



New York Bight Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Recreational Fishing

Based on National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) data, there is no substantial for-hire recreational fishing activity in any of the six New York Bight lease areas. Fishing activity is instead focused in nearshore areas off the coast of central New Jersey, near artificial reefs, and along the southern coast of Long Island, New York. However, for-hire recreational fishing trips do target highly migratory species (tunas, sharks, swordfish, and billfish) as far as the continental shelf break and Gulf Stream. The most impacted species caught in for-hire and recreational fishing in the six New York Bight leases are Atlantic cod in OCS-A 0544 and bluefin tuna, red hake, and black seabass in OCS-A 0538.

