**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XA490

National Saltwater Angler Registry Program

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has designated the state of New Jersey and the District of Columbia as exempted states for anglers, spear fishers and for-hire fishing vessels.

**DATES:** The designation of the states as exempted states is effective on June 24, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Gordon C. Colvin, Fishery Biologist, NMFS ST–12453, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gordon C. Colvin, Fishery Biologist; (301) 427–8118; e-mail: Gordon.Colvin@noaa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The final rule implementing the National Saltwater Angler Registry Program, 50 CFR part 600, subpart P, was published in the Federal Register on December 30, 2008 (73 FR 79705). The final rule requires persons who are angling, spear fishing or operating a for-hire fishing vessel in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone or for anadromous species to register annually with NOAA. However, persons who are licensed or registered by, or state residents who are not required to register or hold a license issued by, a state that is designated as an exempted state are not required to register with NOAA. The final rule sets forth the requirements for states to be designated as exempted states. Generally, exempted states must agree to provide to NMFS names, addresses, dates of birth and telephone numbers of the persons licensed or registered under a qualifying state license and/or registry program, or to provide catch and effort data from a qualifying regional survey of recreational fishing, and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with NMFS to formalize the data reporting agreement.

NMFS has received proposals for providing license/registry data from the states listed below, has determined that the states’ programs qualify for exempted state designation under the provisions of the final rule, and has