

Better **Data,** Better **Fishing**

You and your clients
make it possible

For-hire captains, crew, and clients are important sources of recreational fishing data.

By providing data necessary for stock assessments and management actions, you are helping support the health and future of recreational fishing.



For-hire fishing in the Southeast supports:

\$1+
billion
sales

\$340+
million
income

10,500+
jobs

Source: NOAA Fisheries.

Recreational fisheries catch monitoring is typically based on two or more census and sampling surveys (see examples below). The gold standard is a complemented census and sampling survey design.

- An example of a **Census Survey** design is a mandatory logbook.
- An example of a **Complemented Sampling Survey** design is a telephone, access point, or dockside survey.
- An example of a **Complemented Census and Sampling Survey** design is a mandatory logbook census with access point or dockside surveys.

Complemented Census and Sampling survey designs estimate final landings using a Capture-Recapture statistical method. Logbooks represent the capture phase, and dockside surveys the recapture phase. This method accounts for unreported catch (e.g., catch from unreported trips, or misreported catch).

New Federal For-Hire Reporting Requirements

The **Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program** established more comprehensive reporting requirements for the Gulf region's federally permitted charter boats and modified reporting requirements for the region's federally permitted headboats. These requirements include declarations, logbooks (capture), approved landing locations, and intercept survey participation (recapture). This capture-recapture two-survey design ensures a robust method for recreational catch and effort monitoring.

What information is asked during the dockside intercept?

Vessel operators will be asked for information such as general location, hours fished, number of anglers, species and number kept and released, and if time allows, length and weight measurements.

How will the data be used together?

Trip-level reporting is expected to provide more accurate and reliable data, which will lead to improved management and monitoring of Gulf species. Trip-level data will be used along with the intercept survey to produce estimates of annual catch.

When will the data be used?

Once this program is certified and calibrated to existing data collection, the data may be used to estimate catch. Existing data collection methods will continue to be used for management until that time.

Why should I participate in multiple programs?

A new data collection system will usually result in different values than a past program due to design differences or changes in the fishery. Side-by-side comparisons of the two programs over multiple years are done to calibrate the programs to each other and ensure extreme events (e.g., hurricanes, pandemics, red tides) do not influence the conversion factor. With proper calibration, data from a new program can be used to produce accurate estimates of current catch, provide estimates of historical catch, make informed management decisions, and highlight the impact and importance of catch to coastal economies.

fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/recreational-fishing-data/southeast-hire-electronic-reporting-program

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