

## Chapter V: NC RECREATIONAL SALTWATER ACTIVITY MAIL SURVEYS

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## **PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

### The Coastal Angling Program

The mission of the Coastal Angling Program (CAP) is to systematically collect recreational fisheries data using the best available scientific methods to accurately quantify and describe recreationally important marine fisheries of North Carolina.

Effective fisheries management requires accurate information on the number and size distributions of fisheries stocks. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) mandates a national program for management of fishery resources in the ocean zone known as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), or the area between 3 to 200 miles from shore. The MSFCMA also requires fishery management plans consider both recreational and commercial fisheries as well as their harvests.

The North Carolina Fisheries Reform Act of 1997 mandated the development of fishery management plans (FMPs) for fisheries of importance to North Carolina. The data collected and the estimates of finfish harvest and angler participation generated by CAP play a key role in the FMP development process. These data and estimates also play a critical role in DMF's compliance with the MSFCMA and the North Carolina Fisheries Reform Act.

To accomplish this mission, CAP oversees the following data collection initiatives:

- Marine Recreational Information Program
- Anadromous Creel Surveys
- Recreational Saltwater Activity Mail Surveys

### **Recreational Saltwater Activity Mail Surveys**

Broad-based intercept surveys are commonly developed to produce estimates of recreational finfish harvest by hook and line activity among anglers. However, some saltwater-related recreational fishing activities are commonly overlooked in these surveys and include the use of alternative gear(s) such as gigs, cast nets, and seines as well as harvest of shellfish (e.g., crabs, clams, and oysters). In May of 2010, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) began a mail survey for developing catch and effort estimates of recreational gigging activity. In October of 2010, an additional mail survey was implemented to develop catch and effort estimates for shellfish including: crabs, clams, and oysters. In October of 2011, a survey for cast net and seine use was implemented. All three mail surveys are currently being conducted in North Carolina and are similar in design, methodology, and estimate computations. To date, methods to calculate catch and effort estimates have been developed and applied for gigging, cast net and seine use, and shellfish.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) holders who purchase their license online, at a North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) vendor, or at NCDMF or NCWRC offices are asked four questions regarding their participation in their saltwater recreational fishing activities. In addition, lifetime license holders who have purchased a hunting and/or inland fishing license prior to the implementation of the CRFL are asked the same questions when updating their contact information.

These questions are:

- Do you flounder gig?
- Do you use cast nets or seines?
- Do you harvest crabs?
- Do you harvest oysters or clams?

For each survey activity, a subsample of approximately 1,300 anglers are chosen from among those who answered affirmatively to the respective saltwater activity question and whose license was valid at least one day during the prior two months. Each member of the sample is sent a letter and paper survey at the beginning of the month. This letter informs the license holder that they have been chosen to participate in the survey; it also explains the purpose of the survey and how the license holder can participate. The license holder is provided instructions on how to complete the survey that is included with the letter. Approximately one month later, anglers who have not completed the survey are sent a second letter and survey. These individuals are asked to return the survey by the end of the month. The following estimates are produced independently for each survey. Zeros are shown when we received no records of trips, harvest, or discards and could not produce an estimate. Dashes indicate data was not collected during that time. In most cases, dashes represent the absence of sampling during harvest closures.

### **Participation Estimates**

Participation estimates are determined for each of the survey time periods considering the following parameters:

- The number of potential participants is a product of the number of valid recreational licenses for the survey period and the percent of those who answered affirmatively to the respective saltwater activity question at the time of license purchase (or while updating contact information). For example, if there were 100,000 valid recreational licenses for a survey period, and 40% of those anglers answered affirmatively to the flounder giggering question, there would be 40,000 potential participants for the giggering survey.
- The ineligibility rate is the number of anglers reporting that do not participate in the respective saltwater activity divided by the total number of responses received. For example, if there were 100 responses received in the flounder giggering survey and 10 anglers commented that they did not participate in flounder giggering, then the ineligibility rate would be 10%.

- The estimated participation is a product of the number of potential participants and one minus the ineligibility rate. Using the examples above, the estimated participation would be  $40,000 \times (1-10\%) = 36,000$  participants.

### **Effort Estimates**

Effort estimates are determined for each of the survey time periods. Overall effort is determined by the number of trips reported for each survey respondent extrapolated to represent the population of license holders.

### **Catch Estimates**

Catch estimates are determined for each of the survey time periods by the following method. Catch is the number of a species harvested by each survey respondent extrapolated to represent the population of license holders.

### **Precision of Estimates**

The numbers presented are estimates, not actual counts; therefore, the level of precision varies. Precision refers to the estimate's variability. Statistical comparison between numbers must include this variability.

Precision refers to the dispersion of the sample measurements used to calculate an estimate and the resultant variability in the estimate. The square root of the estimate of sampling variance is an estimate of the standard error of the estimate and is almost universally used in sample surveys as a measure of precision.

The standard error is used to calculate the proportional standard error (PSE). The PSE expresses the standard error as a percentage of the estimate (standard error/estimate \*100). It provides an alternative measure of precision and is useful in comparing the relative precision of two or more estimates. A small PSE indicates a more precise estimate than a large PSE. A PSE of 20% or less is generally considered an acceptable level of precision in fisheries data.

## **SURVEY LIMITATIONS**

### **Non-Response Bias**

There is a potential risk that those anglers who do not respond to the mail survey(s) behave in a manner differing from those who do. This is referred to as non-response bias. A 100% response rate is not a practical expectation from these surveys. This is due to many different factors including, but not limited to: a large constituent of grandfathered license holders who may not participate in the fishery of interest, deceased individuals who were not identified as such before the survey was sent, and individuals choosing not to participate in the survey. Methods to mitigate non-response bias include incentivizing individuals as well as validating effort and catch with on-site intercept surveys.

### **Recall Bias**

Recall bias can occur when any length of time exists between the reporting of an event and the event itself. The longer the time between reporting and the occurrence, the more likely recall bias is to occur. Validity of reported data can be strengthened with an intercept survey (in-person interview).

### **Rare Events**

Activities that seldom occur in recreational angling are referred to as rare events. In this instance, contacting someone participating in oyster and clam harvesting is rare. Despite a relatively high response rate, the number of responses with reported oyster harvesting activity is too low to produce precise estimates of catch.

## CONTACTS

The recreational mail surveys are administered by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Coastal Angling Program from the Washington Regional Office. For additional information regarding the survey, please contact program staff below:

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**Table V.1 Response rates for recreational flounder gigging mail surveys by year.**

Year	Survey Metric <sup>1</sup>	Wave							Total
		Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/June	Jul/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec		
2023 <sup>2</sup>	Total Delivered Surveys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Number Responses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Responses (%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022 <sup>2</sup>	Total Delivered Surveys	-	-	-	-	1,370	-	1,370	
	Number Responses	-	-	-	-	339	-	339	
	Percent Responses	-	-	-	-	24.74	-	24.74	
2021 <sup>2</sup>	Total Delivered Surveys	-	-	-	-	1,327	-	1,327	
	Number Responses	-	-	-	-	254	-	254	
	Percent Responses	-	-	-	-	19.40	-	19.14	
2020 <sup>2</sup>	Total Delivered Surveys	-	-	-	1,321	1,332	-	2,653	
	Number Responses	-	-	-	262	283	-	545	
	Percent Responses	-	-	-	19.83	21.25	-	20.54	
2019 <sup>2</sup>	Total Delivered Surveys	1,309	1,332	1,349	1,406	-	-	5,396	
	Number Responses	392	305	325	304	-	-	1,326	
	Percent Responses	29.95	22.90	24.09	21.62	-	-	24.57	
2018	Total Delivered Surveys	1,288	1,339	1,356	1,368	1,334	1,382	8,067	
	Number Responses	425	349	339	83	332	418	1,946	
	Percent Responses	33.00	26.06	25.00	6.07	24.89	30.25	24.12	
2017	Total Delivered Surveys	1,257	1,303	1,297	1,405	1,397	1,269	7,928	
	Number Responses	380	338	293	206	386	408	2,011	
	Percent Responses	30.23	25.94	22.59	14.66	27.63	32.15	25.37	
2016	Total Delivered Surveys	980	1,280	1,293	1,369	1,103	1,374	7,399	
	Number Responses	274	401	347	361	265	447	2,095	
	Percent Responses	27.96	31.33	26.84	26.37	24.03	32.53	28.31	
2015	Total Delivered Surveys	1,429	1,437	1,427	1,320	1,386	981	7,980	
	Number Responses	515	460	486	478	400	328	2,667	
	Percent Responses	36.04	32.01	34.06	36.21	28.86	33.44	33.42	
2014	Total Delivered Surveys	1,291	1,243	1,260	1,356	1,330	1,339	7,819	
	Number Responses	467	418	416	392	386	475	2,554	
	Percent Responses	36.17	33.63	33.02	28.91	29.02	35.47	32.66	

<sup>1</sup>Does not include deceased license holders or invalid addresses.

<sup>2</sup>Mail survey was suspended during flounder season closures.

**Table V.2 Recreational flounder gigging effort and catch (in numbers) (estimates based on mail survey).**

Year	Wave	Total Effort	PSE Effort	Total Flounder Harvest	PSE Harvest	Total Flounder Release	PSE Release	Total Flounder Catch	PSE Total Catch
2023 <sup>1</sup>	Jan/Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mar/Apr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	May/Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul/Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sep/Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022 <sup>2</sup>	Jan/Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mar/Apr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	May/Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul/Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sep/Oct	3,982	25.31	3,422	29.49	109	100.00	3,531	29.96
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	3,982	25.31	3,422	29.49	109	100.00	3,531	29.96
2021 <sup>2</sup>	Jan/Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mar/Apr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	May/Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul/Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sep/Oct	3,597	25.67	11,338	34.58	926	52.85	12,264	33.78
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	3,597	25.67	11,338	34.58	926	52.85	12,264	33.78
2020 <sup>2</sup>	Jan/Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mar/Apr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	May/Jun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul/Aug	3,516	25.94	5,558	34.37	0	0	5,558	34.37
	Sep/Oct	3,071	26.71	5,953	37.54	90	70.32	6,043	37.05
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	6,587	18.61	11,511	25.45	90	70.49	11,601	25.28
2019 <sup>2</sup>	Jan/Feb	698	58.73	532	64.19	398	100.00	930	63.85
	Mar/Apr	450	48.41	964	68.00	74	100.00	1,038	69.71
	May/Jun	3,847	29.96	9,356	48.37	398	70.74	9,754	46.75
	Jul/Aug	3,422	32.25	9,327	44.62	172	100.00	9,499	44.03
	Sep/Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	8,417	19.95	20,179	30.93	1,042	50.06	21,221	29.71
2018	Jan/Feb	989	51.62	711	64.86	0	0	711	64.86
	Mar/Apr	0	0	136	71.20	0	0	136	71.20
	May/Jun	3,559	36.64	5,197	33.71	294	57.03	5,491	32.69
	Jul/Aug	1,549	44.97	10,556	64.20	0	0	10,556	64.20
	Sep/Oct	1,369	47.57	2,581	39.56	166	100.00	2,746	38.57
	Nov/Dec	2,673	26.75	4,062	37.26	65	100.00	4,127	37.69
	Total	10,139	18.35	23,243	31.42	525	46.78	23,767	30.84

<sup>1</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

<sup>2</sup>Mail survey was suspended during the flounder season closure.



