NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 10/05/2018

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Rod Turk
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Jennifer Jessup

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 05/09/2018

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201805-0648-004
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Florida Fishing and Boating Survey
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0769
The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 10/31/2021 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	306	26	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	306	26	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change due to PRA Violation	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: OMB is approving a one-time collection of data from two Florida counties, Hillsborough and Pinellas, to determine whether a broader survey will yield a sufficient number of responses from grouper fishermen to answer specific questions of interest. The broader survey of 45 Florida counties is not approved at this time. Upon the completion of this Pre-test, NOAA must submit to OMB results of the Pre-test including: (1) overall cumulative response rate using one of the AAPOR definitions; (2) item non-response rates for key questions including all hypothetical behavioral questions. If the results of the pre-test warrant an expansion of the survey, the agency may submit this request as a revision to this information collection.

OMB Authorizing Official: Neomi Rao
Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs			
IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Florida Fishing and Boating Survey	NA	Florida Fishing and Boating Survey	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request
DOC/NOAA/NMFS/SEFSC

2. OMB control number
a. 0648 - _____
b. [✔] None

3. Type of information collection (*check one*)
a. [✔] New Collection
b. [ ] Revision of a currently approved collection
c. [ ] Extension of a currently approved collection
d. [ ] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
e. [ ] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
f. [ ] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number
For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions

4. Type of review requested (*check one*)
a. [✔] Regular submission
b. [ ] Emergency - Approval requested by ____/____/____
c. [ ] Delegated

5. Small entities
Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [ ] Yes [✔] No

6. Requested expiration date
a. [✔] Three years from approval date b. [ ] Other Specify:____/____

7. Title FLORIDA FISHING AND BOATING SURVEY

8. Agency form number(s) (*if applicable*)

9. Keywords

10. Abstract

The survey will collect recreational fishing and boating information directly from the boating and fishing community with a specific focus on saltwater anglers fishing for gag grouper in the Gulf of Mexico. Estimates of expected changes in recreational fishing effort expected from changes in fishing costs and gag grouper regulations will be generated with data collected through the surveys. The study will also generate estimates of the potential change in fishing and boating activity anticipated with changes in trip costs. The estimates can be used to develop predictive models the forecast how fishing and/or boating effort will change when the trip costs change (e.g., via fuel price changes) and when the gag grouper fishing regulations (season length or bag limits) changes. The results can also be used to determine if fishers and boaters respond in the same ways to changes in trip costs.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. P Individuals or households d. ___ Farms
b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government
c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government

12. Obligation to respond (*check one*)
a. [✔] Voluntary
b. [ ] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [ ] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden
a. Number of respondents 306
b. Total annual responses 306
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically 40 %
c. Total annual hours requested 26
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change
2. Adjustment

14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (*in thousands of dollars*)
a. Total annualized capital/startup costs 0
b. Total annual costs (O&M) 0
c. Total annualized cost requested 0
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change
2. Adjustment

15. Purpose of information collection (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"*)
a. ___ Application for benefits e. X Program planning or management
b. ___ Program evaluation f. P Research
c. X General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance
d. ___ Audit

16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (*check all that apply*)
a. [ ] Recordkeeping b. [ ] Third party disclosure
c. [✔] Reporting
1. [ ] On occasion 2. [ ] Weekly 3. [ ] Monthly
4. [ ] Quarterly 5. [ ] Semi-annually 6. [ ] Annually
7. [ ] Biennially 8. [✔] Other (describe) One time

17. Statistical methods
Does this information collection employ statistical methods
[✔] Yes [ ] No

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: David W. Carter
Phone: (305) 361-4467

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

(a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;

(b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;

(c) It reduces burden on small entities;

(d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;

(e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;

(f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;

(g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):

- (i) Why the information is being collected;
- (ii) Use of information;
- (iii) Burden estimate;
- (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
- (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
- (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;

(h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);

(i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and

(j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee	Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)	
Signature Signed by Ned Cyr	Date 05/02/2018
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 Digitally signed by BRABSON.SARAH.1365710488 Date: 2018.10.12 14:36:24 -04'00'	Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
FLORIDA FISHING AND BOATING SURVEY
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-XXXX

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

The objective of the Florida Boating and Fishing Survey (FBFS) is to understand how anglers respond to changes in trip costs and fishing regulations in the Gulf of Mexico. We are conducting this survey to improve our ability to predict changes in the number of fishing trips anticipated with changes in economic conditions and fishing regulations. This will improve the analysis of the economic effects of proposed changes in fishing regulations and changes in economic factors that affect the cost of fishing such as fuel prices. The FBFS will, therefore, produce results that will help meet the goals outlined in the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plan, especially the plan to bolster understanding of the social and economic importance of recreational fishing. The work also addresses needs identified in the 2018 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit Report (NOAA 2018), in particular the need for improvements in the ability to predict changes in species-specific saltwater recreational fishing effort expected when fishing or economic conditions change. Note that, while the survey is expected to provide useful information for different stakeholders interested in analyzing effects of changes in regulations, the research is not designed to examine a specific regulation.

The FBFS will collect recreational fishing and boating information directly from the boating and fishing community with a specific focus on saltwater anglers fishing for gag grouper in the Gulf of Mexico. We will combine actual and contingent behavior data collected through the surveys to estimate a trip demand model (e.g., Alberini et al. 2007 and Whitehead et al. 2012). The model will provide estimates of hypothetical changes in recreational fishing effort expected from changes in fishing costs and gag grouper regulations. The model will also generate estimates of the potential change in fishing and boating activity anticipated with changes in trip costs. The estimates can be used to develop predictive models the forecast how fishing and/or boating effort will change when the trip costs change (e.g., via fuel price changes) and when the gag grouper fishing regulations (season length or bag limits) change. The results can also be used to determine if fishers and boaters respond the same to changes in trip costs.

This document describes a **pilot study** to test the survey and sampling strategy for the FBFS. Note that FBFS will have two survey modes: web and mail. We will use results from the survey pilot study to validate the survey design. Specifically, the results will be used to:

- Compare the actual and expected response rates. Based on typical mixed-mode survey response rates for surveys of this type, the expected response rate is approximately 30% (Messer and Dillman 2011). However, as documented below, we are expecting different response rates between the email-only contact mode with no incentive and the web-push mode with an incentive.
- Assess whether fishing avidity (number of trips) of the respondents are significantly different from the average avidity in the study region.
- Assess whether gag grouper fishing prevalence of the respondents is significantly different from the prevalence assumed in the study region.

- Identify unusual patterns, such as the majority of respondents always choosing zero trips in the contingent behavior questions. This could indicate the potential for a large number of unusable protest responses.
- Examine response rates for individual survey questions and evaluate whether adjustments to survey questions are required to promote a higher response rate.

If required, we will make the appropriate adjustments to the questionnaire or sampling frame (e.g., increase or reduce the number of contacts in each survey mode).

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The information generated from the pilot survey data will be useful for Federal, state, and local management entities interested in the potential changes in effort with changes in fishing costs and regulations. These entities may use the information to examine the consequences of projects, policies, or regulations that may affect recreational fishing – favorably or adversely. The results of the pilot survey will be published and also available to anyone requesting the information. The pilot survey will collect information only on fishing or boating activity associated with the respondent effort over the previous 2 months, and very limited demographic information.

In addition, we will prepare a paper for peer-reviewed publication that describes the outcomes of this survey. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The data will be collected via a voluntary survey that respondents will take online or on paper. Initial contacts will be made either by email or mail, but the main mode of data collection will be an online survey. The paper survey will only be sent to those not responding to the online survey. An electronic database system will be used to track respondents and those who need to receive the paper version of the pilot survey. The online survey will be programmed to include prompts and skip patterns to match the skip patterns in the paper survey. (See Part B for description of the methodology).

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

We will work with the State of Florida to ensure that we do not sample the same addresses as those targeted by the Gulf Reef Fish Survey (GRFS) and to coordinate responses to any questions regarding the pilot survey. We cannot use the GRFS as our sampling frame because it does not contain boaters without a license (e.g. seniors). The State of Florida starts with the saltwater license frame and then attaches an indicator as to whether or not the household has an “offshore” boat registered at the same address. This approach is “license-frame-based” as opposed to “boat-owner-frame-based”. The later approach can contact boat-based anglers with an without a license.

There are many studies related to the value of recreational fishing (see Johnston et al, 2006 for a review). The literature on saltwater recreational fishing in the Southeast US (South Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico) includes studies on reef fish species, typically red snapper, groupers as a general category, or coastal pelagics (king mackerel, dolphinfish). This body of research has focused on estimating angler WTP by species and/or

quantities of fish caught per trip (Carter and Liese, 2012; Gillig et al (2003) Haab et al 2012; Hindsley et al 2011; Lovell and Carter 2014).

Very little research focuses on predicting changes in recreational fishing behavior in the Southeast US. Whitehead et al (2011) investigate how anglers would change number of charter trips they take in North Carolina in response to hypothetical changes in the combined snapper-grouper bag limits, and bag limits for King Mackerel. While this work deals with bag limits for snapper-grouper species it is unlikely that the estimates are strictly applicable to gag grouper fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. Cross-study comparisons suggest that economic measures related to recreational fishing cannot be easily transferred from one study area or mode (charter, shore, private boat, etc.) of fishing to other contexts (Johnston et al. 2006).

Gillig et al (2000) estimated changes in effort based on changes in estimated catch, but only focused on red snapper. The trip cost and catch elasticities were estimated from a survey of anglers from 1991 who fished at sites across the Gulf of Mexico. Gillig et al (2003) extends their analysis on this same dataset to examine the impact of the revealed preference data on the overall willingness to pay using their combined stated-preference and revealed preference model. Given many changes in regulations and stock abundance during the intervening 27 years, there is a strong possibility that angler behavior and preferences with regard to red snapper and reef fish in general may have changed as well. Therefore, this work cannot reliably be used to predict current changes in fishing for gag grouper in the Gulf of Mexico.

