

Information Sheet for Participation in a Research Study

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Principal Investigator: Kirsten Roe

Project Name: Interactions of Summer Flounder Population Changes and Allocated Quotas on Economic Contribution by State, Costs, and Profit in the Fishery

IRB# and Title of Study: DISES: Dynamics of socio-environmental factors driving resilience of coastal fisheries: integrating feedback between livelihoods, human behavior, climate, and fish ecology

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Grant Partners: Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

You are invited to take part in a research study with your valuable experiences and knowledge. This form includes information about the study and contact information if you have any questions. Please let us know if you need translation or an interpreter. You may pause and start the survey as needed. There are several modes you can take the survey: online survey with or without Zoom or phone call assistance or in-person interviews (we would make an appointment for me to travel to you). Any of these modes could use the Qualtrics online survey, fillable Pdf survey, or printed and mailed survey. The goal is to make it as easy and convenient for you. Please also let us know if you do not have access to a stable internet connection either for your computer or phone or would like an alternative method for the survey. The survey should take around 60 minutes and will have two parts: questions about your experiences and observations with summer flounder fisheries and a cost/revenue part. For the second part, if you feel comfortable with providing an Excel sheet or other documents with financial information, we would be sure to make it un-identifiable to others. This data would allow us to estimate an average effect on costs and profits from summer flounder fishery changes, quota allocations, and other variables.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS STUDY?

This study is performed by the Virginia Tech Seafood Agriculture Research and Extension Center in partnership in collaboration with the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. This survey will provide us with information and data that we can then use to analyze how variability summer flounder population migration and abundance, state quotas, and the economic contributions of the fishery interact. For example, how does a potential disconnect between where larger summer flounder populations are currently found and the current state quotas and how this interaction can affect the fishing industry's costs, profits, supply and demand, and effect on overall economic contribution to the region?

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More specifically, we are trying to determine the interconnected relationships between summer flounder quota (or total allowable catch), landings, changes in flounder abundance along the coast, and economic contributions of the commercial flounder fishery to coastal economies. The coastal economy in this case includes the supply chain (ex. Fishermen, processors, brokers/fish mongers, merchants), livelihoods, and other products. The broader impact of this study aims to analyze dynamics of socio-environmental factors driving resilience of coastal fisheries by integrating feedbacks between livelihoods, human behavior, climate, and fish ecology. This includes the effects of disparities between migrating summer flounder populations and state quotas.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

If you agree to participate in this study, a survey will be provided to you for completion. The survey has two sections: should take approximately 60 minutes of your time. You will be asked to provide business expenditures and revenue from your records for 2023-2026 (current), if possible. If you only have limited years of data, 2025 would be the most preferred year.

We do not anticipate any risks for completing this study and, if you agree to participate in this study, you may withdraw at any time without any kind of consequence. You may also refuse to answer any questions you do not feel comfortable answering and still remain in the study. The investigators may withdraw your input from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We will do our best to protect the confidentiality of the information we gather from you. Any data collected during this research study will be kept confidential by the researchers. The researchers involved will code the transcripts using a pseudonym to make participant identities. Survey responses will be de-identified as well, so that no one will be able to recognize the original survey taker. Collected data will be on a secure Virginia Tech server (any paper versions of surveys or excel sheets will be transcribed into a digital spreadsheet for safekeeping). Researchers involved in the research have been trained in data collection, entry, management, and protection. Private data will only be made available in aggregate form to protect privacy, and no identifying features will be recognizable. The survey responses, copy key, and any recordings will be stored for two years after the study has been completed and published and then the data will be destroyed. No private, identifiable information will be shared to the public, to researchers outside of the project, or to any involved parties to survey participants.

WHO CAN I TALK TO?

If you have any questions or concerns about the research or taking the survey, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Kirsten Roe kroe91@vt.edu or (513)-505-7742. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights, or remedies because of your participation in this research

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study. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact the Virginia Tech HRPP Office at 540-231-3732 (irb@vt.edu)

CONSENT:

By returning this survey, you are agreeing to the use of your responses and data for this research.

Keep this information sheet for your records.