

Northeast Federal Fishery Dependent Data Visioning Project Interview Questions

Thank you for your interest in participating the Northeast Federal Fishery Dependent Data Visioning Project Interview. Individual identifiers will be kept strictly confidential. We are interested in your thoughts and perceptions on fishery dependent data submission, collection, sharing, and improvements. Background information is being collected to better understand the needs of fishing and seafood operations.

Your responses will be used to generate a project report and recommendations to NOAA Fisheries, as well as a "data map" that will characterize existing data flows and opportunities for improvements.

1. Number of years in the fishing/seafood industry
2. How old were you when you started fishing or working in the seafood industry?
3. Business/Job Affiliation (check/mark all that apply)
 - a. Boat Owner
 - b. Captain
 - c. Party/Charter
 - d. Seafood Dealer
 - e. Processor
 - f. Groundfish Sector Manager
 - g. Industry Association
 - h. Permit Bank
 - i. 3rd. Party Software developer/provider
 - j. Other
4. Please note the fisheries that you work in (listed by FMP)

	Actively participate in or source product from	Can Access	Do not have access to this fishery (harvesting or products)
Northeast Multispecies			
Small Mesh Multispecies			
Herring			
Sea Scallops			
Monkfish			
Spiny Dogfish			
Skates			
Red Crab			

Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish			
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass			
Surf Clams and Ocean Quahogs			
Bluefish			
Tilefish			
American Lobster			
Bluefin Tuna			
Hagfish			

5. What is your principle port? (City and State)

6. If you are a harvester, what is your principle gear type?

7. Do you fish any other gear types?

8. If yes, what are the other gear types you fish?

Current Data Submissions for Harvesters

9. Please complete the following grid by checking the box next to the types of information do you submit to NOAA Fisheries/NMFS for each fishing trip (beginning with any pre-sailing declaration/notification and ending with the completion of a logbook and possible sale of fish) and when you submit this information for each fishing trip?

	Before Sailing	During the Trip	After the Trip	N/A
Trip-start hail report				
Interactive voice response (IVR) system call in				
VMS Declaration				
Catch Reports (daily or trip level, herring or groundfish)				
Groundfish exemptions				
Monkfish overage adjustments (VMS)				

Limited access general category scallop pre-landing notification (VMS)				
Scallop broken trip notification (VMS)				
Scallop compensation trip notification				
Trip-end hail report				
Other _____				
I do not submit data to NMFS				

10. Please complete the following grid by checking the box next to the types of information do you submit to NOAA Fisheries/NMFS for each fishing trip (beginning with any pre-sailing declaration/notification and ending with the completion of a logbook and possible sale of fish) and when you submit this information for each fishing trip?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	N/A
PTNS (pre-trip notification of date, fishery, and gear used for next trip)					
Vessel trip report (VTR, or logbook)					
Dealer Report					
Sector Report					
Other					
I do not submit data to NMFS (no reporting requirements for my fishery)					

11. How do you submit information to NMFS or states?

- Paper
- Phone Call
- Electronically through VMS
- Electronically through personal computer
- Other _____

12. If submitting information electronically, what software programs do you use to submit information?

(ex: eVTR - FishTrax,VMS - Skymate)

13. Are there other ways data could be collected?

Such as: Electronically, different fields on VTR, different forms, timing of reporting. Please explain.

14. There is now the option to submit vessel trip reports (VTR, or logbooks) electronically for all fisheries (instead of paper VTRs). How do you submit your VTR?

- Paper, sent by mail
- Electronically (eVTR)
- Other: _____

15. If you currently submit by mail, why do you not submit electronically (eVTR)?

Check all that apply:

- Just prefer mail
- Don't have a computer
- Don't like using a computer
- Don't like approved eVTR software
- Other: _____

16. Would you agree to submit your information electronically? In "other", please specify why or why not.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

17. During a fishing trip, do you record catch and fishing effort information on a tow-by-tow/haul-by-haul basis?

- Yes
- No

18. If you do collect haul by haul data, how do you record this information?

Check all that apply:

- Personal paper logbook
- Personal electronic file or spreadsheet

- eVTR
- Other: _____

19. Do you feel that the required data submissions to NMFS accurately characterize your fishing operations for stock assessment and management purposes?

- Yes
- No

20. If no, how could the accuracy of fishery dependent data be improved for those purposes?

21. Does NMFS need to collect:

- More data
- Less data
- Other data
- NMFS collects an adequate amount

22. Based on your previous response, what data should be collected?

23. Are there existing reporting or data requirements that you feel are not needed?

- Yes
- No

24. If you responded 'yes' to the last question, what are the unnecessary reporting requirements? Please be as specific as possible

25. Are there points in a fishing trip where required data collection and/or reporting is challenging? Such as timing of data regarding weather, or operational constraints such as fishing single handed or dealing with gear.

