



# NEWSCAST

The Newsletter of the Marine Recreational Information Program

**NOAA  
FISHERIES**



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## IN THIS ISSUE

[MRIP Online Project Listing](#)

[March-April Catch Estimates Available](#)

[Data Review and Quality Checks](#)

[Custom MRIP Estimates](#)

[Final Angler Registry Rule](#)

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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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### For More Information:

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## New online project listing allows for easier searching

Curious about what MRIP is working on? MRIP now has a searchable online database of all MRIP-funded pilot projects. The database will allow users to search project titles and view project descriptions and objectives, monthly project updates, and final project reports. Access to current projects makes it easier to follow MRIP's research into new program improvements as they are occurring and access to past projects gives you details behind the improvements that MRIP has already implemented. This in-depth information allows users to better understand the changes MRIP has made and learn about changes we are exploring for the future. View projects online at <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/mdms/public/public.jsp>.

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## Catch estimates from March-April now available

Preliminary catch estimates from Wave 2 (March-April) are now available on the MRIP query tool. Preliminary estimates are typically available a month and a half after the end of the preceding wave.

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## NOAA Fisheries meets with states to conduct data review and quality checks

Data collection partners from NOAA Fisheries, the Atlantic Coast states, and our contractors met in Baltimore, Maryland this past week to review survey performance, survey data, and preliminary statistical estimates arising from the first 4 months of 2012 data collection. The Wave Meeting (named after our regular two-month sampling period or wave) is a regular feature of MRIP's quality assurance program. For more information about upcoming wave meetings, contact Tom Sminkey at [tom.sminkey@noaa.gov](mailto:tom.sminkey@noaa.gov).

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## Custom MRIP estimates now available

Data customers now have the ability to produce catch statistics for smaller geographic areas within states. This capability was designed to better meet the needs of those customers interested in monitoring the catches of separate stocks of fish species, like black sea bass, that are separated by sub-state boundaries (e.g., north and south of Hatteras in North Carolina).

The newly available downloads will also allow customers to access MRIP catch and effort statistics and survey design variables for the 2004-2011 Atlantic and Gulf catch data collected by the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey. These data sets contain the sampling weights that were used in the recent re-estimation of catches for 2004-2011, which customers can use to conduct additional analyses. Downloads are available online at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/downloads.html>

For more information, contact Lauren Dolinger Few at [lauren.dolinger.few@noaa.gov](mailto:lauren.dolinger.few@noaa.gov).

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## Final Angler Registry Rule Published in Federal Register

Based on its experience with administering the National Saltwater Angler Registry and State Exemption Program (NSAR) and input from states and the National Saltwater Angler Registry Team, NOAA Fisheries has made minor revisions to the NSAR regulations. These revisions are needed to clarify and update certain provisions as follows: 1) Eliminate duplicative permitting and registration requirements for holders of Main Hawaiian Islands non-commercial bottomfish permits; 2) Provide that states that exempt minors under the age of 17 from the state license or registration requirements will be eligible for Exempted State designation; 3) Allow for the designation of the U.S. Virgin Islands as an Exempted State under the qualifying regional survey option of the rule; and 4) Clarify and update various provisions of the rule. These revisions have undergone public comment and the final version of the rule was published in the Federal Register this week.

View the final rule at <http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/>.

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## 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](mailto:Leah.Sharpe@noaa.gov).

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