Louisiana Fisheries Forward
QUALITY + EDUCATION + SUSTAINABILITY
www.lafisheriesforward.org

LA Creel Survey
Key to Fisheries Management

Since the early 1980s, Louisiana has participated in NOAA Fisheries’ Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) and its replacement, the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), which are federal surveys used to collect recreational landings data. Over time the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) found several issues with these surveys, namely their inability to obtain reliable landings of individual species in a timely manner and separate landings by regions of the state. On January 1, 2014, Louisiana stopped participating in the MRIP survey and began its own survey, called LA Creel.

How We Collect Information
LA Creel estimates recreational landings separately for private anglers and for-hire fishermen. The survey has two parts:

1. A weekly access-point survey, conducted by biologists interviewing anglers about their catch in the following areas:
   - Pontchartrain Basin
   - Barataria Basin (upper and lower)
   - Terrebonne/Timbalier Basin
   - Vermilion/Teche Basin
   - Calcasieu/Sabine Basin
   - Offshore
   Survey sites are selected based on proportional probability—the areas that are most likely to have catch, depending on the time of year, get the most site assignments.

2. Weekly phone/email surveys are used to estimate total fishing effort.
   - We call and email recreational saltwater fishing license holders from all parts of the state and out-of-state to see whether they went fishing in the previous week, and if they did, how often and in what region of the state (basin). We contact fishermen who hold Recreational Offshore Landing Permits (ROLP) more often during red snapper season.

LA Creel Landing Estimate Calculation

How We Use the Data
LDWF uses data from LA Creel to make management decisions including regulations such as catch limits and season dates, and to assess the health of our fishery resources.

Benefits of LA Creel
- Separate inshore and offshore data provide more detailed and precise landings estimates.
- Basin-level landings estimates provide options for regional management.
- Weekly surveys provide near real-time estimates for timely management decisions.
- A flexible and efficient survey design engages fishermen in the management process.

LA Creel’s purpose is to provide statistically significant recreational fishery information to aid in managing Louisiana’s valuable fishery resources. It was designed to quickly estimate the number of recreational fishing trips and catch rates by area and species with a minimal burden on anglers.

For more information, visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/lacreel