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Recreational Angler Spending Related to the Harvest Fishery for Blue Catfish

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May 2025 Invasive Catfish Workgroup Meeting

Background/Rationale

Direct spending impacts of Maryland recreational blue catfish harvest are currently unknown

Understanding the economics of the blue catfish fishery is crucial for effective management

Prioritized by the Chesapeake Bay Program's Invasive Catfish Management Strategy

Project is supported by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Fishing and Boating Service



Project Objective

Estimate mean per-trip and total annual direct spending value of the recreational harvest fishery for blue catfish in Maryland waters.



Methods



Work with MD DNR and other stakeholders to design a survey that will collect angler spending data on blue catfish fishing



Survey development using Qualtrics web-based platform (a top market research firm)



Pre-test survey with ~ 15 catfish anglers to ensure comprehension, correct operation of survey platform, & reasonable time duration



Obtain a scientific sample (~ N= 10,000) of email addresses from individuals who are licensed to fish in Maryland's tidal waterways



Web survey will be disseminated through the MD DNR email list to all individuals with recreational fishing licenses that permit fishing for blue catfishing in tidal waterways



Project Time Frame



Project period: January 2025 - December 2026



Literature Review, Survey Development, & Pre-testing: March - December 2025



Survey Launching: January – February 2026



Data Cleaning and Analysis: March – May 2026



Report Writing and Submission: June - December 2026

THANK YOU!



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