IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ATLANTIC COAST FISHERIES ELECTRONIC REPORTING

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) would like to hear from you ... *Atlantic coast commercial and recreational fishermen, harvesters and dealers!*

As technologies improve and the electronic era moves forward, state and federal agencies that collect fisheries data could use electronic reporting as a means to capture what fishermen harvest. This survey has been developed to better understand the potential positives and negatives of electronic reporting through the eyes of dealers and the fishing community.

Please take a few minutes to educate us as we explore electronic reporting options. Your input on this survey will then be used to initiate a workshop during the fall of 2013. The intent of the workshop will be to produce a document to be shared with fishermen and fishery management agencies on how to improve new and existing electronic reporting systems. Your anonymous input is critical to the future of fisheries data collection for your industry.

This survey is also available electronically. Please visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACCSP_ereporting if you would like to enter electronically. Please see reverse side for information on returning your paper survey.

ABOUT YOU:

Please answer the following questions so we may better get to know you.

1. Age:

( ) Under 25 ( ) 25 - 34 ( ) 35 - 44
( ) 45 - 54 ( ) Over 54

2. Fishing sector:

( ) Commercial fisherman ( ) Dealer
( ) For-hire recreational ( ) Private recreational
( ) Other: _____

3. Primary home port, business, or residency:

( ) Maine ( ) New Hampshire
( ) Massachusetts ( ) Rhode Island
( ) Connecticut ( ) New York
( ) New Jersey ( ) Delaware
( ) Pennsylvania ( ) Maryland
( ) Virginia ( ) North Carolina
( ) South Carolina ( ) Georgia
( ) Florida

4. Primary area fished:

( ) Inland (bays, lagoons, and/or sounds)
( ) State waters (0 - 3 miles)
( ) Federal waters (> 3 miles)

5. Fishing related activities (e.g., commercial or recreational fisherman, harvester, dealer, etc.) are:

( ) Full-time job ( ) Part-time job
( ) Recreational
( ) Other: _____

6. To which jurisdiction(s) or agencies do you currently report information on your fishing related activities (e.g., commercial or recreational fisherman, harvester, dealer, etc.)? *Please let us know all that apply.*

( ) None ( ) Maine
( ) New Hampshire ( ) Massachusetts
( ) Rhode Island ( ) Connecticut
( ) New York ( ) New Jersey
( ) Delaware ( ) Pennsylvania
( ) Maryland ( ) Virginia
( ) North Carolina ( ) South Carolina
( ) Georgia ( ) Florida
( ) Sector manager
( ) NOAA: Northeast Regional Office
( ) NOAA: Southeast Regional Office
( ) NOAA: Highly Migratory Species (HMS)

7. How often are you required to report for your fishing related activities (e.g., commercial or recreational fisherman, harvester, dealer, etc.)?

( ) Before arriving at dock ( ) Daily
( ) Weekly ( ) Twice a month
( ) Monthly
( ) Other: _____

8. What is your experience with electronic reporting?

( ) No experience ( ) I am required to use it
( ) It is an option and I do not use it
( ) It is an option and I use it

9. What electronic tool(s) do you currently use?
Please let us know all that apply.

( ) Computer ( ) Work internet access
( ) Tablet ( ) At-sea internet access
( ) Smartphone ( ) Home internet access
( ) At-dock internet access
( ) Other: _____

... PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE

UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPINIONS ON ELECTRONIC REPORTING:

Please answer the following questions so we may better understand your preferences for electronic reporting.

10. From your perspective please let us know if you 'agree' or 'disagree' with the following statements. For instance, if you think paper reporting takes more time for you, then you select 'agree'.

If you do not 'agree' or 'disagree' please indicate that with the 'neutral' option.

a. *Electronic reporting takes more time for me than paper reporting.*
( ) Agree ( ) Neutral ( ) Disagree

b. *Electronic reporting imposes more costs for me than paper reporting.*
( ) Agree ( ) Neutral ( ) Disagree

c. *Electronic reporting is more difficult for me than paper reporting.*
( ) Agree ( ) Neutral ( ) Disagree

d. *Electronic reporting programs are less reliable for me than paper reporting.*
( ) Agree ( ) Neutral ( ) Disagree

e. *I believe data from electronic reporting programs are available to managers and scientists faster than paper reporting.*
( ) Agree ( ) Neutral ( ) Disagree

f. *I believe data from electronic reporting programs contain less errors than those from paper reporting.*
( ) Agree ( ) Neutral ( ) Disagree

g. *I would use electronic reporting if it replaced all other reporting requirements and allowed filing a single catch report.*
( ) Agree ( ) Neutral ( ) Disagree

h. *I would use electronic reporting if the program addressed my needs and was designed to my standards.*
( ) Agree ( ) Neutral ( ) Disagree

11. If you have experience with electronic reporting please share with us the key advantages.

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_____
_____
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12. If you have experience with electronic reporting please share with us the key disadvantages.

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13. What would you require an electronic reporting system to include in order for you to use it?

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_____
_____
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14. What other impediments or concerns prevent you from favoring or using electronic reporting programs?

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15. As we mentioned this information will be used to educate us as we explore electronic reporting options. If you would like information on the results of the electronic reporting workshop please provide an email or mailing address below.

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ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. *For more information please visit www.accsp.org.*

The mission of the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries staff is to research and monitor marine species to support the effective management of finfish and shellfish of commercial and recreational importance. *For more information please visit www.dem.ri.gov/topics/mftopics.htm.*

RETURNING YOUR PAPER SURVEY

Please return your paper survey to your local fisheries management office or you can also return through the mail to Ann McElhatton, ACCSP Program Manager, 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201. For more information please do not hesitate to call 703.842.0780 or email info@accsp.org.

This survey is also available electronically. Please visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACCSP_ereporting if you would like to enter electronically.