



Photo: Jeff Kneebone

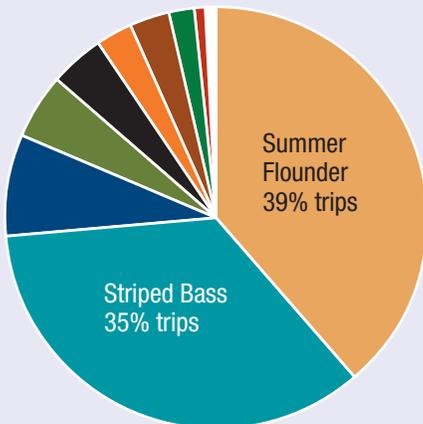
NEW YORK
NEW JERSEY
DELAWARE
MARYLAND
VIRGINIA

Saltwater Recreational Fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic

**FISHING TRIPS
IN THE MID-ATLANTIC**
11% For Hire
49% Private
40% Shore

Primary Target Species

Nearly two thirds (63%) of all recreational fishing trips in the Mid-Atlantic targeted these 10 popular recreational species. Of those trips, the primary target species breakdown is as follows:



- Bluefish 8% trips
- Atlantic Croaker 5% trips
- Black Sea Bass 4% trips
- Tautog 3% trips
- Porgies 3% trips
- Spot 2% trips
- Weakfish <1% trips
- Winter Flounder <1% trips

Source: Marine Recreational Information Program

Whether it's sportfishing for striped bass, casting for bluefish, or deep dropping for tilefish, saltwater recreational fishing has always been a natural part of coastal life in the Mid-Atlantic region. The waters of the Mid-Atlantic are home to some of the nation's most sought after saltwater recreational species, including bluefish and summer flounder, which are pursued by millions of anglers each year. In partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and its member states, NOAA Fisheries is working to ensure sustainable and enduring saltwater fishing opportunities along the East Coast.

Popular Recreational Species in the Mid-Atlantic*

2015 Species	Total Catch NUMBERS OF FISH	Harvested Released	CAUGHT IN STATE WATERS	CAUGHT IN FEDERAL WATERS
Summer flounder	10,866,000		86%	14%
Atlantic croaker	7,973,000		98%	2%
Striped bass	6,358,000		>99%	<1%
Black sea bass	6,332,000		68%	32%
Scup (Porgies)	4,251,000		98%	2%
Bluefish	4,247,000		92%	8%
Spot	2,241,000		100%	0%
Tautog	2,101,000		85%	15%
Weakfish	547,000		>99%	<1%
Winter flounder	29,000		96%	4%

Source: Fisheries Economics of the United States 2015.

*Data from North Carolina is included in the South Atlantic fact sheet. Data on tuna, billfish, swordfish, and sharks is included in the Highly Migratory Species fact sheet.



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

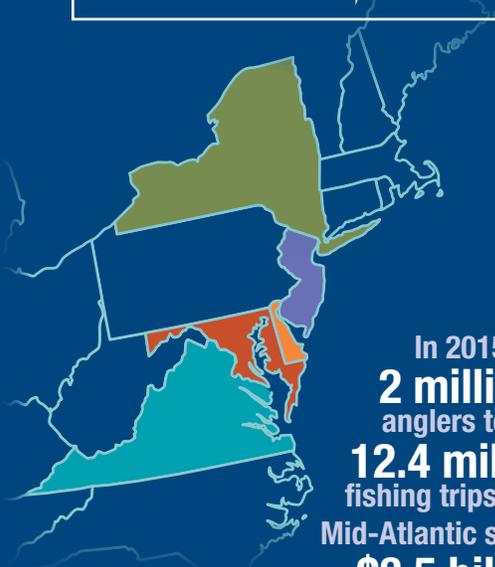
2015 Economic Impacts in the Mid-Atlantic

PIE CHART KEY



State Waters Contributions

Federal Waters Contributions



In 2015
2 million
anglers took
12.4 million
fishing trips in the
Mid-Atlantic spending
\$3.5 billion
on trips and durable goods

NEW YORK

Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$780M

Total Sales Impacts: \$873.94M

Total Jobs: 7,844

Sales Impacts from Fishing Trips: \$211.95M



Jobs from Fishing Trips: 1,665



NEW JERSEY

Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$1.46B

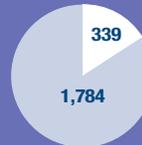
Total Sales Impacts: \$1.84B

Total Jobs: 16,096

Sales Impacts from Fishing Trips: \$298.25M



Jobs from Fishing Trips: 2,123



DELAWARE

Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$103.97M

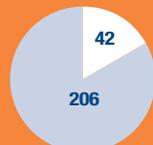
Total Sales Impacts: \$100.50M

Total Jobs: 968

Sales Impacts from Fishing Trips: \$28.04M



Jobs from Fishing Trips: 248



MARYLAND

Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$716.12M

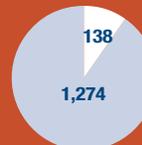
Total Sales Impacts: \$723.67M

Total Jobs: 6,999

Sales Impacts from Fishing Trips: \$146.93M



Jobs from Fishing Trips: 1,412



VIRGINIA

Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$466.04M

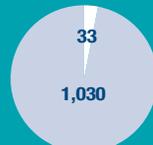
Total Sales Impacts: \$520.95M

Total Jobs: 5,263

Sales Impacts from Fishing Trips: \$107.51M



Jobs from Fishing Trips: 1,063



Sources: Fisheries Economics of the United States 2015, Marine Recreational Information Program

DIVING DEEPER

Black Sea Bass



New science confirms what fishermen are telling us: black sea bass have become increasingly abundant in the Mid-Atlantic region in recent years. While this is great news, a combination of factors makes management of black sea bass challenging. First, with more fish available to fishermen, black sea bass are caught more quickly and by more people. This makes it difficult to stay under established catch limits throughout the fishing year. Second, it is difficult to determine the size of the black sea bass population, which is essential for setting catch limits. Under certain circumstances, some females will change sex and become males, which makes estimating the number of reproductive females difficult. Also, the center of the black sea bass population appears to be shifting northward, perhaps in association with changing ocean temperatures and habitat loss. While the black sea bass fishery faces several challenges, NOAA Fisheries is actively working with our Council, Commission, and state partners to manage these challenges.

LEARN MORE

In the Greater Atlantic Region, NOAA Fisheries works closely with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission and its member states to cooperative manage recreational fisheries. For more information visit NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Region website.

Moira Kelly: Greater Atlantic Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, moira.kelly@noaa.gov, (978) 281-9218

Dr. Earl Meredith: Northeast Fisheries Science Center Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, earl.meredith@noaa.gov, (978) 281-9276