J. Didden's 3/12/09 Marine Policy Seminar Abstract

"Revealed Preference Study of Chesapeake Bay Anglers"

Per trip and seasonal benefits from recreational fishing in the Chesapeake Bay will be estimated using a Random Utility Model (RUM). RUMs allow estimation of the value to recreational anglers of various site characteristics, including water quality and catch rates. The benefits that recreational anglers in the Bay would reap from improving water quality, improving catch rates, or improving any other included site characteristic can then be compared to the costs of such improvements. Given the potential high cost of such improvements, gaining information on the related benefits can facilitate policy decisions related to efforts to improve the ecological condition of the Chesapeake Bay or decisions to improve fishing access sites.

The data used in this analysis comes from several sources. Data on fishing activity came from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey, which is collected every year and run by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data on water quality came from the Chesapeake Bay Program, which is a partnership between the Federal Government and relevant states designed to facilitate restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Data on fishing sites came from an amalgamation of sources, including personal visits to several hundred fishing access sites to record site characteristics.