

Recreational Fishing Survey

This survey of recreational fishing is being conducted on behalf of the Marine Resources Section of the Government Department of Environmental Protection. The department is responsible for managing Bermuda's marine resources for the benefit of the whole community. There is a need to get information about the fishing habits of people who fish on a recreational basis as well as from the commercial fishery, and this survey is an important part of that.

All answers are strictly confidential. For questions where choices are provided, please circle your selected answer or the number next to it if there is one. For questions at the end, please mark the box next to the appropriate answer. Where questions ask for numbers, please write your answer in the space provided. On the map, please mark areas where you fish.

You may complete the survey electronically and e-mail it back to fisheries@gov.bm (it may be best to print, mark and then scan the map unless you have a graphics package that can alter jpg files), or everything can be printed and filled out by hand and then dropped off at the Department of Environmental Protection's head office at the Point Finger Road entrance to the Botanical Gardens or at the Marine Resources Section on Coney Island.

Have you been fishing on a recreational basis in the past year?

Yes / No

If no, then finish here. Please remember that it is just as important for us to receive responses from those who don't fish as from those who do. Thank you for your time.

If you have been fishing:

How often have you participated in any form of fishing activity during the past 12 months?

- 1 Weekly or more often
- 2 About once every two weeks
- 3 Once a month
- 4 Less often or just when on holiday
- 5 Can't say

On how many days in total have you spent time fishing in Bermuda during the past 12 months? # _____

Can you estimate how many days (or the % of times) you went fishing from each of the following:

Public shoreline _____ Private shoreline or dock _____ Private boat owned by me _____
Private boat owned by others _____ Charter boat _____

Please remember that, for the remaining questions, we are not collecting information about activities on charter fishing boats, as the captains of these vessels already report their catch to our department.

Please estimate the percentage of your fishing activity that takes place in each of these areas. The total for all fishing activity should add up to 100%.

Shore fishing	%
South Shore	
East End	
North Shore/Lagoon	
West End	
Inshore east end (St. George, Castle Harbour, Harrington Sound)	
Inshore west end (Hamilton Harbour and Great Sound)	
Boat fishing	%
South Shore	
East End	
North Shore/Lagoon	
West End	
Inshore east end (St. George, Castle Harbour, Harrington Sound)	
Inshore west end (Hamilton Harbour and Great Sound)	
Banks	

This question is about the types of fishing equipment you have used. Please circle yes or no to indicate whether you have used each gear type within the past year, please estimate how many days you spent time fishing with each of the different gear types you use, and please circle yes or no to indicate whether you have ever used any of these gear types in the past.

Have you used a:	in the past year?	If so, on how many days?	Have you ever used a:
Handline	Yes / No		Yes / No
Rod and reel	Yes / No		Yes / No
Trolling rod	Yes / No		Yes / No
Spear	Yes / No		Yes / No
Lobster noose	Yes / No		Yes / No
Castnet for bait	Yes / No		Yes / No
Have you collected seafood by hand?	Yes / No		Yes / No
Have you fished using any other method? Please specify.			

Do you fish for a particular species / type of fish?

Yes / No / ?

If yes, please give details. Go through the following list and note whether you fish for this species, and whether you do so occasionally, often or most often. If you fish for species that are not on this list, then please write them in at the bottom.

Can you estimate how many fish of each of these species you caught during the past 12 months? Please fill in estimated numbers in the final column.

Species	Targeted?	Yes / No	Once or twice	Often	Most often	Approx. #
1 Whitewater / silk snapper						
2 Grey snapper						
3 Yellowtail snapper						
4 other snappers						
5 Hind						
6 Coney						
7 Barber						
8 Rockfish						
9 Amberjack						
10 Bonita / Almaco jack						
11 other jacks						
12 Hogfish						
13 Porgies						
14 Grunts						
15 Turbot						
16 Chub						
17 Bream						
18 Wahoo						
19 Yellowfin tuna						
20 other pelagic species						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						

It is important to have public support for fisheries management measures. We would like to get your opinion on the new regulations that came into force in 2010 and on some of the different options available for regulating recreational fishing.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating no knowledge and 5 indicating very knowledgeable:
How would you rate your familiarity with the new fishing regulations? 1 2 3 4 5

Are you aware of fish species for which there are size limits? Yes / No

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating unsupportive and 5 indicating very supportive:
Do you support minimum size limits to protect young fish? 1 2 3 4 5 not sure

Are you aware of fish species that have bag limits? Yes / No

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating unsupportive and 5 indicating very supportive:
Do you support bag limits that restrict the number of fish you can catch and keep per day?
1 2 3 4 5 not sure

Are you aware of areas that are closed to fishing permanently? Yes / No

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating unsupportive and 5 indicating very supportive:
Do you support closing certain areas to fishing? 1 2 3 4 5 not sure

Are you aware that there are areas that are closed to fishing on a seasonal basis? Yes / No

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating unsupportive and 5 indicating very supportive:
Do you support seasonal area closures to protect fish while they are breeding?
1 2 3 4 5 not sure

Would you support a blanket seasonal ban on catching certain fish species in order to protect them when they are breeding? 1 2 3 4 5 not sure

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating not important and 5 indicating very important:
Is it important to you to be able to catch large fish? 1 2 3 4 5
Is it important to you to be able to catch lots of fish? 1 2 3 4 5

Marine resources managers need information on fishing practices to help them develop policies and regulations. We are looking into ways to get better information on recreational fishing activities and what people catch.

