

Your **Data** Makes a **Difference**

Keeping Fisheries Sustainable

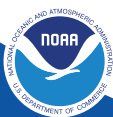
As an angler or captain targeting large pelagics, you may be required to participate in more than one data collection program, from state catch cards to online landings reports.

Together, these programs provide fisheries scientists with a more complete understanding of the health and composition of large pelagics stocks, and ensure U.S. and international fisheries managers have the information they need to help keep them sustainable—now and for future generations.



Credit: John Schledee

For more information, visit the HMS Catch Reporting website
hmspermits.noaa.gov/catchReports



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Estimating Large Pelagic Catch

Information for HMS Permit Holders

NOAA Fisheries uses the **Large Pelagics Survey** to collect data from private and for-hire fishing trips to estimate catch and effort of offshore species such as **sharks, tuna, billfish, and swordfish.**

The survey is conducted from Maine through Virginia in June through October, and has three components:

Intercept (On-Site) Survey

- Collects data on catch and release rates from private and for-hire vessel operators
- Surveys conducted at public fishing access sites

Telephone Survey

- Collects data on number of large pelagics fishing trips, or effort
- Information collected from a sample of Atlantic Highly Migratory Species permit holders

Biological (On-Site) Survey

- Occurs when a bluefin tuna or other other high-priority large pelagic is landed
- Collects measurements and biological samples
- Used to help assess the age structures of stocks, population genetics, growth rates, and reproduction rates

HMS permit holders are required to participate in the Large Pelagics Survey.

***Please note:** Field interviewers working for our state partners play no role in law enforcement. We value your participation and privacy. Any personal information collected is kept confidential.*

countmyfish.noaa.gov