

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**THE EXTENT OF BOATING INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN THE 2001
SURVEY OF FISHING, HUNTING, AND WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED
RECREATION
Monograph 2001-1**

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This monograph complements the National and State reports from the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. The conclusions are the author's and do not represent official positions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Extent of Boating Information Available in the 2001 FHWAR Survey

In 2001 57% of all anglers fished from a boat at least one day. Out of 34.1 million total Americans 16 years old or older who fished, 19.5 million fished from a boat. Saltwater anglers were more prone to fish from a boat than freshwater anglers, with 69% of all saltwater anglers using a boat while fishing. Great Lakes anglers were not far behind, with 65% of all Great Lakes anglers fishing from a boat. In freshwater fishing, excluding the Great Lakes, 53% of all anglers used a boat. See Table 1 for the participant numbers.

46% of total fishing days were spent on a boat. This percent is less than the 57% of anglers who used a boat either because people who fish from the shore fish more per capita than people who fish from a boat, or because people who fish from a boat also fish from the shore, or because of both. 61% of saltwater fishing days and 52% of Great Lakes fishing days were from a boat. 43% of freshwater fishing days, excluding the Great Lakes, were from a boat. See Table 2 for the fishing day numbers.

The trip-related expenditures of boaters who fished were a significant part of total trip-related expenditures by anglers, as one would expect based on the above. \$2.6 billion were spent on boating costs, 18% of all trip-related expenditures for angling. 8.3 million anglers spent money on these trip-related boating costs (perhaps these anglers are the principal operators of the boats, and the remaining anglers, 11.2 million, are family members and others along for the ride?). See Table 3 for the breakdown.

The purchase of boats for fishing in 2001 amounted to 1.6 million anglers spending \$5.4 billion for motorized and nonmotorized boats and their accessories (e.g., motors and trailers). See Table 4 for the detailed numbers.

The demographic profile of anglers who fished from boats reveals a tendency toward older, higher income, more metropolitan anglers. 45% of boating anglers were 45 years old and older, compared to 38% of nonboating anglers. 17% of boating anglers had annual household incomes higher than \$100,000, compared to 11% of nonboating anglers. 74% of boating anglers lived in a Metropolitan Statistical Area, compared to 69% of nonboating anglers. See Table 5 for more demographic detail.

The above information is also available at the state level. For example, the boating participation of Wisconsin anglers is presented in Table 6. The rate of boating use for fishing is higher in Wisconsin than in the U.S. as a whole, with three-fourths of all anglers using boats and three-fifths of all fishing days being spent on a boat. This information is available for all states, as well as expenditure and demographic information. Additional information, such as the amount of fishing from a boat outside the state of residence and the amount of trip-related and equipment boating expenditures made by hunters and wildlife watchers, is also included in the FHWAR database. Boating costs incurred in Canada for fishing and wildlife watching were also included.

Table 1. U.S. Anglers Fishing From Boats in 2001

(Numbers in thousands)

	Total	Percent	Freshwater except Great Lakes	Percent	Great Lakes	Percent	Saltwater	Percent
Total anglers	34,071	100	27,913	100	1,847	100	9,051	100
Anglers fishing from boats	19,481	57	14,787	53	1,193	65	6,261	69

Table 2. Days Angling From A Boat in 2001

(Numbers in thousands)

	Total	Percent	Freshwater except Great Lakes	Percent	Great Lakes	Percent	Saltwater	Percent
Total days of fishing	557,394	100	443,247	100	23,138	100	90,838	100
Days fishing from boats	258,159	46	190,976	43	12,044	52	55,139	61

Table 3. Trip-Related Boating Expenditures by Anglers in 2001

(Numbers in thousands)

	Total	Percent	Purchasers	Percent of Anglers
Total boating costs	2,630,429	100	8,265	24
Boat fuel	1,259,753	48	7,978	23
Boat launch fees	127,803	5	2,434	7
Other boat costs(1)	1,242,873	47	2,638	8

(1) Boat mooring, storage, maintenance, insurance, and pumpout fees.

Table 4. Boat Purchases For Fishing in 2001

(Numbers in thousands)

	Total	Percent	Purchasers	Percent of Anglers
Total boat purchases	5,411,456	100	1,635	5
Motor boat (ex. Bass boat)	2,718,833	50	470	1
Bass boat	1,295,936	24	194	1
Canoe, other nonmotor	173,596	3	292	1
Boat accessories(1)	1,223,091	23	1,008	3

(1) Boat motor, trailer or hitch, and other boat accessories.

Table 5. 2001 Boating/Nonboating Angler Demographics
(Numbers in thousands)

	Boating Anglers	Percent	Nonboating Anglers	Percent
Total	19,481	100	14,590	100
Age Cohorts				
16-17	704	4	614	4
18-24	1,497	8	1,433	10
25-34	3,574	18	3,003	21
35-44	5,062	26	3,985	27
45-54	4,201	22	2,739	19
55-64	2,677	14	1,491	10
65 and older	1,766	9	1,324	9
Urban/Rural				
Urban	11,984	62	8,940	61
Rural	7,496	38	5,650	39
MSA/nonMSA(1)				
In MSA in central city	3,628	19	3,048	21
In MSA not in central city	10,692	55	7,023	48
Not MSA	5,161	26	4,519	31
MSA Total				
50,000-249,999	2,231	16	1,486	15
250,000-999,999	3,967	28	2,963	29
1,000,000 or more	8,122	57	5,621	56
Household Income Total(2)				
Less than \$10,000	359	2	519	4
\$10,000 to \$19,999	771	5	876	7
\$20,000 to \$24,999	773	5	701	6
\$25,000 to \$29,999	844	5	919	8
\$30,000 to \$34,999	1,066	6	1,025	8
\$35,000 to \$39,999	1,062	6	877	7
\$40,000 to \$49,999	2,215	13	1,480	12
\$50,000 to \$74,999	4,192	25	2,921	24
\$75,000 to \$99,999	2,458	15	1,572	13
\$100,000 or more	2,880	17	1,340	11

(1) Metropolitan Statistical Area. An MSA is a group of counties or towns and cities with a central city of 50,000 or more population.

(2) Anglers who did not report their income are not included in this characteristic.

Table 6. Anglers Fishing From Boats in Wisconsin in 2001

(Numbers in thousands)

	Total	Percent	Freshwater except Great Lakes	Percent	Great Lakes	Percent	Saltwater	Percent
Total anglers	1,412	100	1,306	100	198	100	N.A.	N.A.
Anglers fishing from boats	1,046	74	1,002	77	122	62	N.A.	N.A.

Table 7. Days Angling From Boats in Wisconsin in 2001

(Numbers in thousands)

	Total	Percent	Freshwater except Great Lakes	Percent	Great Lakes	Percent	Saltwater	Percent
Total days of fishing	22,042	100	19,139	100	2,085	100	N.A.	N.A.
Days fishing from boats	12,829	58	11,808	62	1,021	49	N.A.	N.A.