**Table V.2 Recreational flounder gigning effort and catch (in numbers) (estimates based on mail survey) (continued).**

Year	Wave	Total Effort	PSE Effort	Total Flounder Harvest	PSE Harvest	Total Flounder Release	PSE Release	Total Flounder Catch	PSE Total Catch
2017	Jan/Feb	349	57.56	65	100.00	390	100.00	455	100.00
	Mar/Apr	2,750	37.06	7,640	41.07	141	100.00	7,781	41.29
	May/June	2,757	31.69	5,162	47.97	0	0	5,162	47.97
	Jul/Aug	3,007	26.63	3,668	40.09	0	0	3,668	40.09
	Sep/Oct	3,213	24.91	5,964	32.21	124	100.00	6,088	31.98
	Nov/Dec	1,448	37.29	1,637	46.72	0	0	1,637	46.72
	<b>Total</b>		<b>13,524</b>	<b>13.78</b>	<b>24,136</b>	<b>19.77</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>66.07</b>	<b>24,791</b>
2016	Jan/Feb	150	71.11	0	0.00	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	730	38.16	120	100.00	0	0	120	100.00
	May/June	4,292	27.92	8,268	39.53	3,101	87.53	11,369	42.47
	Jul/Aug	5,621	22.28	5,968	27.88	0	0	5,968	27.88
	Sep/Oct	4,800	29.69	7,087	37.12	277	100.00	7,364	37.01
	Nov/Dec	4,735	27.94	8,199	38.66	359	74.27	8,557	39.17
	<b>Total</b>		<b>20,328</b>	<b>26.27</b>	<b>29,642</b>	<b>33.10</b>	<b>3,737</b>	<b>73.36</b>	<b>33,378</b>
2015	Jan/Feb	951	30.19	1,169	42.18	0	0	1,169	42.18
	Mar/Apr	520	38.32	994	49.16	0	0	994	49.16
	May/June	4,258	18.75	7,600	21.72	1,230	39.46	8,830	21.99
	Jul/Aug	4,448	17.05	7,799	23.02	69	100.00	7,868	22.96
	Sep/Oct	4,592	21.89	9,241	22.54	764	51.28	10,005	23.21
	Nov/Dec	1,892	29.04	1,909	40.00	293	62.00	2,202	41.31
	<b>Total</b>		<b>16,661</b>	<b>9.89</b>	<b>28,712</b>	<b>11.90</b>	<b>2,356</b>	<b>27.91</b>	<b>31,068</b>
2014	Jan/Feb	1,490	37.60	1,880	43.40	542	100.00	2,422	47.70
	Mar/Apr	893	38.40	1,274	64.90	0	0	1,274	64.90
	May/June	5,624	18.10	8,444	26.10	702	47.50	9,146	24.90
	Jul/Aug	5,549	17.40	8,816	23.90	793	40.10	9,609	24.00
	Sep/Oct	5,282	22.00	12,648	27.10	106	100.00	12,754	27.00
	Nov/Dec	2,108	32.20	9,245	33.90	572	51.90	9,817	32.90
	<b>Total</b>		<b>20,946</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>42,307</b>	<b>13.60</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>28.80</b>	<b>45,022</b>

<sup>1</sup>Mail survey was suspended because of the flounder season closure.

**Table V.3 Response rates for recreational cast net and seine mail surveys by year.**

Year	Survey Metric <sup>1</sup>	Wave						Total
		Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/June	Jul/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec	
2023 <sup>2</sup>	Total Delivered Surveys	1,250	1,337	1,316	-	-	-	3,903
	Number Responses	286	283	273	-	-	-	842
	Responses (%)	22.88	21.17	20.74	-	-	-	21.57
2022	Total Delivered Surveys	1,313	1,345	1,396	1,385	1,295	1,297	8,031
	Number Responses	314	284	268	281	313	332	1,792
	Percent Responses	23.91	21.12	19.20	20.29	24.17	25.60	22.31
2021	Total Delivered Surveys	1,329	1,311	1,319	1,339	1,330	1,394	8,022
	Number Responses	398	312	274	278	275	357	1,894
	Percent Responses	29.95	23.80	20.77	20.76	20.68	25.61	23.61
2020	Total Delivered Surveys	1,318	1,319	1,325	1,337	1,337	1,325	7,961
	Number Responses	445	411	338	341	347	409	2,291
	Percent Responses	33.76	31.16	25.51	25.50	25.95	30.87	28.78
2019	Total Delivered Surveys	1,289	1,327	1,337	1,432	1,362	1,317	8,064
	Number Responses	384	369	375	318	394	379	2,219
	Percent Responses	29.79	27.81	28.05	22.21	28.93	28.78	27.52
2018	Total Delivered Surveys	1,282	1,353	1,403	1,370	1,349	1,288	8,045
	Number Responses	421	422	392	119	348	419	2,121
	Percent Responses	32.84	31.19	27.94	8.69	25.80	32.53	26.36
2017	Total Delivered Surveys	1,318	1,336	1,281	1,621	1,397	1,265	8,218
	Number Responses	445	424	376	358	357	421	2,381
	Percent Responses	33.76	31.74	29.35	22.09	25.55	33.28	28.97
2016	Total Delivered Surveys	1,230	1,294	1,289	1,388	1,200	1,276	7,677
	Number Responses	423	473	391	370	362	465	2,484
	Percent Responses	34.39	36.55	30.33	26.66	30.17	36.44	32.36
2015	Total Delivered Surveys	1,361	1,435	1,405	1,460	1,375	1,159	8,195
	Number Responses	490	514	452	424	390	411	2,681
	Percent Responses	36.00	35.82	32.17	29.04	28.36	35.46	32.72
2014	Total Delivered Surveys	1,289	1,270	1,254	1,396	1,243	1,324	7,776
	Number Responses	506	458	377	362	398	479	2,580
	Percent Responses	39.26	36.06	30.06	25.93	32.02	36.18	33.18

<sup>1</sup>Does not include deceased license holders or invalid addresses.

<sup>2</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

**Table V.4 Recreational cast net effort and catch (in numbers) for Atlantic Menhaden (estimates based on mail survey).**

Year	Wave	Total Effort	PSE Effort	Total Menhaden Harvest	PSE Harvest	Total Menhaden Release	PSE Release	Total Menhaden Catch	PSE Total Catch
2023 <sup>1</sup>	Jan/Feb	9,863	17.84	30,794	84.59	12,403	86.98	43,197	85.26
	Mar/Apr	12,778	13.24	15,394	62.35	6,305	67.01	21,699	63.57
	May/June	41,562	11.95	95,433	40.93	51,012	42.10	146,445	39.17
	Jul/Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sep/Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	64,204	9.28	141,621	34.05	69,720	35.24	211,340	33.15
2022	Jan/Feb	11,942	30.15	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
	Mar/Apr	18,105	13.67	8,182	85.26	7,904	59.05	16,086	63.91
	May/June	26,208	10.31	12,283	48.96	2,679	53.40	14,962	48.50
	Jul/Aug	37,975	11.06	50,076	69.10	21,061	48.49	71,137	59.50
	Sep/Oct	58,783	11.63	8,749	58.36	15,142	74.14	23,890	66.43
	Nov/Dec	35,928	10.70	40,104	50.14	12,935	64.68	53,039	48.86
	Total	188,941	5.52	119,393	34.70	59,721	30.19	179,114	29.98
2021	Jan/Feb	12,301	25.86	3,678	100.00	0	0	3,678	100.00
	Mar/Apr	51,720	29.31	8,146	78.67	0	0	8,146	78.67
	May/June	47,057	13.14	65,773	73.71	15,155	86.21	80,928	63.23
	Jul/Aug	46,579	14.63	31,661	46.30	6,386	57.51	38,047	47.16
	Sep/Oct	65,042	11.21	26,125	45.72	13,085	57.61	39,210	43.03
	Nov/Dec	35,202	14.97	17,339	49.01	2,717	78.59	20,056	49.44
	Total	257,901	9.22	152,722	34.97	37,343	42.03	190,064	30.77
2020	Jan/Feb	16,001	20.32	4,714	58.24	2,647	100.00	7,361	66.20
	Mar/Apr	13,326	17.01	18,135	37.33	13,279	46.06	31,414	36.77
	May/June	23,647	16.41	10,244	63.88	8,440	67.33	18,684	54.84
	Jul/Aug	69,020	15.03	45,370	31.57	17,561	34.52	62,931	30.10
	Sep/Oct	34,416	13.07	31,041	44.80	8,915	48.94	39,956	43.94
	Nov/Dec	27,083	14.32	16,622	53.12	10,146	43.73	26,768	47.23
	Total	183,493	7.62	126,126	19.12	60,988	20.26	187,114	17.76
2019	Jan/Feb	13,659	18.40	17,103	47.42	4,863	48.97	21,966	47.09
	Mar/Apr	10,751	20.56	2,818	75.92	6,330	80.64	9,148	79.05
	May/June	42,236	15.00	42,858	31.35	23,445	32.17	66,303	30.56
	Jul/Aug	43,978	14.52	36,847	39.39	30,263	44.78	67,110	37.49
	Sep/Oct	45,606	12.74	24,679	35.00	7,886	51.86	32,565	34.81
	Nov/Dec	16,667	20.08	27,942	45.77	10,498	63.44	38,440	48.51
	Total	172,897	7.03	152,247	17.42	83,285	22.04	235,532	17.47
2018	Jan/Feb	6,463	28.60	3,036	70.90	675	100.00	3,710	70.75
	Mar/Apr	10,362	19.54	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May/June	33,481	13.79	60,711	26.81	33,363	29.77	94,075	26.33
	Jul/Aug	10,400	17.70	27,555	61.31	12,297	50.82	39,852	57.24
	Sep/Oct	11,832	71.15	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nov/Dec	20,643	16.34	39,138	37.65	5,666	55.14	44,804	36.96
	Total	93,181	11.57	130,441	21.50	52,000	23.72	182,441	20.87

