



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

Daniel C. Esty  
Commissioner

Bureau of Natural Resources  
Marine Fisheries Division  
[www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing)

## **A STUDY OF MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN CONNECTICUT**



Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration  
F-54-R-31 Annual Performance Report  
March 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012

**Job 1: Marine Angler Survey**





State of Connecticut  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration  
F-54-R-31  
Annual Performance Report

**Project Title: *A Study of Marine Recreational Fisheries in Connecticut***

Period Covered: March 1, 2011 - February 29, 2012

**Job Title**

***Prepared by:***

Job 1: Marine Angler Survey

Roderick E. MacLeod

Part 1: Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics survey

Part 2: Volunteer Angler Survey

Job 2: Marine Finfish Survey

Kurt F. Gottschall  
Deborah J. Pacileo

Part 1: Long Island Sound Trawl Survey

Part 2: Estuarine Seine Survey

David R. Molnar

Job 3: Inshore Survey

Jacqueline M. Benway

Job 4: Studies in Conservation Engineering

Inactive

Job 5: Cooperative Interagency Resource Monitoring

Matthew J. Lyman  
Katie O'Brien-Clayton

Job 6: Public Outreach

David R. Molnar



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***Approved by:***

David G. Simpson, Director  
Marine Fisheries Division

Date: August 30, 2012

Cover: A wonderful moment with family enjoying a great catch of summer flounder (fluke).

## **JOB 1: MARINE ANGLER SURVEY**

**Part 1: Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey**

**Part 2: Volunteer Angler Survey**

## **PART 1: MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS SURVEY**

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## **PART 1: MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS SURVEY**

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## **JOB 1: MARINE ANGLER SURVEY**

### **PART 1: MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS SURVEY**

#### **GOAL**

**To provide long term monitoring of marine recreational fishing activity including angler participation and catch statistics in a manner that is comparable to other Atlantic coastal states.**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Provide estimates of:

- 1) Number of marine anglers in Connecticut each year.*
- 2) Total effort (trips) expended by anglers in Connecticut each year.*
- 3) Total catch (numbers of fish kept and released fish) and harvest (numbers and the weight of kept fish) of the most commonly sought species: bluefish, scup, winter flounder, summer flounder, tautog, and striped bass.*
- 4) Length-frequency of harvested bluefish, scup, winter flounder, summer flounder, tautog, and striped bass.*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Bureau of Natural Resources, Marine Fisheries Division, has been collecting marine recreational fisheries information along the Connecticut coastline since 1979. However, in order to improve state-wide marine fisheries statistics and become more consistent with other states, Connecticut joined with the MRFSS program in July, 1987. Before Connecticut's involvement in the MRFSS, data collection was conducted by NMFS's contractor just as in other states where state agencies do not participate in the program.

#### **METHODS**

Currently the MRFSS is undergoing a series of procedural changes in order to improve accuracy and precision on both angler effort and catch estimates. The new changes entail new estimation methods including telephone and intercept collection procedures and will be housed under the new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). However, the MRIP still utilizes traditional MRFSS methodology as discussed in the background section of this report.

## Background

The MRFSS is based on two complementary surveys: A random telephone survey of households, and an intercept survey of anglers at fishing sites (NMFS 1992). MRFSS utilized a contractor to conduct the telephone survey to calculate total angler participation and trip estimates. Connecticut performed the angler intercept survey (angler interviews) in order to collect angler catch and effort data, biological data, and socioeconomic and demographic information.

The MRFSS's primary objectives are (1) to provide a collection of accurate and representative data on the marine recreational fishery and (2) to produce accurate and precise regional (e.g. ME-CT) catch estimates which can be used by fishery managers to assess the impacts of recreational fishing on finfish stocks. In order to produce estimates with adequate precision at the state level (where proportional Standard Error (PSE)  $\leq 20\%$ , a modified version of Coefficient of Variation =  $S.E./Mean * 100$ ), the MRFSS initial intercept quota was tripled for Connecticut. Telephone and Intercept Surveys are collected in bimonthly time periods (termed Waves) and further broken down by mode in the Intercept Survey. The three principal modes of marine recreational fishing include shore mode (anglers fishing from beach and bank or manmade structure), private/rental boat mode (anglers fishing from a privately owned or rental boats), and charter boat and headboat modes where anglers pay a captain/vessel for hire to fish.

In 2001, NMFS base allocations for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic sub-regions were increased 1.5 times in order to increase effort and catch precision estimates for those areas. The increase was accomplished through a grant proposal submitted by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Recreational Statistics Technical Committee and later approved by the ACCSP Coordinating Council. ACCSP is comprised of fifteen Atlantic coastal states and two federal agencies, which oversee and administer the collection of commercial and recreational fishery statistics. ACCSP provided funding for the additional intercept sampling as described in Table 1.1. However since state participation in 1987, Connecticut had already tripled NMFS Intercept Survey allocation and provided funding for those increases. ACCSP's involvement basically reduces Connecticut's expenditure toward processing additional intercepts by NMFS' contractor. Wave 1 is not sampled in Connecticut or any states in the Mid Atlantic (NY-VA) and Northeast (ME-CT) sub-regions due to low fishing activity (NMFS 1992).

In addition, the sampling methodology of the headboat and charter boat modes was modified beginning in Wave 4 (July-August) 2003 in order to improve catch and trip estimates. This change was the beginning transition point from the MRFSS to the MRIP. The new changes in the survey (termed "the For-Hire Survey" component) called upon each state to provide and update a comprehensive list of current headboat and charter boat vessels and operators. This list provided a sampling frame where ten percent of for-hire vessel operators would be randomly selected to be contacted by telephone to report their fishing trip effort (angler trips) for a given two week period. Coupled with the telephone survey, pre-validation of vessels was performed where vessels were randomly selected and checked to determine if the vessel was out fishing or not. The same list would generate intercept assignments by wave. For-hire intercept assignments were split by vessel type (charter - 6 or less passengers) and headboats (more than 6) since sampling methods differ. Anglers fishing in the charter boat fishery were interviewed at



dockside where headboat anglers were interviewed on board while at sea. Dockside sampling of charter boat anglers was selected because of the six passenger limitation. At sea sampling was selected to increase the number of length and weight measurements on harvested fish in addition to length measurements on discarded fish. Intercept collection quotas for the headboat mode were set by the number of trips (based on 2 samplers/trip). All other modes were allocated by the number of intercepts.

In addition, a socio-economic survey was added to the intercept survey in order to collect angler expenditures as it related to their fishing trip. Anglers could also volunteer to participate in a more detailed survey either by mail or computer web based application.

**Table 1.1: MRFSS/MRIP + ACCSP and State Angler Intercept and Headboat Trip Allocation by Mode and Wave, 2011**

NMFS+ACCSP	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	
Mode	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	Total (%)
Shore (SH)	45	64	83	63	42	297 (26%)
Charter Boat (CH)	0	50	52	48	45	195 (17%)
Private/Rental Boat (PR)	48	113	270	139	63	633 (56%)
Headboat Trips (HB) (based on 2 samplers/trip)	0	12	16	12	0	40 Trips
Total Number of Intercepts (SH, CH, PR)	93	227	405	250	150	1,125

## MRFSS/MRIP Estimation Methods

MRFSS/MRIP estimation methods used to compute catch and effort statistics were based on the following criteria: (1) improved guidelines for recording proxy data in lieu of missing data, (2) imputation for missing data, (3) telephone survey sample weighting, and (4) cleanup of historical intercept data (NMFS 1994). In cases where gaps or insufficient data occurs, proxy data (information obtained in the Telephone Survey from someone in a fishing household other than the angler) were used to fill voids in the database. In addition, catch and effort statistics for 1979-80 were omitted because of inadequate information (missing files that contained non-fishing household sample size information).

Angler participation and fishing trip estimates were derived primarily from the Telephone Survey and, in special situations, the Intercept Survey (NMFS 1992). In the Telephone Survey, households with telephones located in coastal counties or within 50 miles of the coastline were randomly selected and called to determine if a household fell into either of two categories: (1) households that comprised one or more marine recreational anglers and (2) non-fishing households. Households with anglers were further surveyed in order to collect fishing trip information used in estimating total fishing trips and angler participation. In situations where

anglers did not possess a telephone (or live in a household), Intercept Survey data were used in order to account for that segment of the angling population that would otherwise be missed.

