



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# 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** they've taken and the details of those trips.



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

**Your fishing counts!**  
[countmyfish.noaa.gov](https://countmyfish.noaa.gov)

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

**countmyfish.noaa.gov**