

# NOAA FISHERIES

## Office of Sustainable Fisheries

### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Division

NOAA Fisheries funded and designed this survey, which will be conducted by ECS Federal, an independent firm.

Participation in this survey is voluntary and all information supplied is confidential.

## Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Tournament Survey *Participant Survey*

### Why is NOAA Fisheries asking for your help with this survey?

Achieving high quality recreational fisheries involves more than just managing fish. Fishing tournaments for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) - which include tuna, billfish, swordfish, and sharks - are economically important to many coastal communities along the Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Caribbean.

This survey will help NOAA Fisheries better understand how these tournaments contribute economically to coastal communities. With this web-based survey of tournament operators and participants, NOAA Fisheries will collect data on the costs associated with operating and participating in Atlantic HMS tournaments. The information gained from this survey can help to minimize impacts on coastal communities from changes in fishery regulations and also help NOAA Fisheries to better understand the effects of natural phenomena, species abundance, and economic change on coastal communities.

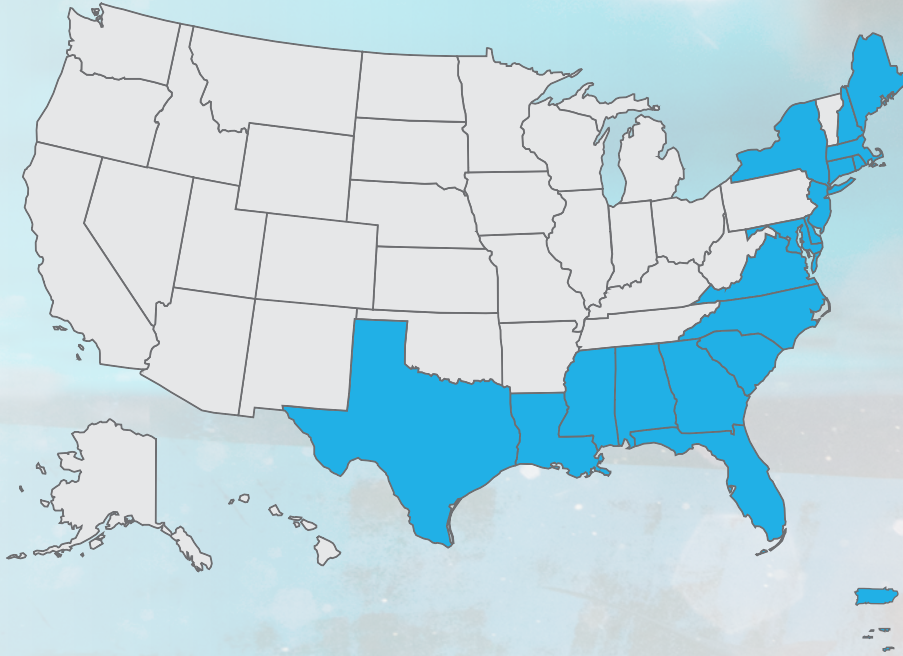


### Why are tournaments and their participants being asked to provide economic information?

Your information, when combined with that of other tournament operators and participants nationwide, will allow us to construct a baseline assessment of the economic importance of Atlantic HMS fishing tournaments to communities and businesses. This assessment will improve the ability of fishery managers to assess the economic impacts to fisheries from natural phenomena or species abundance.



The survey is of Atlantic HMS fishing tournaments held in 2016 in 18 U.S. states in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico and two territories in the Caribbean (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands).



### How long will it take to complete the survey?

You should be able to complete the survey in about 30 minutes.

### How will tournaments and their participants be selected and is participation voluntary?

All Atlantic HMS tournaments, including those in the Gulf of Mexico and U.S. Caribbean, are required to register with NOAA Fisheries. All operators of registered HMS tournaments will be asked to participate in this web-based survey to provide data on tournament operating costs and revenues.

Fifty percent of registered tournaments will also be randomly selected for a survey of participants. The participant survey requests data on the costs associated with event participation. Tournament operators will be asked to distribute emails to all registered participants and will be given flyers to distribute at the event. Those flyers provide a link to the HMS Tournament Participant Survey. Completion of the participant survey, while highly encouraged, is voluntary.

### How will respondents be sure their data is confidential and anonymous?

NOAA Fisheries takes your privacy seriously. To the extent authorized by law, responses will be protected and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form that protects privacy and business information. Individual data will be combined with information from other respondents to present an overall view of the economic impact of Atlantic HMS tournaments. We do not ask for your name or your contact information, so your responses are confidential.