### **MRFSS/MRIP Catch Type Categories**

Catch estimates were broken down into three categories: Catch Type A, B1 and B2. Catch Type A consisted of catches that were kept by anglers and available for inspection by field interviewers. Catch Type B1 included angler catches that were used for bait, discarded dead, etc., and were not available for inspection, and Catch Type B2 was comprised of fish that were caught and released alive. Total catch estimates consist of Catch Types A+B1+B2. Harvested catch (fish removed from the population) include Catch Type A+B1 only. Catch Types A and B1 were the only catch groups estimated in both numbers and weights. Since Catch Type B1 are unobserved catches, Catch Type A mean weight estimates were used to expand Catch Type B1 estimates.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Connecticut Intercept Survey 2011**

During March-December 2011, a total of 151 assignments were completed and 1,258 interviews (intercepts) with marine anglers were conducted by Marine Fisheries Division staff for the MRFSS/MRIP (Table 1.2). Intercept shortfalls occurred particularly in Waves 2, 5 and 6 for NMFS + ACCSP quotas because of low fishing activity and poor weather conditions. Tropical Storm Irene wreaked havoc along the coastline in August followed by a freak late October nor'easter snow storm. Both storms devastated the state to the point where emergency declarations were signed by President Obama. Furthermore, the charter and headboat fishery did not start fishing operations until late May (weekends only) and full time in mid June which affected sampling in Wave 3. In addition, the majority of Connecticut-based headboat/charter businesses and marinas terminate their operations by November 1. This year the number of assignments where zero intercepts were collected was unusually higher than past years (60 assignments/39.7%).

**Table 1.2: Total Number of Angler Intercepts Collected by Mode and Headboat Trips Taken by Wave, 2011**

	<b>Wave 2</b>	<b>Wave 3</b>	<b>Wave 4</b>	<b>Wave 5</b>	<b>Wave 6</b>	
Mode	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	<b>Total (%)</b>
Shore (SH)	13	64	108	26	2	213 (17%)
Charter Boat (CH)	0	53	54	39	0	146 (12%)
Private/Rental Boat (PR)	44	115	277	94	11	541 (43%)
Headboat Trips (HB) (2 interviewers/trip)*	0 Trip (0 Ints.)	5 Trips (104 Ints.)	6 Trips (161 Ints.)	5 Trips (93 Ints.)	0 Trips (0 Ints.)	16 Trips (358 Ints. 28%)
<b>Total Number of Intercepts</b>	57	336	600	252	13	1,258

## **MRFSS/MRIP 2011 Statistics**

MRFSS/MRIP intercept sampling procedures and statistics are continuously updated by NMFS and are available on line to the public. Estimates of participants, trip effort, and catch can be queried by region, sub-region, and state by visiting their web site at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/queries/index.html>. For that reason, this report will not include MRFSS/MRIP statistics. However, intercept collection information will continue to be reported along with historical accounts of Connecticut's marine recreational fishery regulations (Table 1.3).

As discussed, the MRFSS is in a transition phase to improve angler trip and catch estimates through the development of MRIP. The MRIP will succeed the MRFSS by continuing to implement new statistical methodologies and collection procedures. More detailed information concerning MRIP can be located at the following web site: <https://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov>.

## **MODIFICATIONS**

None.

## **LITERATURE CITED**

NMFS. 1992. Marine recreational fishery statistics survey, Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, 1990-91. Current fishery statistics number 9204:275pp. Silver Spring, MD.

NMFS. 1994. Marine recreational fishery statistics survey. Changes in estimation procedures. mimeo 2pp. Silver Spring, MD.

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**Table 1.3: History of Connecticut Marine Recreational Fisheries Regulations for Selected Species**

**Striped Bass**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
1935	16 in. (fork length)	None.	Year round.	None.	Spearing prohibited.
1953	16 in. (fork length)	None.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing prohibited.
Jan 1982	16 in. (fork length)	4 fish between 16 and 24in. No limit >24in.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing prohibited.
Aug 1984	24 in. (fork length)	None.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing prohibited.
Aug 1985	26 in. (fork length)	None.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing prohibited.
Jul 1, 1986- Striped bass fishery closed in all state waters (Moratorium)					
1987	33 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Apr 1, 1989	34 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Jul 1, 1989	36 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Jan 1, 1990	38 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Sep 1990	36 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Apr 22, 1994	34 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
1995	28 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Jul 29, 1996	28 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
May 10, 2000	24-30 in. and $\geq$ 40 in (total length)  Party/Charter Only-29½ in. (total length)	1 fish/angler per length group.  2 fish/angler.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Feb 27, 2001	24-32 in. and $\geq$ 41 in (total length)  Party/Charter Only-28 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler per length group.  2 fish/angler.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
May 15, 2003- Current	28 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.

**Bluefish**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Jan 1, 1991	None	10 fish/angler for fish > 12 in (total length).	Year round.	None.	None.
Apr 22, 1994-Current	None	10 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.

**Summer Flounder (Fluke)**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Jan 1, 1982	14 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Apr 22, 1994	14 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	May 15-Sep 30.	Oct 1-May 14 in all state waters	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Jul 29, 1996	14 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 24, 1997	14½ in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
May 5, 1998	15 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Mar 17, 1999	15 in. (total length)	8 fish/angler	May 29-Sep 11.	Sep 12-May 28 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
May 10, 2000	15½ in. (total length)	8 fish/angler	May 10-Oct 2.	Oct 3-May 9 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
May 17, 2001	17 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
May 27, 2005	17 ½ in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Apr 30-Dec 31.	Jan 1-Apr 29 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 30, 2006	18 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Apr 30-Dec 31.	Jan 1-Apr 29 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 2, 2007	18 in. (total length)	5 fish/angler	Apr 30-Sep 5.	Sep 6-Apr 29 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 5, 2008	19 ½ in. (total length)	5 fish/angler	May 24-Sep 1.	Sep 2-May 25 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
May 1, 2009	19 ½ in. (total length)	3 fish/angler	Jun 15-Aug 19.	Aug 20-Jun 14 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 1, 2010	19 ½ in. (total length)	3 fish/angler	May 15-Aug 25.	Aug 26-May 14 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 5, 2011-Current	18 ½ in. (total length)	3 fish/angler	May 15-Sep 5.	Sep 6-May 14 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
	17 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler			Special shore-based fishing season/daily creel limit at specific designated shore sites only.

**Winter Flounder**

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Minimum Size</b>	<b>Daily Possession Limit</b>	<b>Fishing Season</b>	<b>Closed Season/Area</b>	<b>Other Restrictions</b>
Jan 1, 1982	8 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Jan 1, 1985	10 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Aug 19, 1986	10 in. (total length)	None.	Year round except for Niantic River.	Niantic River closed Dec 1-Mar 31	None.
Apr 22, 1994	11 in. (total length)	8 fish/angler	Apr 15-Feb 28.	Mar 1-Apr 14 in all state waters.	None.
Oct 1, 1995	12 in. (total length)	8 fish/angler	Apr 15-Feb 28.	Mar 1-Apr 14 in all state waters.	None.
Jan 1, 1996	12 in. (total length)	8 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
Aug 1, 2005	12 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler	Apr 1-May 30.	Jun 1-Mar 31 in all state waters.	None.
Nov 1, 2010-Current	12 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler	Apr 1-May 30.	Jun 1-Mar 31 in all state waters.	None.

**Black Sea Bass**

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Minimum Size (Excluding tendril or long filament on tail)</b>	<b>Daily Possession Limit</b>	<b>Fishing Season</b>	<b>Closed Season/Area</b>	<b>Other Restrictions</b>
Apr 24, 1997	9 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
May 5, 1998	10 in. (total length)	20 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
May 17, 2001	11 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	May 10-Feb 28.	Mar 1-May 9 in all state waters.	None.
Jun 19, 2002	11½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
May 15, 2003	12 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Jan 1-Sep 1 and Sep 16-Nov 30.	Sep 2-Sep 15 and Dec 1-Dec 31 in all state waters.	None.
Aug 05, 2004	12 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Jan 1-Sep 7 and Sep 22-Nov 30.	Sep 8-Sep 21 and Dec 1-Dec 31 in all state waters.	None.
May 27, 2005	12 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Jan 1-Nov 30.	Dec 1-Dec 31.	None.
Apr 30, 2006	12 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Year Round.	None.	None.
May 1, 2009	12 ½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Year Round.	None.	None.
Apr 1, 2010	12 ½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	May 22-Sep 12.	Sep 13-May 21 in all state waters.	None.
Jun 8, 2010	12 ½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	May 22-Oct 11 and Nov 1-Dec 31.	Jan 1-May 21 and Oct 12-Oct 31 in all state waters.	None.
Apr 5, 2011-Current	13 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Jul 1-Oct 1 and Nov 1-Dec 31.	Jan 1-Jun 30 and Oct 2-Oct 31 in all state waters.	None.