<sup>1</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

**Table V.4 Recreational cast net effort and catch (in numbers) for Atlantic Menhaden (estimates based on mail survey) (continued).**

Year	Wave	Total		Total		Total		Total	
		Effort	PSE Effort	Menhaden Harvest	PSE Harvest	Menhaden Release	PSE Release	Menhaden Catch	PSE Total Catch
2017	Jan/Feb	6,793	24.00	18,229	68.09	1,768	72.66	19,997	68.43
	Mar/Apr	16,500	15.71	26,415	37.69	14,929	37.74	41,344	35.37
	May/June	44,380	13.11	66,305	26.94	26,597	34.09	92,902	26.66
	Jul/Aug	55,435	13.55	57,131	45.68	23,282	42.36	80,413	44.34
	Sep/Oct	48,079	13.22	67,551	32.33	24,180	41.25	91,731	31.66
	Nov/Dec	27,603	14.66	25,571	59.21	5,817	50.26	31,388	57.06
	<b>Total</b>	<b>198,790</b>	<b>6.60</b>	<b>261,203</b>	<b>17.10</b>	<b>96,573</b>	<b>18.70</b>	<b>357,775</b>	<b>16.57</b>
2016	Jan/Feb	12,493	25.82	8,164	59.04	2,758	59.49	10,923	59.07
	Mar/Apr	15,978	19.49	28,291	36.68	8,749	45.47	37,040	36.06
	May/June	39,692	13.63	83,219	31.01	32,888	32.53	116,107	30.57
	Jul/Aug	50,891	12.44	79,950	31.18	24,649	38.73	104,598	30.21
	Sep/Oct	43,818	11.67	53,022	27.37	27,515	30.43	80,537	26.80
	Nov/Dec	32,993	16.92	25,566	41.18	4,439	46.87	30,006	38.65
	<b>Total</b>	<b>195,865</b>	<b>6.40</b>	<b>278,213</b>	<b>15.16</b>	<b>100,998</b>	<b>17.25</b>	<b>379,210</b>	<b>14.81</b>
2015	Jan/Feb	10,675	22.58	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	16,552	16.53	2,034	63.25	268	100.00	2,301	65.86
	May/June	50,845	12.02	62,733	22.95	63,946	38.59	126,679	26.40
	Jul/Aug	68,945	10.32	113,267	29.60	61,579	37.85	174,846	31.41
	Sep/Oct	41,410	10.51	41,810	30.40	15,103	34.97	56,912	29.27
	Nov/Dec	25,799	17.18	51,979	41.82	21,644	62.44	73,624	43.80
	<b>Total</b>	<b>214,226</b>	<b>5.77</b>	<b>271,824</b>	<b>16.49</b>	<b>162,539</b>	<b>22.84</b>	<b>434,363</b>	<b>17.17</b>
2014	Jan/Feb	7,369	21.66	695	100.00	0	0	695	100.00
	Mar/Apr	16,723	18.27	17,674	47.02	2,777	59.23	20,452	43.47
	May/June	33,348	14.10	14,805	34.93	5,067	40.88	19,872	32.03
	Jul/Aug	53,322	14.68	22,338	32.50	7,558	40.80	29,896	32.48
	Sep/Oct	65,487	12.05	66,546	26.92	43,994	37.34	110,540	26.57
	Nov/Dec	26,039	14.12	9,361	39.07	5,097	49.49	14,458	39.43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>202,287</b>	<b>6.75</b>	<b>131,419</b>	<b>17.21</b>	<b>64,493</b>	<b>27.34</b>	<b>195,912</b>	<b>17.72</b>

**Table V.5 Recreational cast net effort and catch (in numbers) for mullet (striped and white) (estimates based on mail survey).**

Year	Wave	Total		Total Mullet		Total Mullet		PSE Total	
		Effort	PSE Effort	Harvest	Harvest	Release	Release	Catch	Catch
2023 <sup>1</sup>	Jan/Feb	6,326	22.89	7,508	51.08	2,628	59.85	10,136	48.94
	Mar/Apr	12,309	14.15	26,860	33.09	4,646	58.26	31,506	33.44
	May/June	44,589	11.39	89,162	29.54	30,239	45.75	119,401	30.30
	Jul/Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sep/Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>63,225</b>	<b>9.52</b>	<b>123,531</b>	<b>23.32</b>	<b>37,512</b>	<b>38.87</b>	<b>161,043</b>	<b>24.51</b>
2022	Jan/Feb	10,328	33.34	10,653	69.23	3,592	75.63	14,245	67.85
	Mar/Apr	12,709	17.28	4,857	64.58	695	100.00	5,551	67.80
	May/June	24,938	11.07	96,275	23.25	36,695	43.35	132,970	23.30
	Jul/Aug	34,342	10.17	146,314	24.85	51,706	37.42	198,020	24.77
	Sep/Oct	57,320	11.77	355,452	20.33	124,366	21.36	479,818	18.49
	Nov/Dec	28,886	10.60	83,547	25.03	27,805	34.53	111,352	24.16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>168,522</b>	<b>5.75</b>	<b>697,096</b>	<b>12.79</b>	<b>244,859</b>	<b>15.72</b>	<b>941,955</b>	<b>12.01</b>
20201	Jan/Feb	10,518	27.92	15,365	61.13	4,615	56.65	19,980	57.68
	Mar/Apr	50,762	29.88	52,766	42.65	14,592	46.36	67,358	42.02
	May/June	45,681	11.77	133,646	26.89	34,978	50.55	168,624	26.94
	Jul/Aug	41,346	15.30	254,681	22.83	69,914	24.54	324,594	20.74
	Sep/Oct	65,736	11.42	582,176	24.49	169,786	25.53	751,961	21.10
	Nov/Dec	36,335	14.62	183,488	27.24	57,966	29.35	241,453	26.85
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250,379</b>	<b>9.33</b>	<b>1,222,120</b>	<b>14.23</b>	<b>351,850</b>	<b>15.85</b>	<b>1,573,970</b>	<b>12.82</b>
2020	Jan/Feb	11,690	23.91	8,878	37.90	1,077	53.26	9,955	36.79
	Mar/Apr	11,799	17.52	25,426	29.91	4,549	47.45	29,975	29.74
	May/June	24,586	16.88	51,327	21.07	19,058	31.51	70,385	20.57
	Jul/Aug	64,789	14.77	152,144	21.30	78,864	25.79	231,008	19.82
	Sep/Oct	34,501	13.04	254,362	17.99	56,512	18.45	310,874	16.79
	Nov/Dec	26,203	14.89	136,348	19.60	46,406	22.07	182,754	18.72
	<b>Total</b>	<b>173,568</b>	<b>7.63</b>	<b>628,485</b>	<b>10.46</b>	<b>206,466</b>	<b>12.95</b>	<b>834,951</b>	<b>9.88</b>
2019	Jan/Feb	12,139	18.37	27,088	35.13	7,351	33.67	34,439	32.65
	Mar/Apr	9,674	21.35	11,023	37.44	3,517	47.80	14,540	34.67
	May/June	44,262	14.50	143,824	21.90	35,856	24.98	179,680	20.94
	Jul/Aug	39,904	14.48	210,967	20.28	122,890	33.57	333,857	20.81
	Sep/Oct	40,143	13.31	219,358	14.84	124,146	22.67	343,504	15.26
	Nov/Dec	16,819	20.08	76,555	30.71	27,125	33.33	103,680	30.03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>162,941</b>	<b>7.09</b>	<b>688,815</b>	<b>9.98</b>	<b>320,885</b>	<b>16.49</b>	<b>1,009,700</b>	<b>10.20</b>
2018	Jan/Feb	4,121	30.39	3,935	65.15	450	70.45	4,385	62.08
	Mar/Apr	8,950	20.77	16,051	41.37	4,560	43.16	20,611	39.45
	May/June	32,021	14.25	58,694	25.19	12,577	29.48	71,271	24.82
	Jul/Aug	11,125	20.34	43,317	24.18	13,418	33.35	56,735	24.50
	Sep/Oct	11,832	71.14	139,578	72.50	56,912	85.79	196,490	76.10
	Nov/Dec	20,890	16.26	85,612	18.41	20,987	23.64	106,599	18.43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>88,939</b>	<b>12.08</b>	<b>347,187</b>	<b>30.10</b>	<b>108,904</b>	<b>45.40</b>	<b>456,091</b>	<b>33.52</b>

<sup>1</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

**Table V.5 Recreational cast net effort and catch (in numbers) for mullet (striped and white) (estimates based on mail survey) (continued).**

Year	Wave	Total		Total Mullet		Total		Total	
		Effort	PSE Effort	Harvest	PSE Harvest	Mullet Release	PSE Release	Mullet Catch	PSE Total Catch
2017	Jan/Feb	6,178	25.31	7,047	55.91	994	70.90	8,042	56.73
	Mar/Apr	16,513	15.89	36,630	25.65	13,572	30.51	50,202	26.33
	May/June	37,371	13.24	175,562	20.30	56,093	21.82	231,656	19.38
	Jul/Aug	54,353	13.84	218,395	15.64	89,636	19.34	308,031	15.00
	Sep/Oct	41,186	13.79	195,901	15.89	54,855	24.65	250,756	16.07
	Nov/Dec	27,259	14.43	89,393	18.61	24,847	28.13	114,240	18.87
	<b>Total</b>	<b>182,861</b>	<b>6.74</b>	<b>722,929</b>	<b>8.82</b>	<b>239,998</b>	<b>11.29</b>	<b>962,927</b>	<b>8.65</b>
2016	Jan/Feb	11,910	27.09	6,927	51.06	3,283	73.22	10,210	55.40
	Mar/Apr	13,803	20.49	17,333	44.54	1,238	63.48	18,571	42.02
	May/June	39,127	13.71	141,203	25.15	47,699	29.86	188,903	23.58
	Jul/Aug	51,085	11.80	306,614	18.25	109,938	22.31	416,552	17.74
	Sep/Oct	41,325	12.10	173,517	18.61	26,096	21.31	199,613	17.21
	Nov/Dec	34,673	16.32	102,800	26.48	31,637	33.07	134,437	26.99
	<b>Total</b>	<b>191,922</b>	<b>6.41</b>	<b>748,394</b>	<b>10.88</b>	<b>219,892</b>	<b>14.29</b>	<b>968,286</b>	<b>10.67</b>
2015	Jan/Feb	6,730	25.39	19,540	38.22	3,060	51.98	22,600	37.02
	Mar/Apr	13,981	18.45	25,446	28.17	5,880	33.61	31,326	27.87
	May/June	50,315	12.08	147,726	17.82	50,052	25.69	197,778	16.87
	Jul/Aug	71,656	10.65	400,123	13.85	156,696	19.10	556,819	14.06
	Sep/Oct	40,078	10.64	232,037	15.37	43,801	19.09	275,837	15.14
	Nov/Dec	24,116	17.75	117,650	21.56	36,550	26.23	154,200	21.86
	<b>Total</b>	<b>206,876</b>	<b>6.04</b>	<b>942,521</b>	<b>8.37</b>	<b>296,039</b>	<b>12.17</b>	<b>1,238,561</b>	<b>8.51</b>
2014	Jan/Feb	5,206	25.01	12,023	46.25	1,076	57.91	13,099	44.25
	Mar/Apr	16,131	19.02	13,949	44.99	1,859	60.34	15,807	43.03
	May/June	35,945	13.48	110,839	20.80	28,262	22.41	139,101	19.47
	Jul/Aug	52,883	13.70	208,730	18.06	63,626	19.80	272,356	16.77
	Sep/Oct	63,224	12.69	362,912	14.57	136,337	16.37	499,250	13.47
	Nov/Dec	23,867	14.50	74,605	19.73	20,344	26.72	94,949	19.16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>197,257</b>	<b>6.78</b>	<b>783,058</b>	<b>9.42</b>	<b>251,504</b>	<b>11.09</b>	<b>1,034,561</b>	<b>8.91</b>

