

Helping Anglers to Understand Fisheries Data Collection

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (MSRA) of 2006 includes recommendations to improve fisheries management and conservation. MSRA implements changes at several levels of fisheries management, including a major milestone with the introduction of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).

MRIP is the new system being implemented to collect recreational fisheries data that are used to estimate catch and effort, and to set quotas and catch allocations. This program is coordinated by the National Marine Fisheries Service in conjunction with New York and other states, and features several activities that are not always clear to anglers.

NYSG Responds

The key to a successful data collection system is having trust and support from its users. Fisheries managers and New York Sea Grant (NYSG) are working to build this confidence in the state's fishing communities.

A joint exercise was conducted in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2014 to educate anglers about MRIP by making use of NYSG's strong presence at the New York Sportfishing Federation Angler Expo.

A kiosk was used to distribute information to anglers, and the expo organizers designated formal mini-workshop sessions at which NOAA staff gave 15-minute presentations. As a direct result of this activity:

- NOAA staff identified needs and perceptions unique to New York angling communities after direct interaction with anglers
- At least 500 anglers collected information brochures about MRIP and learned about improvements to increase the accuracy of catch and effort estimates
- 60 anglers benefited from two presentations that featured in-depth information about MRIP implementation.

This coordinated activity was in direct response to a request from the New York Sportfishing Federation



Changes in the way fish are counted will provide better data and improve fishing. Photo: John Mantione

Angler expo organizers, and to needs conveyed by MRIP coordinators for increased outreach.

The outreach piloted a strategy to be implemented by NOAA throughout the Northeast to increase understanding about the value of providing reliable data to support fisheries conservation and management goals. The annual expo is the largest gathering of anglers in NY, with an attendance of ~2,500 in 2014, and marks the most recent milestone in this NYSG-NOAA partnership initiated in 2013.

Partners:

- NOAA Office of Recreational Fisheries
- New York Sportfishing Federation
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Sustainable NY Fisheries and NY Seafood Businesses

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

New York Sea Grant Extension
112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

This project summary was written by

Marine Fisheries Specialist Antoinette Clemetson

631-727-3910, aoc5@cornell.edu, www.nyseagrant.org