

# FWC's Fisheries Dependent Monitoring (FDM)

## Recreational Saltwater Fishing Questionnaire Activity

**Background:** Today you will be gathering data that represents a day of recreational saltwater fishing in Florida. This questionnaire resembles surveys that biologists in the Fisheries Dependent Monitoring group use to collect data on recreational fishing practices across the state of Florida. Every day, our FWC biologists go into the field to talk with recreational anglers at public fishing access points like boat ramps and marinas. Our biologists ask anglers returning from fishing to voluntarily answer a fishing survey about their fishing trips. The information collected during our fishing surveys is essential for assessing the influence that recreational fishing has on marine fish populations in Florida waters. These data help us understand how often anglers are fishing, what and how much they are catching, and where they are doing their fishing. All of this information works to inform fisheries managers about the health of our fish populations, so they can manage these populations sustainably for generations to come.

**Instructions:** Grab some dice (only a single die is needed) and go through the following questions to fill out your FWC Recreational Saltwater Fishing Questionnaire. For each step, roll the die to select the answer with the number that matches the number rolled on the die. Circle the number rolled to record your answer. Follow the instructions at the bottom or to the right of each list of options to guide you to your next step. When you reach the end of the survey, use the Fish Lib to fill in the blanks marked in gray. Once completed, read your Fish Lib aloud with family, friends, or classmates to share about your day of saltwater fishing in Florida. It's even more fun if you have them do it, too, and then you can all compare the ways that your individual days of fishing were unique or similar!

\*If no dice available, go online to <https://www.random.org/dice/?num=1> to roll the die virtually.

**Step 1.** To the nearest half-hour, how many hours did you spend fishing today?

1. 2.5 hours
2. 4 hours
3. 3.5 hours
4. 7 hours
5. 5.5 hours
6. 6 hours

*(All options go to step 2)*

**Step 2.** Were you fishing from a...

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Pier         | <i>Go to step 3 A</i> |
| 2. Jetty        | <i>Go to step 3 A</i> |
| 3. Bridge       | <i>Go to step 3 A</i> |
| 4. Private Boat | <i>Go to step 3 B</i> |
| 5. Charterboat  | <i>Go to step 3 B</i> |
| 6. Headboat     | <i>Go to step 3 B</i> |

**Step 3 A.** Was most of your fishing effort today...

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Inshore on the East Coast               | <i>Go to step 5 A (record "none" for step 4)</i> |
| 2. Inshore on the West Coast               | <i>Go to step 5 A (record "none" for step 4)</i> |
| 3. Inshore in the Florida Keys             | <i>Go to step 5 A (record "none" for step 4)</i> |
| 4. Beachfront In the Atlantic Ocean        | <i>Go to step 5 C (record "none" for step 4)</i> |
| 5. Beachfront In the Gulf of Mexico        | <i>Go to step 5 C (record "none" for step 4)</i> |
| 6. Atlantic ocean side In the Florida Keys | <i>Go to step 5 C (record "none" for step 4)</i> |

**Step 3 B.** Was most of your fishing effort today in the...

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Atlantic Ocean                | <i>Go to step 4</i>                              |
| 2. Gulf of Mexico                | <i>Go to step 4</i>                              |
| 3. Offshore in the Florida Keys  | <i>Go to step 4</i>                              |
| 4. Inshore on the East Coast     | <i>Go to step 5 A (record "none" for step 4)</i> |
| 5. Inshore on the West Coast     | <i>Go to step 5 A (record "none" for step 4)</i> |
| 6. Nearshore in the Florida Keys | <i>Go to step 5 A (record "none" for step 4)</i> |

**Step 4.** Did you fish on an artificial reef today?

1. Yes – record “25% of my time was spent fishing on an artificial reef”
2. Yes – record “50% of my time was spent fishing on an artificial reef”
3. Yes – record “75% of my time was spent fishing on an artificial reef”
4. Yes – record “80% of my time was spent fishing on an artificial reef”
5. Yes – record “100% of my time was spent fishing on an artificial reef”
6. No – record “none”

*\*Ignore directions if not told to go to step 4  
(All options go to step 5 B)*

**Step 5 A.** What fish species were you targeting today?

1. Red Drum
2. Spotted Seatrout
3. Black Drum
4. Sheepshead
5. Atlantic Tarpon
6. Gray Snapper

*(All options go to step 6 A)*

**Step 5 B.** What fish species were you targeting today?

1. Vermilion Snapper
2. Yellowtail Snapper
3. Hogfish
4. King Mackerel
5. Black Grouper
6. Greater Amberjack

*(All options go to step 6 B)*

**Step 5 C.** What fish species were you targeting today?

1. King Mackerel
2. Spanish Mackerel
3. Red Drum
4. Atlantic Tarpon
5. Sheepshead
6. Spotted Seatrout

*(All options go to step 6 A)*

**Step 6 A.** While fishing inshore, what fish species did you catch that you used for bait?

1. Pinfish
2. Striped Mullet
3. Mojarra
4. Herring
5. Striped Killifish
6. American Shad

*(All options to go step 7 A)*

**Step 6 B.** While fishing offshore, what fish species did you catch that you used for bait?

1. Pinfish
2. Pigfish
3. Tomtate
4. Vermilion Snapper
5. Little Tunny
6. White Grunt

*(All options to go step 7 B)*

**Step 7 A.** While fishing inshore, what type of fish did you catch that you had to release? Why did the fish have to be tossed back? (Note: You still only need to roll one time, but each number has a two-part answer.)

