



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# Greater Atlantic Region Commercial Fishing Business Cost Survey for 2022

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting  
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# Presentation Overview

- Survey relevance and background
- Response rates from 2011, 2012 and 2015
- Survey improvements and changes
  - Cost data visualization tool
  - Outreach plan
- 2023 implementation details and schedule

# Economics in Council Priorities

- Economic data collection and analyses pertain to multiple Objectives and strategies of the MAFMC 2020-2024 Strategic Plan

**Objective 7.** Promote the collection of relevant social and economic data and on-the-water observations.

**Strategy 7.1:** Engage the Council's SSC to identify existing studies or other sources of social and economic information that could be used to inform management decisions.

**Strategy 7.2:** Support efforts to incorporate fishermen's knowledge in the stock assessment process.

**Strategy 7.3:** Identify data/information gaps that can be addressed with on-the-water observations.

**Strategy 7.4:** Continue to support data collection efforts for improved social and economic impact analyses, such as cost-benefit analysis, for all fisheries.

**Objective 11.** Ensure that management decisions consider social, economic, and community impacts and opportunities.

# Cost Survey Background

- Greater Atlantic Region Commercial Fishing Business Cost Survey
  - Implemented since early 2000s (last implemented in 2016)
  - Voluntary survey of federally permitted commercial fishing vessel owners
- Survey aims to collect fixed and quasi-fixed cost information from commercial fishing vessel owners in the region
  - This is the only NOAA Fisheries survey collecting these costs in the Greater Atlantic region
  - Data needed to meet MAFMC strategic goals and objectives, inform policy, and track economic performance

# Cost Survey Background Cont.

Category	Example
Vessel Repairs, Maintenance, and Upgrade Costs	Engine, hull, fishing gear, safety equipment
Operating Costs	Fuel, bait, ice
Vessel Costs	Permit fees, mooring fees, vessel insurance
Overhead Costs	Business vehicle usage, association fees, workshop/storage expenses
Quota Leasing	Costs and revenue from leasing quota/DAS
Total Payments to Crew & Hired Captains	
Value of the Vessel/Vessel permits	

\*Highlighted categories are those not collected anywhere else in the region by NOAA Fisheries

# Cost Data Uses

- Cost information needed to:
  - Understand costs facing regional commercial fishing businesses
  - Track economic trends over time
  - Assess economic performance of fishing fleets
  - Assess potential and realized economic impacts of fishery management policies
    - Better meet the requirements of the **Magnuson-Stevens Act** and **National Standard 8**
- Survey data can only be used to meet the needs above **if vessel owners participate** in the voluntary survey

# Population Sample and Response Rates

	2011			2012			2015		
Gear	Sample	Response	% Resp.	Sample	Response	% Resp.	Sample	Response	% Resp.
Dredge	226	40	18%	169	20	12%	242	12	5%
Gillnet	118	40	34%	123	26	21%	180	10	6%
Handgear	146	47	32%	213	52	24%	227	21	9%
Longline/Purse Seine	25	8	32%	38	6	16%	58	5	9%
Pot/Trap	571	176	31%	1,037	220	21%	1,536	96	6%
Trawl	201	61	30%	198	34	17%	246	16	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>6%</b>

- Reduction in total response rate from 29% to 20% to 6% from 2011 to 2015
- Dredge had the lowest response rates among gear types for all three years
- Pot/trap represents the largest gear group

# 2022 Cost Survey and Improvements

## 1. Survey Instrument

- Gear-based survey versions
  - 10 different surveys, informed by conversations with industry members
- Decreased survey length
  - Reduction in number of pages
  - Simplified crew payment section

**GREATER ATLANTIC REGION  
COMMERCIAL FISHING  
BUSINESS COST SURVEY FOR 2022**

**Gillnet Gear**

**WHY PARTICIPATE?**  
We use the information for socioeconomic analyses that inform management decisions

**YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT TO US**  
Your individual responses and participation will be kept confidential

OMB control number: 0648-0773  
Expires 4/30/2025

**NOAA FISHERIES**  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Fisheries Science Center



# 2022 Survey Changes/Improvements

## 2. Additional options for participants to take the survey

- Participants can now take the survey via phone or web interview with a NEFSC staff member in addition to online or in hard-copy form



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Science Center



**GREATER ATLANTIC REGION  
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**Multiple Gears**

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# 2022 Survey Changes/Improvements