- Yes
- No

26. If you responded 'yes' to the last question, please describe reporting challenges in detail.

27. On an average fishing trip, is there data/information that gets submitted multiple times for different reports? Are you submitting the same information in multiple places?

- Yes
- No

28. If you are submitting the same information in multiple places, what data are you submitting multiple times?

29. If you are submitting the same information in multiple places, when are you entering these data in the fishing trip? Check all that apply, use 'other' to add specifics:

- Before sailing
- During the trip
- After landing
- Other: _____

30. If you are submitting the same information in multiple places, should any of these data requirements be modified?

31. If you are submitting the same information in multiple places, should any of these data requirements be eliminated?

32. On an average fishing trip, how many hours do you spend collecting, recording, and managing required data – from before the trip begins to after the catch has been landed and sold?

- Hours _____
- Minutes _____
- Seconds _____

33. In recent years, NMFS has conducted an electronic monitoring (EM) pilot study in the Northeast Region that uses camera's onboard vessels to track catch. Were you aware of this project?

- Yes
- No

34. What have you heard about electronic monitoring to date?

35. Can you think of advantages or disadvantages to using cameras (EM system) to track catch?

36. Are there scenarios in which you would be willing to put cameras on your boat to track catch? Replace human observer, reduce the cost of monitoring, etc.

Data Products from NMFS for Harvesters

37. Do you request copies of the data you submit to NMFS from your fishing trips? Such as dealer landings data, days-at-sea usage, observer data

- Yes
- No

38. What data do you specifically request from NMFS?

39. For the information that you request, do you receive a paper copy or electronic file from NMFS?

- Paper copy
- Electronic file

40. Is this information shared with you in a way/format that is useful?

- Yes
- No

41. If you received information in a way/format that was not useful, what would have made it easier to use?

42. Is the data you request available when you need it to inform your fishing, or other business decisions?

- Sometimes
- Always
- Never

43. How long does it typically take to receive data you request from NMFS?

- Hours
- Days
- Weeks
- Months
- Years

44. Do you feel that your data requests are fulfilled in a reasonable amount of time

- Yes
- No

45. If you do not request copies of the data you submit, why not?

46. When should trip-level data be made available to you?

- Immediately after a trip
- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Yearly
- Other: _____

Personal Data Collection and Sharing by Harvesters

The following questions are about information that you might collect that is not required by regulations.

47. Do you collect information about fishing operations or businesses that is not required by regulators (NMFS)?

- Yes
- No

48. What are the factors that influence your decision to collect this information?
Please be specific as possible

49. Do you share any of this data?

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

50. Who do you share this information with? Other fishermen? Bycatch avoidance programs (SMAST)? Sector manager? Industry Association?

51. Are there any particular programs that you participate in that you share data you personally collect (that does not go to NMFS)? Such as the SMAST Yellowtail Bycatch Avoidance Program

52. What benefit do you get out of this/these program(s)?
Better business planning, more fishing opportunity, marketing, etc. Please explain in detail.

53. Would you be willing to invest in other data collection programs? Time, personal knowledge, resources, etc.

54. Are you aware of the Study Fleet program run through the Northeast Cooperative Research Program at NMFS?

- Yes
- No

55. Do you currently participate in the Study Fleet program?

- Yes
- I have in the past
- I plan to in the future
- No

56. Based on your last response, please explain your interest/disinterest in participating in Study Fleet?

Industry Associations, Sector Managers, Permit Banks, and other Institutions

57. Do you request fishery dependent data from NMFS?
(ex: observer data, dealer data, VMS data)

- Yes
- No

58. If you do request fishery dependent data from NMFS, please list the data that you request.

59. For the information that you request, do you receive a paper copy or electronic file from NMFS?

- Paper copy
- Electronic file
- Other: _____

60. Is this information shared with you in a way/format that is useful?

- Yes
- No

61. If you received information in a way/format that was not useful, what would have made it easier to use?

62. Is the data available when you need it to inform your needs (research, policy, other)?

- Sometimes
- Always
- Never

63. How long does it typically take to receive data you request from NMFS?

- Hours
- Days
- Weeks
- Months
- Years

64. Based on your response to the previous question, do you feel that this is a reasonable amount of time?

- Yes
- No

65. Are you satisfied with the resolution of the data that is made available to you? Such as the precision of data in regard to catch in time and space.

- Yes
- No

66. Are there fishery dependent data that you would like to access, but have difficulty obtaining?

Please be as specific as possible.

Current Data Submissions - Dealers & Auctions

67. How do you submit your federal dealer reports information to NMFS?

Check all that apply

- A web-based SAFIS system
- File uploading to SAFIS from an existing software application used by your business
- File uploading from the Bluefin Tuna Data, LLC Trip Ticket software system
- Other: _____

68. If you submit your dealer report from an existing software used by your business, what software program(s) do you use to submit information?

