Better Data, Better Fishing
For-Hire Captains, Crew, and Clients Make It Happen

When you participate in recreational fishing surveys, you’re making a vital contribution to the assessment and management of U.S. fish stocks. Information about what’s being caught, kept, and released by recreational anglers is fundamental to the health of our fisheries and the future of recreational fishing.

Charter and Headboat Fishing Counts
Your catch and effort data help scientists assess the size and health of fish populations and the overall impact of the for-hire industry. Managers use this information to pass regulations that support the long-term sustainability of stocks—and for-hire fishing. Economic data allow managers to evaluate the effects of those regulations and assess disaster costs.

Estimating Total For-Hire Catch

\[
\text{CATCH RATE} \times \text{EFFORT} = \text{TOTAL CATCH}
\]

- Estimated number of fish caught per angler trip
- Estimated number of angler trips
- Estimated total number of fish caught

The conservation and management of U.S. fish stocks rely on accurate estimates of total recreational catch, which can only happen with the support and cooperation of for-hire captains, crew, and their clients.

Learn more about recreational fishing data collection at countmyfish.noaa.gov
Atlantic and Gulf For-Hire Data Collection Programs

Different data collection programs gather different pieces of information about for-hire fishing activity. Telephone surveys and trip reports are often paired with in-person shoreside intercepts to validate the information captains report. Taken together, these complementary programs provide a more complete picture of for-hire catch than any single program could.

**LARGE PELAGICS SURVEY***
Collects catch and effort data from private and charter boats targeting large pelagic species from **Maine** to **Virginia**.

**ACCESS POINT ANGLER INTERCEPT SURVEY***
Collects catch data from shore, private boat, and for-hire anglers from **Maine** to **Mississippi**.

**FOR-HIRE SURVEY***
Collects effort data from for-hire vessels from **Maine** to **Mississippi**.

**SOUTHEAST REGION HEADBOAT SURVEY‡**
Collects catch and effort data from federally permitted headboats from **North Carolina** to **Texas**.

**GREATER ATLANTIC VESSEL TRIP REPORTS†**
Collects catch and effort data from federally permitted for-hire vessels with **New England** and **Mid-Atlantic** permits, regardless of waters fished.

**SOUTHEAST FOR-HIRE INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC REPORTING PROGRAM§**
Collects catch, effort, and economic data from federally permitted for-hire vessels with **South Atlantic** and **Gulf of Mexico** permits, regardless of waters fished.

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* Administered by NOAA Fisheries’ Office of Science and Technology.
† Administered by Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office.
‡ Administered by Southeast Fisheries Science Center.
§ Administered by Southeast Regional Office.