

Interviewer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Port Name: : \_\_\_\_\_

Start Time: : \_\_\_\_\_

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**Social Sciences Branch  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
Woods Hole, MA**

## **Survey on the Socio-Economic Aspects of Commercial Fishing Crew in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic**



*Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Tammy Murphy, NOAA Line office, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA, 02543-1026.*

***Responses to this information request are confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act as amended in 2006. Responses are also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.***

*In this survey, please tell us about your fishing in 2011.  
The information you provide will remain strictly confidential.  
You will not be identified with your answers.*

**1. Please look at the following list of fisheries and indicate which three fisheries you consider to be your top 3 fisheries, with #1 indicating the fishery that is most important to you, #2 indicating the fishery that is second most important to you, and #3 indicating the fishery that is third most important to you.**

	#1 (Most Important Fishery)
	#2 (Second Most Important Fishery)
	#3 (Third Most Important Fishery)
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Sea Bass	<input type="checkbox"/> Scup
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring	<input type="checkbox"/> Skate
<input type="checkbox"/> Lobster	<input type="checkbox"/> Spiny Dogfish
<input type="checkbox"/> Mackerel	<input type="checkbox"/> Squid, Illex
<input type="checkbox"/> Monkfish	<input type="checkbox"/> Squid, Loligo
<input type="checkbox"/> Multispecies, sectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Flounder
<input type="checkbox"/> Multispecies, common pool	<input type="checkbox"/> Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Crab	<input type="checkbox"/> Tilefish
<input type="checkbox"/> Scallop, general category IFQ	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Scallop, general category non-IFQ	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scallop, limited access	

**2. Why do you consider it to be your primary fishery?**

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**3. What port did you primarily work out of in 2011?**

Port \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please list all major sources of household income in 2011, including fishing, starting with the most important. Please include sources of income such as investments and unemployment payments. Estimate the percentage that each contributed to your total household income. Please consider all sources of income from everyone that lives in your house.

	Source	% Household Income
1 <sup>st</sup> most important		
2 <sup>nd</sup> most important		
3 <sup>rd</sup> most important		
4 <sup>th</sup> most important		
5 <sup>th</sup> most important		
6 <sup>th</sup> most important		
7 <sup>th</sup> most important		
8 <sup>th</sup> most important		
9 <sup>th</sup> most important		
10 <sup>th</sup> most important		
11 <sup>th</sup> most important		
12 <sup>th</sup> most important		

5. Are any members of your family (for example, parents, children, siblings, uncles/aunts, cousins, in-laws) involved in commercial fishing or other fishing-related activities (for example, book-keeping, provisioning vessels, marketing)?

1. YES
2. NO
3. I DON'T KNOW.

*Within your primary fishery, consider the vessel you worked on the most in 2011.  
Please answer the following questions based on your fishing activities on that primary vessel.*

**6. In what port did your vessel usually moor between fishing trips during 2011?**

Port \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

**7. What was the main port of landing for that vessel in 2011?**

Port \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

**8. How many days (24 hour periods) did a typical trip last before returning to port?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Days

**9. What was the average size of the crew in 2011 (including the captain)?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Members

**10. How many hours per day (24 hour period) did you usually work while on a fishing trip?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Hours

**11. Was the vessel you worked on most in 2011 owner-operated? (Please circle one response).**

1. YES
2. NO
3. UNCERTAIN

*Please think about the expenditures for your primary fishery on your primary vessel.  
Please tell us about how revenues and expenses are distributed amongst crew.*

**12. For your vessel in 2011, please indicate which of the following describes how the crew was paid. If more than one payment system was used, please indicate all that apply.**

1. A share system (revenues and expenses were shared between the boat and crew)
2. Per-trip
3. Hourly wage
4. Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
5. I don't know.

**If your answer to Question #12 included payments to crew through a share system, please continue to Question #13.**

**If not, please go to Question #16.**

**13. For share systems, what were the typical percentages distributed to the boat (the vessel owner) and crew?**

\_\_\_\_\_ % Boat (owner) share

\_\_\_\_\_ % Crew share

100 %

\_\_\_\_\_ I don't know.

**14. For share systems, how is payment to the captain of the boat usually handled if the captain is a hired captain (not the vessel owner)? [If the vessel you worked on most in 2011 was owner-operated, please go to Question #15].**

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\_\_\_\_\_ I don't know.

*Question #15 is about how expenses are handled under share systems.  
Please help us to understand how expenses for each of the following items are deducted.*

15. A. For 2011, what expenses did you and other crew members pay a portion of? Please include expenses that were deducted from the crew's share and expenses that crew may have been asked to pay for separately (outside a share system).

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\_\_\_\_\_ I don't know.