**Scup (Porgy)**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Jan 1, 1982	7 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Jan 1, 1985	8 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
May 10, 2000	8 in. (total length)	50 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
May 10, 2001	9 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Jun 3-Oct 23.	Oct 24-Jun 2 in all state waters.	None.
Jun 19, 2002	10 in. (total length)	50 fish/angler	Jul 13-Sep 25.	Sep 26-Jul 12 in all state waters.	None.
May 15, 2003	10 in. (total length)	50 fish/angler	May 24-Oct 30.	Oct 31-May 23 in all state waters.	None.
May 24, 2004	10 ½ in. (total length)	20 fish/angler	Jul 23-Oct 12 and Nov 1-Dec 31.	Jan 1-Jul 22 and Oct 13-Oct 31 in all state waters.	None.
May 27, 2005	10 ½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler  Party/charter boats <u>only</u> – 60 fish/angler	Jul 1-Oct 31.  Sep 1-Oct 31.	Nov 1-Jun 30 in all state waters.	None.
Apr 30, 2006	10 ½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler  Party/charter boats <u>only</u> – 60 fish/angler	Jun 1-Oct 31.  Sep 1-Oct 31.	Nov 1-May 31 in all state waters.	None.
Apr 4, 2008	10 ½ in. (total length)  Party/charter boats  11 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler  10 fish/angler  Party/charter boats – 45 fish/angler	Jun 1-Sep 26.  Jun 12-Aug 31.  Sep 1-Oct 15.	Sep 27-May 31 in all state waters.  Oct 16-Jun 13 in all state waters.	None.
May 1, 2009	10 ½ in. (total length)  Party/charter boats  11 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler  10 fish/angler  Party/charter boats – 45 fish/angler	May 24-Sep 26.  Jun 12-Aug 31.  Sep 1-Oct 15.	Sep 27-May 23 in all state waters.  Oct 16-Jun 11 in all state waters.	None.
Apr 1, 2010	10 ½ in. (total length)  Party/charter boats  11 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler  10 fish/angler  Party/charter boats – 40 fish/angler	May 24-Sep 26.  Jun 8-Sep 6.  Sep 7-Oct 11.	Sep 27-May 23 in all state waters.  Oct 12-Jun 7 in all state waters.	None.



**Scup (Porgy) Continued**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Sep 23, 2011- Current	10 ½ in. (total length)	10 fish/angler	May 24- Dec 31.	Jan 1- May 23 in all state waters.	None.
Party/ charter boats	11 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler	Jun 8- Sep 6 and Oct 12 – Dec 31.	Jan 1 - Jun 7 in all state waters.	
		Party/charter boats – 40 fish/angler	Sep 7- Oct 11.		

**Tautog (Blackfish)**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Sep 19, 1987	12 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
May 19, 1995	14 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Jul 29, 1996	14 in. (total length)	4 fish/angler	Jun 15- Apr 30.	May 1-Jun 14 in all state waters.	None.
May 15, 2003	14 in. (total length)	4 fish/angler	Jan 1-Apr 30 and Jun 15- Nov 23.	May 1-Jun 14 and Nov 24- Dec 31 in all state waters.	None.
Feb 27, 2004	14 in. (total length)	4 fish/angler	Jan 1-Apr 30, June 15-Sep 7 and Sep 22 – Dec 13.	May 1-Jun 14, Sep 8 – Sep 21 and Dec 14- Dec 31 in all state waters.	None.
Jan 4, 2008- Current	14 in. (total length)	4 fish/angler	Jan 1-Apr 30 and Oct 1- Dec 6.	May 1-Jun 30, Sep 1-Sep 30 and Dec 7-Dec 31 in all state waters.	None.
		2 fish/angler	Jul 1-Aug 31.		
		4 fish/angler			

**Weakfish**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Jan 1, 1995	16 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Apr 1, 2003	16 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
Oct 29, 2007	16 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
Apr 1, 2010 Current	16 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.

**Hickory Shad**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Mar 17, 1999- Current	None.	6 fish/angler, or in aggregate with American shad.	Year round.	None.	None.

**White Perch**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Apr 1, 2003-Current	7 in. (total length)	30fish/angler.	Year round.	See Other Restrictions.	Only for Long Island Sound and Tidal Rivers and Streams.

**American Eel**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
May 10, 2000-Current	6 in. (total length)	50 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.

**Coastal Sharks (Smooth Dogfish and Sandbar Shark (Brown Shark))**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Feb 2, 2010-Current	Not applicable.	Prohibited to possess or land.	None.	Year round in all state waters.	None.

**Gear Restrictions**

1935-Current	Striped bass may be taken by hook and line method only.
Apr 22, 1994-Current	Spearing is allowed as a recreational activity only and must abide all recreational fishing regulations.

## **PART 2: VOLUNTEER ANGLER SURVEY**

## **PART 2: VOLUNTEER ANGLER SURVEY**

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## **PART 2: VOLUNTEER ANGLER SURVEY**

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## **JOB 1: MARINE ANGLER SURVEY**

### **PART 2: VOLUNTEER ANGLER SURVEY**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Provide estimates of:

- 1) Size composition data on both kept and released bluefish, striped bass other common species.

Anglers participating in the Volunteer Angler Survey measured bluefish, striped bass and other species. Length frequencies of popular species: bluefish, striped bass, summer flounder, winter flounder, scup, tautog and black sea bass are listed in Tables 1.1A - 1.7A.

- 2) Catch frequency (trips catching 0,1,2,...fish) data on both kept and discarded fish.

Catch frequency data and percent distribution on both kept (harvested) and released for selected species are listed in Tables 1.8A-1.9A.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the Volunteer Angler Survey (VAS) is to supplement the National Marine Fisheries Service, Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey/Marine Recreational Information Program by providing additional length measurement data particularly concerning fish that are released. In 1994, the VAS program was incorporated into the Marine Angler Survey (Job 1) in order to improve and expand the survey.

The survey's initial objective was to collect marine recreational fishing information concerning finfish species with special emphasis on striped bass. In 1994, the collection of bluefish length measurements was added to the survey to fully understand that fishery. In 1997, length measurement information on other marine finfish was added to the survey. This report primarily consists of data collected in 2011.

#### **METHODS**

The VAS is designed to collect trip and catch information from marine recreational (hook and line) anglers who volunteer to record their fishing activities by logbook. The logbook format consists of recording fishing effort, target species, fishing mode (boat and shore), area fished (subdivisions of Long Island Sound and adjacent waters), catch information concerning finfish kept (harvested) and released, and striped bass and bluefish length measurements (Appendix 1.1A). In 1997, the logbook was modified in order to collect length measurement data on other species. Instructions for volunteers were provided on the inside cover of the postage paid logbook. Each participating angler was assigned a personal numeric code for confidentiality purposes. After the logbook data were computer entered, logbooks were returned to each volunteer for their own personal record. For their participation, volunteers were sent a newsletter with updates of survey results and a nylon wallet with embossed VAS logo. Furthermore, to

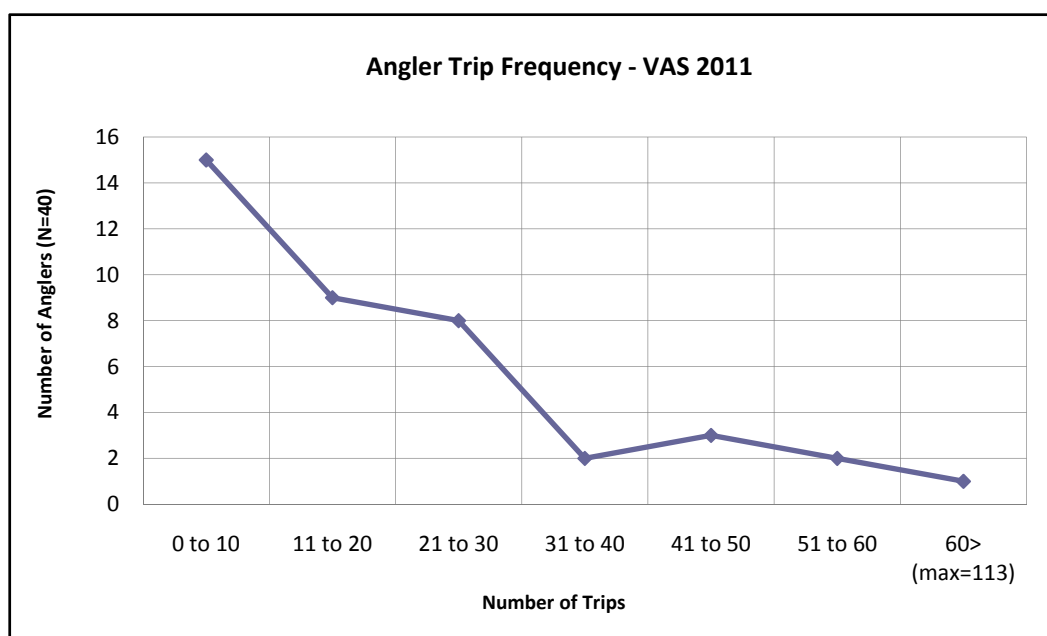
improve communications with recreational anglers and to encourage more public input, volunteers were notified of upcoming public hearings including proposed and final changes in recreational fishing regulations.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Over the years the number of participants in the survey ranged from as low as 18 anglers participating in 1979 to a high of 115 anglers in 1997. Advertising the VAS program through the DEEP's annually published Connecticut Angler's Guide including the state web site [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep) has helped increase volunteer participation. The guide is distributed to anglers purchasing Connecticut fishing licenses in addition to being circulated by bait and tackle shops and other entities.

