



NEWSCAST

The Newsletter of the Marine Recreational Information Program

**NOAA
FISHERIES**



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The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is the way NOAA Fisheries is counting and reporting marine recreational catch and effort. It is a customer-driven initiative that not only produces better estimates, but does so through a process grounded in the principles of transparency, accountability and engagement.

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National Saltwater Angler Registry fee to increase, Call Center hours reduced

On August 1, 2013, MRIP will convert its National Saltwater Angler Registry Call Center to a message-only operation and raise the registry fee to \$25. The change affects anglers, spear fishers, and for-hire fishing vessels in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

MRIP anticipates fewer and fewer anglers will register each year, since most states now maintain their own registries. The Call Center (888-MRIP-411) will be open 7 days a week, 365 days a year between the hours of 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm EST. Now, when anglers call the Call Center off hours, they will be asked to leave a message and someone will return their call. The web-based registration option will be fully maintained and will not be affected by the Call Center changes.

As a result of this change, MRIP can redirect \$450,000 of the funds currently dedicated to the Registry to more cost-effective projects working toward producing more accurate estimates. However, even with reduced the Call Center hours, the low number of anticipated registrants means the unit cost per registration has increased. To account for these increased costs, we are obligated by federal law to increase the cost of registering to \$25.

The National Saltwater Angler Registry, in place since 2010, is actively used to test improved methods for surveying anglers' trips. To learn more and find out if you must register with the National Saltwater Angler Registry, please go to www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/register.

In the Next Newscast:

More information about the improved angler catch survey implementation.

Ask MRIP

Do you have questions about MRIP or our surveys? Ask us and we'll answer your question in an upcoming newsletter. If you've got a question about MRIP that you'd like answered, please e-mail Leah Sharpe at Leah.Sharpe@noaa.gov.

[NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program](#) | Leah.Sharpe@noaa.gov