How much time would you be prepared to spend recording information about the fish you catch?

- 1 I am not prepared to record catch details
- 2 Less than 1 minute per fish
- 3 Up to 2 minutes per fish
- 4 Up to 3 minutes per fish

How much time would you be prepared to spend recording information about your fishing trip?

- 1 I am not prepared to record trip details
- 2 Less than 1 minute per trip
- 3 Up to 2 minutes per trip
- 4 Up to 3 minutes per trip

Which of the following methods would you prefer for recording your catch?

- 1 Logbook (regular paper) provided by DEP
- 2 Loose leaf forms (regular paper) provided by DEP
- 3 Waterproof logbook provided by DEP
- 4 Loose leaf waterproof forms provided by DEP
- 5 I already have my own method
- 6 I am not prepared to record my catch

Please indicate which of the following ways you would prefer for submitting your fishing information:

- 1 Drop off to DEP in Paget
- 2 Drop off to DEP at Coney Island
- 3 Drop off in west end
- 4 Drop off in east end
- 5 Mail in postage paid
- 6 Enter data online
- 7 I am not prepared to submit my fishing information

There are already licences for recreational lobster diving and spearfishing that require fishers to submit information about their catch.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating unsupportive and 5 indicating very supportive:

Would you support a licence for recreational line fishing that required fishers to report on their catch?

1 2 3 4 5 not sure

Would any of the following concessions make you more supportive of a recreational line fishing licence?

Please use 1 for 'No difference', 2 for 'Slightly more supportive' and 3 for 'Much more supportive'.

Youth under 16 exempt	1 2 3
Seniors exempt	1 2 3
Seniors get a free licence but must still report	1 2 3
Separate tiers / costs for shoreline, boat and game fishing	1 2 3

We would like to know a bit about why people go fishing. If 5 indicates very important, and 1 indicates not important, please indicate how important each of these factors are to you:

For food	1 2 3 4 5
For relaxation	1 2 3 4 5
To spend time with family and friends	1 2 3 4 5
Tradition	1 2 3 4 5
For sport	1 2 3 4 5
Other – please specify	1 2 3 4 5

Are you, or have you ever been, a member of a fishing club? Yes currently / Yes in the past / No

If so which one? _____

In order to encourage greater participation by recreational fishers in the management of Bermuda's fisheries, we are looking into establishing a liaison group that would be the primary point of contact between recreational fishers and marine resources managers. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating no interest or support and 5 indicating very interested and supportive:

Would you support the formation of a recreational fishing advisory committee? 1 2 3 4 5

Would you support a membership-based recreational fishing organization? 1 2 3 4 5

Would you support a membership-based organization if you had to pay a small membership fee? 1 2 3 4 5

Would you, personally, be interested in being part of a recreational fishing liaison group? 1 2 3 4 5

Finally, we would like to get some details that will help us relate this survey to the wider population:

Are you male or female?

Which category best describes your age: 0-15, 16-30, 31-45, 46-60, over 60

Which category best describes your background:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bermudian | <input type="checkbox"/> North American (Canadian, American) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central / South American | <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> British / West European | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern European |
| <input type="checkbox"/> African, including South Africa | <input type="checkbox"/> Central Asian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Australian / New Zealander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Asian / Asian islands (including Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | |

Which category best describes your employment sector:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Management / Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> Retail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sales / Office work | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality – hotel / restaurant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction / maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transport – trucking, taxi | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial / Banking | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance / Reinsurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IT | <input type="checkbox"/> Government / Public administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGO | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student / full time education | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - specify |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rather not say | |

We are also collecting information on the distribution of fishing that will be incorporated into a GIS database to help manage the many different marine activities that take place. There is a separate map for this at the end, and it would be very helpful if you could take a few minutes to mark where you go fishing most often. Circle areas or mark them with an X – whichever is easiest. If you fish on the banks, tick the boxes for Challenger Bank and / or Argus / Plantagenet Bank

The Marine Resources Section has started a programme in which we hand out logbooks to recreational fishers in order to gather more detailed information on how much fishing they do and what fish they catch. Would you be interested in participating? Remember, we need to get information from a cross-section of fishers – people that fish a lot and those who fish less frequently, so don't worry if you think that you don't go fishing often enough to make it worthwhile.

If yes, you may e-mail us fisheries@gov.bm or call 2935600 to request a logbook.

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. We appreciate your assistance in contributing to our management of Bermuda's marine resources.