Other related research examines the potential changes in Florida coastal recreational activity anticipated with changes in costs and quality (e.g. Bhat 2003 (marine reserves), Park et al. 2002 (snorkeling), Thomas and Stratis 2002 (boating), Milon 1988 (preferences of anglers for natural versus artificial reef habitats). A more recent study by Whitehead et al. estimated a single site travel cost model to estimate the effects of the lost recreational use values from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on all cancelled recreational trips to northwest Florida, including uses other than fishing.

In summary, our literature review did not find any research directly useful to the objective of our proposed research which is to estimate the magnitude of potential changes (elasticities) in private boat recreational fishing effort for gag groupers in Florida associated with changes in regulations (e.g. catch) or trip costs. Given over 80% of trips from West Florida for gag grouper are from private boat anglers, there is need for more current research that is tailored to this specific mode and that can estimate how changes in bag limits or trip costs influence the number of trips taken.

5. <u>If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.</u>

Not Applicable.

6. <u>Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.</u>

The data and models currently used to predict changes in recreational fishing effort anticipated with change in regulations are either not available or dated. Consequently, Federal or state agencies will not be able to accurately calculate the benefits and costs of proposed changes in fishery regulations with the information collected in this survey. Inaccurate estimates of changes in benefits and costs can lead to incorrect policy conclusions and mistaken selection of regulations that are economically inefficient. This could harm the sustainability of Federal or state fishery management programs.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The collection is consistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and record keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A *Federal Register* Notice 'Web Survey to Collect Economic Data from Anglers in the Gulf of Mexico' was published on Friday September 14, 2017 (81 FR 3782), soliciting public comment. No substantive comments were received.

We have already been in contact with the State of Florida regarding the pilot survey and sampling procedures. As noted above, we will work with the State of Florida to ensure that we do not sample the same addresses as those targeted by the Gulf Reef Fish Survey and to coordinate responses to any questions regarding the pilot survey. We have also discussed the availability and composition of the boating license list with the State of Florida and a private contractor who provides Florida boat license database services.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

The benefits of prepaid cash incentives on improving survey response rates are well documented (Dillman et al. 2014). We intend to follow a mail web-push protocol with a prepaid incentive and mail follow-up to maximize the response rate within the budget (Dillman 2017). Millar and Dillman (2011) show that this approach can improve response rates for a web survey by nearly 20 percentage points over an approach with email only contacts and no incentive. The MRIP Effort Survey of anglers currently uses a $2 prepaid incentive in a mail survey because pretesting found that "response rates increased significantly with increasing incentive amounts, but the $1 and $2 treatments were the most efficient in terms of cost" (OMB Control No. 0648-0652) . Therefore, we are proposing a $2 prepaid incentive in the mail-push portion of the pilot survey. However, we are also conducting a portion of the pilot survey using only email contacts (without an incentive) so that we can compare the relative response rates of the two strategies and the relative quality of responses.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

No personally identifiable information will be collected through the pilot survey. Responses will only be associated with a unique, randomly assigned identification code. Any public release of survey data will be without identification as to its source or in aggregate statistical form. All survey data will be stored on secured, password protected servers, and all transfer of survey data will utilize secure file transfer protocols.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

The pilot survey will be completed by approximately 306 respondents, resulting in a total estimated burden of 26 hours (306 * 5 minutes / 60 minutes). Based on the average hourly labor rate of $24 per hour for all civilian workers from the National Compensation Survey, the resulting total cost over all respondents will be approximately $622. There are no other costs to respondents.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

These data collections will incur no cost burden on respondents beyond the costs of response time. Envelopes with prepaid postage will be included in the follow-up questionnaire mailing.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

The duration of the pilot survey will be for approximately 1 month; thus, the annualized cost is the one-time cost of the pilot survey. Annual cost to the Federal government is approximately $10,000: $7,500 in data collection costs and $2,500 in professional staff, overhead and computing costs.

15. 15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

This is a new submission.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

All results will be entered in a database using standard quality assurance/quality control procedures in survey research. Economists from NOAA Fisheries will analyze the data using standard software (e.g. R or SAS) and standard statistical procedures that are appropriate for survey data. Results from this collection may be used in scientific, management, technical or general informational publications, and would follow prescribed statistical tabulations and summary table formats. Data will be available to the general public on request in summary form only.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

Not Applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

Not Applicable.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
FLORIDA FISHING AND BOATING SURVEY
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-XXXX

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

Construction of Sample Frame

The target population for the FBFS is any Florida resident who might potentially fish in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) from West Florida (WFL) during November and December. We are especially interested in anglers fishing for gag grouper. There is no specific list for this type of angler. We propose to construct a sample frame from two lists of Florida residents. The first is the list of registered Florida boat owners (FBO) and the second is the list of licensed saltwater anglers in Florida (FLSA). The FBO list will help us reach anglers missing from the saltwater license list due to exemptions, especially adults 65 and over which make up nearly 20% of the Florida population and by some accounts around 15% of the angling population (USFWS and USCB 2014). According to Info-Link, approximately 23% of our target FBO population is aged 65 or older.

The FBO and FLSA lists have information that can be used to focus on addresses that are most relevant to WFL GOM fishing during November and December. Both lists can be narrowed geographically to counties where WFL GOM trips are most likely to originate. We then propose to oversample these counties based on gag grouper fishing prevalence to generate sufficient responses from gag grouper anglers.

We use data from the Marine Recreational Fishing Information Program (MRIP) to identify Florida counties that are most likely to be associated with WFL GOM private boat fishing. In this case, a county is “associated” with WFL GOM if at least 50% of the 2005 to 2017 average annual estimated fishing trips during November and December from the county were to the GOM from WFL. Note that this sample frame will not cover the entire population of anglers that fish in the GOM from WFL because, based on 18 years of MRIP data, approximately 14% of anglers fishing in the GOM from WFL from a private boat reside outside Florida. We also define trips during this period as “associated”" with gag grouper if the angler either targeted (primary or secondary) or caught (kept or released dead or alive) gag grouper in the GOM from WFL.

Table 1 shows the average annual number of trips originating from each Florida county from 2005 to 2017 during November and December. There are columns for the estimated count of all trips (ALL), trips to the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), and trips to the Gulf of Mexico that targeted or caught gag grouper (GAG). A 95% confidence interval (LB and UB) is also shown next to each trip count estimate. The table is sorted in descending order by the number of trips to the Gulf of Mexico.

Table 2 shows the trip information again along with the county population (POP) and count of registered pleasure vessels, both all boats (ALL) and boats between 16 feet and 110 feet (CLASS14). Note that all trip estimates with a lower bound less than zero in Table 1 have been set to zero in Table 2 to remove counties with

imprecise estimates from further consideration. The subset of pleasure boats between 16 feet and 110 feet likely contains nonfishing vessels. The FBO database has information that can be used to limit this population of registered boaters to those who are most likely to fish offshore. Specifically, we are interested in open or cabin motorboats >= 20 feet with outboard, inboard, or inboard/outboard motors and fiberglass hulls that are defined as recreational (pleasure) craft. Based on data from Info-Link's BoatOwners Database, approximately 27% of registered pleasure vessels between 16 feet and 110 feet meet this criteria. The BoatOwners Database can also be used to delineate between "sportfish" brand and "other" brand vessels. However, we will likely include both brand types in the sample frame.

Table 2 also shows the share of trips originating from each county that went to the GOM and the share that went to the GOM to fish for (targeting or catching) gag grouper. The table is sorted in descending order by the share that went to the GOM. For the full study we plan to sample from the counties with at least 50% of trips to the GOM: Calhoun to Lake. These 45 counties account for 96% of all GOM trips and 99% of all gag grouper trips in the GOM. The map in Figure 1 shows the percentage of trips to the GOM from counties that will be sampled for the pilot survey.

Overall, 13% of trips in these counties are associated gag grouper. This suggests that every 8th angler from these counties is associated with gag grouper. Consequently, we will need around 8 times as much sample to reach gag grouper anglers, even from these counties.

For the pilot study we will only sample from 2 of the 45 counties included in the full study. In order evaluate the response rates over the range of possible grouper fishing prevalence rates, we will survey one county with a high grouper fishing prevalence rate and one county with a low grouper fishing prevalence rate. Hillsborough county has one of the lowest grouper fishing prevalence rates at 11% whereas Pinellas county has one of the highest grouper fishing prevalence rates at 21%. Combined these counties account for 30% of all GOM trips and 38% of all GOM gag grouper trips. Together, 16% of trips in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties are associated gag grouper. This suggests that every 6th angler from these counties is associated with gag grouper. Consequently, we will need around 6 times as much sample to reach gag grouper anglers in these two counties.

