

**\*For the purposes of this survey, RECREATIONAL FISHING is defined as FISHING FOR SPORT, PLEASURE, OR PERSONAL USE (e.g., food).**

**NOTE: In addition to the following structured questions, there will be an opportunity to add any other details, ideas, or concerns that you may have at the end of the survey.**

**SECTION 1: Recreational Fishing Activity**

1. How were you first introduced to recreational fishing?
   1. I started fishing at a young age in Nova Scotia
   2. I started fishing at a young age somewhere other than Nova Scotia
   3. I learned to fish when I was older after growing up in Nova Scotia
   4. I learned to fish when I was older somewhere other than Nova Scotia
   5. I learned to fish when I was older after moving to Nova Scotia
   6. Other (please explain)
2. Approximately how many years have you been fishing in Nova Scotia?
   1. Less than 1 year
   2. 1-3 years
   3. 4-6 years
   4. 7-10 years
   5. 10-20 years
   6. More than 20 years
3. What species do you catch when you do recreational fishing in the ocean?
   1. I am only interested in catching Atlantic mackerel
   2. I aim to catch Atlantic mackerel, but sometimes I catch other things
   3. I aim to catch other fish, but sometimes I catch Atlantic mackerel
   4. I catch any fish I can get
   5. I am not sure what types of fish I catch
4. If you catch ocean species other than Atlantic mackerel while fishing for recreation, what types do you catch? Please list any types of fish you have caught that you were able to identify.
5. Where do you fish for Atlantic mackerel? Please select all that apply.
   1. Halifax Regional Municipality
   2. Halifax County, outside of HRM
   3. Lunenburg County
   4. Queens County
   5. Shelburne County
   6. Yarmouth County
   7. Digby County
   8. Annapolis County
   9. Kings County
   10. Hants County
   11. Colchester County
   12. Cumberland County
   13. Pictou County
   14. Antigonish County
   15. Guysborough County
   16. Richmond County
   17. Inverness County
   18. Victoria County
   19. Cape Breton Regional Municipality
   20. Outside of Nova Scotia
6. How do you fish for Atlantic mackerel? Please select all that apply.
   1. From a wharf/dock
   2. From a beach/rocky shore
   3. From a boat
   4. Other (please explain)
7. What is the best time of year to fish for Atlantic mackerel? Check all that apply.
   1. January
   2. February
   3. March
   4. April
   5. May
   6. June
   7. July
   8. August
   9. September
   10. October
   11. November
   12. December
8. When it’s a good time of year to fish for Atlantic mackerel, how often do you go?
   1. Every day (7 days per week)
   2. 4-6 days per week
   3. 1-3 days per week
   4. 1-3 times per month
   5. Just a couple of times per season
9. How have COVID-19 restrictions impacted your fishing activity?
   1. I fish more often/for longer periods of time
   2. I fish less often/for shorter periods of time
   3. I fish the same amount as usual
   4. Unsure
   5. Other (please explain)
10. Who tends to go fishing with you? Please select all that apply
    1. Neighbours
    2. Colleagues
    3. Friends
    4. Adult family members
    5. Children/youth family members
    6. I usually fish alone
    7. Other (please explain)
11. Have you noticed any changes in the NUMBER of Atlantic mackerel you tend to catch during a fishing trip over the years?
    1. I catch more fish now than I have in the past
    2. I catch less fish now than I have in the past
    3. I catch about the same number of fish compared to in the past
    4. Unsure
    5. Other (please explain)
12. Have you noticed any changes in the SIZE of Atlantic mackerel you tend to catch over the years?
    1. The fish are bigger now than they used to be
    2. The fish are smaller now than they used to be
    3. I haven’t noticed any changes in fish size over time
    4. Unsure
    5. Other (please explain)
13. Have you noticed any changes to fishing regulations for Atlantic mackerel?
    1. Rules have become stricter over time
    2. Rules have become more relaxed over time
    3. I haven’t noticed changes in regulations
    4. I didn’t know there were regulations
    5. Unsure
    6. Other (please explain)
14. Do you share information about your fishing catch on any of these virtual platforms? Please select all that apply.
    1. iNaturalist
    2. eOceans
    3. Angler’s Atlas
    4. FishBrain
    5. NovaScotiaFishing.com
    6. Other (please list)
    7. I do not use any virtual platforms
15. Why do you fish for Atlantic mackerel? Please describe your main reasons.
16. How important is this type of recreational fishing to your culture?
    1. Very important
    2. Important
    3. A bit important
    4. Not at all important
17. How important is this type of recreational fishing to you as a sport/outdoor activity?
    1. Very important
    2. Important
    3. A bit important
    4. Not at all important
18. Do you use the Atlantic mackerel that you catch for bait?
    1. Yes
    2. Sometimes
    3. No
    4. Other (please explain)
19. Do you eat the Atlantic mackerel that you catch?
    1. Yes
    2. Sometimes
    3. No
    4. Other (please explain)
20. If you eat the mackerel you catch, how important is this food source to you?
    1. Very important
    2. Important
    3. A bit important
    4. Not at all important
    5. Not applicable – I don’t eat the mackerel
21. If you eat the mackerel you catch, what role does this food source play in your diet? Please select all that apply
    1. It is a food that I can afford
    2. It is a healthy food
    3. It is a food that is part of my culture or tradition
    4. It is an ethical food
    5. It is an environmentally friendly food
    6. Not applicable – I don’t eat the mackerel
    7. Other (please describe)
22. If you eat the mackerel you catch, how much money do you save on grocery bills because of your fishing catch? (Please estimate dollars [$] per week during mackerel season)
23. How would your health or nutrition be affected if you could not catch and eat mackerel?
24. Is there anything else you would like to share about your fishing experience?

