



Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

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Executive Director's Report

Most Maryland Saltwater Fishermen Will Need to Register with NOAA Beginning January 1

Saltwater Angler Registry
Part of Improved Data
Program To Help Protect
Long-Term Sustainability of
Recreational Fishing

Under a new federal law, most Maryland saltwater fishermen will be required to register with the new National Saltwater Angler Registry before they go fishing this year.

Beginning January 1, 2010, Maryland fishermen will need to register if they:

Fish for or catch anadromous species in tidal waters; these are fish like striped bass, shad or river herring that live in the oceans but spawn in fresh water, OR

Fish in the Federal waters more than three miles from the ocean shore or from the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, OR

Don't meet any of the exceptions in the law.

Those exceptions include anglers who are under the age of 16; only fish on licensed charter, party or guide boats; hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling permit; or hold and are fishing under a valid commercial license. In addition, out-of-state saltwater anglers who are already registered with NOAA do not need to re-register to fish in Maryland.

Even if you possess a Maryland Bay license or are fishing in one of the state's Free Fishing areas, sport fishermen will still need to register with NOAA.

Registration is quick and easy and will be free in 2010. Beginning January 1, anglers simply need to log on to www.countmyfish.noaa.gov and click on the Angler Registry link, or call the toll-free registration line at **1-888-MRIP411** (1-888-674-4411).



Anglers will need to provide
name
date of birth
address
telephone number

After completing the registration you will receive a registration number that will allow them begin fishing immediately. After approximately 30 days, they will receive a registration card in the mail.

The registry is an important tool that will help fishermen and policy makers work together to better account for the contributions and impacts of saltwater anglers on ocean ecosystems and coastal economies. It is part of a national overhaul of the way NOAA collects and reports recreational fishing data. The goal of the initiative – known as the Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP – is to provide the most accurate information possible that can be used to determine the health of fish stocks. Reliable, universally trusted data will in turn aid anglers, fisheries managers and other stakeholders in their combined efforts to effectively and fairly set the rules that will ensure the long-term sustainability of recreational fishing.

For more information, visit www.countmyfish.noaa.gov or call the MSSA at 410-255-5535

