

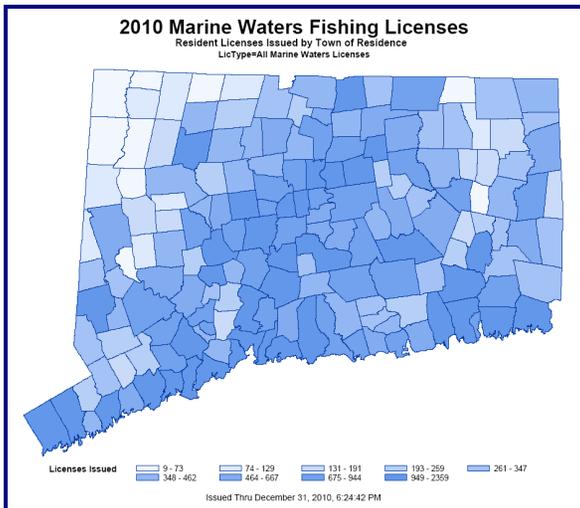


# New Requirements for Connecticut Saltwater Fishing Licenses



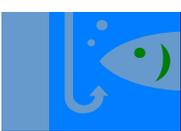
## For more information contact:

Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection  
 Marine Fisheries Division  
 PO Box 719, Old Lyme, CT, 06371  
 860.434.6043  
[dep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:dep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov)  
[www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing)



Marine Fisheries Division • PO Box 719 • Old Lyme, CT 06371

**Make Your Fishing Experience Count!**



# The Two New Requirements:



## Reasons for the New Requirements:

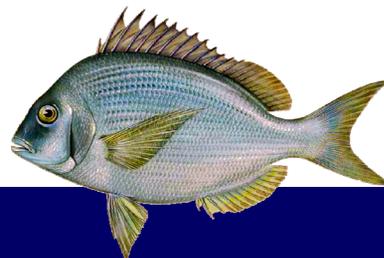
- To improve its estimates of fish harvested by saltwater anglers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) launched the National Angler Registry, a comprehensive list of anglers who fish recreationally in marine waters. This list will improve the effort survey portion of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) survey of saltwater anglers, which generates important information used to help manage and rebuild fish stocks and assess the economic importance of recreational fishing.
- To build this list, most saltwater anglers must register with the National Saltwater Angler Registry for a \$15 fee UNLESS they hold a saltwater license from an exempted state.
- Connecticut is currently an exempted state. For Connecticut to keep its exempted status, Connecticut has to do two things. First, we have to collect valid phone numbers for all of our licensed saltwater anglers. Second, for each combination license holder, we have to determine if they fished in saltwater the previous year.

## 1 Your Telephone Number(s):

*When you purchase a CT saltwater fishing license, vendors will now be required to ask for your (Day/Evening) phone numbers*

One component of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) survey uses a telephone survey to ask anglers about the number of trips they have made in the previous two months. For many years, the angler survey relied on a random telephone survey of all coastal residents to collect this information – somewhat of a shot in the dark. However, by building a list of people that have identified themselves as saltwater fishermen and focusing the telephone survey on this known group, the surveyors can more efficiently and precisely characterize fishing effort.

As a Connecticut Marine Waters Fishing License holder, you are exempt from having to pay \$15 to register with the National Angler Registry. Connecticut registers you by providing NOAA with license holder information. However, for this convenience and savings to continue, Connecticut is required to collect valid phone number and address information for all of the state's saltwater anglers.



## 2 Answer to the Question:

*"Did you fish in the marine district of the State of Connecticut last year?"*

People's motivations for purchasing a combination (marine fishing, inland fishing, and/or hunting) license vary. Some people purchase a combo license because they are avid outdoors people that fully participate in all of these activities. Others might want to take advantage of the savings afforded by combination licenses "just in case" they have the opportunity to fish in salt water.

These differences have to be factored into the angler survey. As a result, Connecticut is also required under our exemption agreement with NOAA to ask this question to get a better idea of how likely you are to saltwater fish this year.

## Be Counted

If you receive a MRIP survey call, we hope you'll look at it as an opportunity to play a role in the successful management of a resource that is important to you.

In many communities recreational fishing is a major economic driver, affecting everything from the hospitality industry to fuel sales to outfitters and other small businesses. Accurately determining the many contributions of recreational fishermen will help to ensure these interests are properly considered in resource allocation and other policy matters.