### VAS 2011

In 2011, a total of 40 anglers participated in the survey. Those 40 anglers made 830 fishing trips and measured 5,518 fish. The average number of trips volunteers took was about 21 trips per year and the range in trips was 1 to 113 (Figure 1.1A). Volunteers including additional anglers involved in a fishing party made a total of 1,666 fishing trips (note: targeted trips in the following paragraphs are not additive to the trip total since more than one species may be sought during an angler trip). Boat trips comprised 73% of the total trips taken. The percent of successful trips, where at least one fish of any species was caught, was 88% for boat anglers and 69% for shore anglers. Besides striped bass and bluefish, VAS anglers pursued and caught a wide range of inshore and offshore pelagic species and recorded length measurements on many species. This report contains statistics on species anglers targeted the most and that are under a current fishery management plan (bluefish, striped bass, summer flounder, scup, winter flounder, tautog, and black sea bass). Please refer to tables 1.1A-1.7A for length frequency distribution tables and catch trip frequency distributions for kept (harvested) and released fish are listed in tables 1.8A-1.9A.



## **Bluefish**

VAS participants made 752 targeted bluefish trips (boat and shore modes combined) and recorded a total of 1,404 adult bluefish caught (bluefish >12 inches). Of the total number of targeted trips, 24% were unsuccessful. The overall catch including trips not targeting bluefish was 1,608 fish. Of the overall catch, anglers measured 923 adult bluefish (57%) and released about 74%. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile length measurement for bluefish was approximately 23.5 inches (total length). The targeted catch-per-unit-of-effort (CPUE) was 1.9 and 0.5 fish per angler trip for total and harvested catches.

## **Striped bass**

Volunteers made 1,114 trips targeting striped bass and caught a total of 993 fish (overall catch including trips not targeting striped bass was 1,017 fish). About 22% or 243 trips targeting striped bass were unsuccessful. Of the overall catch, about 87% of the catch was released. VAS anglers measured 941 striped bass (93% of the overall catch). Legal size striped bass ( $\geq 28$  inches) comprised about 38% of the measured catch. The percent of legal size striped bass released was estimated at 61%. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile length measurement for striped bass was about 25.5 inches. Striped bass ranged in length from as small as 7 inches to 48 inches. Targeted CPUE was 0.9 and 0.1 fish per angler trip for total and harvested catches.

## **Summer flounder**

A total of 360 fishing trips were directed toward catching 1,737 summer flounder. Only 8% of the trips targeting summer flounder were unsuccessful. The overall catch was 1,788 fish. Volunteers measured 1,456 fish or about 81% of the overall catch. Approximately 90% of the overall catch was released. About 14% of the measured catch was comprised of legal size summer flounder (18.5 inches or greater). VAS anglers released 25% of legal size summer flounder. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile length measurement for summer flounder was about 15 inches. Length measurements ranged from 8 to 28 inches. Summer flounder targeted CPUE was 4.8 and 0.5 fish per angler trip for total and harvested catches.

## **Winter flounder**

Volunteers made 29 trips that targeted winter flounder. Both targeted and non-targeted trips produced just 35 fish. Of the total trips targeting winter flounder, 34% of the trips were unsuccessful. All of the winter flounder caught were measured. Anglers released about 46% of the overall catch and 97% of the measured catch were of legal size (12 inches and greater). Anglers released 42% of legal sized fish, however, the daily creel limit for winter flounder was only 2 fish per person. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile length measurement for winter flounder was about 14 inches. Length measurements ranged from 11 to 17 inches. Winter flounder targeted CPUE was 1.17 and 0.7 fish per angler trip for total and harvested catches.



## **Scup**

Volunteers made 140 targeted trips for scup producing a total of 657 fish. Of the total trips targeting scup, 14% of the trips were unsuccessful. The overall total catch was 1,311 fish. Volunteers measured about 77% (1,007) of the overall total catch. Of the overall total catch, 61% were released. Legal sized fish (10.5 inches and greater) comprised 67% of the measured catch. The proportion of legal sized fish released by anglers was approximately 46%. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile length measurement for scup was about 11 inches. Length measurements ranged from as little as 6 inches to 17 inches. Scup targeted CPUE was 4.7 and 1.9 fish per angler trip for total and harvested catches.

## **Tautog**

VAS anglers made 153 trips that targeted tautog and caught a total of 686 fish. Of the total trips targeting tautog, 12% of the trips were unsuccessful. The overall total catch was 691 fish and 63% was released. Volunteers measured 613 tautog or about 89% of the overall total catch. About 63% of the measured catch was comprised of legal size fish (14 inches or greater). Of the legal size measured catch, approximately 30% were released. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile length measurement for tautog was about 14.5 inches. Length measurements ranged from 5 to 24 inches. Tautog targeted CPUE was 4.5 and 1.7 fish per angler trip for total and harvested catches.

## **Weakfish**

Only 4 trips targeted weakfish and one weakfish was caught incidentally.

## **Black sea bass**

VAS anglers took only 16 trips targeting black sea bass catching 62 fish. However, the overall catch was 149 black sea bass. Of the overall total catch, 80% were released. Volunteers measured 148 fish or 99% of the overall total catch. Of the measured catch, 30% caught were of legal size (13 inches and greater). The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile length measurement for black sea bass was about 10 inches and the percent of legal size fish released was 29%. Black sea bass targeted CPUE was 3.9 and 1.3 fish per angler trip for total and harvested catches.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

VAS anglers provide valuable recreational fisheries data at a relatively low cost. In addition, collecting length data on released fish is often difficult or unattainable through conventional access point angler intercept surveys. The VAS program provides this information which is essential in assessing the recreational fishery in Connecticut as required by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Any anglers interested in participating in the program can contact Rod MacLeod at 860-434-6043, or e-mail address: [rod.macleod@ct.gov](mailto:rod.macleod@ct.gov) or writing to State of Connecticut, DEEP, Marine Fisheries Office, P.O. Box 719, Old Lyme CT 06371.

## **MODIFICATIONS**

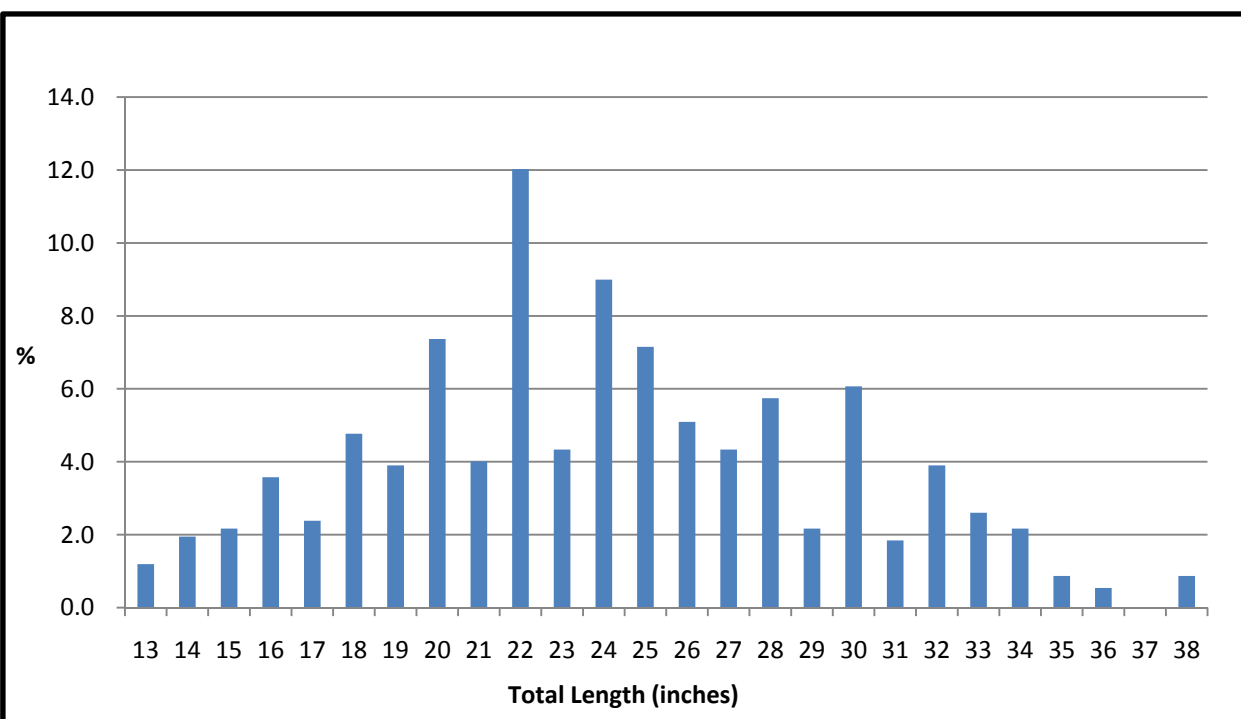
None.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I am very grateful to all anglers who have participated in the survey. Without their cooperation and assistance, the VAS program would not be possible.

