

The Marine Recreational Information Program

Access Point Angler Intercept Survey: Survey Plan

8/30/2021

Recreational fisheries catch and effort data collection is necessary to fulfill the requirements of Section 303 of the [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act](#) (16 U.S.C. 1852 *et. seq.*) and to comply with [Executive Order 12962](#) on Recreational Fisheries. Section 303 (a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act specifically mandates that data and analyses be included in Fishery Management Plans. As per these requirements, recreational fishing catch and effort data are used on an ongoing basis by NOAA Fisheries, regional fishery management councils, interstate marine fisheries commissions and state natural resource agencies in developing, implementing and monitoring fishery management programs. These catch and effort statistics are used to determine the effects of fishing on fish stocks and develop sound management strategies and policies. Continuous monitoring of catch and effort is also used to assess trends, evaluate the impacts of management regulations, and project how different management scenarios may influence a fishery.

The MRIP Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) is an in-person, site-day sampling survey of recreational anglers, and collects individual catch data from anglers returning to public fishing access sites. The survey is implemented in the states along the Atlantic Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. The collected data are used to estimate catch rates (i.e. catch per trip) by finfish species. This information is combined with effort data collected through off site surveys of fishing effort, to estimate total catch by species. These total catch estimates are produced bimonthly and annually, in numbers of fish and weights of landed fish, by state, fishing mode (for-hire, private boat, shore), and area fished (inland, State Territorial Seas, and Federal Exclusive Economic Zone). Point estimates are accompanied by measures of precision in the form of percent standard error and 95% confidence intervals.

The APAIS is consistent with OMB guidelines, and has received clearance in accordance with the [Paperwork Reduction Act](#) (5 CFR 1320.5(b)) under OMB Control No. 0648-0659. The current clearance is valid through 07/31/2022.