income-profits = 6.**

- a. ___ Days At Sea (DAS) limits
- b. ___ Large and long closed areas
- c. ___ Short term closed areas
- d. ___ Mesh size regulations
- e. ___ Trip Limits
- f. ___ Overall TAC

29. What questions should fishermen be asked so that others understand the impacts of different kinds of regulations on their **businesses**? _____

30. What questions should fishermen be asked so that others understand the impacts of different kinds of regulations on their **families and family life**? _____

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9. If you answered (b) a new group, what would it look like? _____

10. Have you invested in equipment to increase your catch per day as your days at sea have been reduced?
a. ___ N b. ___ Y

11. If yes, what have you invested in? _____

12. When stocks recover will you reduce your fishing effort?
a. ___ N b. ___ Y

13. Can you think of a way to “bank” capacity until stocks recover?
a. ___ N b. ___ Y

14 . If yes, how? _____

15. Do you think there is too much active capacity now for stocks to recover without more regulations?
a. ___ N b. ___ Y

18. Do you think there will be too much active capacity for stocks to stay recovered when they do come back?
a. ___ N b. ___ Y

19. What questions do fishermen want to be asked about capacity? _____

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Fishing Family Assistance

These questions ask about your involvement and views on Fishing Family Assistance Programs in general and about other programs aimed at helping fishermen and their families. Your suggestions for making these programs as useful as possible is invited. *Please use check marks and fill in with more information if appropriate.*

1. Are you aware of Fishing Family Assistance type Programs?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

2. If yes, how did you become aware? _____

3. Have you ever used any of these programs?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

4. If yes, what is your opinion of them? _____

5. If no, why haven't you used them? _____

6. What do you think are the best ways to inform fishermen about the kinds of job training programs available to them? _____

7. What type of training/services would you like to see offered through these centers to fishermen experiencing a decline in fishing activity/income? _____

8. What kind of employment/career would interest you if fishing couldn't support you and your family? _____

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9. What services could Centers like this offer to fishermen who want to continue to fish?

10. Would you use a Center that provided free Internet access, computer use for resumes, want ads, and so on?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

11. Are you planning to stay in fishing?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

12. How many generations of your family have been involved in the fishing industry? ___

13. Do you fish alone?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

14. If no, how many crew members do you have now? _____

15. Were you fishing in 1994?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

16. If yes, how many others were on the boat with you back then? _____

17. Are you interested in a boat buy back?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

18. If yes, what should the buy back program do? _____

19. Are you interested in using your boat for research, charter, day hire, training or other uses?

a. ___ N b. ___ Y

20. If yes, check one or more:

a. ___ Charter b. ___ Research c. ___ Day-hire d. ___ Training e. ___ Other

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21. Would you be interested in participating in a fishermen’s round-table (discussion group, meeting) on gear conflict, new gear and technology, or some other topic?

- a. N
- b. Y

22. If yes, what topics? _____

23. What additional information do you need to better conduct your business? **Check any that apply**

- a. More about regulations
- b. Export markets
- c. Harvest techniques
- d. Grants
- e. Aquaculture
- f. Other _____
- g. Local markets
- h. Gear technology
- i. Buy backs
- j. On-board processing
- k. Retraining for yourself or a family member
- l. _____

24. Would you be interested in attending a career orientation workshop?

- a. N
- b. Y

25. Do you have health insurance?

- a. N
- b. Y

26. Do you need assistance in preparing any of the following? **Check any that apply**

- a. Loans or credit availability
- b. Bankruptcy/ foreclosure
- c. Setting up a new business
- d. Other _____

27. What other kinds of assistance or training programs do you think fishermen should be asked about? _____

Thank you very much for your time and effort!
Please return the answer sheets by using the stamped and addressed envelope.

Please enter your Multispecies Groundfish Permit Number

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