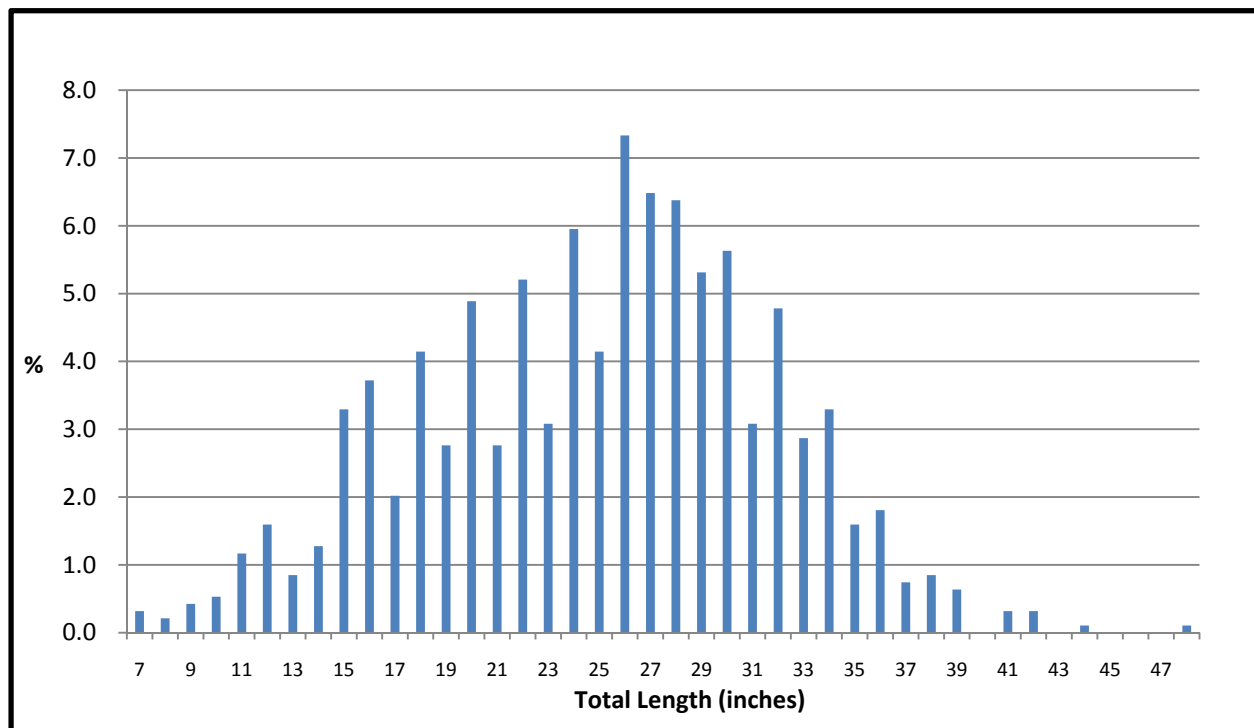
**Table 1.1A: Bluefish (12> inches) Length Frequency Distribution, 2011**

Total Length (inches)	2011 Measurement Data Bluefish (12>inches)			Total Length (inches)	Freq	%Freq	%Cum
	Freq	%Freq	%Cum				
13	11	1.2	1.2	27	40	4.3	73.2
14	18	2.0	3.2	28	53	5.7	79.0
15	20	2.2	5.3	29	20	2.2	81.2
16	33	3.6	8.9	30	56	6.1	87.2
17	22	2.4	11.3	31	17	1.8	89.1
18	44	4.8	16.0	32	36	3.9	93.0
19	36	3.9	19.9	33	24	2.6	95.6
20	68	7.4	27.3	34	20	2.2	97.7
21	37	4.0	31.3	35	8	0.9	98.6
22	111	12.0	43.3	36	5	0.5	99.1
23	40	4.3	47.7	37	0	0.0	99.1
24	83	9.0	56.7	38	8	0.9	100.0
25	66	7.2	63.8	Total	923		
26	47	5.1	68.9				



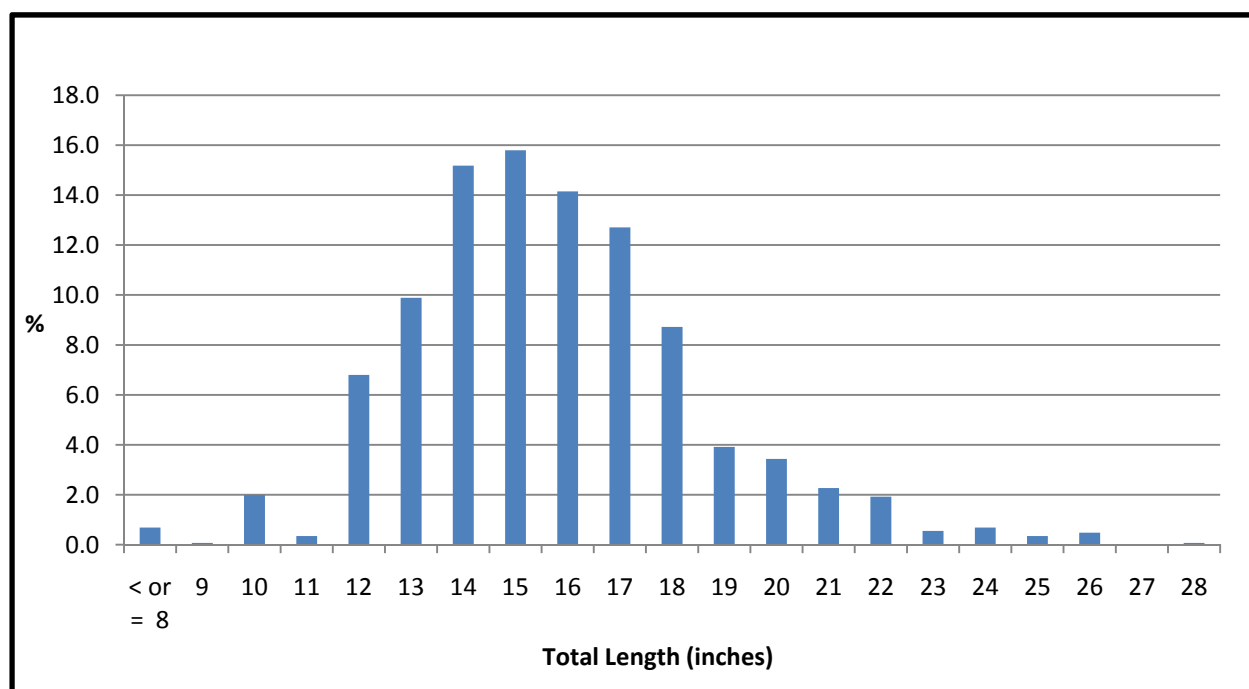
**Table 1.2A: Striped Bass Length Frequency Distribution, 2011**

Total Length (inches)	2011 Measurement Data Striped Bass			Total Length (inches)			
	Freq	%Freq	%Cum		Freq	%Freq	%Cum
< or = 8	5	0.5	0.5	29	50	5.3	73.9
9	4	0.4	1.0	30	53	5.6	79.5
10	5	0.5	1.5	31	29	3.1	82.6
11	11	1.2	2.7	32	45	4.8	87.4
12	15	1.6	4.3	33	27	2.9	90.2
13	8	0.9	5.1	34	31	3.3	93.5
14	12	1.3	6.4	35	15	1.6	95.1
15	31	3.3	9.7	36	17	1.8	96.9
16	35	3.7	13.4	37	7	0.7	97.7
17	19	2.0	15.4	38	8	0.9	98.5
18	39	4.1	19.6	39	6	0.6	99.1
19	26	2.8	22.3	40	0	0.0	99.1
20	46	4.9	27.2	41	3	0.3	99.5
21	26	2.8	30.0	42	3	0.3	99.8
22	49	5.2	35.2	43	0	0.0	99.8
23	29	3.1	38.3	44	1	0.1	99.9
24	56	6.0	44.2	45	0	0.0	99.9
25	39	4.1	48.4	46	0	0.0	99.9
26	69	7.3	55.7	47	0	0.0	99.9
27	61	6.5	62.2	48	1	0.1	100.0
28	60	6.4	68.5	Total	941		



