Whether it’s sportfishing for fluke and black sea 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 Species</th>
<th>Total Catch (number of fish)</th>
<th>Harvested Released</th>
<th>Caught in State Waters</th>
<th>Caught in Federal Waters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black sea bass</td>
<td>32,212,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scup</td>
<td>26,037,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Flounder</td>
<td>25,892,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot</td>
<td>24,887,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic croaker</td>
<td>19,790,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>19,523,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>16,780,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tautog</td>
<td>10,794,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>938,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>91,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Flounder</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Marine Recreational Information Program, Catch estimates calculated using Fishing Effort Survey data.

*Striped bass are managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and fishing for and possession of striped bass is prohibited in federal waters. For more on striped bass management visit [http://www.asmfc.org/species/atlantic-striped-bass](http://www.asmfc.org/species/atlantic-striped-bass).
Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing

**NEW YORK**
- Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $1.17B
- Total Sales Impacts: $1.15B
- Total Jobs: 11,410
  - Impacts From Fishing Trips
    - Sales: $473.32M
    - Jobs: 5,739

**NEW JERSEY**
- Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $1.51B
- Total Sales Impacts: $1.88B
- Total Jobs: 14,478
  - Impacts From Fishing Trips
    - Sales: $562.30M
    - Jobs: 3,707

**DELAWARE**
- Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $190.91M
- Total Sales Impacts: $182.35M
- Total Jobs: 1,672
  - Impacts From Fishing Trips
    - Sales: $97.35M
    - Jobs: 849

**MARYLAND**
- Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $827.58M
- Total Sales Impacts: $846.57M
- Total Jobs: 8,048
  - Impacts From Fishing Trips
    - Sales: $323.15M
    - Jobs: 3,491

**VIRGINIA**
- Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: $668.22M
- Total Sales Impacts: $746.38M
- Total Jobs: 7,176
  - Impacts From Fishing Trips
    - Sales: $312.40M
    - Jobs: 2,943

In 2017
1.9 million anglers took
46 million fishing trips in the
Mid-Atlantic spending
$4.4 billion on trips and durable goods

Diving Deeper

**PRIVATE ANGLER DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM**

Recreational catch of golden and blueline tilefish in the mid-Atlantic is considered a rare event that is not well captured by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) surveys. To better understand how many anglers participate in this fishery and how many fish are caught, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council approved measures to create a new federal vessel permit and reporting requirement for private recreational vessels that fish for golden or blueline tilefish. Once these measures are established, anglers will report all golden or blueline tilefish that are caught during a trip targeting these species through electronic vessel trip report applications. These reports will provide the Council with valuable information about the scope of the recreational tilefish fishery. This will help better integrate the recreational aspect of the fishery in stock assessment models leading to better management of the species.

**LEARN MORE**

In the Greater Atlantic Region, NOAA Fisheries works closely with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and their member states. For more information visit [https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/new-england-mid-atlantic](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/new-england-mid-atlantic).

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

Scott Steinback: Northeast Fisheries Science Center Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, scott.steinback@noaa.gov, (508) 495-4701

Angler with golden tilefish