



NOAA FISHERIES

The **Marine Recreational Information Program**, or **MRIP**, is the state-regional-federal partnership responsible for developing, improving, and implementing surveys that measure how many trips saltwater anglers take, and how many fish they catch. This vital information – combined with other data, such as commercial catch and biological research – enables scientists and managers to assess and maintain sustainable U.S. fish stocks.

Without samplers, this program does not work.

You get the data that fuels the science to effectively manage fisheries. When the opportunity presents itself, you can help set the tone for angler trust and engagement. Please use this handout as a guide for helping recreational anglers better understand MRIP.



Sampler Guide to Answering Questions about MRIP

Succinctly answer the “what” and “who” questions

What are you doing?

I'm surveying fishermen to help make sure we have an accurate accounting of the number, size, and species of fish recreational anglers are catching.

Who do you work for?

I work for (state natural resource agency), but we're all part of a larger partnership among state, regional, and federal agencies called MRIP.

What is MRIP?

MRIP is the state-regional-federal partnership that's responsible for estimating how many trips recreational fishermen take and how many fish they catch on those trips.

Refer anglers to handouts for “why” or “how” questions

Your job will remain focused on data collection, not outreach. There are other people who can give complete, in-depth answers to questions including:

- **Why do you use surveys and not talk to everyone?**
- **How is this information used?**
- **Why haven't I been sampled before?**

You can answer:

That's a great question and it's important that you get a straight answer. But I'm not the best person to do that. I'd love to give you this card that has a bit more information that helps explain all this, and a website, www.countmyfish.noaa.gov, where you can get more information and hear directly from the people who run this important program.