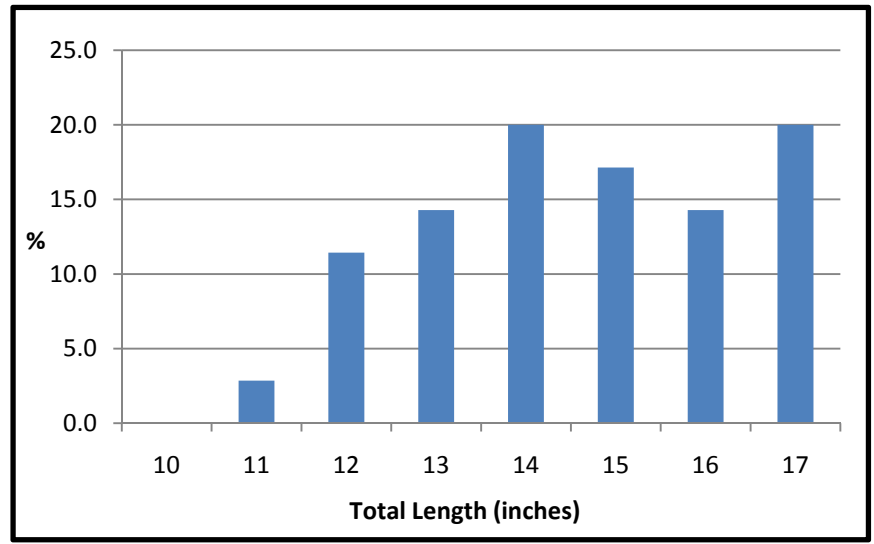
**Table 1.3A: Summer Flounder Length Frequency Distribution, 2011**

Total Length (inches)	2011 Measurement Data Summer Flounder		
	Freq	%Freq	%Cum
< or = 8	10	0.7	0.7
9	1	0.1	0.8
10	29	2.0	2.8
11	5	0.3	3.1
12	99	6.8	9.9
13	144	9.9	19.8
14	221	15.2	35.0
15	230	15.8	50.8
16	206	14.1	64.9
17	185	12.7	77.6
18	127	8.7	86.3
19	57	3.9	90.3
20	50	3.4	93.7
21	33	2.3	96.0
22	28	1.9	97.9
23	8	0.5	98.4
24	10	0.7	99.1
25	5	0.3	99.5
26	7	0.5	99.9
27	0	0.0	99.9
28	1	0.1	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,456</b>		



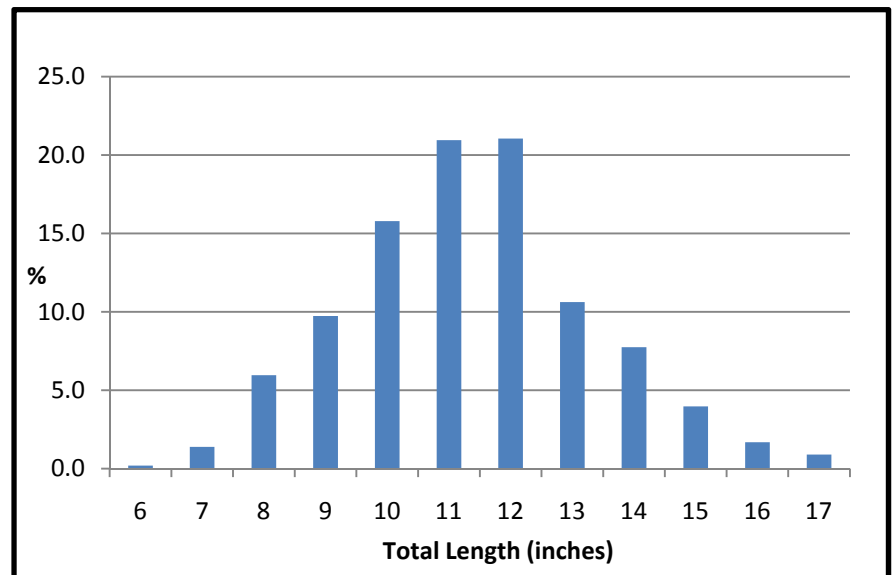
**Table 1.4A: Winter Flounder Length Frequency Distribution, 2011**

Total Length (inches)	2011 Measurement Data Winter Flounder		
	Freq	%Freq	%Cum
10	0	0.0	0.0
11	1	2.9	2.9
12	4	11.4	14.3
13	5	14.3	28.6
14	7	20.0	48.6
15	6	17.1	65.7
16	5	14.3	80.0
17	7	20.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>		



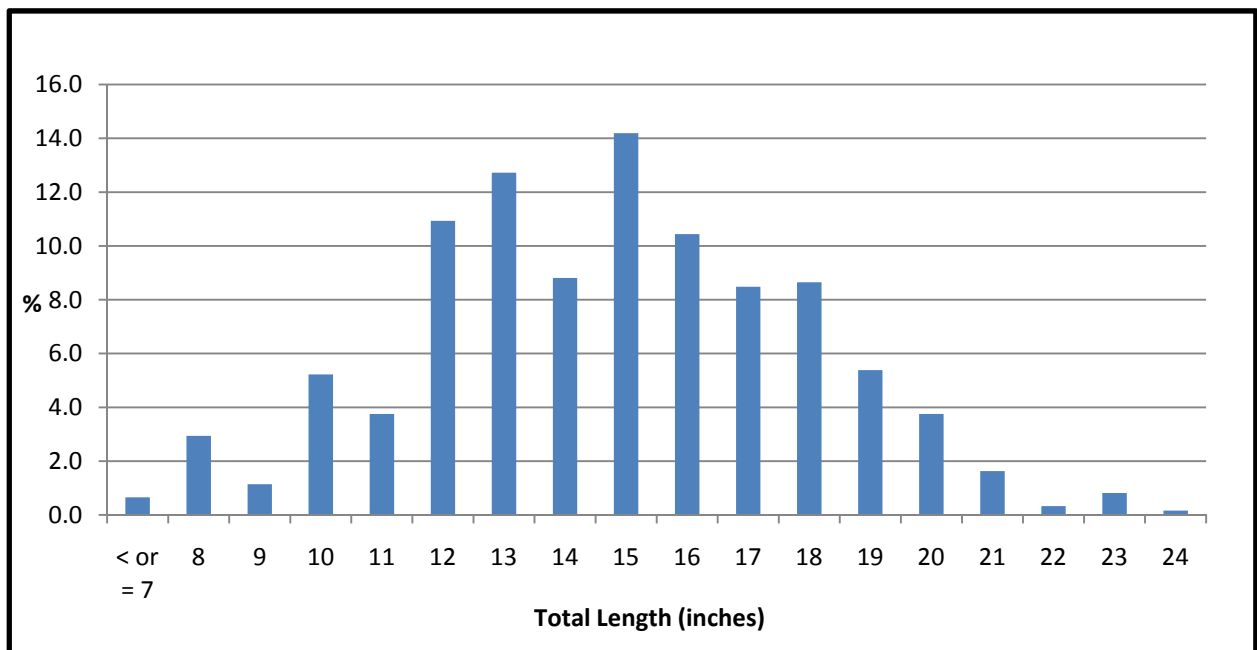
**Table 1.5A: Scup Length Frequency Distribution, 2011**

Total Length (inches)	2011 Measurement Data Scup		
	Freq	%Freq	%Cum
6	2	0.2	0.2
7	14	1.4	1.6
8	60	6.0	7.5
9	98	9.7	17.3
10	159	15.8	33.1
11	211	21.0	54.0
12	212	21.1	75.1
13	107	10.6	85.7
14	78	7.7	93.4
15	40	4.0	97.4
16	17	1.7	99.1
17	9	0.9	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,007</b>		