**Table V.6 Recreational cast net effort and catch (in numbers) for shrimp (estimates based on mail survey).**

Year	Wave	Total Effort	PSE Effort	Total Shrimp Harvest	PSE Harvest	Total Shrimp Release	PSE Release	Total Shrimp Catch	PSE Total Catch
2023 <sup>1</sup>	Jan/Feb	15,996	32.65	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	14,043	12.61	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May/June	42,407	10.14	17,231	55.17	244	100.00	17,475	54.42
	Jul/Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sep/Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>		<b>72,445</b>	<b>9.77</b>	<b>17,231</b>	<b>55.17</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>17,475</b>
2022	Jan/Feb	9,917	34.06	6,194	100.00	0	0	6,194	100.00
	Mar/Apr	18,661	13.88	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May/June	26,762	11.33	25,830	44.41	0	0	25,830	44.41
	Jul/Aug	36,058	11.13	32,149	39.40	2,999	59.63	35,148	37.86
	Sep/Oct	58,571	11.05	64,719	47.47	20,631	55.14	85,351	46.42
	Nov/Dec	32,517	11.32	2,675	95.00	1,057	100.00	3,732	96.38
	<b>Total</b>		<b>182,485</b>	<b>5.52</b>	<b>131,567</b>	<b>27.42</b>	<b>24,688</b>	<b>47.29</b>	<b>156,254</b>
2021	Jan/Feb	11,887	26.57	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	52,240	29.08	3,479	100.00	0	0	3,479	100.00
	May/June	50,421	12.33	37,608	64.47	15,700	63.46	53,308	52.75
	Jul/Aug	47,317	14.05	14,847	58.22	111	70.40	14,958	57.78
	Sep/Oct	75,771	11.39	46,602	51.05	1,795	100.00	48,397	50.63
	Nov/Dec	35,189	14.92	9,414	76.69	4,707	76.69	14,121	76.69
	<b>Total</b>		<b>272,825</b>	<b>8.96</b>	<b>111,949</b>	<b>32.26</b>	<b>22,313</b>	<b>48.46</b>	<b>134,262</b>
2020	Jan/Feb	18,681	19.52	5,736	59.53	0	0	5,736	59.53
	Mar/Apr	12,427	17.07	10,288	50.89	1,190	100.00	11,478	50.05
	May/June	28,107	15.25	11,212	44.03	4,636	46.03	15,848	35.87
	Jul/Aug	63,788	14.84	161,152	59.46	45,525	46.41	206,677	55.07
	Sep/Oct	32,125	13.22	11,121	100.00	203	100.00	11,324	98.22
	Nov/Dec	30,863	14.36	9,945	54.08	1,296	70.90	11,241	51.76
	<b>Total</b>		<b>185,991</b>	<b>7.21</b>	<b>209,454</b>	<b>46.67</b>	<b>52,850</b>	<b>40.97</b>	<b>262,304</b>
2019	Jan/Feb	11,518	18.35	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	10,476	20.01	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May/June	46,723	13.82	46,620	40.80	11,804	39.30	58,424	38.98
	Jul/Aug	44,469	14.48	17,635	47.97	250	100.00	17,885	47.51
	Sep/Oct	46,450	12.52	12,220	77.20	13,545	65.07	25,765	54.36
	Nov/Dec	17,346	19.42	6,792	59.83	1,544	100.00	8,336	63.92
	<b>Total</b>		<b>176,982</b>	<b>6.90</b>	<b>83,267</b>	<b>28.10</b>	<b>27,143</b>	<b>37.29</b>	<b>110,410</b>
2018	Jan/Feb	4,658	34.61	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	10,228	19.78	1,206	100.00	0	0	1,206	100.00
	May/June	35,845	14.80	20,385	41.27	1,308	52.25	21,693	39.54
	Jul/Aug	12,908	19.19	52,655	94.22	192	100.00	52,847	93.88
	Sep/Oct	11,832	71.15	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nov/Dec	20,263	16.50	14,904	67.67	0	0	14,904	67.67
	<b>Total</b>		<b>95,734</b>	<b>11.71</b>	<b>89,151</b>	<b>57.59</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>47.45</b>	<b>90,651</b>

<sup>1</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

**Table V.6 Recreational cast net effort and catch (in numbers) for shrimp (estimates based on mail survey) (continued).**

Year	Wave	Total Effort	PSE Effort	Total Shrimp Harvest	PSE Harvest	Total Shrimp Release	PSE Release	Total Shrimp Catch	PSE Total Catch
2017	Jan/Feb	7,318	22.73	1,105	100.00	0	0	1,105	100.00
	Mar/Apr	17,945	15.42	1,257	100.00	0	0	1,257	100.00
	May/June	38,382	12.88	17,556	35.83	3,781	58.52	21,337	36.97
	Jul/Aug	52,265	13.37	56,353	34.70	13,110	53.29	69,463	36.61
	Sep/Oct	47,613	13.29	39,478	39.98	11,757	70.42	51,235	41.88
	Nov/Dec	29,071	14.39	7,644	55.97	3,579	74.33	11,223	55.98
	<b>Total</b>	<b>192,593</b>	<b>6.45</b>	<b>123,393</b>	<b>21.83</b>	<b>32,227</b>	<b>35.63</b>	<b>155,621</b>	<b>22.90</b>
2016	Jan/Feb	14,268	25.08	3,826	100.00	1,196	100.00	5,021	100.00
	Mar/Apr	15,246	19.17	1,802	87.12	746	100.00	2,548	90.64
	May/June	41,056	14.08	17,930	67.17	3,196	70.73	21,126	64.79
	Jul/Aug	54,288	12.07	173,302	30.19	49,762	47.36	223,064	30.57
	Sep/Oct	40,406	11.34	23,622	33.43	2,394	64.75	26,016	34.78
	Nov/Dec	28,974	17.02	16,951	41.35	1,965	58.61	18,916	41.25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>194,237</b>	<b>6.38</b>	<b>237,433</b>	<b>23.69</b>	<b>59,259</b>	<b>40.71</b>	<b>296,692</b>	<b>24.49</b>
2015	Jan/Feb	8,957	24.03	9,119	67.90	2,015	70.58	11,134	62.32
	Mar/Apr	14,425	16.74	4,388	60.14	321	100.00	4,709	60.38
	May/June	55,668	11.76	39,530	36.70	5,274	51.05	44,804	37.34
	Jul/Aug	72,275	10.66	87,268	25.87	18,119	33.39	105,387	26.37
	Sep/Oct	40,828	10.81	24,761	53.36	6,686	66.81	31,447	54.77
	Nov/Dec	25,331	17.34	27,564	57.45	0	0	27,564	57.45
	<b>Total</b>	<b>217,484</b>	<b>5.94</b>	<b>192,630</b>	<b>18.03</b>	<b>32,415</b>	<b>25.32</b>	<b>225,044</b>	<b>18.22</b>
2014	Jan/Feb	6,696	23.01	1,390	100.00	0	0	1,390	100.00
	Mar/Apr	17,128	20.66	2,001	73.10	0	0	2,001	73.10
	May/June	33,723	13.38	28,797	44.45	1,074	49.83	29,871	43.31
	Jul/Aug	54,700	12.73	91,643	30.78	12,355	50.79	103,998	30.70
	Sep/Oct	66,873	11.89	74,088	38.11	16,176	66.90	90,264	35.55
	Nov/Dec	26,905	13.61	2,105	71.43	0	0	2,105	71.43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>206,024</b>	<b>6.45</b>	<b>200,025</b>	<b>21.29</b>	<b>29,605</b>	<b>42.44</b>	<b>229,630</b>	<b>20.86</b>



**Table V.7 Response rates for recreational shellfish and crab harvest by year.**

Year	Survey Metric <sup>1</sup>	Wave						Total
		Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/June	Jul/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec	
2023 <sup>2</sup>	Total Delivered Surveys	1,312	1,281	1,355	-	-	-	3,948
	Number Responses	381	315	311	-	-	-	1,007
	Responses (%)	29.04	24.59	22.95	-	-	-	25.51
2022	Total Delivered Surveys	1,332	1,332	1,407	1,301	1,310	1,301	7,983
	Number Responses	374	349	357	350	362	374	2,166
	Percent Responses	28.08	26.20	25.37	26.90	27.63	28.75	27.13
2021	Total Delivered Surveys	1,321	1,331	1,340	1,338	1,339	1,380	8,049
	Number Responses	371	366	304	282	324	436	2,083
	Percent Responses	28.08	27.50	22.69	21.08	24.20	31.59	25.88
2020	Total Delivered Surveys	1,301	1,316	1,352	1,317	1,341	1,325	7,952
	Number Responses	469	445	332	360	377	414	2,397
	Percent Responses	36.05	33.81	24.56	27.33	28.11	31.25	30.14
2019	Total Delivered Surveys	1,318	1,334	1,367	1,397	1,355	1,303	8,074
	Number Responses	436	370	334	344	384	418	2,286
	Percent Responses	33.08	27.74	24.43	24.62	28.34	32.08	28.31
2018	Total Delivered Surveys	1,309	1,311	1,383	1,378	1,353	1,346	8,080
	Number Responses	472	391	378	111	388	438	2,178
	Percent Responses	36.06	29.82	27.33	8.06	28.68	32.54	26.96
2017	Total Delivered Surveys	1,309	1,351	1,353	1,396	1,362	1,281	8,052
	Number Responses	491	447	377	230	416	443	2,404
	Percent Responses	37.51	33.09	27.86	16.48	30.54	34.58	29.86
2016	Total Delivered Surveys	1,279	1,258	1,273	1,359	1,355	1,236	7,760
	Number Responses	459	435	431	367	444	487	2,623
	Percent Responses	35.89	34.58	33.86	27.01	32.77	39.40	33.80
2015	Total Delivered Surveys	1,346	1,452	1,269	1,416	1,352	1,205	8,040
	Number Responses	551	610	364	436	441	489	2,891
	Percent Responses	40.94	42.01	28.68	30.79	32.62	40.58	35.96
2014	Total Delivered Surveys	1,268	1,255	1,204	1,354	1,309	1,361	7,751
	Number Responses	537	509	439	363	444	498	2,790
	Percent Responses	42.35	40.56	36.46	26.81	33.92	36.59	36.00

<sup>1</sup>Does not include deceased license holders or invalid addresses.

