

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

## You and your clients make it possible

**For-hire captains, crew, and anglers are important sources of recreational fishing data.** Your information informs our understanding of for-hire catch and effort, and helps NOAA Fisheries evaluate the economic impact of the federally permitted for-hire fleet.

**Electronic trip reports** collect catch, effort, and, in some cases, economic information from federally permitted for-hire vessels.



**In-person, dockside intercepts** validate electronic trip reports and collect data from for-hire customers about their catch.



**Telephone surveys** collect data from all for-hire vessels.

High-quality catch estimates are fundamental to the health of our fisheries, the future of recreational fishing, and the millions of lives and livelihoods connected to the sport.

**For-hire fishing in the Southeast supports:**

**\$925+**  
million  
sales

**\$312+**  
million  
income

**9,500+**  
jobs

Source: NOAA Fisheries, 2017 data.

Top Photo: Amanda Nalley/FL FWC. Bottom Photo: Cameron J. Rhodes.

[countmyfish.noaa.gov](http://countmyfish.noaa.gov)

# New For-Hire Reporting Requirements

The **Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program** established new reporting requirements for the region's federally permitted charter boats, and modified reporting requirements for the region's federally permitted headboats.

## What kind of information must be submitted?

Charter vessels must report information such as location, depth, and hours fished, trip fees, fuel costs, and species kept and discarded.

## How will the data be used?

Trip-level reporting is expected to provide more timely and efficient management of fishing seasons. Economic data will help evaluate the impact of management actions and, when disasters such as hurricanes occur, assess costs.

## When will the data be used?

These data will inform our recreational fisheries statistics once NOAA Fisheries and our partners develop a transition plan that includes a method of converting historical estimates to the design of this new program. Until then, the **Access Point Angler Intercept Survey**, **For-Hire Survey**, and **Southeast Region Headboat Survey** will be the only sources of our official for-hire catch and effort estimates from the Southeast.

## Why should I participate in multiple programs?

The Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program will be conducted alongside the For-Hire Survey for a benchmarking period of at least three years. Your full participation in all applicable surveys will support our multiyear transition to the new reporting program.

Learn about new for-hire reporting requirements at

[fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast](https://fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast)



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