

Estimating Large Pelagic Catch

What Anglers Need to Know

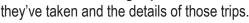
The **Large Pelagics Survey** collects data from private and for-hire fishing trips targeting tuna,

HMS permit holders are required to participate in the LPS.

sharks, billfish, swordfish, mahi, wahoo, and other offshore species. The survey is conducted from Maine to Virginia, and has three components: intercept, telephone, and biological.

The **intercept survey** produces species-specific estimates of **catch and release rates**, based on information collected from private and for-hire vessels returning to public fishing access sites.

The telephone survey produces estimates of total fishing effort, based on information collected from a sample of Atlantic Highly Migratory Species permit holders about the number of fishing trips



Information from these two surveys is combined to produce species-specific estimates of **total catch** and release.



Keeping Large Pelagics Sustainable

As an angler or captain targeting large pelagics, you may be required to participate in more than one data collection program, from state catch cards to online landings reports.

Together, these programs provide fisheries scientists with a more complete understanding of large pelagic stocks, and ensure U.S. and international fisheries managers have the information they need to help keep stocks sustainable.

Biological Survey

When an angler lands a bluefin tuna, a biological sampler may be called to collect length and weight data, otoliths, muscle tissue, and other samples that help NOAA Fisheries assess a stock's age structure, population genetics, growth, and reproduction rates.



Better Data, Fishing You make it possible