<sup>2</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

**Table V.8 Number and percent of recreational shellfish surveys reporting clam activity by year.**

Year	Survey Metric <sup>1</sup>	Wave						Total
		Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/June	Jul/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec	
2023 <sup>2</sup>	Total Responses (number)	381	315	311	-	-	-	1,007
	Reporting Clam Activity (number)	7	6	14	-	-	-	27
	Reporting Clam Activity (%)	1.84	1.90	4.50	-	-	-	2.68
2022	Total Responses (number)	374	349	357	350	362	374	2,166
	Reporting Clam Activity (number)	8	6	19	19	13	1	66
	Reporting Clam Activity (%)	2.14	1.72	5.32	5.43	3.59	0.27	3.05
2021	Total Responses (number)	371	366	304	282	324	436	2,083
	Reporting Clam Activity (number)	4	8	15	11	14	7	59
	Reporting Clam Activity (%)	1.08	2.19	4.93	3.90	4.32	1.61	2.83
2020	Total Responses (number)	469	445	332	360	377	414	2,397
	Reporting Clam Activity (number)	6	9	19	19	22	7	82
	Reporting Clam Activity (%)	1.28	2.02	5.72	5.28	5.84	1.69	3.42
2019	Total Responses (number)	436	370	334	344	384	418	2,286
	Reporting Clam Activity (number)	11	12	15	27	18	11	94
	Reporting Clam Activity (%)	2.52	3.24	4.49	7.85	4.69	2.63	4.11
2018	Total Responses (number)	472	391	378	111	388	438	2,178
	Reporting Clam Activity (number)	9	8	16	12	11	9	65
	Reporting Clam Activity (%)	1.91	2.05	4.23	10.81	2.84	2.05	2.98
2017	Total Responses (number)	491	447	377	230	416	443	2,404
	Reporting Clam Activity (number)	9	12	24	19	20	10	94
	Reporting Clam Activity (%)	1.83	2.68	6.37	8.26	4.81	2.26	3.91
2016	Total Responses (number)	459	435	431	367	444	487	2,623
	Reporting Clam Activity (number)	17	16	24	43	24	14	138
	Reporting Clam Activity (%)	3.70	3.68	5.57	11.72	5.41	2.87	5.26
2015	Total Responses (number)	551	610	364	436	441	489	2,891
	Reporting Clam Activity (number)	10	14	24	43	24	14	129
	Reporting Clam Activity (%)	1.81	2.30	6.59	9.86	5.44	2.86	4.46
2014	Total Responses (number)	537	509	439	363	444	498	2,790
	Reporting Clam Activity (number)	8	11	30	19	18	11	97
	Reporting Clam Activity (%)	1.50	2.16	6.83	5.23	4.05	2.21	3.48

<sup>1</sup>Does not include deceased license holders or invalid addresses.

<sup>2</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

**Table V.9 Number and percent of recreational shellfish surveys reporting crab activity by year.**

Year	Survey Metric <sup>1</sup>	Wave						Total
		Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/June	Jul/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec	
2023 <sup>2</sup>	Total Responses (number)	381	315	311	-	-	-	1,007
	Reporting Crab Activity (number)	8	9	48	-	-	-	65
	Reporting Crab Activity (%)	2.10	2.86	15.43	-	-	-	6.45
2022	Total Responses (number)	374	349	357	350	362	374	2,166
	Reporting Crab Activity (number)	7	13	59	47	52	9	187
	Reporting Crab Activity (%)	1.87	3.72	16.53	13.43	14.36	2.41	8.63
2021	Total Responses (number)	371	366	304	282	324	436	2,083
	Reporting Crab Activity (number)	10	37	68	55	46	18	234
	Reporting Crab Activity (%)	2.70	10.11	22.37	19.50	14.20	4.13	11.23
2020	Total Responses (number)	469	445	332	360	377	414	2,397
	Reporting Crab Activity (number)	12	21	81	92	82	23	311
	Reporting Crab Activity (%)	2.56	4.72	24.40	25.56	21.75	5.56	12.97
2019	Total Responses (number)	436	370	334	344	384	418	2,286
	Reporting Crab Activity (number)	16	28	57	80	51	28	260
	Reporting Crab Activity (%)	3.67	7.57	17.07	23.26	13.28	6.70	11.37
2018	Total Responses (number)	472	391	378	111	388	438	2,178
	Reporting Crab Activity (number)	10	15	70	23	41	19	178
	Reporting Crab Activity (%)	2.12	3.84	18.52	20.72	10.57	4.34	8.17
2017	Total Responses (number)	491	447	377	230	416	443	2,404
	Reporting Crab Activity (number)	7	27	68	61	41	19	223
	Reporting Crab Activity (%)	1.43	6.04	18.04	26.52	9.86	4.29	9.28
2016	Total Responses (number)	459	435	431	367	444	487	2,623
	Reporting Crab Activity (number)	11	26	61	78	58	15	249
	Reporting Crab Activity (%)	2.40	5.98	14.15	21.25	13.06	3.08	9.49
2015	Total Responses (number)	551	610	364	436	441	489	2,891
	Reporting Crab Activity (number)	10	28	50	90	60	24	262
	Reporting Crab Activity (%)	1.81	4.59	13.74	20.64	13.61	4.91	9.06
2014	Total Responses (number)	537	509	439	363	444	498	2,790
	Reporting Crab Activity (number)	11	20	73	53	57	10	224
	Reporting Crab Activity (%)	2.05	3.93	16.63	14.60	12.84	2.01	8.03

<sup>1</sup>Does not include deceased license holders or invalid addresses.

<sup>2</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

**Table V.10 Number and percent of recreational shellfish surveys reporting oyster activity by year.**

Year	Survey Metric <sup>1</sup>	Wave						Total
		Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/June	Jul/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec	
2023 <sup>2</sup>	Total Responses (number)	381	315	311	-	-	-	1,007
	Reporting Oyster Activity (number)	17	9	0	-	-	-	26
	Reporting Oyster Activity (%)	4.46	2.86	0.00	-	-	-	2.58
2022	Total Responses (number)	374	349	357	350	362	374	2,166
	Reporting Oyster Activity (number)	9	12			2	12	35
	Reporting Oyster Activity (%)	2.41	3.44	0.00	0.00	0.55	3.21	1.62
2021	Total Responses (number)	371	366	304	282	324	436	2,083
	Reporting Oyster Activity (number)	8	7			6	11	32
	Reporting Oyster Activity (%)	2.16	1.91	0.00	0.00	1.85	2.52	1.54
2020	Total Responses (number)	469	445	332	360	377	414	2,397
	Reporting Oyster Activity (number)	6	2	0	1	9	11	29
	Reporting Oyster Activity (%)	1.28	0.45	0.00	0.28	2.39	2.66	1.21
2019	Total Responses (number)	436	370	334	344	384	418	2,286
	Reporting Oyster Activity (number)	15	6	0	2	10	17	50
	Reporting Oyster Activity (%)	3.44	1.62	0.00	0.58	2.60	4.07	2.19
2018	Total Responses (number)	472	391	378	111	388	438	2,178
	Reporting Oyster Activity (number)	13	12	0	0	5	10	40
	Reporting Oyster Activity (%)	2.75	3.07	0.00	0.00	1.29	2.28	1.84
2017	Total Responses (number)	491	447	377	230	416	443	2,404
	Reporting Oyster Activity (number)	17	11	1	1	5	16	51
	Reporting Oyster Activity (%)	3.46	2.46	0.27	0.43	1.20	3.61	2.12
2016	Total Responses (number)	459	435	431	367	444	487	2,623
	Reporting Oyster Activity (number)	17	6	0	1	7	15	46
	Reporting Oyster Activity (%)	3.70	1.38	0.00	0.27	1.58	3.08	1.75
2015	Total Responses (number)	551	610	364	436	441	489	2,891
	Reporting Oyster Activity (number)	11	3	1	0	8	18	41
	Reporting Oyster Activity (%)	2.00	0.49	0.27	0.00	1.81	3.68	1.42
2014	Total Responses (number)	537	509	439	363	444	498	2,790
	Reporting Oyster Activity (number)	11	5	1	1	5	14	37
	Reporting Oyster Activity (%)	2.05	0.98	0.23	0.28	1.13	2.81	1.33

<sup>1</sup> Does not include deceased license holders or invalid addresses.

