Earlier this year, we surveyed more than 9,000 saltwater anglers from 22 coastal states as part of our first-ever nationwide survey of saltwater angler attitudes and opinions related to fishing quality and management.

Why?

We want to know what matters to you.
3 Things to Remember

1. Our goal is to provide trusted information.

2. These results deliver on our commitment to the saltwater angling community and...

3. Contribute to the ongoing conversation.
Key Findings

1. Anglers are optimistic about the future.
2. Anglers go fishing for a variety of reasons.
3. Anglers prefer management that protects access and opportunity.
4. Anglers would like management to improve.
5. Anglers support marine conservation.
Anglers are optimistic about future fishing opportunities.

81% Plan to take the same number or more trips next year as last.
Anglers are optimistic about future fishing opportunities.

Of those who say they’ll take fewer trips next year, they cite:

- **Gulf**:
  - Availability of leisure time: 29%
  - Fishing trip costs: 34%
  - Fishing regulations: 36%

- **South Atlantic**:
  - Availability of leisure time: 38%
  - Fishing trip costs: 26%
Anglers fish for a variety of reasons.

- Time with friends and family: 87%
- Catching fish: 83%
- Landing a trophy-sized fish: 41%
- Taking a fish home to eat: 41%
Anglers fish for a variety of reasons.

- **Time with friends and family**: GULF: 90%, S. ATLANTIC: 88%
- **Catching fish**: GULF: 87%, S. ATLANTIC: 85%
- **Taking a fish home to eat**: GULF: 45%, S. ATLANTIC: 41%
- **Target particular species**: GULF: 46%, S. ATLANTIC: 41%
- **Catch the bag limit**: GULF: 37%, S. ATLANTIC: 26%

National Averages:
- Time with friends and family: 87%
- Catching fish: 83%
- Taking a fish home to eat: 41%
- Target particular species: 52%
- Catch the bag limit: 32%
Fishing is about both access and opportunity.

Anglers would like management to provide:

- High quality areas
- Diversity of fish species
- Availability of abundant fish
Fishing is about both access and opportunity.

Anglers prefer management strategies that preserve fishing opportunities:

**Minimum sizes**

**Artificial habitats**

**Bag limits**

**Closed areas**

**Shorter seasons**

**Gear restrictions**
Fishing is about both access and opportunity.

We asked Gulf anglers…
Should managers divide the recreational harvest limit among private and for-hire sectors.
Management can improve.

- Provide more fish.
- Better incorporate angler input in decision-making.
- Use high-quality data in assessments.
- Enforce regulations.
- Ensure consistent state/fed regulations.
- Make regulations simpler.

Do harvest limits provide enough fish?

- Satisfied: 30%
- Unsatisfied: 21%
- Neutral/Undecided: 49%
Management can improve.

- Provide more fish.
- Better incorporate angler input in decision-making.
- Use high-quality data in assessments.
- Enforce regulations.
- Ensure consistent state/fed regulations.
- Make regulations simpler.

84% Important to have my voice heard.
29% Satisfied my perspective is adequately considered.
Management can improve.

Top 3 issues where anglers were most DISSATISFIED with current management:

1. Adjusting regulations in a timely manner to address changing fishery conditions.
2. Ensuring consistency between state/federal regulations.
3. Incorporating stakeholder interests in policy-making.

1. Ensuring harvest limit provides enough fish for anglers.
2. Ensuring consistency between state/federal regulations.
3. Incorporating stakeholder interests in policy-making.
Management can improve.

How satisfied are you that managers use high-quality data in assessments?

**Gulf of Mexico**
- Extremely satisfied: 15%
- Somewhat satisfied: 14%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 22%
- Not satisfied at all: 29%
- Neutral: 11%
- Unsure: 10%

**South Atlantic**
- Extremely satisfied: 18%
- Somewhat satisfied: 14%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 23%
- Not satisfied at all: 30%
- Neutral: 7%
- Unsure: 8%
Anglers support marine conservation.

95% Believe it’s important to ensure high quality fishing for future generations.

Support for conservation goals:
- Recovering depleted fish stocks: 92%
- Protecting threatened and endangered species: 91%
- Restoring Habitat: 87%
- Reducing mortality of released fish: 83%
To Be Continued...

Regional results and more in-depth analysis forthcoming.

What are we missing? Share your thoughts and keep the conversation going @
- 2014 Saltwater Fishing Summit
- Online on Facebook and Twitter
- Regional rec fishing coordinators

www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov #AnglerReaction