Table 1: Average Annual Private Boat Trips to GOM from WFL from Florida Counties Counties: 2005-2017, Nov-Dec (descending by GOM trips)

COUNTY	ALL	ALL LB	ALL UB	GOM	GOM LB	GOM UB	GAG	GAG LB	GAG UB
PINELLAS	439,044	381,708	496,381	437,337	380,009	494,665	93,907	74,556	113,258
HILLSBOROUGH	424,476	378,347	470,606	420,836	374,744	466,927	46,974	37,287	56,661
LEE	195,639	162,588	228,690	195,047	161,999	228,095	15,742	10,269	21,214
SARASOTA	194,338	157,009	231,667	193,878	156,551	231,205	35,463	24,515	46,412
PASCO	161,959	135,832	188,086	161,703	135,578	187,827	25,509	18,669	32,350
MANATEE	136,900	103,267	170,532	136,286	102,659	169,912	26,307	17,335	35,279
COLLIER	133,132	99,911	166,353	132,296	99,084	165,507	10,370	5,288	15,453
CITRUS	121,045	92,059	150,030	118,751	89,798	147,704	14,298	8,439	20,158
CHARLOTTE	81,399	62,701	100,098	80,219	61,549	98,888	6,675	3,899	9,451
HERNANDO	79,901	61,248	98,554	79,149	60,532	97,765	17,417	11,648	23,187
ALACHUA	81,705	61,669	101,741	78,535	58,594	98,476	7,235	2,376	12,093
POLK	82,263	70,383	94,143	74,282	62,833	85,730	9,523	6,702	12,344
ESCAMBIA	73,890	52,993	94,787	73,811	52,914	94,707	8,102	3,897	12,307
LEON	63,720	46,710	80,730	62,690	45,698	79,681	16,659	10,014	23,304
MONROE	65,012	45,873	84,152	59,981	41,058	78,905	642	-181	1,465
MARION	60,656	39,927	81,384	56,880	36,321	77,440	8,586	2,543	14,629
BAY	56,164	34,329	77,999	55,462	33,643	77,281	6,020	-134	12,173
SANTA ROSA	49,524	31,908	67,140	48,799	31,208	66,389	5,426	1,229	9,622
MIAMI-DADE	239,913	191,806	288,020	44,771	23,728	65,815	945	8	1,882
OKALOOSA	41,318	23,569	59,067	40,865	23,122	58,607	2,461	536	4,386
LEVY	40,822	28,191	53,453	40,566	27,938	53,194	861	149	1,573

WAKULLA	28,864	14,806	42,923	28,762	14,705	42,819	9,774	3,792	15,757
BROWARD	167,833	128,690	206,975	25,317	15,563	35,072	797	34	1,560
LAKE	38,908	27,730	50,086	19,556	12,898	26,214	3,533	1,179	5,887
GULF	16,099	5,203	26,995	16,099	5,203	26,995	242	-147	630
ORANGE	131,470	110,556	152,384	16,055	10,947	21,163	2,971	1,175	4,767
WALTON	14,992	7,244	22,740	14,992	7,244	22,740	836	-51	1,722
COLUMBIA	13,614	6,995	20,232	13,415	6,801	20,028	173	-166	512
FRANKLIN	15,718	10,120	21,316	12,649	7,483	17,816	2,861	492	5,230
SUMTER	14,349	9,886	18,811	12,627	8,352	16,901	1,227	318	2,137
DIXIE	9,433	4,506	14,361	9,336	4,411	14,261	199	-77	474
SUWANNEE	9,412	5,527	13,297	8,895	5,051	12,739	0	0	0
GILCHRIST	8,884	3,608	14,160	8,884	3,608	14,160	376	-145	896
TAYLOR	7,818	3,298	12,339	7,779	3,260	12,299	489	-69	1,048
HIGHLANDS	8,646	3,798	13,494	7,559	2,789	12,329	1,821	-163	3,806
PALM BEACH	253,141	218,424	287,858	7,435	1,995	12,874	88	-84	260
HENDRY	8,889	2,428	15,350	7,269	1,007	13,531	80	-61	221
OSCEOLA	19,085	11,097	27,072	6,051	-954	13,056	79	-76	234
DESOTO	6,079	3,099	9,058	6,027	3,049	9,004	139	-134	412
DUVAL	362,167	304,908	419,426	5,873	3,757	7,990	317	-129	763
SEMINOLE	104,257	84,174	124,340	5,732	2,380	9,084	1,226	-59	2,511
BRADFORD	7,269	3,870	10,669	5,460	2,328	8,593	0	0	0
BREVARD	289,487	245,729	333,245	5,223	1,949	8,497	84	-80	247
HOLMES	3,594	-1,028	8,217	3,594	-1,028	8,217	536	-515	1,588
VOLUSIA	279,888	231,882	327,893	3,556	2,026	5,086	0	0	0
JACKSON	3,768	1,302	6,233	3,540	1,098	5,982	195	-77	466
GADSDEN	3,484	1,490	5,479	3,484	1,490	5,479	1,968	217	3,719
UNION	3,833	855	6,811	3,477	539	6,416	376	-148	900
PUTNAM	12,877	7,847	17,906	3,468	1,152	5,784	253	-242	747
WASHINGTON	3,092	950	5,233	3,092	950	5,233	0	0	0
MARTIN	117,113	94,218	140,007	3,027	1,135	4,919	141	-136	418
CALHOUN	2,962	240	5,684	2,962	240	5,684	281	-114	675
HARDEE	2,790	1,147	4,433	2,686	1,050	4,323	319	-52	689
JEFFERSON	2,495	1,081	3,908	2,495	1,081	3,908	271	-14	556
BAKER	8,898	4,115	13,682	2,367	370	4,364	0	0	0
CLAY	43,201	32,709	53,693	2,245	982	3,507	498	-192	1,188
ST. JOHNS	116,707	89,295	144,119	1,759	628	2,889	0	0	0
HAMILTON	1,535	51	3,018	1,535	51	3,018	0	0	0
NASSAU	43,470	29,883	57,056	1,518	-621	3,658	0	0	0
ST. LUCIE	126,248	103,221	149,275	1,306	141	2,471	0	0	0
LAFAYETTE	1,067	338	1,797	894	249	1,540	0	0	0
MADISON	839	128	1,551	720	34	1,405	0	0	0
INDIAN RIVER	101,234	77,314	125,155	671	72	1,270	0	0	0
FLAGLER	22,633	11,843	33,423	357	-52	767	0	0	0
GLADES	499	-77	1,075	280	-159	718	0	0	0
OKEECHOBEE	6,881	3,847	9,915	200	-32	433	0	0	0
LIBERTY	184	-176	543	184	-176	543	0	0	0

Table 2: Population (2010), Registered Boats (2016) and Average Annual (2005-2017) Trips during Nov-Dec for Counties (descending by GOM trip share)

COUNTY	POP	CLASS14 BOATS	ALL BOATS	ALL TRIPS	GOM TRIPS	GAG TRIPS	GOM TRIPS SHARE	GAG TRIPS SHARE	SHARE OF GOM TRIPS	SHARE OF GAG TRIPS
CALHOUN	14,625	531	1,580	2,962	2,962	0	1	0	0	0
GADSDEN	46,389	1,125	2,238	3,484	3,484	1,968	1	0.56	0	0.01
GILCHRIST	16,939	983	1,671	8,884	8,884	0	1	0	0	0
GULF	15,863	1,408	2,769	16,099	16,099	0	1	0	0.01	0

HAMILTON	14,799	399	871	1,535	1,535	0	1	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	14,761	583	1,234	2,495	2,495	0	1	0	0	0
WALTON	55,043	2,828	5,494	14,992	14,992	0	1	0	0.01	0
WASHINGTON	24,896	915	2,362	3,092	3,092	0	1	0	0	0
ESCAMBIA	297,619	9,252	15,033	73,890	73,811	8,102	1	0.11	0.03	0.02
PASCO	464,697	14,160	23,148	161,959	161,703	25,509	1	0.16	0.06	0.07
SARASOTA	379,448	15,068	21,401	194,338	193,878	35,463	1	0.18	0.07	0.09
LEE	618,754	33,264	45,187	195,639	195,047	15,742	1	0.08	0.07	0.04
WAKULLA	30,776	2,716	4,734	28,864	28,762	9,774	1	0.34	0.01	0.03
PINELLAS	916,542	31,053	47,130	439,044	437,337	93,907	1	0.21	0.15	0.25
MANATEE	322,833	11,532	17,407	136,900	136,286	26,307	1	0.19	0.05	0.07
TAYLOR	22,570	2,007	3,565	7,818	7,779	0	0.99	0	0	0
LEVY	40,801	2,416	3,989	40,822	40,566	861	0.99	0.02	0.01	0
COLLIER	321,520	15,119	21,539	133,132	132,296	10,370	0.99	0.08	0.05	0.03
DESOTO	34,862	1,209	2,227	6,079	6,027	0	0.99	0	0	0
HILLSBOROUGH	1,229,226	25,196	39,191	424,476	420,836	46,974	0.99	0.11	0.15	0.13
HERNANDO	172,778	5,345	9,154	79,901	79,149	17,417	0.99	0.22	0.03	0.05
DIXIE	16,422	1,364	2,246	9,433	9,336	0	0.99	0	0	0
OKALOOSA	180,822	10,525	17,829	41,318	40,865	2,461	0.99	0.06	0.01	0.01
BAY	168,852	9,572	17,118	56,164	55,462	0	0.99	0	0.02	0
CHARLOTTE	159,978	15,767	21,402	81,399	80,219	6,675	0.99	0.08	0.03	0.02
COLUMBIA	67,531	2,483	4,360	13,614	13,415	0	0.99	0	0	0
SANTA ROSA	151,372	7,968	14,089	49,524	48,799	5,426	0.99	0.11	0.02	0.01
LEON	275,487	6,753	12,540	63,720	62,690	16,659	0.98	0.26	0.02	0.04
CITRUS	141,236	10,087	15,578	121,045	118,751	14,298	0.98	0.12	0.04	0.04
HARDEE	27,731	840	1,588	2,790	2,686	0	0.96	0	0	0
ALACHUA	247,336	6,151	9,979	81,705	78,535	7,235	0.96	0.09	0.03	0.02
SUWANNEE	41,551	1,459	2,700	9,412	8,895	0	0.95	0	0	0
JACKSON	49,746	2,024	4,665	3,768	3,540	0	0.94	0	0	0
MARION	331,298	11,030	18,254	60,656	56,880	8,586	0.94	0.14	0.02	0.02
MONROE	73,090	19,810	26,147	65,012	59,981	0	0.92	0	0.02	0
UNION	15,535	513	974	3,833	3,477	0	0.91	0	0	0
POLK	602,095	16,388	27,733	82,263	74,282	9,523	0.9	0.12	0.03	0.03
SUMTER	93,420	2,437	4,338	14,349	12,627	1,227	0.88	0.09	0	0
HIGHLANDS	98,786	5,297	8,807	8,646	7,559	0	0.87	0	0	0
MADISON	19,224	596	1,158	839	720	0	0.86	0	0	0
LAFAYETTE	8,870	472	897	1,067	894	0	0.84	0	0	0
HENDRY	39,140	1,794	2,827	8,889	7,269	0	0.82	0	0	0
FRANKLIN	11,549	1,463	2,360	15,718	12,649	2,861	0.8	0.18	0	0.01
BRADFORD	28,520	1,299	2,275	7,269	5,460	0	0.75	0	0	0
LAKE	297,052	13,631	20,581	38,908	19,556	3,533	0.5	0.09	0.01	0.01
PUTNAM	74,364	4,552	7,260	12,877	3,468	0	0.27	0	0	0
BAKER	27,115	1,285	2,437	8,898	2,367	0	0.27	0	0	0
MIAMI-DADE	2,496,435	42,760	63,312	239,913	44,771	945	0.19	0	0.02	0
BROWARD	1,748,066	28,310	42,486	167,833	25,317	797	0.15	0	0.01	0
ORANGE	1,145,956	15,094	26,046	131,470	16,055	2,971	0.12	0.02	0.01	0.01
SEMINOLE	422,718	10,303	17,623	104,257	5,732	0	0.05	0	0	0
CLAY	190,865	7,697	12,275	43,201	2,245	0	0.05	0	0	0
PALM BEACH	1,320,134	24,915	36,253	253,141	7,435	0	0.03	0	0	0
MARTIN	146,318	12,513	16,675	117,113	3,027	0	0.03	0	0	0
BREVARD	543,376	19,331	32,003	289,487	5,223	0	0.02	0	0	0
DUVAL	864,263	15,682	25,719	362,167	5,873	0	0.02	0	0	0
ST. JOHNS	190,039	8,748	13,842	116,707	1,759	0	0.02	0	0	0
VOLUSIA	494,593	16,201	26,161	279,888	3,556	0	0.01	0	0	0
ST. LUCIE	277,789	8,398	12,259	126,248	1,306	0	0.01	0	0	0
INDIAN RIVER	138,028	6,606	10,190	101,234	671	0	0.01	0	0	0
FLAGLER	95,696	3,240	5,339	22,633	0	0	0	0	0	0
GLADES	12,884	795	1,213	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HOLMES	19,927	664	2,031	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LIBERTY	8,365	357	1,071	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NASSAU	73,314	3,420	6,044	43,470	0	0	0	0	0	0
OKEECHOBEE	39,996	3,399	4,795	6,881	0	0	0	0	0	0
OSCEOLA	268,685	4,488	7,838	19,085	0	0	0	0	0	0

