

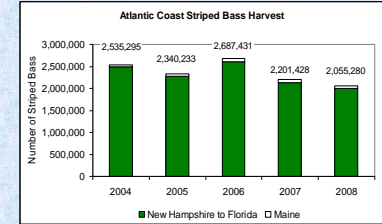
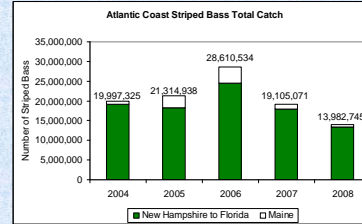
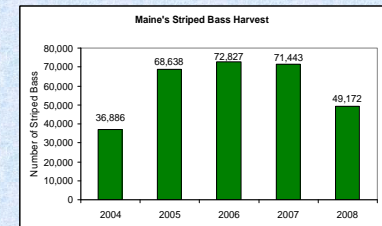
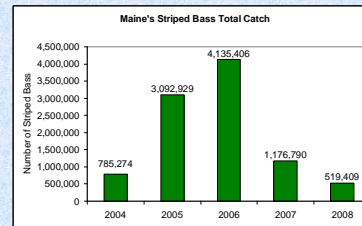
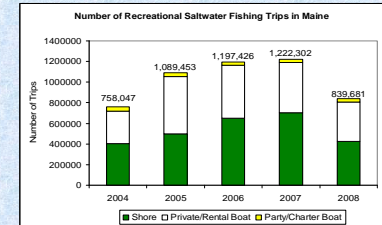
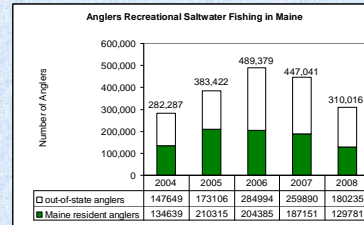


Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey

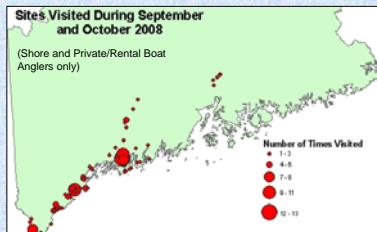
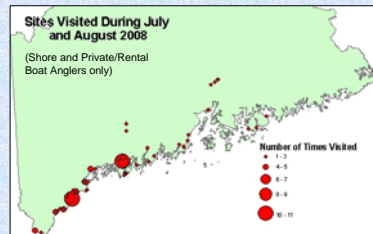
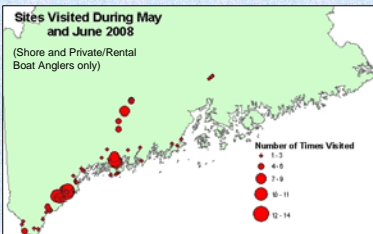


The Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) is a confidential, voluntary survey implemented in 1979 by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as a means to establish a reliable database for estimating the impact of recreational fishing on marine resources. This survey is conducted in all U.S. coastal states. The information is used by Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), as well as Federal and State resource agencies to formulate fishery management plans, to evaluate future demands on fish stocks and to predict and evaluate the impact of fishery regulations.

Estimates generated from this survey include: total number of fish caught, released and harvested; the weight of the harvest; total number of angler trips; and number of people participating in marine recreational fishing. The Maine DMR assumed responsibility for the survey in 1996 giving us the ability to increase the number of angler interviews collected beyond the MRFSS requirements for Maine. This in turn has given us a significantly improved database that generates more precise estimates.



Sample Distribution



Total Catch: All fish caught, whether harvested or released alive.

Harvest: All fish that were kept (includes fish that were released dead).