B. For this vessel, were there new expenses in 2011 that crew members were asked to pay that they were not asked to pay before?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. I don't know.

C. If you responded "YES" to Question #15, Part B, above, please tell us what new expenses you, as a crew member, have been asked to pay in 2011 that you were not asked to pay in 2010.  
If you responded "NO" to Question #15, Part B, above, please continue to Question #16.

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16. What was your position on the vessel in 2011? (Please circle all that apply).

- 1. Captain
- 2. Deck hand
- 3. Engine mechanic
- 4. Cook
- 5. Other \_\_\_\_\_

**17. If you were the captain, did you have anyone from your immediate family help you with your duties (such as provisioning the vessel, selling the catch, etc.)?**

1. YES

2. NO

**18. What was the first crew position you ever had when you began fishing (for example cook, mechanic, deckhand, electrician)?**

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**19. Please list your top three primary activities on the vessel you worked on in 2011, with #1 representing your most important activity, #2 representing your second most important activity and #3 representing your third most important activity.**

#1 \_\_\_\_\_ First Most Important Activity

#2 \_\_\_\_\_ Second Most Important Activity

#3 \_\_\_\_\_ Third Most Important Activity

**20. How were you hired for the vessel you worked on in 2011? (Please circle one response).**

1. Word of mouth
2. Referred by a friend
3. Related to owner
4. Related to non-owner crew member (may include hired captain)
5. Previous work with the same vessel
6. Advertisement
7. Other \_\_\_\_\_

**21. How difficult was it for you to find your employment on a vessel in 2011? (Please circle one response).**

1. Very easy
2. Easy
3. Neither easy nor difficult
4. Difficult
5. Very difficult

**22. As of December 31, 2011, how many consecutive years had you worked on your vessel? If you had worked on this vessel for less than 1 year as of December 31, 2011, please indicate the number of months you had worked on this vessel.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Years

\_\_\_\_\_ Months

**23. How many different vessel owners did you work for in 2011?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Vessel owners

*Responses to Question #24 below help us understand  
the value of time for commercial fishermen.*

**24. Imagine for a moment that you were not a commercial fisherman.**

**A. For the year 2011, what is your best estimate of how much you would earn per year?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Dollars Per Year

**B. Please indicate whether this estimate is based on full-time or part-time work.**

1. Full-time
2. Part-time

*In the following questions, please tell us how you feel about the process of fisheries management.*

**25. Have you ever participated in any aspect of federal fisheries management (such as attending meetings, writing letters, or serving on a committee)?**

- 1. YES (If YES, Continue with Question #26, below)
- 2. NO (If NO, Go to Question #27, below)

**26. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the most recent federal government-led fisheries management process you participated in. (Please circle one number for each item).**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. Commercial fishermen have been effectively integrated into fisheries management decisions	1	2	3	4	5
b. I feel like fisheries managers are serious about involving commercial fishermen in the process of fisheries management	1	2	3	4	5
c. I do not feel welcome in public meetings about fisheries management	1	2	3	4	5
d. I do not trust the managing authorities to make the right decision when it comes to regulating fisheries.	1	2	3	4	5

**27. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning the federal government's role in creating the regulations that govern your primary fishery. (Please circle one number for each item).**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. I did not believe the information the people in charge of the process presented.	1	2	3	4	5
b. The people in charge of the process were not equally fair to everyone involved.	1	2	3	4	5
c. I had the right to appeal decisions that were being made that I thought were unfair.	1	2	3	4	5
d. I had no opportunity to correct information that I thought was inaccurate.	1	2	3	4	5
e. I had the opportunity to add new information that was relevant to the decision making process.	1	2	3	4	5
f. I felt like the opinions of commercial fishermen were not taken seriously.	1	2	3	4	5

28. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about the responsibilities fishermen have. (Please circle one number for each item).

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. Fishermen have a responsibility to participate in the fisheries management process.	1	2	3	4	5
b. I make every effort to ensure my actions do not harm the fishery unnecessarily.	1	2	3	4	5
c. The ocean is very large, there is no way we can over fish it.	1	2	3	4	5
d. The natural environment is important to me because that is how I make my living.	1	2	3	4	5

**Question 29 is intentionally skipped. -**

*The following sections include questions to help us to collect data on fishermen well-being.*

*The information you provide us will remain strictly confidential.  
Your name will never be associated with your responses.*

*In the following section we are interested in  
commercial fishing as a lifestyle  
and how satisfied you are.*

