



# NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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## **SPOTTED SEATROUT IS TOP CATCH AMONG SALTWATER RECREATIONAL ANGLERS FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW**

Marine recreational anglers caught more than 36 million spotted seatrout in 2005, according to new data included in "Fisheries of the United States – 2005," a report issued this week by NOAA Fisheries Service.

Spotted seatrout was the most popular catch among marine recreational anglers in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The top catches in other regions were striped bass (North Atlantic), summer flounder (Mid-Atlantic), dolphinfish (Puerto Rico), spotted sandbass (Pacific), and convict tang (Hawaii).

The same 2007 NOAA Fisheries report showed the 2005 catch of 423 million fish was the lowest recreational catch total in the last five years. The 10-year trend for fish caught recreationally is still up by 21 percent since 1996. While anglers are keeping about 7 percent more fish than a decade ago, they are also releasing their catch much more often. Of the 423 million fish caught by anglers in 2005, 249 million (59 percent) were released alive.

Recreational fishing continues to be one of the most popular outdoor sports. In 2005, more than 12 million Americans fished along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts, roughly the same number as 2004. These anglers took nearly 83 million saltwater trips in 2005, an 11 percent increase over the previous year. The reported statistics are based on survey data collected through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) and companion state fishery surveys.

"Fisheries of the United States" is available at [www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/fus/fus05/index.html](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/fus/fus05/index.html) or by contacting the Office of Science and Technology at [Dave.Van.Voorhees@noaa.gov](mailto:Dave.Van.Voorhees@noaa.gov) or (301) 713-2328.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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NOAA Fisheries Service: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov)