



Interview Number _____

Recreational Angler Interview Form
By Robert Muth

(Greeting of your choice.) We're with _____ sponsored by _____ . We're interviewing people who fish in coastal areas to find out why fishing is important to them. Would it be okay to ask you a few questions about your fishing and your views about fisheries management?

If NO: "Thank you and good luck. Have a good day."

If YES: "This interview is completely anonymous. Could we have your permission to tape-record it?" (If NO, take notes.)

Proceed to question 1.

1. What are you fishing for today? _____

2. What are your favorite fish to catch? _____

3. During your average fishing season, how many times per week do you go saltwater fishing?

4. When you go fishing, do you most often fish by yourself or with other people?

5. What are the main reasons you go fishing? Why is fishing important to you?



6. Over the past few years, do you feel that sport fishing has been improving, declining, or has stayed about the same?

7. Many people in Massachusetts fish for striped bass. What do you think should be done to improve striped-bass fishing in Massachusetts?

8. Some people have suggested that striped bass should be opened up to commercial fishing? Do you agree with this idea?
(If respondent only answers a brief YES or NO, probe for WHY they feel this way; e.g., "Why do you think that's a good idea?")

9. Do you think people in Massachusetts would support a program to protect coastal habitats if it would lead to improved striped bass fishing?
(If respondent asks, "Protect habitat, how?" Examples might be: clean up pollutants, restore spawning and rearing grounds of prey fish, restore natural flows in estuaries.)

10. Do you presently live in Massachusetts: _____ YES _____ NO

11. Do you live in a Coastal community? _____ YES _____ NO

12. Do you live in an Urban _____ or Rural _____ community?

11. The last question I have is this: Is there anything you would like to tell the fisheries management agencies about saltwater fishing in general or about fishing in this area? _____

Thank you for your time, and best of luck!





Next Steps:

Assign numeric codes to the answers where possible.

After completing the interviews, next step is to assign numeric codes to the answers where possible. For example, in question #1, "What are you fishing for today?" Striped bass = 1, bluefish = 2, cod = 3, flounder = 4, and so on. This can even be done with the longer open-ended questions (e.g., q. #5), but care needs to be exercised so that answers are coded consistently. In response to question 5, for example, if, in one interview, the respondent says, "to be out in nature," and a second respondent says, "to enjoy the natural beauty and scenery," both answers should be coded = 1.

Next step is to enter the data into a computer program so you can run some simple tabulations or statistics. You could get simple frequencies (number of people who said "Yes" vs. "No" for a specific question, or a simple count of the number of people who, say, fished for striped bass), or some comparisons (do people from coastal communities feel the fishing has improved or declined, compared to their fellow anglers from non-coastal communities). I think most things like this could probably be done in Excel.

Final step is to work the data up into tables, convert the tables into a PowerPoint format, and give a presentation to the class. (Or you could do what I do. Write it up and submit it to a scientific journal!)