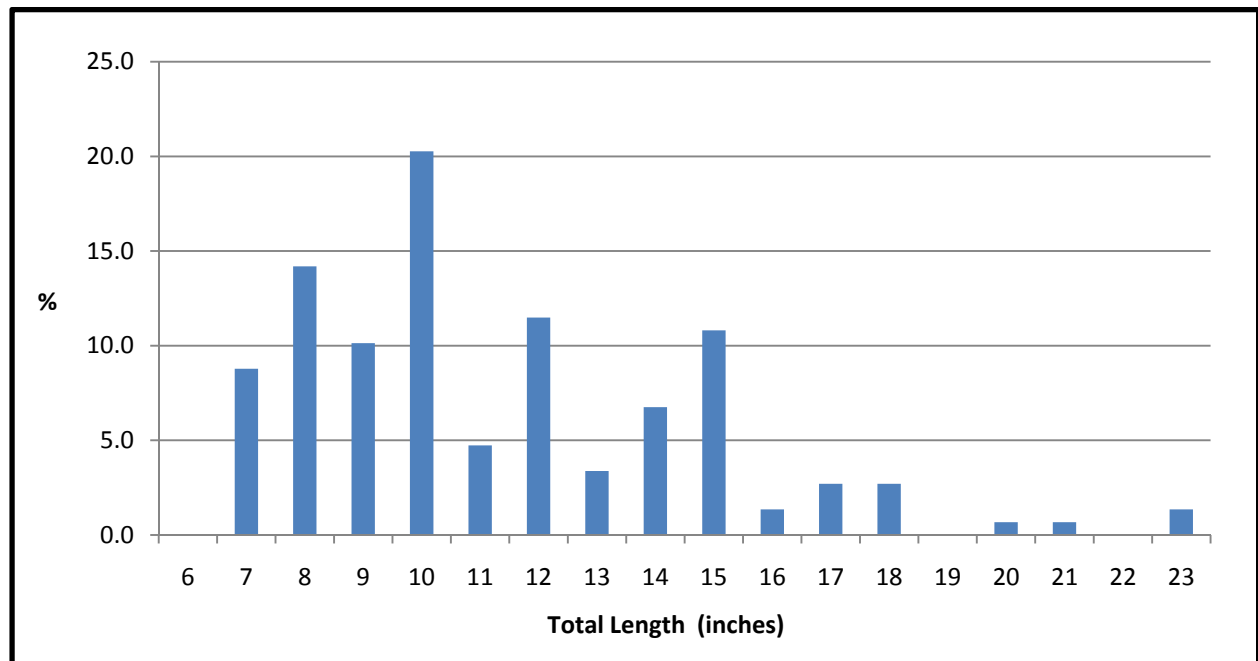
**Table 1.6A: Tautog Length Frequency Distribution, 2011**

Total Length (inches)	2011 Measurement Data		
	Tautog		
	Freq	%Freq	%Cum
< or = 7	4	0.7	0.7
8	18	2.9	3.6
9	7	1.1	4.8
10	32	5.2	10.0
11	23	3.8	13.8
12	67	10.9	24.7
13	78	12.7	37.4
14	54	8.8	46.2
15	87	14.2	60.4
16	64	10.4	70.8
17	52	8.5	79.3
18	53	8.6	88.0
19	33	5.4	93.4
20	23	3.8	97.1
21	10	1.6	98.7
22	2	0.3	99.1
23	5	0.8	99.9
24	1	0.2	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>613</b>		



**Table 1.7A: Black Sea Bass Length Frequency Distribution, 2011**

Total Length (inches)	2011 Measurement Data Black Sea Bass		
	Freq	%Freq	%Cum
<b>6</b>	0	0.0	0.0
<b>7</b>	13	8.8	8.8
<b>8</b>	21	14.2	23.0
<b>9</b>	15	10.1	33.1
<b>10</b>	30	20.3	53.4
<b>11</b>	7	4.7	58.1
<b>12</b>	17	11.5	69.6
<b>13</b>	5	3.4	73.0
<b>14</b>	10	6.8	79.7
<b>15</b>	16	10.8	90.5
<b>16</b>	2	1.4	91.9
<b>17</b>	4	2.7	94.6
<b>18</b>	4	2.7	97.3
<b>19</b>	0	0.0	97.3
<b>20</b>	1	0.7	98.0
<b>21</b>	1	0.7	98.6
<b>22</b>	0	0.0	98.6
<b>23</b>	2	1.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>		





**Table 1.8A: Catch Trip Frequency Distribution  
of Kept (Harvested) Fish for Selected Species, 2011**

<b>Kept (Harvested)</b>								
<b>Bluefish (12 in. &gt;)</b>			<b>Striped Bass</b>			<b>Summer Flounder</b>		
# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.	# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.	# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.
0	155	64.3%	0	206	77.4%	0	107	61.8%
1	49	20.3%	1	46	17.3%	1	48	27.7%
2	14	5.8%	2	14	5.3%	2	12	6.9%
3	10	4.1%	Total	266	100%	3	5	2.9%
4	4	1.7%				30	1	0.6%
5	3	1.2%				Total	173	100%
6	1	0.4%						
7	2	0.8%						
8	2	0.8%						
10	1	0.4%						
Total	241	100%						
<b>Scup</b>			<b>Tautog</b>			<b>Black Sea Bass</b>		
# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.	# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.	# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.
0	38	39.6%	0	18	28.6%	0	38	39.6%
1	15	15.6%	1	9	14.3%	1	15	15.6%
2	15	15.6%	2	11	17.5%	2	15	15.6%
3	8	8.3%	3	17	27.0%	3	8	8.3%
4	7	7.3%	4	6	9.5%	4	7	7.3%
5	6	6.3%	5	1	1.6%	5	6	6.3%
6	1	1.0%	7	1	1.6%	6	1	1.0%
7	1	1.0%	Total	63	98%	7	1	1.0%
8	1	1.0%				8	1	1.0%
10	4	4.2%				10	4	4.2%
Total	96	100%				Total	96	100%
<b>Winter Flounder</b>								
# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.						
0	4	33.3%						
1	2	16.7%						
2	6	50.0%						
Total	12	100%						

**Table 1.9A: Catch Trip Frequency Distribution of Released Fish for Selected Species, 2011**

Released											
Bluefish (12 in. >)			Striped Bass			Summer Flounder			Winter Flounder		
# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.	# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.	# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.	# of Fish	# of Trips	% Distr.
0	52	22.1%	0	58	21.2%	0	14	7.4%	0	1	12.5%
1	85	36.2%	1	100	36.6%	1	54	28.6%	1	5	62.5%
2	35	14.9%	2	52	19.0%	2	26	13.8%	2	1	12.5%
3	14	6.0%	3	20	7.3%	3	15	7.9%	7	1	12.5%
4	10	4.3%	4	11	4.0%	4	9	4.8%	Total	8	100%
5	6	2.6%	5	10	3.7%	5	15	7.9%			
6	6	2.6%	6	7	2.6%	6	10	5.3%			
7	5	2.1%	7	7	2.6%	7	8	4.2%			
8	4	1.7%	8	3	1.1%	8	4	2.1%			
9	2	0.9%	9	1	0.4%	9	4	2.1%			
10	7	3.0%	10	1	0.4%	10	5	2.6%			
12	1	0.4%	12	1	0.4%	11	5	2.6%			
13	2	0.9%	13	1	0.4%	12	2	1.1%			
17	3	1.3%	14	1	0.4%	13	1	0.5%			
21	1	0.4%	Total	273	100%	14	2	1.1%			
22	1	0.4%				15	1	0.5%			
23	1	0.4%				16	4	2.1%			
Total	235	100%				19	1	0.5%			
						21	1	0.5%			
						22	1	0.5%			
						23	3	1.6%			
						26	1	0.5%			
						27	1	0.5%			
						30	1	0.5%			
						34	1	0.5%			
						Total	189	100%			

**Table 1.9A: Catch Trip Frequency Distribution  
of Released Fish for Selected Species, 2011 (Con't.)**

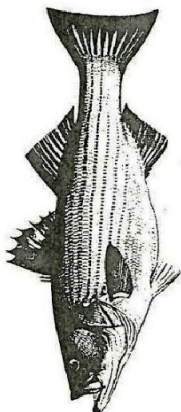
<b>Released</b>								
<b>Scup</b>			<b>Tautog</b>			<b>Black Sea Bass</b>		
<b># of Fish</b>	<b># of Trips</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>	<b># of Fish</b>	<b># of Trips</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>	<b># of Fish</b>	<b># of Trips</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>
0	15	15.2%	0	14	21.9%	0	11	24.4%
1	29	29.3%	1	8	12.5%	1	21	46.7%
2	14	14.1%	2	9	14.1%	2	4	8.9%
3	13	13.1%	3	9	14.1%	3	6	13.3%
4	6	6.1%	4	9	14.1%	5	1	2.2%
5	5	5.1%	5	4	6.3%	9	1	2.2%
6	5	5.1%	6	2	3.1%	11	1	2.2%
7	3	3.0%	7	1	1.6%	Total	45	100%
8	1	1.0%	8	2	3.1%			
10	1	1.0%	10	2	3.1%			
13	1	1.0%	15	1	1.6%			
16	1	1.0%	16	2	3.1%			
26	1	1.0%	22	1	1.6%			
29	2	2.0%	Total	64	100%			
34	1	1.0%						
51	1	1.0%						
Total	99	100%						

