



## Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

8461C Fort Smallwood Road • Pasadena, MD 21122  
Phone: 410-255-5535 • Fax: 410-255-1552  
Email: fishmssa@aol.com • Website: www.mssa.net

August 6, 2008

### NOAA Fisheries Visits the MSSA: Saltwater Registry Proposal

(PASADENA, MD) -- Last night at the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association's (MSSA) monthly board meeting, Gordon Colvin and Forbes Darby of NOAA Fisheries presented the proposed Saltwater Angler Registry just recently authorized by Congress through the Magnusson-Stevenson Act.

The Magnusson-Stevenson Act requires NOAA Fisheries and its partners to create a national "phonebook" of saltwater anglers to maintain and improve the wellbeing of marine ecosystems. The registry and surveys based on this registry will help policy-makers and scientists build a more complete picture of anglers' catch and effort. Further, this comprehensive list will better capture anglers' contributions to the health of ocean fisheries and the economy.

The MSSA recognizes the importance of good scientific research in determining the best way to manage fisheries and supports NOAA in its endeavor. However, the MSSA made clear that the current process for collecting data was out of date and ineffective. The MSSA suggested using an internet based system that would target anglers and use email as a means of gathering data. The MSSA also suggested that using data already collected by the state through its saltwater license program would allow for a better sample of saltwater anglers. Currently NOAA randomly calls residence on coastal counties. MSSA suggests using data from the Maryland saltwater license program which allow NOAA to contact only anglers and anglers that live in non-coastal counties as well.

Forbes stated that NOAA would look at all options when determining the best way to collect data and agreed that a random telephone survey was extremely ineffective and inefficient.

Also in attendance was Gina Hunt from the Maryland DNR Fisheries. Gina stated that the DNR was in talks with NOAA and will wait until the final rule is made regarding the registry before making any decisions on gathering data for the state of Maryland and its saltwater anglers.

NOAA is currently in the public comment stage until August 11th. However, they are considering a 10 day extension putting the public comment end date at August 21st. They are encouraging all saltwater anglers to make comment so they can address all possible situations and create a more effective and efficient plan.

Proposed Rule Fact Sheet: Proposed Saltwater Angler Registry Fact Sheet

Comments may be submitted in a variety of formats using the following identifier: RIN 0648-AW10.

Electronically: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

By Fax: (301) 713-1875 Attn: Gordon Colvin

By Mail: John Boreman, Director Office of Science and Technology, NMFS 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910 Attn: Gordon Colvin

Thank you for your support and please contact the MSSA office if you have any questions regarding the Saltwater Registry. 410-255-5535

Sincerely,

Dave Smith, Associate Executive Director

Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association