**SECTION 2: Demographics**

**Please tell us a bit more about yourself, so we can learn about who likes to fish in Nova Scotia.**

1. In which region do you live?
   1. Halifax Regional Municipality
   2. Halifax County, outside of HRM
   3. Lunenburg County
   4. Queens County
   5. Shelburne County
   6. Yarmouth County
   7. Digby County
   8. Annapolis County
   9. Kings County
   10. Hants County
   11. Colchester County
   12. Cumberland County
   13. Pictou County
   14. Antigonish County
   15. Guysborough County
   16. Richmond County
   17. Inverness County
   18. Victoria County
   19. Cape Breton Regional Municipality
   20. Outside of Nova Scotia
2. Did you immigrate to Canada or come as a refugee?
   1. Yes
   2. No
   3. Prefer not to say
3. How would you describe your ethnic background? Please select all that apply.
   1. Indigenous/Aboriginal (e.g., First Nations, Metis, Inuit)
   2. White (e.g., European descent)
   3. Black (e.g., African, Afro-Caribbean, African Canadian, etc)
   4. Latinx (i.e., Latin American, Hispanic descent)
   5. West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)
   6. Arab (e.g., Syrian, Lebanese, Egyptian)
   7. South Asian (e.g., Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean)
   8. East Asian (e.g., Chinese, Korean, Japanese)
   9. Southeast Asian (e.g., Vietnamese, Thai, Cambodian, Filipino)
   10. Other (please specify)
   11. Prefer not to say
4. How would you describe your experience with the English language?
   1. I am a native English speaker
   2. I am a fluent speaker of English as an Additional Language
   3. I am in the process of learning English as an Additional Language
   4. Other (please explain)
5. What other languages do you use at home or in your community? (Please select any that apply)
   1. Mi’kmaq
   2. French
   3. Russian
   4. German
   5. Dutch
   6. Spanish
   7. Portuguese
   8. Greek
   9. Arabic
   10. Persian
   11. Mandarin
   12. Cantonese
   13. Korean
   14. Japanese
   15. Tagalog
   16. Hindi
   17. Bengali
   18. Punjabi
   19. Indonesian
   20. Other (please specify)
6. What is your gender identity?
   1. Male
   2. Female
   3. Non-binary
   4. Prefer to self-describe (Other)
   5. Prefer not to say
7. Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQIA2S+ community?
   1. Yes
   2. No
   3. Unsure
   4. Prefer not to say
8. Do you self-identify as having a disability? If yes, which of the following best describes your disability(ies)? (Please select all that apply)
   1. Sensory (seeing or hearing)
   2. Physical (mobility, flexibility, dexterity, pain)
   3. Cognitive (learning, developmental, memory)
   4. Psychological (mental illness)
   5. Other: please explain
   6. Prefer not to say
   7. Do not self-identify as having a disability
9. What is your age?
   1. Under 20
   2. 20-29
   3. 30-39
   4. 40-49
   5. 50-59
   6. 60-69
   7. 70-79
   8. 80-89
   9. 90 or older
10. What is the highest level of education you have achieved?
    1. No certificate, degree, or diploma
    2. High school diploma or equivalent
    3. Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma
    4. College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma
    5. University certificate or diploma below Bachelor level
    6. Bachelor’s degree
    7. Graduate degree (e.g., Master’s, PhD, etc)
    8. Professional degree (e.g., JD, MD, DVM, etc)
11. Roughly how much is your total annual income during an average year?
    1. $0-25 000
    2. $25 000 – 50 000
    3. $50 000 – 75 000
    4. $75 000 - $100 000
    5. $100 000 - $150 000
    6. $150 000 - $200 000
    7. $200 000+
12. What is your employment status?
    1. Working full-time
    2. Working part-time
    3. Working seasonally
    4. Studying full-time
    5. Studying and working
    6. Taking a break from work
    7. Looking for work
    8. Retired
    9. Other (please explain)
13. In which field do you (or did you) primarily work or study?
    1. Accountancy / banking / finance
    2. Business / consulting / management
    3. Charity / voluntary work
    4. Child care
    5. Communications
    6. Creative arts and design
    7. Education
    8. Emergency and security services
    9. Energy and utilities
    10. Engineering and manufacturing
    11. Environment and agriculture
    12. Fishing or fisheries
    13. Healthcare
    14. Hospitality and events management
    15. Information technology
    16. Law
    17. Leisure, sports, and tourism
    18. Marketing, advertising, and PR
    19. Media and internet
    20. Public services and administration
    21. Recruitment and HR
    22. Sales
    23. Science and pharmaceuticals
    24. Social services
    25. Transportation
    26. Other (please explain)
14. Thanks for your participation! Is there anything else you’d like to share with the research team?

Thank you for contributing to this research!