



# NEWSCAST

The Newsletter of the Marine Recreational Information Program

NOAA  
FISHERIES



## June 16, 2014 IN THIS ISSUE

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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.

### For More Information:

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## The National Saltwater Angler Registry: Who Needs to Register?

### Overview

The National Saltwater Angler Registry (NSAR) was created by Congress in 2006 to help NOAA gauge the overall health of marine fisheries. This national directory, or "phone book," of saltwater fishermen is a key part of the MRIP process to improve the way we gather, analyze, and report recreational fishing data. The information collected improves the efficiency of our surveys and ultimately helps to preserve recreational fishing for anglers, fishing businesses, coastal communities, and millions of Americans whose lives and livelihoods are connected to saltwater fishing.

### How does MRIP use Registry data?

The Registry data is an important source of information for the MRIP "effort" surveys, which we use to estimate how many fishing trips people make. Having an up-to-date database of licensed anglers makes it easier to effectively target our surveys to saltwater anglers, as opposed to randomly calling coastal households who may not fish. This allows us to gather better information about recreational fisheries as a whole.

### SHOULD I REGISTER?

**Nearly everyone who fishes in salt water DOES NOT need to register with the NATIONAL registry.** That's because almost all states now require some sort of licensing or registration to fish in salt water. The information collected by the states is **shared** with NOAA Fisheries. This includes full-season and temporary (weekend, three-day, 10-day, etc.) licenses or registrations. Therefore, the holders of state licenses and registrations are automatically included in the national registry.

### Who DOES need to register with the National Saltwater Angler Registry?

Persons who are angling or spear fishing in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone or are fishing for anadromous species (e.g. striped bass, salmon, shad) in any tidal waters, **unless they fall into one of the exempt categories below.**

### Who ***DOES NOT*** need to register?

Saltwater anglers and spearfishers who:

- hold a current, valid saltwater recreational fishing license or registration issued by any state or U.S. territory
- are fishing in the waters adjacent to Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands
- are 15 years or younger
- *only* fish on state or federally permitted charter, party, or guide boats
- hold a valid Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Angling Category permit
- are fishing commercially under a valid state or federal commercial license

If you still aren't sure whether you fall under these exemption categories, [this link](#) can help you determine if you need to register.

### How much does registering cost?

For most people, there is a **\$25 nonrefundable fee** for NSAR registration, and you can **register and fish the same day**.

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### In the Next Newscast:

Hear what it's like to be an Access Point Angler Intercept Survey sampler

Learn what MRIP is doing to ensure a smooth transition to potential changes in catch and effort estimates resulting from implementation of improved survey methods

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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).