

# 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](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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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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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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The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (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. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For more information please visit [www.accsp.org](http://www.accsp.org).

## 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](mailto:info@accsp.org).

This survey is also available electronically. Please visit [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACCSP\\_ereporting](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACCSP_ereporting) if you would like to enter electronically.