

Fast Facts for Puerto Rico Fishermen



National Saltwater Angler Registry

Many saltwater recreational anglers fishing in Puerto Rico are required to register before they fish. Here's what you need to know:

You **MUST** register if you:

- 🐟 Fish in federal waters more than nine miles offshore, **and**
- 🐟 Do not meet any of the exemptions under the law.

You are **EXEMPT** if you:

- 🐟 Are under 16, **or**
- 🐟 Fish **ONLY** within state waters (less than 9 nautical miles from the coast), **or**
- 🐟 Fish **ONLY** on charter boats duly licensed by DNER, **or**
- 🐟 Hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling permit, **or**
- 🐟 Are fishing commercially under a valid license, **or**
- 🐟 Have automatically registered by getting a saltwater license or registration from any state or territory other than New Jersey, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or the USVI.

You can register and fish **TODAY** at:

www.countmyfish.noaa.gov or by calling
1-888-MRIP-411. (1-888-674-7411).

Your \$25 registry fee helps cover the cost of running the program.



MAKE YOUR CATCH COUNT!
www.countmyfish.noaa.gov

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the purpose of the Registry?

The Registry will serve as a national “directory” of recreational anglers, allowing NOAA to quickly and easily reach current fishermen to learn about their most recent fishing activities. That information is a crucial part of our ability to estimate the health of fish stocks, and to check that protections put in place to preserve fisheries will be fair, effective, and based on sound science. The registry is also a tool for recreational fishermen. As the first full accounting of the scope of recreational saltwater fishing in the U.S., it will help to more fully demonstrate anglers’ economic, conservation and marine stewardship impacts.

Is there a fee for registering?

Yes. The fee for registering is \$15. These funds go to the Federal treasury and are intended to cover the cost of implementing the Registry program.

How does the Registry benefit fishermen?

Numerous pressures like pollution, climate change, and in some cases overfishing, have made the work of fisheries managers – and the data they rely upon – more important than ever. With the data necessary to effectively manage fisheries in hand, NOAA and our partners can ensure that the nation’s tradition of saltwater recreational fishing will remain strong and vibrant into the future.

I’ve never been surveyed. So how does the Registry make my catch count?

NOAA uses the Registry to conduct surveys that estimate fishing “effort,” or how many fishing trips take place during a given period. Not every fisherman will be contacted about their effort, but having a complete list of all fishermen helps make the surveys we conduct more reliable. NOAA estimates “catch” – or the size, type and numbers of fish caught – through a separate process, called dockside sampling.

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