

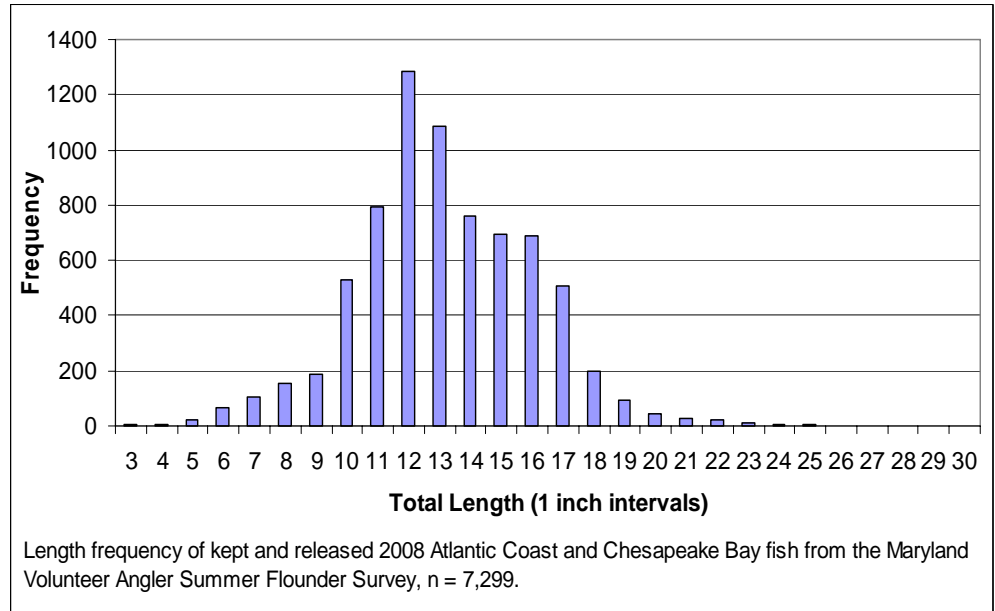
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Service
2008 Maryland Volunteer Angler Summer Flounder Survey Summary
December 2008

THE ANGLERS...

- 5,548 anglers fished
- 130 anglers reported
- Most were from MD, PA, DE
- 27% belonged to an organization

THE FISH...

- 11,056 fish reported caught
- 7,299 fish measured
- Average length: 13.4 inches
- The length distribution of the overall summer flounder catch has been steady for the past 7 years (2002-2008).



THE TRIPS...

- 883 trips reported: 829 trips along the Atlantic Coast (94%), 54 trips in the Chesapeake Bay (6%).
- 93 skunked trips: 88 Atlantic coast (10%), 5 Chesapeake Bay (0.01%).

USES OF THESE DATA...

These data are used to calculate:

- population length distribution;
- perform creel (minimum size) analysis;
- and guide the management approach for Atlantic vs. Chesapeake Bay populations.

CONCLUSIONS...

Your participation in this survey is VERY important to summer flounder management along the East Coast. In addition to Maryland DNR, neighboring states of Delaware and Virginia have used these data to guide their management decisions for establishing creel, minimum size, and season limits. The success of this survey resulted in other states implementing a similar program.

For 2009, please continue to:

- encourage others to participate, including friends fishing the Chesapeake Bay where the average number of trips for the past few years is 30;
- measure to the nearest ¼ inch (very important for determining minimum size limits);
- continue to report trips where summer flounder were targeted but none were caught.