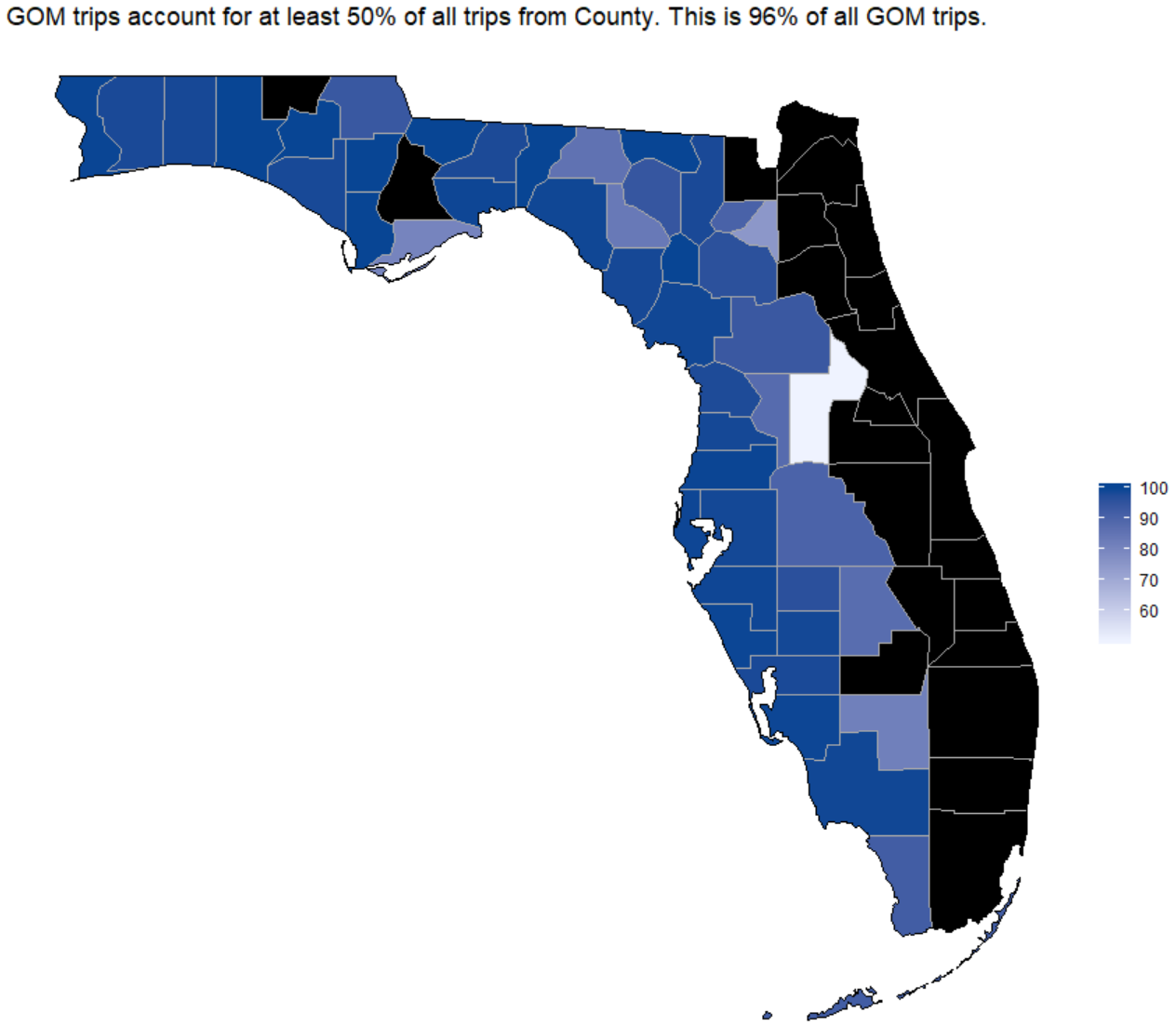

Figure 1: Percent of West Florida Gag Grouper Trips in each County of Origin during Nov-Dec, 2005-2017

2. <u>Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.</u>

<u>Target Completes and Sample Size</u>

The goal for the FBFS pilot study is to have at least 50 surveys completed by anglers with gag grouper experience, though there are also questions on the pilot survey related to general boating and fishing activity. We must contact a sufficient number of addresses to meet this goal given the relatively small population of gag grouper anglers and the expected response rate. As described above, we can expect, roughly, that every 6th angler living in the pilot study counties (Hillsborough and Pinellas) has experience with gag grouper. This is likely a conservative estimate of the prevalence of gag grouper anglers in our more focused FBO list of "offshore" boats, especially for those addresses that are also in the saltwater license list. However, we proceed with this prevalence estimate (16%) to ensure that we have an adequate number of gag grouper anglers in our pilot study sample.

Based on the number of gag grouper angler responses and the estimated gag grouper prevalence, we propose an target complete size of 50/0.16=306 to be achieved via email and mail contacts. The actual number of addresses required from the FBO list depends initially on the prevalence of email addresses in the combined FBO-license lists, and the email and mail response rates. Previous experience suggests that email addresses can be obtained for around 20% of observations in the FBO list and about half of the observations in the saltwater license list. For the combined (matched and unmatched sample), we assume 40% of observations will have email addresses. Therefore, of the 306 completes, 123 will have email addresses and 184 will not.

We assume that the FBFS will achieve two different response rates depending on mode: 0.1 for email contact with 3 reminder emails and no incentive, and 0.3 using a web-push strategy, a $2 incentive, and a mail option for those not completing the web version of the pilot survey (Messer and Dillman 2011). The email response rate is based on rates typically achieved with email contacts from fishing license frames in the Southeastern US (e.g., Wallen et al. 2016). Recent experience using mail surveys to push respondents to web surveys suggests that mail, web-push response rates of around 30 to 40 percent are not unreasonable for a carefully designed survey, especially with a mail follow-up option (Dillman 2017). The focus on "offshore" boat selected from the FBO list should also help increase the response rates. Though not strictly comparable, MRIP FES mail protocol also typically achieves response rates around 30 to 40 percent.

Based on the assumed relative response rates and email prevalence, we propose initial target sample sizes of 0.4 * 306 / 0.1 = 1,226 for email contacts and (1-0.4)*306/0.3=613 for mail contacts. The combined email and mail target sample size is 1,839. However, we need to start with a larger sample from the FBO list to account for the difference between the actual and required rate of matching for the FBO list and the saltwater license list.

The general sampling strategy will be to draw a random sample from the FBO "offshore" boat subset with addresses in the WFL GOM counties (Table 2) and then match as many addresses as possible to the fishing license frame from the WFL GOM counties. We assume that a match will be found for 55% of addresses from the FBO list. This rate is much higher than the matching typically achieved by the MRIP FES, but we are using the FBO list rather than the general mail address list.

Following Brick et al. (2016) we will then sample the addresses from the FBO that do not match the license list until we hit the target sample size. Assuming that we want to have 20% (instead of 45%) of the final mailing sample to be unmatched to cover anglers 65 and over, the FBO "offshore" boat sample will have to be 2,675 addresses (1,839 * (1-0.2) / 0.55). This sample will then be matched to the license list to achieve the target sample size of 1,839 that contains 80% matched records. Any member of this list with an email will proceed

with the email contact protocol and all others will proceed with the mail web-push protocol. As noted above, we are estimating that 1,226 members of the list will have emails and 613 members will not. The assumed sample allocation is shown in Table 3. Note that we show the population not included in the sample as a reminder that the sample does not cover the complete population of FBO or license lists. This number is based on the total number of 16 to 110 foot pleasure craft registrations in Florida during 2016 (565,590), but should be close to current figures. Also, the population numbers shown in the table are "guesses" obtained by applying the assumed actual FBO-license match rate (0.55) and the assumed share of records with email addresses (0.4) to the (565,590) count. The general sampling strategy is summarized in Figure 2.