**30. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about fishing as a career. (Please circle one number for each item).**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. I feel like I am a leader in my local <i>community</i> .	1	2	3	4	5
b. I feel like I am a leader in my primary <i>fishery</i> .	1	2	3	4	5
c. I am proud to identify myself as a fisherman.	1	2	3	4	5
d. I feel a strong connection to other fishermen in the community.	1	2	3	4	5
e. I enjoy fishing.	1	2	3	4	5
f. Fishing is just a job to me.	1	2	3	4	5
g. Leaving the fishing industry is something that I have considered.	1	2	3	4	5
h. Right now, I want to continue fishing but only part-time until I retire.	1	2	3	4	5

**31. Would you advise a young person to enter fishing?**

1. YES
2. NO

WHY? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**32. Would you still be a commercial fisherman if you had your life to live over?**

1. YES
2. NO

WHY? \_\_\_\_\_

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**33. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following items relating to the job of fishing? (Please circle one number for each item).**

	Extremely dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Extremely satisfied
a. Your actual earnings	1	2	3	4	5
b. The predictability of your earnings	1	2	3	4	5
c. Job safety (e.g. risks to you from working as a fisherman)	1	2	3	4	5
d. The amount of time spent away from home	1	2	3	4	5
e. Physical fatigue of the job	1	2	3	4	5
f. Healthfulness of the job (e.g how your job as a fisherman may impact your physical and mental health)	1	2	3	4	5
g. Adventure of the job	1	2	3	4	5
h. Challenge of the job	1	2	3	4	5
i. Opportunity to be your own boss	1	2	3	4	5

**34. In general, how satisfied are you with: (Please circle one number for each part).**

	Extremely dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Extremely satisfied
a. Your life	1	2	3	4	5
b. Your physical health	1	2	3	4	5
c. The overall health of the marine environment	1	2	3	4	5

*We realize the next question may seem odd or personal. There is evidence that a person's level of happiness affects their physical health, mental health and overall well-being.*

**35. How often do you feel happy?**

- 1. Never
- 2. Not often
- 3. Neutral
- 4. Often
- 5. All the time

*In the following questions, please tell us about any health insurance you may have.*

**36. Did you or members of your family have health insurance in 2011?**

- 1. YES (If YES, Continue with Question #37, below)
- 2. NO (If NO, Go to Question #39, below )

**37. If YES, did this health insurance cover (please check all that apply).**

- |                                   |     |                          |    |                          |     |                          |
|-----------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| a. Yourself                       | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |     |                          |
| b. Your spouse or another adult   | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Your or your spouse's children | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**38. If YES, where did the insurance come from?**

- 1. From my employer (the vessel owner)
- 2. From another employer I have
- 3. Spouse's/Partner's place of employment
- 4. Own Private Insurance
- 5. Federal or State Insurance Program
- 6. Other

**39. Were you or members of your family offered health insurance through your boat (by the vessel owner)?**

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

*As a reminder, the information you provide to us will remain strictly confidential.  
Your name will never be associated with your answers.*

**40. What year were you born in?** \_\_\_\_\_

*Below, please respond to each question about Hispanic origins, race, and ethnicity. For this survey, Hispanic origins are not races.*

**41. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? “Hispanic or Latino” refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.**

1. No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
2. Yes: Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano
3. Yes: Puerto Rican
4. Yes: Cuban
5. Yes: Other Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin

**42. Which racial category describes you? (Please check all that apply).**

1. White
2. Black or African American
3. American Indian or Alaska Native
4. Asian
5. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
6. Some other race (alone)
7. Person of two or more races

**43. What is your ancestry or ethnic origin?** (For example: Norwegian, Portuguese, Polish, Brazilian etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

**44. What is the primary language you speak at home?** \_\_\_\_\_

**45. Where were you born?**

1. In the United States - print the name of the State \_\_\_\_\_
2. Outside the United States - print the name of the foreign country \_\_\_\_\_

**46. Where did you live in 2011?**

\_\_\_\_\_Town

\_\_\_\_\_State

**47. What was your marital status in 2011? (Please check the response that best describes you).**

1. Married
2. Widowed
3. Divorced
4. Separated
5. Never Married
6. Living with an unmarried partner

**48. How many people lived in your primary household in 2011?**

\_\_\_\_\_Adults and \_\_\_\_\_children under 18

**49. As of December 31, 2011, how long had you been involved in commercial fishing? If, as of December 31, 2011, you had been involved in commercial fishing less than one year, then please indicate the number of months.**

\_\_\_\_\_YEARS

\_\_\_\_\_MONTHS

**50. How many generations of your family have fished commercially including yourself?**

\_\_\_\_\_Generations

**51. Which category best describes the highest level of education that you have completed? (Please circle one response).**

1. Did not complete high school: please indicate the highest grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_
2. High school diploma/equivalency
3. Associate's/ two year degree
4. Bachelor's/ four year degree
5. Graduate degree