<sup>2</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

**Table V.11 Recreational shellfish effort and catch (in numbers) for Hard Clam (estimates based on mail survey).**

Year	Wave	Total		Total		Total		Total	
		Effort	PSE Effort	Clam Harvest	PSE Harvest	Clam Release	PSE Release	Clam Catch	PSE Total Catch
2023 <sup>1</sup>	Jan/Feb	104	100.00	1,724	91.32	0	0.00	1,724	91.32
	Mar/Apr	227	29.68	1,345	100.00	1,345	100.00	2,691	100.00
	May/June	257	100.00	6,386	57.69	1,248	50.83	7,634	56.22
	Jul/Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sep/Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>12.96</b>	<b>9,455</b>	<b>44.66</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>57.32</b>	<b>12,049</b>	<b>43.99</b>
2022	Jan/Feb	280	39.11	6,215	62.99	2,027	83.16	8,242	59.72
	Mar/Apr	347	14.90	3,300	81.29	1,293	100.00	4,593	85.86
	May/June	655	14.48	19,677	48.19	2,296	51.38	21,973	48.32
	Jul/Aug	964	34.36	7,778	45.64	1,879	46.49	9,657	42.38
	Sep/Oct	681	12.65	5,247	47.21	3,209	68.75	8,456	47.54
	Nov/Dec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,928</b>	<b>12.74</b>	<b>42,216</b>	<b>27.53</b>	<b>10,704</b>	<b>31.83</b>	<b>52,920</b>	<b>26.08</b>
2021	Jan/Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	121	0.00	3,884	98.30	44	100.00	3,928	97.22
	May/June	468	15.54	1,801	52.04	55	100.00	1,856	51.13
	Jul/Aug	689	16.55	6,844	58.23	570	100.00	7,414	58.39
	Sep/Oct	212	27.27	2,943	44.96	673	61.04	3,616	45.86
	Nov/Dec	275	39.78	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>27.95</b>	<b>15,471</b>	<b>37.35</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>52.67</b>	<b>16,814</b>	<b>36.35</b>
2020	Jan/Feb	275	82.62	272	100.00	0	0.00	272	100.00
	Mar/Apr	992	56.36	1,646	74.40	2,744	100.00	4,390	88.33
	May/June	934	57.52	2,907	43.58	648	45.51	3,555	43.56
	Jul/Aug	2,330	34.21	53,382	37.42	4,364	45.94	57,746	36.80
	Sep/Oct	585	47.97	3,957	43.87	1,555	67.03	5,512	47.31
	Nov/Dec	1,441	100.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,557</b>	<b>28.23</b>	<b>62,164</b>	<b>33.13</b>	<b>9,311</b>	<b>38.50</b>	<b>71,475</b>	<b>31.23</b>
2019	Jan/Feb	254	48.17	1,370	70.97	507	70.53	1,877	70.77
	Mar/Apr	621	74.19	195	100.00	0	0	195	100.00
	May/June	881	54.08	45,458	88.10	833	69.43	46,291	86.55
	Jul/Aug	1,906	34.35	51,820	39.29	11,637	43.37	63,457	39.51
	Sep/Oct	735	40.75	11,937	51.24	1,477	53.38	13,414	51.31
	Nov/Dec	692	72.83	3,261	78.94	543	100.00	3,804	81.34
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,089</b>	<b>21.71</b>	<b>114,041</b>	<b>39.95</b>	<b>14,997</b>	<b>34.88</b>	<b>129,038</b>	<b>37.25</b>
2018	Jan/Feb	436	66.59	7,091	58.86	818	74.41	7,909	59.60
	Mar/Apr	250	52.32	2,599	70.77	338	100.00	2,936	71.50
	May/June	626	56.32	3,999	90.79	1,143	88.38	5,142	90.25
	Jul/Aug	328	42.34	4,266	54.10	1,413	44.95	5,679	49.96
	Sep/Oct	611	65.98	2,708	70.55	2,346	66.70	5,054	66.28
	Nov/Dec	111	68.31	6,107	79.12	1,480	70.06	7,587	76.05
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,362</b>	<b>27.01</b>	<b>26,770</b>	<b>30.44</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>30.97</b>	<b>34,307</b>	<b>29.28</b>

<sup>1</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

**Table V.11 Recreational shellfish effort and catch (in numbers) for Hard Clam (estimates based on mail survey) (continued).**

Year	Wave	Total Effort	PSE Effort	Total Clam Harvest	PSE Harvest	Total Clam Release	PSE Release	Total Clam Catch	PSE Total Catch
2017	Jan/Feb	254	38.30	10,675	58.66	1,779	58.66	12,455	58.52
	Mar/Apr	486	46.02	9,111	62.54	2,203	58.38	11,314	60.83
	May/June	1,161	33.39	37,706	40.14	7,429	41.15	45,134	39.00
	Jul/Aug	346	57.75	4,283	49.47	1,456	45.18	5,740	47.45
	Sep/Oct	752	32.85	11,880	36.21	5,023	36.70	16,903	35.50
	Nov/Dec	437	45.41	1,516	80.21	233	100.00	1,749	82.37
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,436</b>	<b>17.40</b>	<b>75,171</b>	<b>24.12</b>	<b>18,123</b>	<b>22.15</b>	<b>93,295</b>	<b>23.02</b>
2016	Jan/Feb	284	50.23	8,955	58.23	1,677	64.70	10,632	58.53
	Mar/Apr	1,661	58.48	16,160	44.05	6,929	48.04	23,089	41.13
	May/June	5,076	37.48	45,420	33.93	6,487	41.51	51,907	32.33
	Jul/Aug	361	32.96	6,498	43.76	1,972	42.01	8,470	40.25
	Sep/Oct	769	43.78	5,887	51.52	2,294	50.55	8,181	46.55
	Nov/Dec	474	54.54	2,848	61.19	449	58.46	3,297	60.68
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,625</b>	<b>25.55</b>	<b>85,768</b>	<b>21.52</b>	<b>19,808</b>	<b>23.54</b>	<b>105,576</b>	<b>20.02</b>
2015	Jan/Feb	195	77.34	2,433	100.00	0	0	2,433	100.00
	Mar/Apr	645	43.62	992	100.00	0	0	992	100.00
	May/June	1,443	31.74	35,133	44.90	6,040	35.40	41,172	41.17
	Jul/Aug	3,587	19.72	104,911	31.14	33,464	34.65	138,374	31.14
	Sep/Oct	1,270	33.79	13,094	38.96	1,055	43.50	14,149	37.22
	Nov/Dec	497	57.95	9,856	63.46	2,255	55.08	12,112	61.10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,637</b>	<b>13.87</b>	<b>166,419</b>	<b>22.75</b>	<b>42,814</b>	<b>28.19</b>	<b>209,232</b>	<b>22.99</b>
2014	Jan/Feb	108	100.00	379	100.00	0	0	379	100.00
	Mar/Apr	129	70.82	978	100.00	0	0	978	100.00
	May/June	2,931	25.38	107,970	31.11	13,873	25.51	121,843	29.40
	Jul/Aug	1,368	41.17	25,053	57.24	1,827	62.56	26,880	55.98
	Sep/Oct	1,691	32.45	20,766	51.14	2,209	56.54	22,976	49.11
	Nov/Dec	98	71.77	7,510	87.88	1,306	78.96	8,816	80.80
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,325</b>	<b>17.87</b>	<b>162,656</b>	<b>23.98</b>	<b>19,215</b>	<b>21.45</b>	<b>181,872</b>	<b>22.86</b>

**Table V.12 Recreational shellfish effort and catch (in numbers) for Blue Crab (estimates based on mail survey).**

Year	Wave	Total Effort	PSE Effort	Total Crab Harvest	PSE Total Crab Harvest	Total Crab Release	PSE Total Crab Release	Total Crab Catch	PSE Total Crab Catch
2023 <sup>1</sup>	Jan/Feb	1,045	26.46	11,285	62.84	6,217	51.74	17,502	56.65
	Mar/Apr	967	21.99	74	74.30	199	63.38	273	59.19
	May/June	5,049	17.99	6,322	47.00	7,599	30.44	13,921	36.13
	Jul/Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sep/Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	7,061	13.87	17,681	43.51	14,015	28.39	31,696	35.13
2022	Jan/Feb	268	0.00	1,798	72.39	427	73.52	2,224	72.58
	Mar/Apr	284	17.41	0	0	52	100.00	52	100.00
	May/June	4,090	9.64	15,668	36.64	15,357	22.56	31,025	28.50
	Jul/Aug	4,348	12.91	9,265	31.59	10,062	29.27	19,327	29.17
	Sep/Oct	3,865	10.98	6,471	29.43	9,445	24.07	15,916	22.93
	Nov/Dec	182	33.33	1,941	72.70	2,426	70.50	4,366	70.94
	Total	13,037	7.26	35,143	20.09	37,768	14.41	72,910	16.15
2021	Jan/Feb	541	48.58	3,032	73.38	1,029	58.56	4,060	65.82
	Mar/Apr	2,244	17.60	2,862	65.04	1,650	34.37	4,512	43.47
	May/June	9,409	16.99	15,821	32.15	19,256	25.34	35,077	27.02
	Jul/Aug	6,666	14.61	18,118	41.03	12,236	31.63	30,354	32.88
	Sep/Oct	7,852	39.61	8,101	54.37	6,607	29.19	14,707	41.95
	Nov/Dec	1,113	18.95	743	67.07	1,784	44.67	2,526	46.23
	Total	27,825	17.26	48,675	21.69	42,561	15.83	91,237	17.22
2020	Jan/Feb	1,526	18.13	101	100.00	168	100.00	269	100.00
	Mar/Apr	2,710	28.02	6,037	41.22	4,258	44.84	10,295	39.77
	May/June	6,751	17.14	15,958	27.38	23,502	18.88	39,460	19.52
	Jul/Aug	10,569	20.30	43,462	25.65	37,123	20.47	80,585	20.78
	Sep/Oct	4,245	13.34	11,768	28.89	11,530	21.15	23,298	22.94
	Nov/Dec	1,539	27.73	1,320	50.79	2,161	42.29	3,481	40.04
	Total	27,340	11.83	78,646	16.53	78,742	12.21	157,388	12.89
2019	Jan/Feb	1,003	46.98	1,776	50.90	2,977	44.44	4,753	38.70
	Mar/Apr	1,801	27.08	2,487	44.51	3,269	39.00	5,756	34.39
	May/June	6,884	29.00	27,645	31.12	20,130	23.54	47,775	25.93
	Jul/Aug	6,545	14.16	23,979	23.91	29,117	21.67	53,096	19.25
	Sep/Oct	3,632	17.29	17,308	23.83	15,350	23.12	32,658	22.45
	Nov/Dec	2,135	25.87	8,620	43.49	7,941	46.43	16,561	40.01
	Total	22,000	11.98	81,815	14.68	78,784	12.35	160,599	12.09
2018	Jan/Feb	436	66.50	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	538	40.99	675	71.91	575	65.60	1,250	68.02
	May/June	9,767	19.96	22,980	25.91	32,787	23.09	55,767	22.39
	Jul/Aug	1,661	23.37	10,759	64.26	9,960	33.34	20,719	46.84
	Sep/Oct	3,123	29.49	13,352	38.83	13,148	39.65	26,501	37.97
	Nov/Dec	1,294	43.98	0	0	554	65.01	554	65.01
	Total	16,819	15.19	47,766	22.26	57,024	17.51	104,791	18.26

<sup>1</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

**Table V.12 Recreational shellfish effort and catch (in numbers) for Blue Crab (estimates based on mail survey) (continued).**

