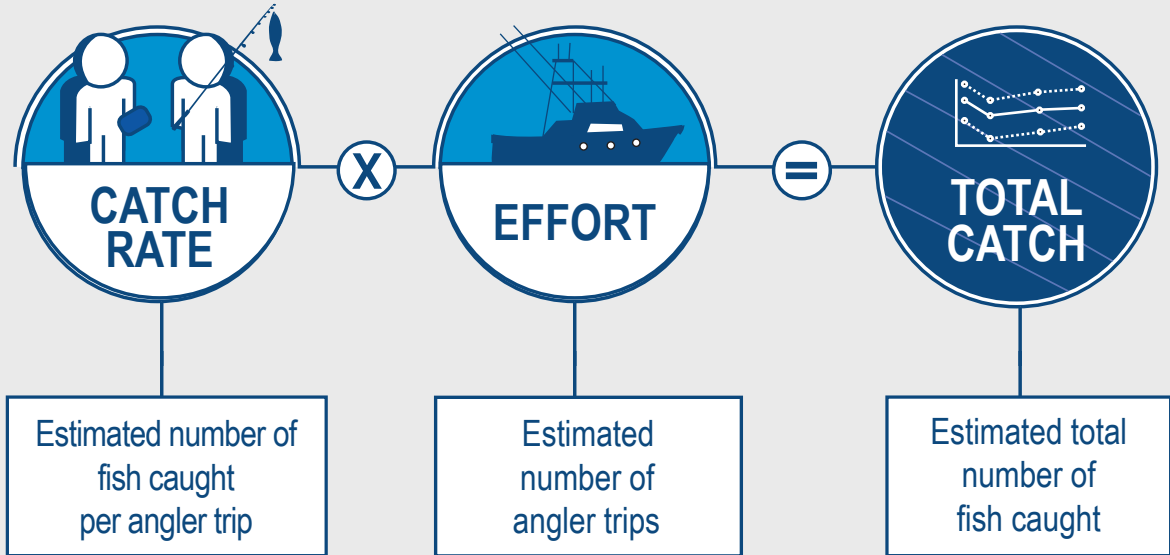




## How do you use the Fishing Effort Survey to estimate total catch?



The Fishing Effort Survey collects information about the number of trips private anglers take in Hawaii and on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. From Maine to Mississippi, the For-Hire Survey measures fishing activity from for-hire vessels, and the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey collects information about the number of fish private and for-hire anglers catch. The Greater Atlantic Vessel Trip Reporting program accounts for catch and effort by federally permitted vessels from Maine to North Carolina. Three additional surveys, known collectively as the Large Pelagics Survey, collect catch and effort data for tuna, sharks, billfishes, swordfish, and other offshore species from Maine to Virginia. Catch and effort data are combined to estimate total catch, which informs scientific stock assessments and the public process of setting rules and regulations to support healthy and productive recreational fisheries.

### Has the transition to the Fishing Effort Survey impacted our understanding of fishing effort?

While Fishing Effort Survey estimates are much higher than Coastal Household Telephone Survey estimates, this does not mean there are more people fishing. Instead, our research shows our new survey better measures the amount of fishing already taking place.

Transitioning to the Fishing Effort Survey required us to convert historical catch estimates to match the new survey's design. Because the Coastal Household Telephone Survey underestimated fishing effort, calibrating historical effort estimates raised them across the time series.

For fish stocks assessed to date, this increase has generally resulted in higher estimates of past abundance. Regional fishery management councils and interstate marine fisheries commissions are working to determine whether and how

these increases will change resource allocations between sectors or among states.

### How does responding to the Fishing Effort Survey benefit me?

When you share information about your fishing activity, you're making a vital contribution to fisheries science and management. Your participation in our surveys helps us produce more accurate estimates of recreational catch. These estimates help scientists and managers monitor the health of fish stocks and support sustainable fishing opportunities now and for generations to come.

### What can I do to help?

If you're asked to participate in a fishing survey, we encourage you to provide complete and accurate information, even if you didn't fish, or didn't catch anything. This will help us produce more accurate estimates of recreational catch. You can also encourage other anglers to participate in recreational fishing surveys; voice your support for state, regional, and national data collection programs; or get involved in fisheries management through your state marine fisheries agency, interstate marine fisheries commission, or regional fishery management council.

According to the Fishing Effort Survey, 4.7 percent of residents from Maine to Mississippi and in Hawaii fished in July and August of 2019, with an average of about five trips per angler.