## **APPENDIX 1.1A: Connecticut Volunteer Angler Logbook**

FASTEN

# CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEER ANGLER SURVEY

Rev. 8/95



YEAR

YEAR

ANGLER CODE

ANGLER CODE

Send Me ☐ More Logbooks

FASTEN



CT DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
MARINE FISHERIES OFFICE  
PO BOX 719  
OLD LYME CT 06371-9973

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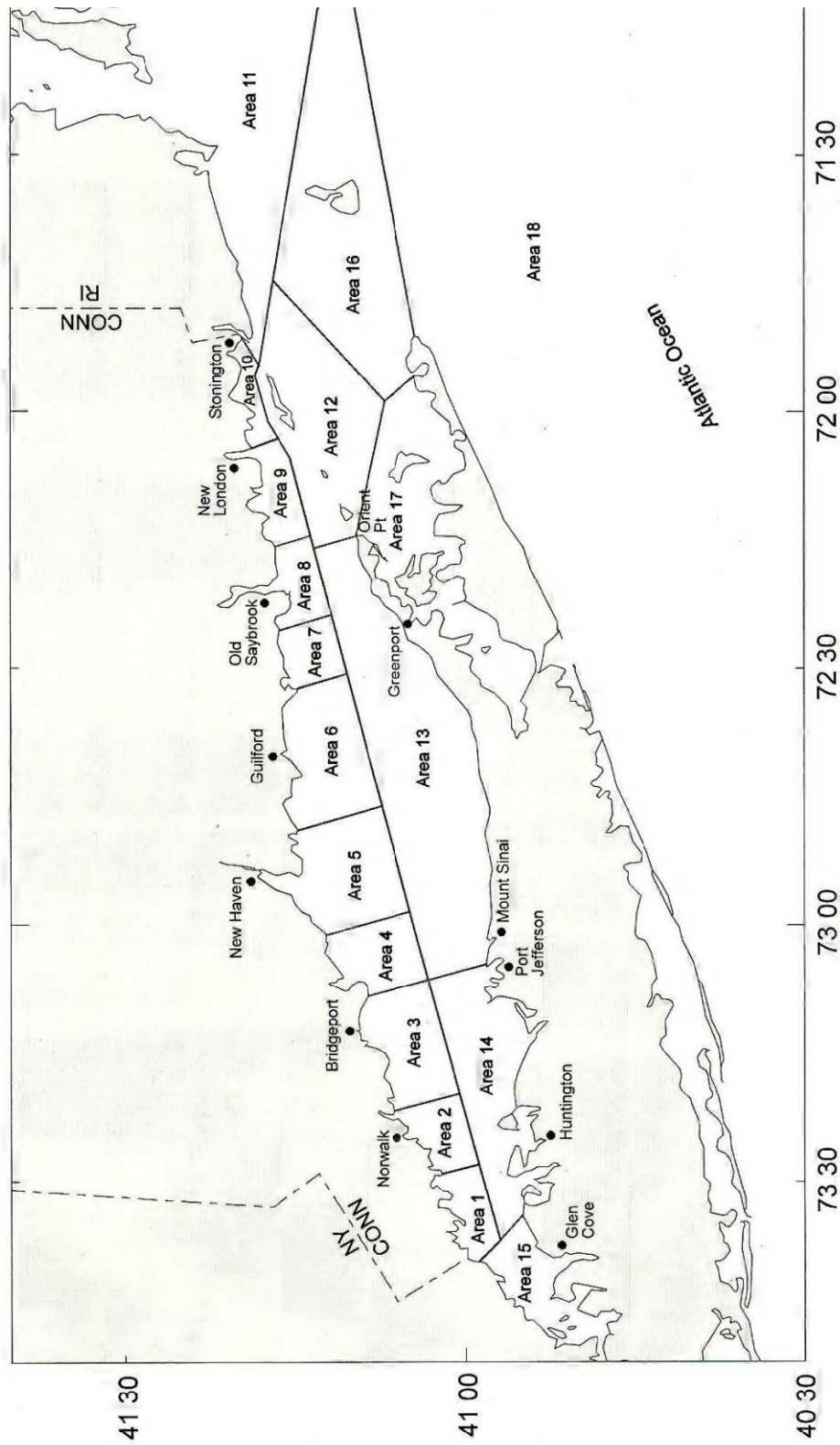


STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Fisheries Division  
Marine Fisheries Office



FASTEN

# Long Island Sound and Vicinity Fishing Area Chart



## Connecticut Volunteer Angler Survey Instructions and Codes

**Volunteer Angler Survey Logbook Instructions:** Listed below are instructions for filling out the logbook. Upon logbook completion, tape the prepaid postage logbook shut and drop it off in the mail. All information is kept confidential. Once the information is entered in our computer system and error checked, the logbooks will be returned for your own records. If you any questions or comments regarding the survey, please contact **Rod MacLeod** at (860) 434-6043.

- (1) Please enter the month and day fishing trip took place.
- (2) Fishing start time in military time (Example: 11am = 1100, 1pm = 1300 hrs, 2pm = 1400, etc.).
- (3) Actual fishing time or lines wet to the nearest ½ hour. Do not include travel time.
- (4) Number of anglers in fishing party.
- (5) Areas fished most in descending order as described on the chart located on the inside cover of logbook. Also, if most of the fishing took place in a river please place a check mark in the box provided.
- (6) Check mark fishing mode.
- (7) Enter species code for 1st (primary) targeted species and 2nd (secondary) targeted species provided in the species code list below.
- (8) Number of anglers that caught fish.
- (9) Place a check mark if no fish were caught for the entire fishing party.

**Catch Information:** Catch information should include the total number of fish caught by the entire party. Enter the number of fish kept and released in the designated boxes. If you caught fish other than those in the pre-coded boxes, please refer to the species code list below and enter the code in the designated blank boxes. If you caught a fish not listed in the species code list, please write down the common name(s) in the blank box(es) provided.

**Length Measurement Information:** Please try to provide length measurement data on popular species caught including kept and released fish (exclude skates, cunners, etc). Fish must be measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail (total length). In case of large catches, try to measure your catch on a random basis. Measuring just large fish will not accurately reflect the actual size or age distribution of the population. When handling and measuring sub-legal sized fish, anglers should use their best judgement and experience to insure that those fish are returned to the water unharmed.

### Species Code List:

01 Albacore	12 Cusk-eel	23 White Marlin	34 Smelt	45 Snapper Bluefish (≤12in.)
02 Alewife	13 Dogfish (all species)	24 Atlantic Menhaden	35 Spot	46 Yellowfin Tuna
03 Atlantic Salmon	14 Dolphin (Mahi-Mahi)	25 Pollock	36 Striped Bass	47 Bigeye Tuna
04 Blackfish (Tautog)	15 American Eel	26 Scup (Porgy)	37 Swordfish	48 Blue Marlin
05 Blowfish (Puffer)	16 Summer Flounder (Fluke)	27 Atlantic Sailfish	38 Oyster Toadfish	49 Blueback Herring
06 Bluefish (Adults > 12in.)	17 Goosefish (Monkfish)	28 Windowpane Flounder	39 Atlantic Tomcod	50 Hickory Shad
07 Atlantic Bonito	18 Haddock	29 Black Sea Bass	40 Bluefin Tuna	51 Little Tunny (False Albacore)
08 Brown Trout (Sea-Run)	19 Atlantic Herring	30 Scarobins (all species)	41 Weakfish	52 Skipjack Tuna
09 Butterfish	20 Spanish Mackerel	31 American Shad	42 Whiting (Silver Hake)	53 Atlantic Wolffish
10 Atlantic Cod	21 Hakes (Red, Spotted)	32 Sharks	43 White Perch	54 Northern Kingfish
11 Cunner	22 Atlantic Mackerel	33 Skates	44 Winter Flounder	55 Atlantic Croaker

## **Daily Fishing Trip Log**

(1) Month	Day	(2) Military Time	(3) Hours Fished	(4) Number of Anglers in Party	(5) Areas Fished (See Map)			4Here if Fished in River
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>		<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>

(6) Mode of Fishing	(7) Target Species (See Code List)	(8) Number of Anglers that Caught Fish	(9) 4Here if No Fish were Caught
Boat <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> Shore <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	1st <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> 2nd <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>

### **Catch Information**

Species Name	Code	Number Kept	Number Released
Striped Bass	3 6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>
Bluefish (Adults)	0 6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>
Winter Flounder	4 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>
Blackfish	0 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>
Summer Flounder	1 6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>
Scup (Porgy)	2 6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>
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### **Length Measurement Information**

Code	Length Data	4 if Released	Code	Length Data	4 if Released
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