## 3. Additional outreach efforts

- Presentations
  - New England Fishery Management Council Meeting (January)
  - Port Agent Presentation (January)
  - Cape Cod Fishermen's Alliance (March)
  - Groundfish Sector Manager Meeting (February)
  - Scallop AP/Committee Meeting (March)
- Fliers
  - To be distributed at the dock by port agents ahead of survey
- New stakeholder engagement methods
  - Calls and emails to industry groups and stakeholders
- Cost Data Visualization Tool & Project Webpage



POWERED BY TRAKOR

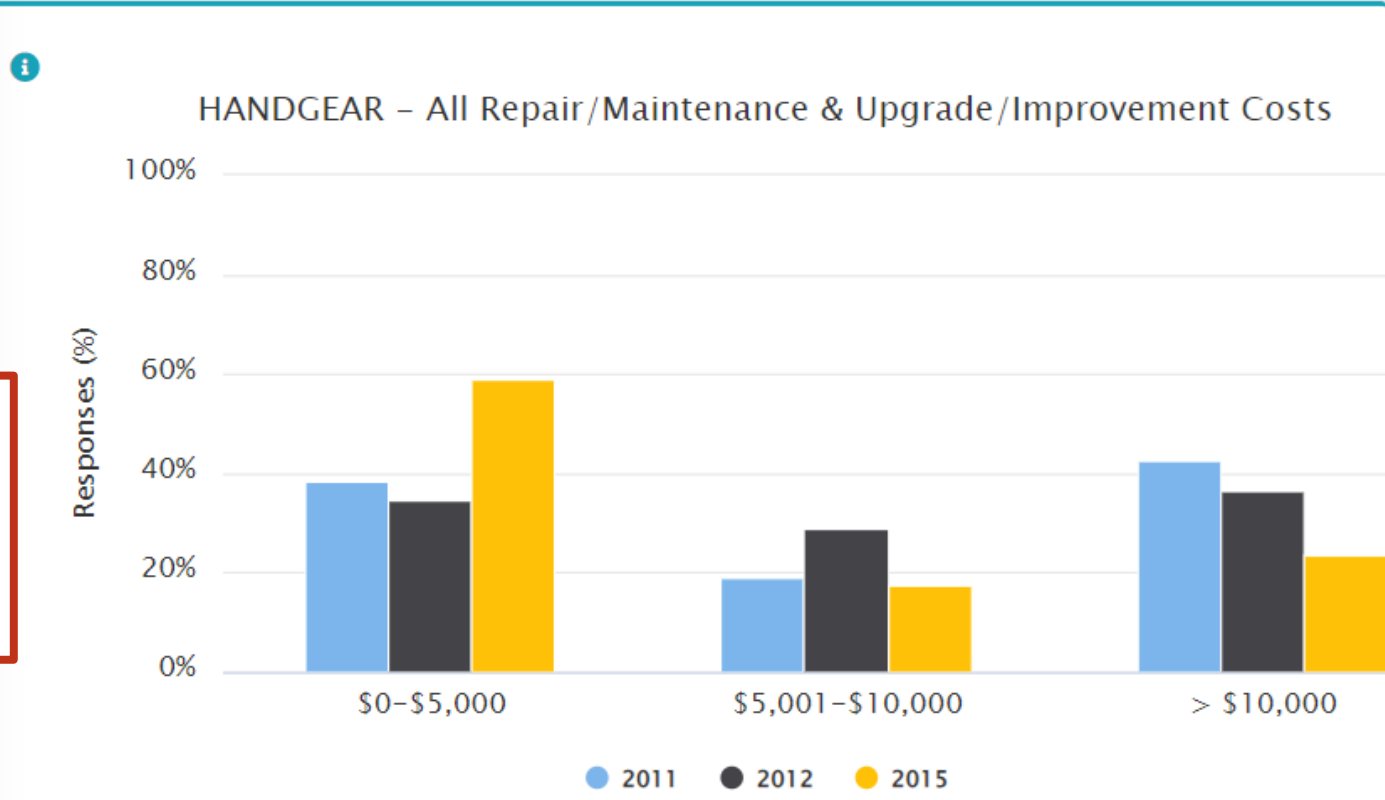
# Cost Data Visualization Tool

HANDGEAR - All Repair/Maintenance & Upgrade/Improvement Costs i

	Population	Sample	Response	Response (%)
2011	848	146	47	32 %
2012	718	213	52	24 %
2015	304	227	17	7 %

