



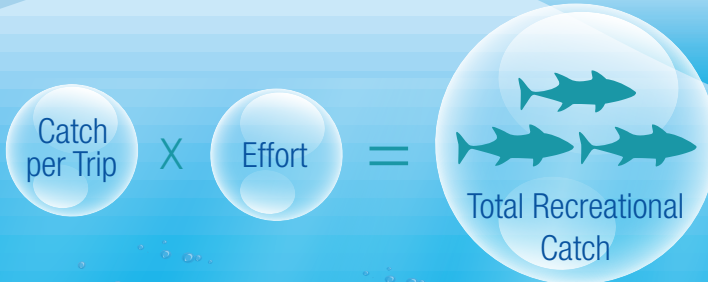
NOAA
FISHERIES

Fishing Effort Survey

Stakeholder Guide

We use the FES to estimate the number of **fishing trips** taken by shore and private boat anglers on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

We combine this information with estimates of catch per trip—gathered through a separate survey—to develop total recreational catch estimates.



Total recreational catch is one important source of data that scientists and managers use to ensure healthy, productive fisheries.

What's new?

The Fishing Effort Survey uses U.S. Postal Service records, supplemented by state-based saltwater recreational angler license and registration information, to more effectively reach fishermen.

The FES provides a **more accurate** picture of how many trips recreational anglers are taking. Here are some reasons why:



We're reaching more anglers.



Respondents have time to provide more complete answers.



The surveys get into the right hands.



More people open our specially designed questionnaire.



The FES gets three times the response rate of the phone survey.

"The [FES] methodologies, including the address-based sampling survey design, are major improvements from the original Coastal Household Telephone Survey."

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
2017 Review of the Marine Recreational Information Program

What's changing?

The FES replaces our telephone survey. Now we're working to compare the estimates from the two surveys. Here's how:

Model—A **calibration model** allows us to make an apples-to-apples comparison between the estimates.

Calibrate—We'll use the model to adjust the effort data back to 1981 and share updated estimates in July 2018. We're also updating our catch per trip estimates to account for improvements we made to that survey in 2013.

Assess—The updated numbers will be used in **stock assessments** that are scheduled on a species-by-species basis.

Manage—As stock assessments are completed, the regional fishery management councils and commissions will review the outcomes and develop annual catch limits and other management measures.



How will this affect recreational fishermen?



The FES estimates are several times higher than those from the telephone survey. This may result in changes to stock abundance estimates, which could lead to corresponding management measures. Factors influencing this process include:

- The **calibration model**, which shows more fishing dating back to 1981, not a recent increase in activity.
- The fact that recreational fishing data is only one component in **stock assessments**.

Depending on the outcome of new stock assessments, the higher FES numbers will potentially impact:



What's next?



2018

Revised total catch estimates will be available in July for use in planned stock assessments.



2019

Preliminary management changes may be made for re-assessed stocks.

Calibrated statistics will be incorporated into additional stock assessments.



2020

Based on new stock assessments, management changes could occur for a number of species.

Learn more at
www.countmyfish.noaa.gov