Table 3: Assumed Sample Allocation based on 16 to 110 Foot Florida Vessel Registrations in 2016

Selected Boats	Match	Email	Population	Sample	Returns
Yes	Yes	Yes	19,633	981	98
Yes	Yes	No	29,449	490	147
Yes	No	Yes	16,063	245	25
Yes	No	No	24,095	123	37
No	Any	Any	476,351	0	NA

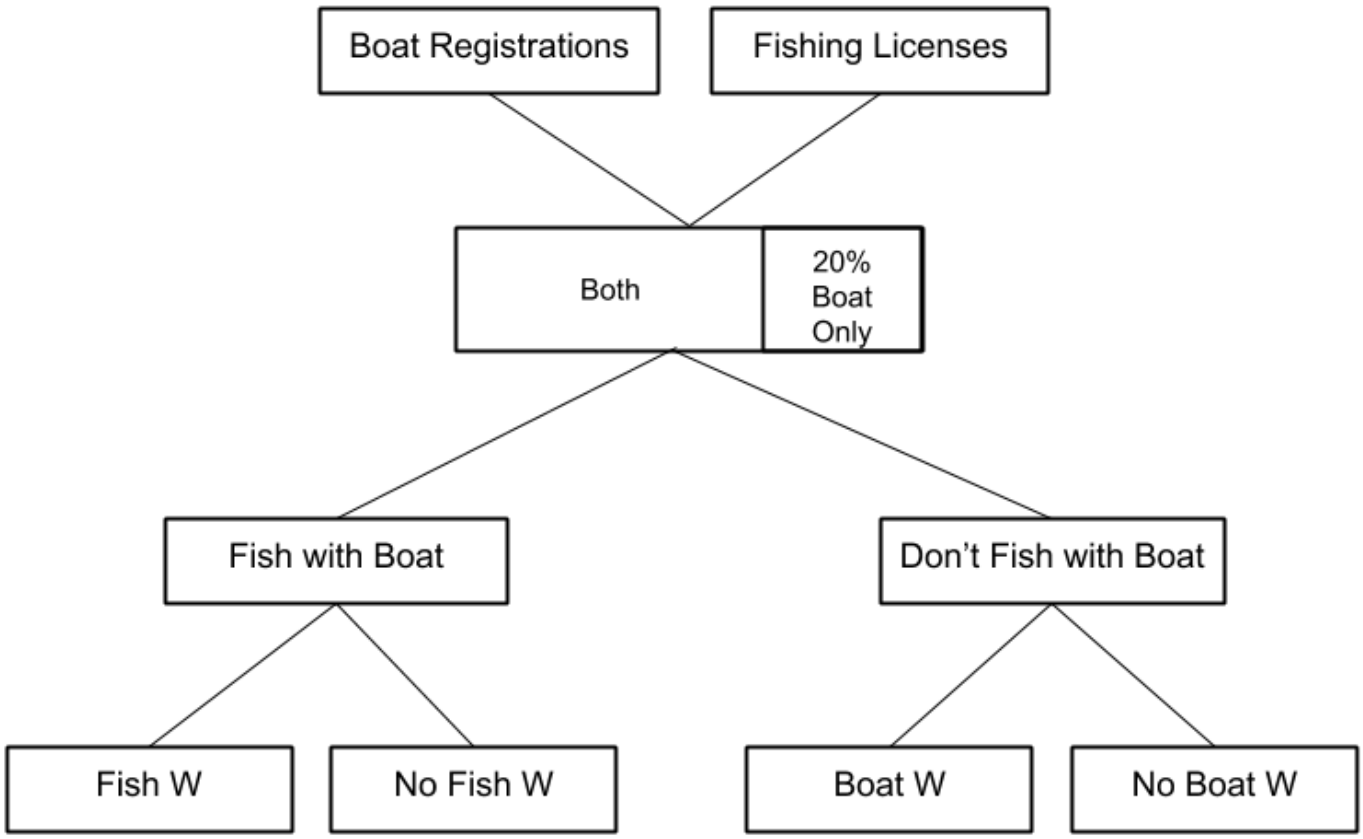

Figure 2: Overview of Sampling Strategy

Specifically, we will create or purchase, from a qualified FBO list vendor, a sample of 2,675 addresses of registered boat owners in the Florida WFL GOM counties that meet the following criteria:

- Only Florida residents
- Type - open motorboat, cabin motorboat
- Propulsion - outboard, inboard, inboard/outboard
- Use - recreational (pleasure)
- Length - >= 20 feet.

We will then match, by exact address and/or telephone number, the FBO sample to the list of anglers in the WFL GOM counties who were licensed to participate in saltwater fishing in Florida between the beginning of November 2018 and the time the list is compiled. The list will include a unique address ID, telephone number, state, county, address (address lines 1 and 2) and zip code of residence. The frame matching SAS program developed for the MRIP FES is available upon request. After the matching has been completed, we will sub-sample within the unmatched addresses at a rate needed to achieve target sample sizes as described above. Note that, as mentioned above, we will coordinate with the State of Florida to ensure that we do not sample the same people who have been selected to receive the Gulf Reef Fish Survey for the same period.

Survey Administration

The FES is a mail survey, but the FBFS will be a mixed-mode web-focused survey. We will closely follow the recommendations for mail-push web surveys in Messer and Dillman (2011) and Dillman (2017), including a prenotice letter, an incentive with the URL letter, and 2 mail follow-ups with the final a paper copy of the pilot survey included in the final mailing.

The prenotice letter (first contact) will be sent during the last week of December. The second contact will made within the first week of January with a letter containing a URL address for a web survey, a unique code that identifies each respondent (address), and a $2 incentive (one two dollar bill). Research suggests that the incentive significantly increases response rates in the mail web-push strategy (Messer and Dillman 2011). The respondent will be instructed to go to the URL, enter their unique code and complete the pilot survey. The pilot survey will focus on recreational fishing activity, but will contain screening questions related to saltwater recreation activities. There is more about the pilot survey below. Following Messer and Dillman (2011) we are expecting about 60% of final returns (184*0.6 = 110) to occur after the first mailing (second contact).

Following the Messer and Dillman (2011), a thank you/reminder postcard (third contact) will be sent within 2 weeks after the first letter was mailed. The reminder postcard will also have the URL and the unique code. Contacts still not responding within 3 weeks of the reminder postcard will be sent (forth contact) a paper copy of the pilot survey and a business reply envelope along with a letter including the URL and unique code. Note that NOAA will be handling the web survey and will to send the contractor a list of unique codes that completed the pilot survey on the web. These addresses will be removed from the final mailing.

The contractor will be responsible for all aspects of survey administration, except the web survey. This includes printing, assembling, mailing, receipting, and processing all survey materials. The contractor will handle all mailings and the tracking of respondents as expressed in Table 4. All mailings will be delivered through regular, first-class mail. Letters will be printed letterhead quality stock with a color NOAA logo. Frequently asked questions will be printed on the reverse side of the letter. Paper questionnaires will be mailed in a large envelope that can accommodate a 8.5X11 letter without folding. Each questionnaire will be printed on a single 8.5X11 sheet of paper, front and back.

Table 4: Sampling and Mailing Schedule

ITEM	DATE	ADDRESSES
Obtain the FBO list and the license list for the select Florida counties in Table 1 and draw a sample of matched and unmatched addresses. Send the sample with email addresses to NOAA for the email contact survey.	12/11/18	2,675
Prenotice letter	12/25/18	613
Letter with $2 incentive, URL, and unique respondent id code	1/2/19	613
Reminder/Thank you postcard with URL, and unique respondent id code	1/16/19	613
Letter with 2 page paper survey, URL, and unique respondent id code. NOAA will provide the list of addresses who still have not responded to the web survey.	1/30/19	503

Survey Instrument

NOAA has programmed a version of the web survey in Qualtrics. The printed version (not available yet) is two pages to be printed double-sided in color when sent with the final mailing.

There are two main sections of the pilot survey following an introduction and screening/eligibility question. For the respondents that use their boat for fishing, the first section asks a series of questions related to fishing activity. There is also a subset of the fishing questions that will be answered by those who fish for gag grouper.

Those who do not use their boat for fishing are routed to a third section that asks a series of questions related to boating activities. Note that each respondent will answer either the fishing questions or the boating questions, but not both types of questions.

The fishing and boating question sections each have questions about the number of trips taken in the previous 2 months and the number of trips that would have been taken with different trip costs. The fishing section also has questions about the number of trips that would have been taken with different gag grouper regulations for anglers who fish for this species.

Q1: Intro text

Q2: ID Code they received in invitation by mail or email

Q3: Screening question to determine if the respondent is eligible to complete the pilot survey - i.e. do they own and use a boat (If no, end of survey).

Q4: Screening question to determine if the respondent used their boat in the Gulf of Mexico in the two-month period.

Q5: if they did not use their boat during the two-month period in Gulf of Mexico, question asks for the reason they did not use it, then ends the pilot survey.

Fishing Questions

Q6: Screening question to determine if the respondent is eligible to complete the portion of survey related to fishing in the Gulf of Mexico during two-month period by asking if they used the boat to fish during the two-month period.

Q7: If not used for fishing, then asks why they did not use the boat to fish during that time period in the Gulf of Mexico. (Skips over fishing-related questions and goes to boating questions)

Q8: Asks how many days they used their boat in the two-month period in the Gulf of Mexico

Q9-Q11: are questions to determine the size of the party, duration, and cost of a typical fishing trip.

Note: Q8–Q11 will only be answered by those who reported fishing during the two-month period in the Gulf of Mexico.

Q12: Intro text for cost of fishing and graphic of gas prices in Florida over time.

Q13–Q15: Series of questions asking how many days they would have fished with different trip costs.

Q16: Question on what species they were fishing for in the Gulf of Mexico during two-month period.

