

Marine Recreational Information Program & National Saltwater Angler Registry

What is the Marine Recreational Information Program?

The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is a public-private partnership working to improve saltwater recreational fishing data and provide more informed fishery conservation. A new saltwater angler registry, coming in 2010, will be an important part of this ongoing effort.

What is the National Saltwater Angler Registry?

Starting in 2010, anglers who fish in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) or who catch fish such as striped bass, American shad, hickory shad or river herring in tidal waters will have to register with the federal government's NOAA Fisheries Service. The registry will provide a much needed list of all saltwater recreational fishermen -- essentially a phonebook of all recreational fishermen that is updated each year.

Why is the registry important?

Through the registry, managers will be able to gather important information about fishing habits of recreational anglers. Information from all fishermen -- recreational as well as commercial -- is essential to managing our fisheries. It's also a way for you and your catch to be counted and support informed decisions that affect your fishing future.





Why is the registry being established?

The U.S. Congress passed a law requiring NOAA Fisheries Service to establish a national registry in order to improve the quality of fishing data.

Will there be any exemptions from the registry requirement?

If states already have a program that gathers data necessary for the registry (such as a complete saltwater fishing license that accounts for all anglers), NOAA Fisheries Service may exempt anglers from these states.

Will there be costs associated with registering?

Not initially. However, a fee may be required in 2011.

Will individuals fishing on party or charter boats have to register?

NOAA Fisheries Service is exempting individuals fishing from charter or party boats from the registration requirement. This fishing activity is accounted for in current fishery surveys of party and charter boat fishing.

What can I do?

To get more specific information about the program go to: www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov.

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office
55 Great Republic Way
Gloucester, MA 01930
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov>
978.281.9300