Year	Wave	Total Effort	PSE Effort	Total Crab Harvest	PSE Harvest	Total Crab Release	PSE Release	Total Crab Catch	PSE Total Catch
2017	Jan/Feb	142	73.48	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	1,426	23.11	3,055	61.28	4,380	40.53	7,435	41.86
	May/June	4,521	13.05	21,326	30.61	21,807	22.09	43,134	24.49
	Jul/Aug	7,716	15.88	26,539	29.75	23,217	20.46	49,756	23.52
	Sep/Oct	2,236	17.70	12,397	33.02	14,181	25.54	26,578	28.00
	Nov/Dec	1,341	33.69	9,328	48.98	4,081	46.87	13,409	46.85
	Total	17,382	10.58	72,645	16.97	67,666	12.21	140,312	13.69
2016	Jan/Feb	1,218	46.35	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	1,111	28.62	4,696	49.58	3,351	39.78	8,047	39.55
	May/June	5,192	20.85	16,720	26.19	18,446	20.13	35,166	20.97
	Jul/Aug	7,435	14.82	21,722	21.98	41,521	20.11	63,243	19.16
	Sep/Oct	7,537	18.99	40,047	24.69	19,157	20.37	59,204	22.44
	Nov/Dec	832	43.48	1,694	58.19	305	71.95	1,999	58.00
	Total	23,325	9.91	84,879	14.40	82,780	12.31	167,659	11.94
2015	Jan/Feb	760	66.74	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	2,993	36.13	4,648	44.92	5,897	37.40	10,546	37.32
	May/June	5,182	19.39	22,461	28.75	14,429	24.28	36,890	24.73
	Jul/Aug	10,880	24.32	31,483	29.52	28,123	23.35	59,605	25.07
	Sep/Oct	5,743	28.94	12,309	29.63	8,925	19.55	21,234	23.17
	Nov/Dec	2,405	28.50	686	62.60	2,761	54.50	3,415	50.20
	Total	27,963	35.77	71,587	17.24	60,135	26.46	131,690	17.93
2014	Jan/Feb	335	36.93	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	1,222	27.63	2,872	48.40	2,322	41.50	5,195	42.95
	May/June	8,477	18.90	25,749	27.02	18,019	21.93	43,768	22.15
	Jul/Aug	5,584	24.88	35,911	44.32	23,067	33.72	58,978	37.12
	Sep/Oct	7,282	15.70	35,882	23.67	23,975	23.39	59,856	21.34
	Nov/Dec	481	38.71	183	100.00	30	100.00	213	100.00
	Total	23,381	11.31	100,597	19.52	67,413	15.71	168,010	16.49



**Table V.13 Recreational shellfish effort and catch (bushels) for Eastern Oysters (estimates based on mail survey).**

Year	Wave	Total Effort	PSE Effort	Total Oyster Harvest	PSE Harvest	Total Oyster Release	PSE Release	Total Oyster Catch	PSE Total Catch
2023 <sup>1</sup>	Jan/Feb	827	20.17	526	41.17	0	0	526	41.17
	Mar/Apr	734	31.75	605	61.48	0	0	605	61.48
	May/June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul/Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sep/Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nov/Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1,561</b>	<b>19.89</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>38.10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,132</b>
2022	Jan/Feb	737	27.13	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	945	17.63	226	50.31	0	0	226	50.31
	May/June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul/Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep/Oct	116	100.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nov/Dec	1,550	53.08	2,142	63.52	0	0	2,142	63.52
	<b>Total</b>		<b>3,348</b>	<b>24.84</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>57.83</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,367</b>
2021 <sup>2</sup>	Jan/Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
	May/June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul/Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep/Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nov/Dec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
2020	Jan/Feb	101	100.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar/Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May/June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul/Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep/Oct	220	91.29	200	100.00	0	0	200	100.00
	Nov/Dec	651	36.73	457	43.83	0	0	457	43.83
	<b>Total</b>		<b>972</b>	<b>34.99</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>43.12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>657</b>
2019	Jan/Feb	584	31.00	235	46.78	0	0	235	46.78
	Mar/Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May/June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul/Aug	108	100.00	163	100.00	0	0	163	100.00
	Sep/Oct	370	43.23	154	59.66	0	0	154	59.66
	Nov/Dec	611	35.20	329	41.33	0	0	329	41.33
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1,673</b>	<b>21.34</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>29.07</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>881</b>
2018	Jan/Feb	764	40.27	82	100.00	0	0	82	100.00
	Mar/Apr	531	42.38	165	60.45	0	0	165	60.45
	May/June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul/Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep/Oct	48	69.08	24	100.00	0	0	24	100.00
	Nov/Dec	408	42.92	117	59.88	0	0	117	59.88
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1,751</b>	<b>25.18</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>38.36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>388</b>

<sup>1</sup>Unable to establish a sampling frame in 2023 due to a restructuring of the license holder database.

<sup>2</sup>Mail survey was unable to produce an oyster estimate in 2021 due to low response rates.

**Table V.13 Recreational shellfish effort and catch (bushels) for Eastern Oysters (estimates based on mail survey) (continued).**

Year	Wave	Total Effort	PSE Effort	Total Oyster Harvest	PSE Harvest	Total Oyster Release	PSE Release	Total Oyster Catch	PSE Total Catch
2017	Jan/Feb	1,331	24.12	1,337	37.17	0	0	1,337	37.17
	Mar/Apr	956	46.60	303	44.62	0	0	303	44.62
	May/June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul/Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep/Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nov/Dec	829	41.15	392	44.05	0	0	392	44.05
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,116</b>	<b>22.63</b>	<b>2,033</b>	<b>26.92</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,033</b>	<b>26.92</b>
2016	Jan/Feb	669	30.46	411	41.87	0	0	411	41.87
	Mar/Apr	113	68.47	36	85.76	0	0	36	85.76
	May/June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul/Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep/Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nov/Dec	2,157	29.52	884	46.51	0	0	884	46.51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,940</b>	<b>27.29</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>33.74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>33.74</b>
2015	Jan/Feb	487	35.88	487	43.81	0	0	487	43.81
	Mar/Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May/June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul/Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep/Oct	327	73.47	39	100.00	0	0	39	100.00
	Nov/Dec	508	40.95	161	48.58	0	0	161	48.58
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>28.63</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>33.76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>33.76</b>
2014	Jan/Feb	271	48.17	108	78.95	0	0	108	78.95
	Mar/Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May/June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul/Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep/Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nov/Dec	641	29.72	442	44.41	0	0	442	44.41
	<b>Total</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>31.33</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>39.09</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>39.09</b>

**Appendix V.1**

**Primary and secondary waterbodies.**

**North Carolina Waterbodies**

<b><u>Albemarle Sound</u></b> Alligator River Batchelor Bay Big Flatty Creek Bull Bay Edenton Bay Little River North River Scuppernong River Swan Bay Taylor Bay Yeopim River	<b><u>Croatan Sound</u></b> Manns Harbor	<b><u>North River (Carteret)</u></b>	<b><u>Roanoke Sound</u></b> Broad Creek Kitty Hawk Bay Shallowbag Bay
	<b><u>Currituck Sound</u></b> Above Narrows Below Narrows Coinjock Bay Knotts Island Bay	<b><u>Davis Bay</u></b> Goose Bay Muddy Creek North River Thorofare The Straits Ward Creek	<b><u>Shalotte River</u></b> Gibbs Creek Little Shallotte River
<b><u>Bay River</u></b> Bonner Bay Fishermen Bay Rockhole Bay Trent Creek Vandemere Creek	<b><u>Little River</u></b> Bonaparte Creek Calabash Creek Eastern Channel Ocean Isle Canals	<b><u>Pasquotank River</u></b> Little Flatty Creek Newbegun Creek	<b><u>Stump Sound</u></b> Alligator Bay Thomas Landing Mill Creek
<b><u>Bogue Sound</u></b> Bogue Inlet Broad Creek Deer Creek Gales Creek Hoop Pole Creek Money Isle Peletier Creek Spooners Creek Tar Landing Bay Turning Basin	<b><u>Lockwood Folly</u></b> Spring Branch	<b><u>Pamlico River</u></b> Bath Creek Blounts Bay Blounts Creek Broad Creek Durham Creek Goose Creek North Creek South Creek St. Clairs Creek	<b><u>Topsail Sound</u></b> Virginia Creek Topsail Creek Elmore Inlet
<b><u>Cape Fear River</u></b> Bald Head Brunswick River Buzzard Bay Cedar Creek Dutchman Creek Elizabeth River First Bay Northeast Cape River Second Bay	<b><u>Masonboro Sound</u></b> Banks Channel Carolina Beach Basin Carolina Beach Inlet Johns Creek Mason Inlet Masonboro Channel Masonboro Inlet Rich Inlet	<b><u>Pamlico Sound</u></b> Abel Bay Caffee Bay Deep Bay Deep Cove East Bluff Bay Far Creek Germantown Bay Jones Bay Juniper Bay Long Shoal River Mouse Harbor Oyster Creek Rose Bay Spencer Bay Striking Bay Swan Quarter Bay West Bluff Bay Wysocking Bay	<b><u>White Oak River</u></b>
<b><u>Chowan River</u></b> Meherrin River	<b><u>Neuse River</u></b> Adams Creek Beard Creek Broad Creek Clubfoot Creek Dawson Creek Goose Creek Hancock Creek N. of Core Creek Bridge Slocum Creek South River Swan Creek Trent River Turnagain Bay Upper Broad Creek		<b>If the waterbody that you used most often was the Intracoastal Waterway - please indicate the ICW and the county when filling out the survey form.</b>
<b><u>Core Sound</u></b> Back Bay Back Sound Barry Bay Cedar Island Bay Jarrett Bay Middle Marshes Nelson Bay Oyster Creek Styron Bay Thorofare Bay	<b><u>New River</u></b> Chadwick Bay Courthouse Bay Farnell Bay Morgan Bay Stones Bay	<b><u>Pungo River</u></b> Fortescue Creek Jordan Creek Pantego Creek Pungo Creek Satterthwaite Creek Slade Creek Wrights Creek	<b>Intracoastal Waterway</b> Brunswick County
	<b><u>Newport River</u></b> Calico Creek Core Creek Haystacks S. of Core Creek Bridge Taylor Creek Town Creek	<b><u>Roanoke River</u></b> Broad Creek Eastmost River Middle River	<b>Intracoastal Waterway</b> Carteret County
			<b>Intracoastal Waterway</b> Craven County
			<b>Intracoastal Waterway</b> New Hanover County
			<b>Intracoastal Waterway</b> Onslow County
			<b>Intracoastal Waterway</b> Pender County
			<b>Atlantic Ocean</b> (north of Cape Hatteras)
			<b>Atlantic Ocean</b> (south of Cape Hatteras)

**North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries**  
***Saltwater Recreational Cast Net/Seine Survey***

Survey Recipient Name  
 Address Line 1  
 Address Line 2  
 Survey PIN: Customer ID #

If your name or mailing address (to the left) is incorrect, please fill in the correct information below.