Q17: Asks how many days during the two-month period, that they previously reported X number of days fishing, that they targeted gag grouper.

Q18–Q20: Questions to determine how many days would have been fished in two-month period with different gag grouper regulations.

Q21: Determine how many days the boat was used without fishing in the two-month period.

Now they Skip to Q31 on household income then ends survey.

Boating Questions

Note: Q23–Q26 will only be completed by those who answered no to Q3 (that they did not use boat for fishing).

Q23: Asks how many days they used their boat (not for fishing) during the two-month period. Note: Q24–Q30 will only be answered by those who reported boating during the two-month period.

Q24–Q26: Questions to determine the size of the party, duration, and cost of a typical boating trip.

Q27: Intro text for cost of boating and of gas prices in Florida over time.

Q28–Q30: Series of questions asking how many days they would have boated with different trip costs.

Q31: Question that ask their household income (range).

End of survey.

Data Entry

A contractor will be used to convert returned questionnaires from the final mailing into an electronic database format using optical scanning technology. The contractor will maintain scanned images of returned questionnaires for delivery to NOAA. Questionnaires that have been damaged or are otherwise inappropriate for scanning will be manually reviewed by contractor personnel. If such questionnaires are complete and legible, the contractor will be responsible for manually key-entering survey information. Questionnaires that are illegible or missing key information will be coded as such. The contractor will develop an appropriate coding scheme for sample dispositions with input from NOAA.

All returned paper questionnaires from the final mailing into an electronic database format using optical scanning technology. The responses will be delivered in a comma separated values (CSV) file along with a complete data dictionary that corresponds with the responses received via the web survey. The contractor will work with NOAA staff to make any changes to final dataset content, coding, formatting and naming conventions for all data collection components.

Stratification

There will be no a-priori stratification; however, post stratification of the data may be possible based on survey responses (e.g., frequency of trips, county of residence, etc.).

Data Analysis: Trip Demand Model

Following Alberini et. al. (2007) we use a single-site travel cost model recreational fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. Specifically, we assume that an angler chooses fishing trips, d and a numeraire good, X to maximize utility subject to a budget constraint or $max_{X,d}\ U(X,d)\ s.t.\ y = X + d \cdot p$ where y is income, the price of the numeraire good is set to one, and p is the cost per fishing trip. We further assume that fishing trips are a function of fishing quality, h, which is itself a function of fishing regulations, r, i.e., $d = d(q(r))$. Fishing trips and quality are weak complements such that $\partial U/\partial q = 0$ if $d = 0$, i.e. the individual does not care about quality of fishing if he or she does not fish. The number of trips is an increasing function of fishing quality, $\partial d/\partial q > 0$.

The solution to the angler problem yields the demand function for trips, $d = d(y,p,r)$. In our empirical work, we assume that the for demand function based on data from angler i in scenario j is linear in its arguments

(1) $d_{ij} = \beta z_i + \gamma p_{ij} + \delta r_{ij} + \epsilon_{ij}$

where z_i is a vector of angler characteristics, including an intercept and income; β, γ, and δ are parameters to be estimated; and ϵ_{ij} is an error term. The parameters can be estimated with data on d_{ij}, p_{ij}, r_{ij}, and y_i for angler i in scenario j.

We will have six observations on trips for respondents who complete the gag grouper portion of the pilot survey and 3 trip observations for all other anglers and boaters. The scenarios are summarized in Table 5. There is two sources of variation in the scenarios when collected for a set of anglers: (i) across anglers, and (ii) across scenarios within one angler. These sources of variation should be adequate to estimate the slope of the demand function, γ, and the effect, δ, of changes in the bag limit.

Table 5: Trip Scenarios

Scenario	Price (p)	Trips (d)	Bag (r)
Base (Actual)	p0	r0	2
Double price	p1=p0*2	r1	2
Half price	p1=p0/2	r2	2
Bag 3	p0	r3	1
Bag 1	p0	r4	3
Bag 0 (closed)	p0	r5	0

The observations on fishing trips for the scenarios are correlated within an individual if unobservable angler characteristics influence both actual fishing trips and the stated number of trips under the hypothetical scenarios. Therefore, we adopt a random-effects specification to combine the actual trips and trips under the hypothetical scenarios (e.g., Loomis (1997) and Alberini et. al. 2007). In this case we assume that $\epsilon_{ij} = v_i + eta_{ij}$, with v_i a respondent-specific, zero-mean component, and $\eta_i j$ an i.i.d. error term. v_i and η_{ij} are uncorrelated with each other, across individuals, and with the regressors in the right-hand side of Eq. (1). The presence of the individual-specific component of the error term (v_i) result in correlated error terms ϵ within a respondent. Specifically, $E(\epsilon_{ij}\epsilon_{ik}) = \sigma_v^2$, where σ_v^2 is the variance of v, for $j \neq k$, whereas the variance of each ϵ_{ij} is $\sigma_v^2 +$

σ_η^2, with σ_η^2 being the variance of η. Generalized Least Squares is used to estimate parameters while addressing the correlation in the model.

The estimated parameters are used to calculate elasticities that show the percent change in trips with a percent change in trip cost and the bag limit. The former is given by $-\gamma(p_{0i}/d_{0i})$ and the later is given by $-\delta(r_{0i}/d_{0i})$.

The estimated parameters are also used to calculate two welfare measures. The first captures the value of access and is the consumer surplus associated with current fishing conditions and prices:

(2) $CS_i(p_{0i}, r_{0i}) = -(1/2\gamma)[z_i\beta + p_{0i}\gamma]^2$.

The second captures the value of changes in fishing regulations, and is the change in surplus due to an change in bag limits (holding the prices the same):

(3) $CS_i(p_{0i}, r_{1i}) - CS_i(p_{0i}, r_{0i}) = -(1/2\gamma)[\delta^2 + 2\delta(z_i\beta + p_{0i}\gamma)]$.

3. <u>Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.</u>

As a sampling frame does not exist, we will not be able to systematically address non-response bias. However, we have taken steps to maximize the number of surveys completed, including making the pilot survey a brief, concise, and clear instrument, limiting the number of open-ended questions, and revising the pilot survey based on feedback from focus groups conducted in Tampa, FL.

4. <u>Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.</u>

Prior to the pilot survey implementation, NOAA Fisheries conducted 2 focus groups with a total of 15 anglers in Tampa, FL. Their feedback was used to revise language and questions in the pilot survey and to ensure that material is understood and interpreted by the respondent as intended.

5. <u>Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.</u>

Design, Analysis, Report: David W. Carter, NOAA Fisheries, 305-361-4467 Data collection: Gustavo Rubio, ECS Federal, contracting company, 301-427-8180

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Florida Boating and Fishing Survey - Period and Area

Survey Flow

Block: Intro (2 Questions)

EmbeddedData
Months = May and June
Area = the Gulf of Mexico
Species = gag grouper
bag0 = 2
bag1 = 3
bag2 = 1
monthOpen = June

Standard: Own Boat (1 Question)
Standard: Boat in the area of interest during period of interest? (4 Questions)

Branch: New Branch
If
If fishFromBoat Yes Is Selected

Standard: Fishing days and attributes (4 Questions)

EmbeddedData
q0f = ${q://QID24/ChoiceTextEntryValue}
p0f = ${q://QID124/ChoiceTextEntryValue}
p1f = $e{ e://Field/p0f * 2 }
dpf = $e{ e://Field/p1f - e://Field/p0f }
p2f = $e{ round(e://Field/p0f * 0.5 , 0) }

Standard: Cost of Fishing Background (1 Question)
Standard: Fish CB cost (2 Questions)

EmbeddedData
q1f = ${q://QID127/ChoiceTextEntryValue}
dqf = $e{ e://Field/q1f - e://Field/q0f }
chokePricef = $e{ 10 * round((e://Field/p0f - e://Field/q0f * e://Field/dpf / e://Field/dqf) / 10 , 0) }

Standard: Fishing choke price (1 Question)
Standard: Fishing questions (1 Question)

Branch: New Branch
If
If fishSpeciesArea ${e://Field/Species} Is Selected

Block: Species trips and CB screen (2 Questions)

Branch: New Branch
If
If changeDaysSpeciesReg No Is Not Selected

Standard: Species CB Questions (3 Questions)

Standard: Boat not fish (1 Question)

Branch: New Branch
If
If fishFromBoat No Is Selected

Standard: Boating Questions (4 Questions)

EmbeddedData
q0b = ${q://QID33/ChoiceTextEntryValue}
p0b = ${q://QID31/ChoiceTextEntryValue}
p1b = $e{ e://Field/p0b * 2 }
dpb = $e{ e://Field/p1b - e://Field/p0b }
p2b = $e{ round(e://Field/p0b * 0.5 , 0) }

Standard: Cost of Boating Background (1 Question)
Block: Boat CB cost (2 Questions)

EmbeddedData
q1b = ${q://QID32/ChoiceTextEntryValue}
dqb = $e{ e://Field/q1b - e://Field/q0b }
chokePriceb = $e{ 10 * round((e://Field/p0b - e://Field/q0b * e://Field/dpb / e://Field/dqb) / 10 , 0) }

Standard: Boating choke price (1 Question)

Standard: Income (1 Question)

Page Break

Start of Block: Intro

Q1 We would like to know about your saltwater boating and fishing in Florida. This survey should only take about ~~5~~ 10 minutes. Your confidential answers will help us estimate the effect of changes in fishing costs and regulations.

JS

Q2 Please enter the id code from your letter or email.

_____

End of Block: Intro

Start of Block: Own Boat

JS

Q3 Our records show that you own a boat. Is this true?

- O Yes, I use the boat (1)
- O Yes, but someone else uses the boat (2)
- O No, I don't own a boat (3)

Skip To: End of Survey If Q3 != Yes, I use the boat

End of Block: Own Boat

Start of Block: Boat in the area of interest during period of interest?

JS

Q4 Did you use your boat in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} this year?

- O Yes (1)
- O No (2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q4 = No

Q5 Why didn't you use your boat in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}?