69. How frequently do you submit your dealer reports?

- Daily
- Multiple times per week
- Weekly

70. What influences your decision to upload dealer reports at this frequency?

71. What are the advantages/disadvantages of reporting on a weekly basis?
Please be as specific as possible.

72. Would you agree to submit your information at a higher frequency (daily vs. weekly)?

- Yes
- No

73. Based on your response to the last question, why or why not?

74. Is there anything prohibiting you from submitting dealer reports at a higher frequency?
Please explain.

75. When a vessel lands, how do you INITIALLY go about recording the following information?
How is this information first recorded?

	Paper	Electronically
Vessel name		
Permit number of hull number		
Date of purchase or receipt		
VTR or eVTR serial number		
Amount of each species by market category		

Disposition (human food, bait, pet food or reduction)		
Price per unit of each species		
Port and state of landing (ex: New Bedford, MA)		

76. If you INITIALLY collect required data electronically, what kind of device is used to collect the information?

Please check all that apply.

- Laptop
- Desktop computer
- Computer kiosk
- Tablet computer or touch screen device
- Other: _____

77. When do you TYPICALLY record the following information after the vessel lands as part of your dealer report?

	Immediately	Within 24 hours	Within 72 hours	Within a week	Longer than a week
Vessel name					
Permit number of hull number					
Date of purchase or receipt					
VTR or eVTR serial number					
Amount of each species by market category					
Disposition (human food, bait, pet food or reduction)					
Price per unit of each species					
Port and state of landing (ex: New Bedford, MA)					

78. Do you handle HMS species?

- Yes
- No

80. Do you feel that the required dealer data submissions to NMFS accurately characterize fish landings?

- Yes
- No

81. Does NMFS need to collect:

Check all that apply.

- More data
- Less data
- Other data
- NMFS collects the right amount of data

82. If more/less/other data should be collected, what should it be and how might it get collected?

83. Are there different ways data could be collected?

Electronically, different fields in SAFIS report, different forms, timing of reporting, etc. Please explain.

84. Are there existing dealer reporting requirements that you feel are not needed?

- Yes
- No

85. If you responded 'yes' to the last question, what are the dealer reporting requirements that you feel are not needed?

Please be as specific as possible.

86. For an average vessel offload, is there data/information that gets submitted multiple times for different reports?

Are you submitting the same information in multiple places?

- Yes
- No

87. If you responded 'yes' the last question, what data are you submitting multiple times?

88. For an AVERAGE vessel offload, how many hours do you spend collecting, recording, and managing required dealer data – from before the vessel lands to when the dealer report is submitted.

- Hours _____
- Minutes _____
- Seconds _____

89. In an AVERAGE week, how many hours do you spend making DATA CORRECTIONS with NMFS staff?

- Hours _____
- Minutes _____
- Seconds _____

Perceptions about Existing and Future Fishery Dependent Data Systems

92. If you could design the IDEAL data system (collection, storage, access), what characteristics would it include?

Please rate how important each element is to you or your group

	No Opinion (indifferent to its inclusion)	Not important (do NOT include)	Useful (Could be included)	Very important (SHOULD be included)	Critical (MUST be included)
Data is automatically recorded without user input, where feasible. (AUTOMATED)					
Data is submitted electronically through forms or data uploads, where feasible. (ELECTRONIC)					
Individual data elements are only collected once, where feasible. (SINGULAR DATA ENTRY)					
All data collections related to a					

single activity (ex: trip) are linked together. (INTEGRATED)					
	No Opinion (indifferent to its inclusion)	Not important (do NOT include)	Useful (Could be included)	Very important (SHOULD be included)	Critical (MUST be included)
Reporting covers all fishing activity, including state and federal fishing operations. (INCLUSIVE)					
The same data collection applies for all fisheries. (UNIVERSAL)					
Data that is collected is available to industry quickly. (TIMELY)					

93. Please use this space to add any additional comments on your responses to the last question.

90. How can NMFS improve fishery dependent data COLLECTION?

Please be as specific as possible and list any tools, methods, software, approaches, or anything else that could make things better.

91. How can NMFS improve fishery dependent data AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY?

Please be as specific as possible and list any tools, methods, software, approaches, or anything else that could make things better.

94. What are the most important improvements that should be made to an ideal data system?

95. How will data needs change to accommodate future management approaches? Including fisheries management, ecosystem management, marine spatial planning efforts, etc.

- No changes will be needed.
- More data will be needed.
- Less data will be needed.
- Different types of data will be needed.
- Other: _____

96. If data needs will change, please describe any likely changes to the best of your ability.

97. Can fishery dependent data be used to improve fishery science and management? Why or why not?

98. Can you think of ways that you could use fishery dependent data to improve your fishing/business?

Please be as specific as possible.

Wrap-up

In the space below, please provide any additional comments you might have.