



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# Estimating Large Pelagic Catch in Maine

## What Captains and Anglers Need to Know

**HMS permit holders are required to participate in the LPS.**

NOAA Fisheries' **Large Pelagics Survey** collects data from recreational trips targeting **tuna, sharks, swordfish, and other offshore species** from Maine to Virginia.

In Maine, the survey is conducted in partnership with the Department of Marine Resources.

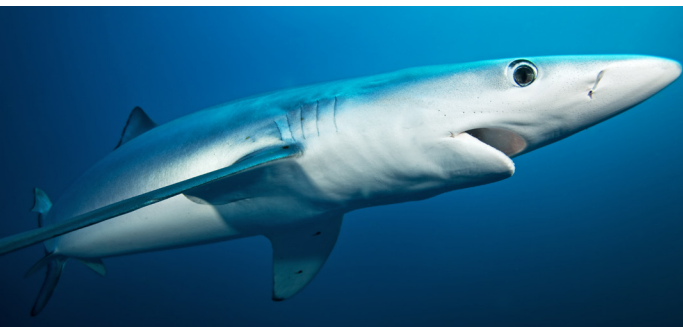


Photo: Shutterstock

In addition to the LPS, you may also be required to participate in other data collection programs. Together, they provide a more complete understanding of the health of large pelagic stocks, and **help keep these fisheries sustainable.**

**Your fishing counts!**  
[maine.gov/dmr](http://maine.gov/dmr)

# Better **Data,** Better **Fishing** You make it possible

The Large Pelagics Survey has three parts:



An **intercept survey** is used to estimate **catch and release rates**.



A **telephone survey** of HMS permit holders is used to estimate the **number of fishing trips**, or effort.

These data are combined to produce species-specific estimates of **total catch and release**.



Photo: NOAA Fisheries



A **biological survey** collects otoliths, muscle tissue, and other samples from high-priority large pelagics like bluefin tuna. These data help NOAA Fisheries assess a stock's age structure, population genetics, and growth and reproduction rates.

[countmyfish.noaa.gov](https://countmyfish.noaa.gov)