- O I used my boat somewhere else (6)
- O The boat was not working (5)
- O I was too busy with other things (2)
- O I did not have the money to run the boat (3)
- O Other reason (4) _____

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q4 = Yes

JS

Q6 Did you use your boat to fish in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}?

- O Yes (1)
- O No (2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q4 = Yes

And Q6 = No

JS

Q7 Why didn't you use your boat to fish in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}?

- O I don't usually fish from my boat (1)
- O The species I like was not in season (2)
- O I did not have the money to run the boat for fishing (3)
- O Other reason (4) _____

End of Block: Boat in the area of interest during period of interest?

Start of Block: Fishing days and attributes

JS *

Q8 How many days did you use your boat to fish in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}?

_____

Page Break

Q9 How many people (including yourself) went on a typical fishing trip in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}?

_____

Page Break

Q10 How many hours (dock-to-dock) was your typical fishing trip in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}?

_____

Page Break

JS *

Q11 How much did a typical fishing trip cost in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}?

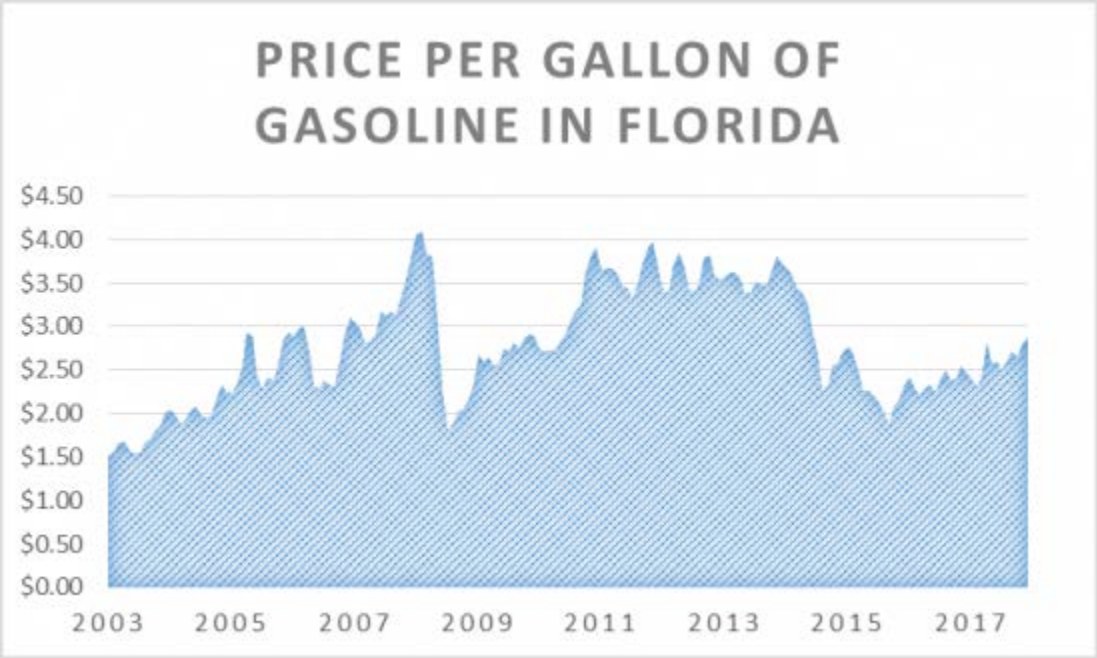
Please estimate the total cost paid by everyone for major items like boat fuel and bait.

_____

End of Block: Fishing days and attributes

Start of Block: Cost of Fishing Background

Q12 The cost of fishing fluctuates. For example, the graph below shows how the price of fuel has changed in the last 15 years. Your answers to the next set of questions will help us predict how fishing activity might change when trip costs change.



End of Block: Cost of Fishing Background

Start of Block: Fish CB cost

JS *

Q13 How many days would you have used your boat to fish in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} if trips cost $${e://Field/p1f} per day?

Remember, you said you used your boat to fish ${e://Field/q0f} days when trips cost about $${e://Field/p0f} per day.

_____

Page Break

JS *

Q14 How many days would you have used your boat to fish in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} if trips cost $${e://Field/p2f} per day?

Remember, you said you used your boat to fish ${e://Field/q0f} days when trips cost about $${e://Field/p0f} per day.

_____

End of Block: Fish CB cost

Start of Block: Fishing choke price

Display This Question:

If If fishDaysP1 Text Response Is Less Than ${e://Field/q0f}

JS

Q15 Would you have used your boat to fish at all in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} if each trip cost $${e://Field/chokePricef}?

O Yes (1)

O No (2)

End of Block: Fishing choke price

Start of Block: Fishing questions

Q16 Which species did you fish for in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} ?
Select all that apply.

- ☐ ${e://Field/Species} (1)
- ☐ spanish or king mackerel (2)
- ☐ red grouper (3)
- ☐ mangrove snapper (6)
- ☐ spotted seatrout or red drum (4)
- ☐ yellowtail snapper (5)
- ☐ tuna or marlin (7)
- ☐ other (16)

End of Block: Fishing questions

Start of Block: Species trips and CB screen

JS *

Q17 On how many of the ${e://Field/q0f} days fished in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} did you target ${e://Field/Species}?

_____

Page Break

JS

Q18 This year the ${e://Field/Species} season in ${e://Field/Area} opened in June and the bag limit was 2 fish per person per day.

Would you have fished the same number of days in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} if the ${e://Field/Species} regulations were different?

- O Yes (2)
- O Maybe (1)
- O No (3)

End of Block: Species trips and CB screen

Start of Block: Species CB Questions

JS *

Q19 How many days would you have fished in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} if you could have kept ${e://Field/bag1} instead of ${e://Field/bag0} ${e://Field/Species}?

Reminder: You said you used your boat to fish ${e://Field/q0f} days in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}.

_____

Page Break

JS *

Q20
How many days would you have fished in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} if you could have kept ${e://Field/bag2} instead of ${e://Field/bag0} ${e://Field/Species}?

Reminder: You said you used your boat to fish
${e://Field/q0f} days in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}.

_____

Page Break

Q21 How many days would you have fished in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} if you could not have kept ${e://Field/Species} at all because the season was closed?

Reminder: You said you used your boat to fish ${e://Field/q0f} days in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}.

_____

End of Block: Species CB Questions

Start of Block: Boat not fish

Q22 You used your boat to fish ${e://Field/q0f} days in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}.

How many days did you use your boat in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} without fishing?

_____

End of Block: Boat not fish

Start of Block: Boating Questions

Q23 How many days did you use your boat in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}?

_____

Page Break

Q24 How many people (including yourself) went on a typical boat trip in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}?

_____

Page Break

Q25 How many hours was your typical boat trip in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}?

_____

Page Break

JS

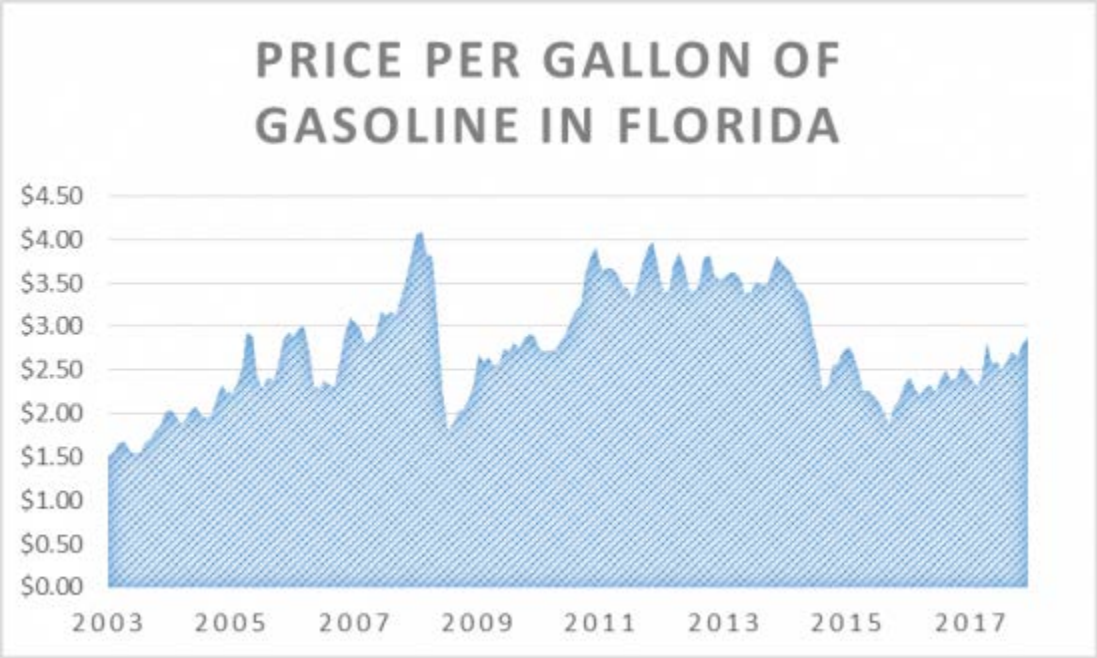
Q26 How much did a typical boat trip cost in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months}? Please estimate the total cost paid by everyone for major items like boat fuel.

_____

End of Block: Boating Questions

Start of Block: Cost of Boating Background

Q27 The cost of boating fluctuates. For example, the graph below shows how the price of fuel has changed in the last 15 years. Your answers to the next set of questions will help us predict how boating activity might change when trip costs change.



End of Block: Cost of Boating Background

Start of Block: Boat CB cost

JS

Q28 How many days would you have boated in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} if trips cost $${e://Field/p1b} per day?

Remember, you said you used your boat ${e://Field/q0b} days when trips cost about $${e://Field/p0b} per day.

_____

Page Break

JS *

Q29 How many days would you have boated in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} if trips cost $${e://Field/p2b} per day?