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>Part 1</u> : Red Drum         | <u>Part 2</u> : over the maximum size limit  |
| 2. <u>Part 1</u> : Spotted Seatrout | <u>Part 2</u> : under the minimum size limit |
| 3. <u>Part 1</u> : Sheepshead       | <u>Part 2</u> : under the minimum size limit |
| 4. <u>Part 1</u> : Common Snook     | <u>Part 2</u> : out of season                |
| 5. <u>Part 1</u> : Gulf Flounder    | <u>Part 2</u> : under the minimum size limit |
| 6. <u>Part 1</u> : Atlantic Tarpon  | <u>Part 2</u> : catch and release only       |

*(All options go to step 8 A)*

**Step 7 B.** While fishing offshore, what type of fish did you catch that you had to release? Why did the fish have to be tossed back? (Note: You still only need to roll one time, but each number has a two-part answer.)

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Part 1:</u> Greater Amberjack | <u>Part 2:</u> under the minimum size limit |
| 2. <u>Part 1:</u> Goliath Group     | <u>Part 2:</u> prohibited year-round        |
| 3. <u>Part 1:</u> Mutton Snapper    | <u>Part 2:</u> under the minimum size limit |
| 4. <u>Part 1:</u> Lane Snapper      | <u>Part 2:</u> under the minimum size limit |
| 5. <u>Part 1:</u> Gray Triggerfish  | <u>Part 2:</u> under the minimum size limit |
| 6. <u>Part 1:</u> Cobia             | <u>Part 2:</u> under the minimum size limit |

*(All options go to step 8 B)*

**Step 8 A.** While fishing inshore, what fish did you keep for personal consumption?

1. Florida Pompano
2. Silver Seatrout
3. Gulf Flounder
4. Bluefish
5. Gray Snapper
6. Weakfish

*(All options go to step 9)*

**Step 8 B.** While fishing offshore, what fish did you keep for personal consumption?

1. Lane Snapper
2. Red Grouper
3. Black Sea Bass
4. Mutton Snapper
5. Whitebone Porgy
6. Spanish Mackerel

*(All options go to step 9)*

**Step 9.** Roll die to decide how many of the previously caught fish you kept?

Record die number (1-6) here: \_\_\_\_\_

*(If step 8 A was answered → go to step 10 A)*

*(If step 8 B was answered → go to step 10 B)*

**Step 10 A.** While fishing inshore, what was the second fish species you kept?

1. Black Drum
2. Spotted Seatrout
3. Red Drum
4. Gulf Kingfish (Also known as Whiting)
5. Spanish Mackerel
6. White Grunt

*Questionnaire done. Fill in the Fish Lib!*

**Step 10 B.** While fishing offshore, what was the second type of fish that you decided to keep?

1. Yellowtail Snapper
2. Black Grouper
3. Dolphin (Also known as Mahi-Mahi)
4. Gray Triggerfish
5. Blackfin Tuna
6. King Mackerel

*Questionnaire done. Fill in the Fish Lib!*

## Fisheries Dependent Monitoring (FDM) Fish Lib

**Instructions:** Use the answers from your FWC Recreational Saltwater Fishing Questionnaire to fill in the blanks highlighted in grey. Each highlighted blank has a note inside indicating which answer to fill in. Record the answer based on your rolling of the die from the questionnaire. For example, if you rolled a “4” on Step 2, then your answer in the blank marked Step 2 would be “charter boat.” Once completed, read your Fish Lib aloud with family, friends, or classmates to share about your day of saltwater fishing in Florida. It’s even more fun if you have them do these activities, too, so you can all compare the ways that your individual days of fishing were unique and/or similar!

Today, I went fishing from a (Step 2) in sunny Florida. I packed a nutritious lunch and set out for a day on the water. The time flew by, and before I realized it, I had fished for (Step 1) hours. I spent my day fishing in the (Step 3 A or B) and spent (Step 4) of my time fishing on an artificial reef. The scenery was gorgeous, and I snacked on an apple while waiting for a tug on my fishing pole. I was trying to target (Step 5 A, B, or C), but as always, mother nature had its own plan for me!

At first, I caught a couple (Step 6 A or B), which I chopped up and put back on my fishing line as bait to attract larger fish. The fish swimming around nearby must have liked my bait because next I reeled in a stunning (Step 7 A or B – Part 1). That fish sure was a beauty, but it was (Step 7 A or B – Part 2) so I took a quick picture for proof and tossed it back in the water. The next fish I landed was a keeper and I quickly tossed it in the cooler. That (Step 8 A or B) sure was a nice catch! I ended up catching (Step 9) more and tossed them all in the cooler for safe keeping, too. The next tug on my line was a strong one. I must have spent the next 20 minutes fighting to reel in a lively (Step 10 A or B). Once I finally got it landed and into the boat, I had to take a moment just to catch my breath.

I stayed out for a bit longer after that but didn’t get any more bites. I didn’t mind though because I had already caught enough to make a tasty dinner for my family. The rest of the afternoon was very peaceful, and I ended up seeing a stunning technicolor sunset. All in all, it was a great day out on the water catching fish, making memories, and enjoying nature!