



NOAA Fisheries Service Fisheries Statistics

*Monitoring and Analyzing
fishery trends and effectiveness
of management effort*

Fisheries Statistics

NOAA Fisheries Service's Fisheries Statistics Office in the Northeast Region collects fishery dependent data, monitors quotas, analyzes fishery trends, the effectiveness of fishery management plans and programs and how well management efforts meet the goals and mandates of federal legislation.

Primary Activities

The Fisheries Statistics Office, with 11 field offices throughout Northeast, supports science and management by collecting fishery dependent data (dealer and vessel reports, and biological sampling) and providing monitoring and supporting analysis of fishing trends management alternatives and economic data. Supporting analysis for fishery management plan development may include design, development and use of computer models combined with field experience and technical analysis. The Office produces weekly reports describing the current harvest levels in more than 20 fisheries and projects when target levels in these fisheries will be met.

The Northeast Fisheries Information Management System (NE FIMS) is currently housed within FSO and partners with other Regional and Center staff to develop improved systems to manage our fishery dependent information and to improve the quality of these data as well as other information.

The Office maintains the Northeast Regional federal fisheries permit program which receives, reviews and issues new and renewal permits for fishing vessels, fishermen and dealers required under the various Northeast federal fishery regulations administered by the region.

Partnerships and Collaborations

The Fisheries Statistics Office collaborates with state fishery agencies, fishery management councils, the scientific community and the industry to identify and evaluate alternative management options, measures and technologies for more effective fisheries management in the region.



Applicable Laws

The primary guiding legislation that the Fisheries Statistics Office must adhere to is the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which authorizes the federal government to regulate fishing from 3 miles offshore out to 200 miles. The Office also must ensure that their activities comply with applicable requirements of other federal laws including, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and other statutes and executive orders that govern actions involving the conservation and utilization of the region's marine resources.

In addition, the office must act in accordance with policies and procedures under the NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act and other laws and regulations, which protect the confidentiality of data submitted to and collected by NOAA Fisheries Service for use in management plan development and scientific research.

Emerging Issues and Priorities

Some new fishery management measures being implemented in the region require more detailed data and statistical analysis than was necessary under past management measures enacted in the region. For instance, individual fishing quotas which are now being used in our Sea Scallop fisheries, where individual fishermen are provided a share in the overall annual catch allowance of scallops requires collection, maintenance and analysis of more detailed data and information than was necessary under past management measures.

For more information on NOAA's Fisheries Statistics Office activities in the northeast, please visit our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/fso/>

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