



# NOAA FISHERIES

## What are fisheries independent data?

These data are collected from research trawl surveys and species specific studies. They provide information about ecosystem conditions, species abundance and richness, and fisheries characteristics like age and sexual maturity. They are collected from state and federal waters.

### Survey data sources

- Bottom Trawl Survey
- Atlantic Shrimp Survey
- Atlantic Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog Survey
- Sea Scallop Survey/Integrated Benthic Survey
- NEAMAP
- Surveys in state waters by state agencies and university partners.

## What data are used in stock assessments?

Stock assessments provide a picture of the health of a fish stock. Information they provide describes the size, age, and ability to reproduce of the stock. They tell us how many mature fish are in population, and how many are removed by fishing and by natural causes.

## Are fishermen’s data used in stock assessments?

Fishermen’s data are the back bone of stock assessments. These data describe who catches fish, how, and where, and provide information about the fish: the length and ages, which provide information about growth.

WHO	COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN and DEALERS	RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN
WHAT	Total catch in landings and discards; the weight, lengths, biological information; what gear is used, and where people fish.	What species, how many, and where they were caught and discarded. How many and what type of fishing trips were taken.
HOW	Dealer reports, vessel trip reports (VTRs), State landing records, Observers, Biological samples from port samplers.	Recreational angler surveys, coastal household telephone surveys, state angler surveys
DESCRIBE	What type and how many fish are kept and discarded, how large and how old they were, how and where they were caught.	

## Management Needs Determine Stock Assessment Type

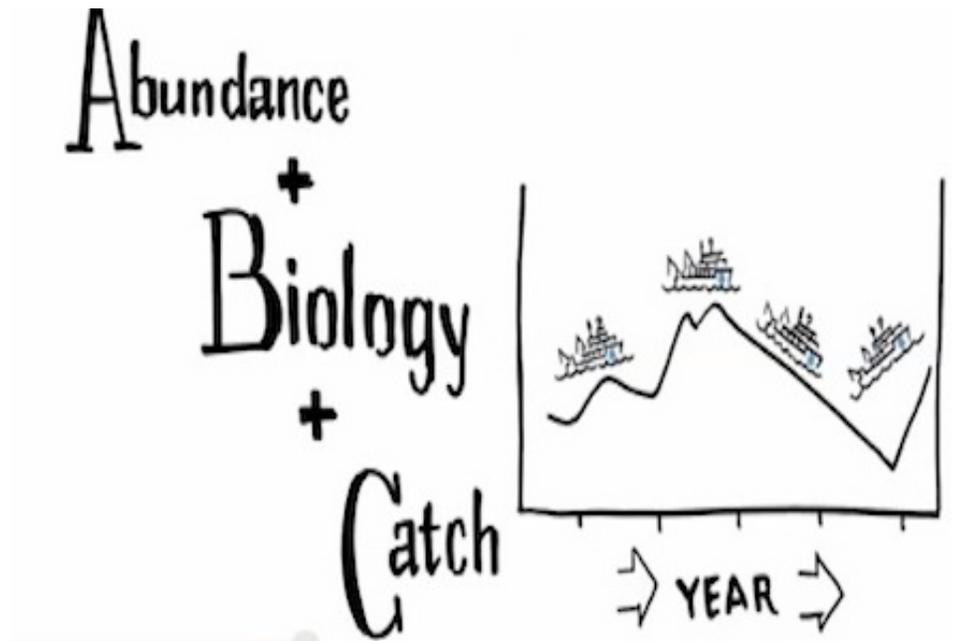
### Simple Assessments

For fisheries with a few participants or low catch, information that describes how many fish are present relative to other species and catch can be sufficient.

These assessments use research survey data AND/OR commercial catch data.

### Complex Assessments

For fisheries that are intensely harvested, we need assessments that provide detailed information about where, how many, and how old the stocks are. These are **analytical assessments**, and use complex mathematical and statistical models that link size to age and this to the stock population. These models also balance catch with the stock's ability to reproduce.



For more information:

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