

ANGLER REGISTRY (from page 1)

Commonly Asked Questions about the Proposed Rule

The following are questions and answers put out by NOAA:

How will an angler registry benefit recreational fishermen?

The registry will enhance the conservation of our marine fisheries by vastly improving the quality of our data, while at the same time recognizing the important role of saltwater anglers in the decision-making process.

Will there be any exemptions from the registry requirement?

Anglers may be exempt from the Federal registration requirement if they hold a license or registration issued by a state that already has a program in place to account for all its saltwater recreational anglers (e.g. a comprehensive saltwater fishing license or regional angler survey program that gathers the data necessary for the registry).

If my state has a saltwater fishing license or regional data program, will I automatically be exempt?

No. Once the rule is finalized, each state must apply to NOAA Fisheries for an exemption.

Will anglers fishing from party or charter boats have to register?

Under the proposed rule, individuals fishing from a for-hire vessel would be exempt from the registry requirement. This fishing activity is already accounted for in current surveys of party and charter boat fishing.

Will there be any costs associated with registering?

Not initially. However, an annual fee (in the \$15-25 range) may be required beginning in 2011. Any fees collected through the federal registry would not go to NOAA, but rather directly to the U.S. Treasury.

Will there be penalties for not registering?

The Magnuson-Stevens Act generally establishes fines for fishery infractions however, the proposed rule does not specify specific penalty amounts for not registering. NOAA Fisheries will work with the states to develop an appropriate penalty schedule. At the outset, we will focus on raising awareness of the requirements and the registry's benefits to the fishing public.

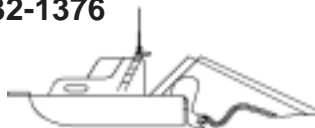
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