

CHAPTER 23

AN ACT concerning saltwater fishing and supplementing P.L.1979, c.199 (C.23:2B-1 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.23:2B-22 Registry program for saltwater recreational anglers.

1. a. The commissioner, in consultation with the Marine Fisheries Council, shall establish and implement a registry program for saltwater recreational anglers, which program shall provide for:

(1) the registration, including the name, date of birth, address, telephone number, and other identification and contact information determined to be necessary by the department pursuant to federal requirements, of individuals who engage in recreational fishing:

- (a) in the Exclusive Economic Zone;
- (b) for anadromous species;
- (c) for Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone; or
- (d) in the tidal waters of the State; and

(2) the registration, including the ownership, operator, and identification of the vessel, or vessels used in such fishing.

b. (1) The registry program established pursuant to this section shall comply with the provisions of the registry program to be established pursuant to the "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006," Pub.L.109-479 (16 U.S.C. s.1801 et seq.).

(2) Upon establishment of the registry program pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall apply to the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for exempted state designation from the federal registration requirements.

c. The department shall not charge a fee for the registration required pursuant to this section.

d. A person who is under 16 years of age or a customer fishing from a state-licensed or federally permitted for-hire vessel shall not be required to register pursuant to this section.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved February 21, 2011.