- Home
- Survey FAQs
- About the Data
- Contact
- Additional Info <

Gear:  Cost Category:



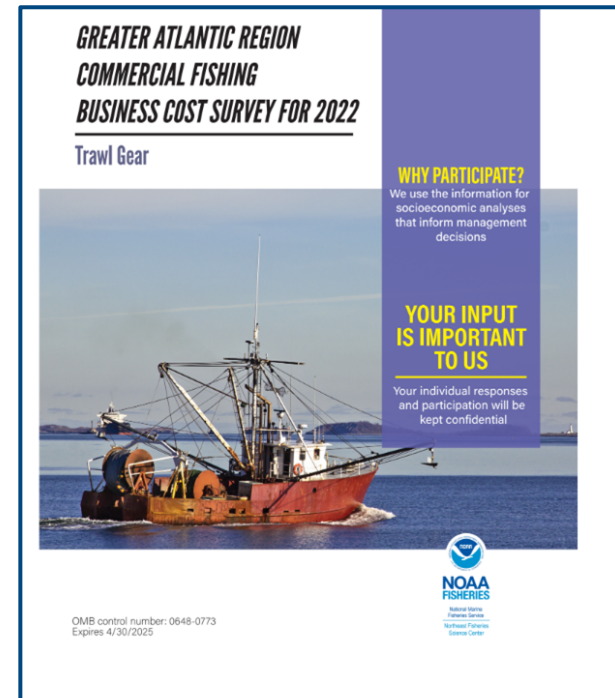
**Cost data website to display aggregated cost summaries**

# 2022 Cost Survey Details

- **Next survey will be implemented this year** (March/April 2023) for costs incurred in calendar year 2022
- All **federally permitted** commercial fishing vessel owners in the region will be sent a survey
  - One vessel will be selected per vessel owner
- Survey participants will receive notification by mail and email to participate in the survey
  - Survey packets and contact letters will be sent to the address listed on the vessel owner's federal permit application

# 2022 Survey Details Cont.

- The survey can be filled using one of the following methods:
  1. Online
  2. Hard copy
    - Mailed with prepaid return envelope
  3. Telephone/virtual interview
- ICF Macro is the survey firm assisting with implementation
- Individual survey responses and participation will be kept **confidential**



# 2022 Survey Contact Schedule

Contact (Mail & Email)	Target Date	Link to online survey included	Instructions for scheduling interview included	Hard copy survey enclosed in mail
First	Mid March	Y	Y	
Second	1 week after first mailing	Y	Y	
Third	2 weeks after second mailing	Y	Y	Y
Fourth	3 weeks after third mailing (late April)	Y	Y	Y

- All mailings will also include a double-sided FAQ and previous results sheet
- Owners will receive a reminder call to complete the survey

# Summary

## Greater Atlantic Region Commercial Fishing Business Cost Survey **coming soon!**

- The data can only be used if industry members respond to the survey
- Cost data are needed for economic analyses to play a role in informing management

### What you can do to help this effort

- If you are a commercial vessel owner, please fill the survey when it is received in March-April
- Others, increase awareness and support for the survey
- Direct any questions to Samantha Werner, Greg Ardini or Elizabeth Conley

# Acknowledgements

- Fishing industry members
  - Provided critical input in the development of gear-based survey versions
- NEFSC/GARFO staff within Cooperative Research Branch (CRB), Port Programs Branch (PPB) and Research Communications Branch (RCB)
  - Supporting survey communication and outreach
- IBSS Staff
  - Assisting in the design of survey and outreach materials
- NEFSC Information Technology Division (ITD) staff
  - Supported development of Cost Data Visualization Tool
- ICF Macro Staff
  - Assisting in the implementation of the survey



# Thank You

## Contact information

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# References and Links



- **Cost Data Visualization Tool:**

<https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/socialsci/cost-data>

- **MAFMC 2022-2024 Strategic Plan:**

<https://www.mafmc.org/strategic-plan>

- **Cost Survey Landing page:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/cost-survey>

- **Magnuson-Stevens Act Information:**

<https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/msa-amended-2007.pdf>

- **National Standard 8:**

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-600/subpart-D/section-600.345>