Name	
Address	
City	
State	Zip

**General Survey Information**

If you purchased a Lifetime License from the Wildlife Resource Commission (WRC) *prior to January 1, 2007* do you saltwater fish?

Yes       No       This question does not apply to me.

How would you *prefer* to receive future communications from the Division of Marine Fisheries?  
 (choose only one)

Postal mail       Internet       No preference

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cast net/Seine Participation Information**

Check here if you **did not** use saltwater recreational cast nets or seines during the period of **(bi-monthly dates)**. (If you used a cast net/seine for bait fish, please report activity on the next page.)

If you *do not* use saltwater cast net/seines and **will not do so in the future**, please check the reason why:

Never used cast net/seine       Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please verify your address is correct and return the survey with the envelope provided.**  
 We appreciate your time in helping us learn more about the catch and efforts of our cast net/seine angling community. Please feel free to write any questions, comments, or suggestions below.

**If you have cast net/seine activity to report for the period of**  
**(bi-monthly dates),**  
**please complete the survey questions on the next page.**

**Trip Information**

Please answer the following questions **only for saltwater recreational cast net/seine trips** that occurred during the period of **(bi-monthly dates)** in North Carolina.

Which do you use most often? (choose only one)

- Cast net                       Seine                       Use both equally

How many trips did you participate in? \_\_\_\_\_

On a typical trip, how many people were involved (yourself included)? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the average amount of time you spent using a cast net or seine during each trip? \_\_\_\_\_  
(round to the nearest half or whole hour)

What point of access did you typically use? (choose only one)

- Water access at residence                       Beach/bank/shore  
 Public boat ramp (WRC or municipal facility): Ramp name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Marina/ramp: Ramp name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Access at public pier: Pier name \_\_\_\_\_

If you used a cast net(s) during these trips, what size(s) did you use (in feet)? (circle all that apply)

- 5    6    7    8    9    10    11    12    N/A

If you used a seine during these trips, what is the average length seine you used (in feet)? \_\_\_\_\_

North Carolina county most often fished using a cast net and/or seine: \_\_\_\_\_

Waterbody most often accessed using a cast net and/or seine: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please refer to the waterbody list on the back of your cover letter.)

**Catch Information (including bait fish)**

If you used a **saltwater cast net and/or seine RECREATIONALLY** during the period of **(bi-monthly dates)** in North Carolina waters, please complete the table below based on those experiences. Do not include any species caught by commercial or hook and line activity. Only list species caught in your cast net/seine.

Species	Total number used as BAIT	Total number kept for eating	Total number DISCARDED* (not used for bait or eating)	
			Alive	Dead

**Thank you for your time and participation.**

**North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries**  
***Recreational Flounder Gigging Survey***

Survey Recipient Name  
Address Line 1  
Address Line 2  
Survey PIN: Customer ID #

If your name or mailing address (to the left) is incorrect, please fill in the correct information below.

Name	
Address	
City	
State	Zip

**General Survey Information**

If you purchased a Lifetime License from the Wildlife Resource Commission (WRC) *prior to January 1, 2007* do you saltwater fish?

Yes       No       This question does not apply to me.

How would you *prefer* to receive future communications from the Division of Marine Fisheries? (choose only one)

Postal mail       Internet       No preference

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you recreationally harvest crabs?  Yes       No

Do you recreationally harvest clams, oysters, or scallops?  Yes       No

Do you recreationally use a cast net or seine?  Yes       No

**Gigging Participation Information**

Check here if you did **not** participate in flounder gigging during the period of **(bi-monthly dates)**. (If you did participate in flounder gigging, please report activity on the next page.)

If you *do not* flounder gig and **will not gig in the future**, please check the reason why:

Never gigged       Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please verify your address is correct and return the survey with the envelope provided.**

We appreciate your time in helping us learn more about the catch and efforts of our flounder gigging community. Please feel free to write any questions, comments, or suggestions below.

**If you have gigging activity to report for the period of  
(bi-monthly dates),  
please complete the survey questions on the next page.**

**Trip Information**

Please answer the following questions **only for gigging trips** that occurred during the period of **(bi-monthly dates)** in North Carolina.

How many trips did you participate in? \_\_\_\_\_

On a typical trip, how many people went gigging (yourself included)? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the average amount of time you spent gigging per trip? \_\_\_\_\_  
(round to the nearest half or whole hour)

What point of access did you typically use? (choose only one)

- Water access at residence
- Beach/bank/shore
- Private boat ramp
- Public boat ramp (WRC or municipal facility): Ramp name \_\_\_\_\_
- Marina/ramp: Ramp name \_\_\_\_\_

What was your typical method of gigging? (choose only one)

- Poling
- Walking/wading
- Trolling motor
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

North Carolina county most often gigged for flounder: \_\_\_\_\_

Waterbody most often gigged for flounder: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please refer to the waterbody list on the back of your cover letter.)

**Catch Information**

If you **RECREATIONALLY** gigged during the period of **(bi-monthly dates)** in North Carolina waters, please complete the table below based on those experiences. Do not include commercial or hook and line activity. You should only include information on fish captured while gigging (including those species other than flounder).

Species (list other species below)	Total number kept	Total pounds kept (optional)	Total number thrown back
flounder			

**Thank you for your time and participation.**

**North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
Recreational Crab and Shellfish Harvesting Survey**

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Survey Recipient Name  
Address Line 1  
Address Line 2  
Survey PIN: Customer ID #

If your name or mailing address (to the left) is incorrect, please fill in the correct information below.

Name	
Address	
City	
State	Zip

**General Survey Information**

If selected, how would you *prefer* to complete future surveys? (choose only one)

Postal mail       Internet       No preference

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to your Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL), what other licenses do you have? (check all that apply)

- Recreational Commercial Gear License (RCGL)
- Standard Commercial Fishing License (SCFL)
- Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License (RSCFL)
- Shellfish License (a license that allows any North Carolina resident to harvest commercial amounts of shellfish without purchasing a SCFL)

**Crab and Shellfish Harvest Participation Information**

Check here if you did **not** attempt to harvest any crabs, oysters, and clams in North Carolina during the period of **(bi-monthly dates)**. (If you harvested any crabs, oysters, and/or clams, please report activity on the next page.)

**Please verify your address is correct and return the survey with the envelope provided.**

We appreciate your time in helping us learn more about the catch and efforts of our recreational crab and shellfish harvesting community. Please feel free to write any questions, comments, or suggestions below.

**If you attempted to harvest crabs and/or shellfish in North Carolina for the period of  
(bi-monthly dates),  
please complete the survey questions on the next page.**



**Recreational Crab and Shellfish Harvesting Survey**

<b>BLUE CRABS</b>		I did not go crabbing from (bi-monthly dates) <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Trip Information</b>		<b>Catch Information for BLUE CRABS</b>	
What is the average amount of time you spent <u>crabbing</u> per trip? (hours) _____		<b>Total number kept</b>	<b>Total number thrown back</b>
On a typical trip, how many people went <u>crabbing</u> ? (yourself included) _____	Total number of <u>crabbing</u> trips made during this time period. _____	What gears did you use for <u>crabbing</u> ? (Choose all that apply)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Handline/Chicken necking <input type="checkbox"/> Gig <input type="checkbox"/> Hook & line <input type="checkbox"/> Collapsible trap <input type="checkbox"/> Pot <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____	
What point of access did you typically use for <u>crabbing</u> ? (Choose only one)			
<input type="radio"/> Beach/bank/shore <input type="radio"/> Public boat ramp (WRC or municipal facility): Ramp name _____ <input type="radio"/> Private boat ramp <input type="radio"/> Water access at residence <input type="radio"/> Marina/ramp: Ramp name _____			
North Carolina county most often fished for <u>crabs</u> : _____			
Waterbody most often fished for <u>crabs</u> : _____			
(REFER TO WATERBODY LIST ON THE BACK OF YOUR COVER LETTER)			

<b>CLAMS</b>		I did not go clamming from (bi-monthly dates) <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Trip Information</b>		<b>Catch Information for CLAMS</b>	
What is the average amount of time you spent <u>clamming</u> per trip? (hours) _____		<b>Total number kept</b>	<b>Total number thrown back</b>
On a typical trip, how many people went <u>clamming</u> ? (yourself included) _____	Total number of <u>clamming</u> trips made during this time period. _____	What gears did you use for <u>clamming</u> ? (Choose all that apply)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Rake <input type="checkbox"/> Tongs <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____	
What point of access did you typically use for <u>clamming</u> ? (Choose only one)			
<input type="radio"/> Beach/bank/shore <input type="radio"/> Public boat ramp (WRC or municipal facility): Ramp name _____ <input type="radio"/> Private boat ramp <input type="radio"/> Water access at residence <input type="radio"/> Marina/ramp: Ramp name _____			
North Carolina county most often fished for <u>clams</u> : _____			
Waterbody most often fished for <u>clams</u> : _____			
(REFER TO WATERBODY LIST ON THE BACK OF YOUR COVER LETTER)			

**Recreational Crab and Shellfish Harvesting Survey**

<b>OYSTERS</b>	I did not go oystering from <u>(bi-monthly dates)</u> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Trip Information</b>	<b>Catch Information for OYSTERS</b>
What is the average amount of time you spent <u>oystering</u> per trip? (hours) _____	<b>Total number of whole or half bushels kept (a 5 gallon bucket = about ½ bushel)</b>
On a typical trip, how many people went <u>oystering</u> ? (yourself included) _____	<b>What gears did you use for <u>oystering</u>?</b> (Choose all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Rake <input type="checkbox"/> Tongs <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____
Total number of <u>oystering</u> trips made during this time period. _____	
What point of access did you typically use for <u>oystering</u> ? (Choose only one) <input type="radio"/> Beach/bank/shore <input type="radio"/> Public boat ramp (WRC or municipal facility): Ramp name _____ <input type="radio"/> Private boat ramp <input type="radio"/> Water access at residence <input type="radio"/> Marina/ramp: Ramp name _____	
North Carolina county most often fished for <u>oysters</u> : _____	
Waterbody most often fished for <u>oysters</u> : _____ (REFER TO WATERBODY LIST ON THE BACK OF YOUR COVER LETTER)	

**Thank you for your time and participation.**