



What is CAP?

The Coastal Angling Program (CAP) oversees a variety of recreational fishing sampling and survey programs run by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. It includes mail, telephone and online surveys of anglers who hold a Coastal Recreational Fishing License, and in-person interviews of anglers at boat ramps, beaches, and piers. The CAP also coordinates sampling of upper estuarine river species (striped bass and shad) and participates in the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), a national fisheries survey program.

What is the Goal of CAP?

The goal of CAP is to improve the quality and quantity of recreational fisheries data, thereby improving the precision of estimates of catch and effort. Information gathered through CAP is essential for the development of the State's Fishery Management Plans.



What Type of Questions are on CAP Surveys?

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries conducts a variety of surveys throughout the year. These surveys ask for information such as where an angler fished, how many fish they caught, what type of gear they used, and how many fish they threw back.



How does this Information get Used?

Information collected from anglers is very important. This data helps biologists and fisheries managers assess the health of fish populations and determine what size and bag limits or seasons are needed to ensure sustainable fish populations. The landings data and fish lengths and weights are critical in the development of Stock Assessments, the backbone of the State's Fishery Management Plans.

Learn more about CAP at:

www.ncrecfish.com



COASTAL ANGLING PROGRAM

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES STATISTICS





Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)

Data is collected in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). MRIP surveys collect information on fishing effort and catch, including fish lengths and weights, and socioeconomic characteristics of recreational saltwater finfish fisheries. The CAP participates in the following MRIP surveys:

Access-Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS)

Division staff conduct in-person interviews at public boat ramps, marinas, beaches, piers and other fishing access points. Staff are randomly assigned to sites based on recreational fishing activity and cover both daytime and nighttime fishing. The CAP enhances APAIS in North Carolina by increasing the level of sampling with an interview target of 20,000 angler intercepts per year.

For-Hire Survey (FHS)

This survey estimates recreational saltwater fishing effort by for-hire charter boats. North Carolina has approximately 700 active vessels that are randomly surveyed weekly throughout the year.

Large Pelagic Biological Sampling (LPBS)

In North Carolina, this survey collects biological data from bluefin tuna. Division staff take samples of fish to determine age and assist scientists with genetic studies.

Highly Migratory Species (HMS)

Recreational anglers must complete a catch card of their harvest for the following species: bluefin tuna, blue and white marlin, sailfish, roundscale spearfish, and swordfish. Additionally, anglers are encouraged to voluntarily report shark landings.



Anadromous Creel Survey

The CAP partners with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (WRC) on an anadromous creel survey to interview recreational anglers in the estuarine and upper regions of the Tar-Pamlico, Pungo, Neuse, Trent and Cape Fear rivers. This survey focuses on angler participation in fisheries targeting striped bass and shad.



Mail Surveys

Mail surveys allow CAP to collect data on catch and effort from specialized recreational fisheries. These surveys are conducted bimonthly with participants randomly selected based on their Coastal Recreational Fishing License. Ongoing CAP mail surveys include the following:

- 1) Recreational Cast net and Seine Survey
- 2) Recreational Flounder Giggling Survey
- 3) Recreational Crab and Shellfish Survey



How does CAP Collect Recreational Fisheries Data?

Recreational fisheries data is dynamic, meaning it is constantly changing based on species, gear types, locations, weather, etc. The CAP utilizes sampling and survey programs that effectively and efficiently collect data from anglers participating in fishing activities on the coastal and estuarine waters of North Carolina. This brochure outlines specific sampling programs and survey partnerships with other state and federal agencies.