Remember, you said you used your boat ${e://Field/q0b} days when trips cost about $${e://Field/p0b} per day.

_____

End of Block: Boat CB cost

Start of Block: Boating choke price

Display This Question:

If If boatDaysP1 Text Response Is Less Than ${e://Field/q0b}

JS

Q30 Would you have used your boat at all in ${e://Field/Area} during ${e://Field/Months} if each trip cost $${e://Field/chokePriceb}?

O Yes (1)

O No (2)

End of Block: Boating choke price

Start of Block: Income

X→

Q31 Information about income is very important. Please select the category that contains the amount closest to your entire household income before taxes.

▼ Less than $20,000 (1) ... $200,000 or more (20)

End of Block: Income

First contact Email

NOAA FISHERIES

*Dear *|FNAME|*,*

We would like to know about your boat and fishing in Florida. The questions should take less than 5 minutes. Your confidential answers will help us measure the economic effects of changes in boat and fishing regulations. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

David W. Carter, Ph.D.
Economist, NOAA Fisheries
(305) 361-4467
david.w.carter@noaa.gov

Please click the link below to start the survey.

Start survey

Second contact Email

NOAA FISHERIES

*Dear *|FNAME|*,*

A few days ago, I invited you to complete an online survey. If you have already completed the survey online, please accept my sincere thanks. If not, I encourage you to do so today.

Information collected in this study will help NOAA to better understand how people use recreation resources in Florida. Please know that your answers are completely confidential and will be used only for this study in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100.

Sincerely,

David W. Carter, Ph.D.
Economist, NOAA Fisheries
(305) 361-4467
david.w.carter@noaa.gov

Please click the link below to start the survey.

Start survey

Third contact Email

NOAA FISHERIES

*Dear *|FNAME|*,*

Last week, I invited you to complete an online survey. If you have already completed the survey online, please accept my sincere thanks. If not, I encourage you to do so today.

Information collected in this study will help us better understand how people use recreation resources in Florida. Please know that your answers are completely confidential and will be used only for this study in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100.

Sincerely,

David W. Carter, Ph.D.
Economist, NOAA Fisheries
(305) 361-4467
david.w.carter@noaa.gov

Please click the link below to start the survey.

Start survey

Fourth contact Email

NOAA FISHERIES

*Dear *|FNAME|*,*

Two weeks ago I invited you to complete an **online survey**. If you have already completed the survey online, please accept my sincere **thanks**. If not, I encourage you to do so today.

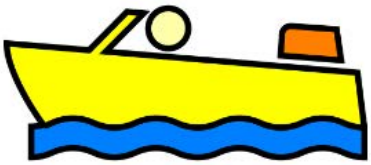
Information collected in this study will **help us** better understand how people use recreation resources in **Florida**. Please know that your answers are completely **confidential** and will be used only for this study in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100.

Sincerely,

David W. Carter, Ph.D.
Economist, NOAA Fisheries
(305) 361-4467
david.w.carter@noaa.gov

Please click the link below to start the survey.

Start survey



Contractor Logo

<<Date>>

Florida Boat Owner - <<Last Name>> Household
Add 2
Add 2
City, State, Zip

Dear <<Last Name>> Household

You are invited to participate in a survey that <<Contractor>> is conducting on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The survey asks about your boating and fishing activities in Florida. The results will be used to learn more about the environment and help improve the quality of marine and coastal resources.

For this study to be accurate, we need all boat owners who are selected to complete this short survey online. Your address was randomly picked from a list of licensed boater owners in Florida, and we can't replace you with someone else. Your responses will help all boat owners in Florida have their voices heard.

This survey should be completed by an adult living at this address. We have included a small gift as a way of saying thank you for your help. **To participate in the online survey**:

1. Take note of your unique survey ID: {RESTORE ID}
2. Go to **www.boatfishsurvey.com** and enter your survey ID in the space provided.

This is a voluntary survey, and your responses are confidential and will only be used in combination with answers from other households. If you have any questions or comments about this study, we will be happy to talk to you. Please call 1-888-xxx-xxxx.

Please keep this letter until you have completed your survey, as it contains your personal password and you cannot complete the survey without it. Thank you very much for your help with this important study.

Yours sincerely,

David W. Carter, Ph. D.
Economist, Social Science Research Group
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Responses are kept confidential as required by section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source.

Commonly Asked Questions

- **How did you get my address?**

  Your address was randomly selected from a list of all boat owners in Florida. You represent many other boat owners in Florida.

- **Nobody in my household participates in recreational fishing. Should I still complete the survey?**

  Yes. It is important that everyone who receives this short survey complete it. For the results of the study to be accurate, we need basic information about all boat owners who received the survey – regardless of whether they participate in boating, fishing, or both.

- **Why can't you interview another boat owner instead of me?**

  We can't select another household. For the results to be accurate, we need all boat owners who receive this short survey to complete it.

- **How much time will this survey take?**

  On average, it should take less than five minutes to complete, including reviewing instructions, and answering the questions.

- **Who is sponsoring the survey?**

  This study is being sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social, and environmental needs.

- **How will the information I provide be used?**

  This survey collects information about how outdoor and marine resources in Florida are used and will help us better manage these resources for the future.

  Your answers are completely confidential and will be used only for this study in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974. Call, toll-free, at 1-888-xxx-xxxx with questions about this survey.

July 6, 2018

Last week we invited you to complete an online survey on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. If you have already completed the survey online, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, I encourage you to do so today. Go to **www.boatfishsurvey.com** and enter the ID from your letter.

Information collected in this study will help us to better understand how people use recreation resources in Florida. Please know that your answers are completely confidential and will be used only for this study in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100.

If you did not receive the survey information, please call XXXXXXXX toll- free at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX.

Sincerely,

David W. Carter
Economist, Social Science Research Group
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Florida Boating and Fishing Survey
1234 Main St, Ste A
Anywhere, FL 33149

Florida Boat Owner
Add1
Add2
City, St Zip

Contractor Logo

<<Date>>

Florida Boat Owner -- <<Last Name>> Household
Add 1
Add 2
City, State, Zip

Dear <<Last Name>> Household,

A few weeks ago we invited you to participate in an online survey on Florida boat and fishing activities. The Contractor is conducting this study on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). If you have already completed the survey, we thank you. If you have not completed it, then we ask you to please complete the enclosed survey and return it in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible.

Your completed survey will help our understanding of the environment and coastal resources in the state of Florida.

Your address was randomly selected from a list of all <<addresses -- licensed anglers>> in <<State>>. For this study to be accurate, we need **all** households who receive this short survey to fill it out and send it back – even if you have not fished or participated in outdoor activities. The survey should be completed by an adult member of the household.

We are very grateful for your help. If you have any questions or comments, we will be happy to talk with you. Please call 1-888-xxx-xxxx.

Yours sincerely,

David W. Carter, Ph. D.
Economist, Social Science Research Group
NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center

This is a voluntary survey. Responses are kept confidential as required by section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source.

Commonly Asked Questions

- **How did you get my address?**

  Your address was randomly selected from a list of all boat owners in Florida. You represent many other boat owners in Florida.

- **Nobody in my household participates in recreational fishing. Should I still complete the survey?**

  Yes. It is important that everyone who receives this short survey complete it. For the results of the study to be accurate, we need basic information about all boat owners who received the survey – regardless of whether they participate in boating, fishing, or both.

- **Why can't you interview another boat owner instead of me?**

  We can't select another household. For the results to be accurate, we need all boat owners who receive this short survey to complete it.

- **How much time will this survey take?**

  On average, it should take less than five minutes to complete, including reviewing instructions, and answering the questions.

- **Who is sponsoring the survey?**

  This study is being sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social, and environmental needs.

- **How will the information I provide be used?**

  This survey collects information about how outdoor and marine resources in Florida are used and will help us better manage these resources for the future.

  Your answers are completely confidential and will be used only for this study in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974. Call, toll-free, at 1-888-xxx-xxxx with questions about this survey.

The web version of the survey will include one additional question at the beginning that asks the respondent to enter a unique code from the survey letter that can be used to track responses. We need to track responses to mail a paper version of the survey to those to do not respond by web.

reporting these violations. The results of the survey will provide the Office of Law Enforcement a better understanding of how often observers are victimized, which will enable them to reallocate resources as needed, conduct more training for observers to ensure they know how to report, conduct training to ensure people understand what constitutes a victim crime, and to increase awareness of potential victimizations. Additionally, the survey results will help law enforcement understand the barriers to disclosure, so enforcement may begin to address these impediments so they no longer prevent observers from disclosure.

II. Method of Collection

Data will be collected on a voluntary basis, via an electronic survey to ensure anonymity. The survey will be offered to all observers who deployed in 2016 and 2017 in the North Pacific Observer Program. Individual data will not be released for public use.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular (request for a new information collection).

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Time per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 50 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 11, 2017.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017–19507 Filed 9–13–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Web Survey To Collect Economic Data From Anglers in the Gulf of Mexico

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before November 13, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *pracomments@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to David W. Carter, Economist, SEFSC, NMFS, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami FL 33149, (305) 361–4467 or *david.w.carter@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new information collection.

The objective of the short survey will be to understand how anglers respond to changes in trip costs and fishing regulations in the Gulf of Mexico. We are conducting this survey to improve our ability to predict changes the number of fishing trips anticipated with changes in economic conditions or fishing regulations. This will improve the analysis of the economic effects of proposed changes in fishing regulations and changes in economic factors that affect the cost of fishing such as fuel prices.

The population consists of those anglers who fish in the Gulf of Mexico from Florida, including those who possess a license to fish, and those who are not required to have a license (*e.g.,* seniors). We plan to independently sample from the frame designed for the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) of the Marine Recreational Fishing Program (MRIP). Anglers will be mailed a postcard that directs them to a Web site to complete the survey.

II. Method of Collection

The survey will be conducted using two modes: Mail and Internet.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular (request for a new information collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1500.

Estimated Time per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 125 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 11, 2017.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017–19508 Filed 9–13–17; 8:45 am]

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