Saltwater Recreational Fisheries

POLICY
AGENDA

• Summit Overview
• National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
  o What is it and why do we need it?
  o Timeline: Where are we now?
  o Scope & draft goals
  o Recent Input
Summit Agenda

- Angler Satisfaction: Management & Policy Considerations
- Healthy Recreational Fisheries
- Science & Data
- Successful Relationships
- Regional Engagement
Outcomes and Next Steps

- Finalize and distribute Summit report
- Formulation of National Action Agenda
- National Policy
What is a POLICY

DOES:
Influence how we carry out responsibilities under the law

DOES NOT:
Have the force or effect of law
Create regulations
Why do we need a policy?

1. Institutionalizes our commitment.

2. Guides agency decisions over the long-term.

3. Helps ensure recreational fishing will have a seat at the table.
Policy Development Process & Timeline

**Phase 1**
- **Input** - public listening sessions at Council / other meetings and national conference call/webinars

**Phase 2**
- Policy Drafting
- Ongoing Engagement

**Phase 3**
- Internal Review

**Phase 4**
- External Review and Comment

**Phase 5**
- Release Policy

- Summer
- Summer-Fall
- Fall
- Late Fall
- Early Winter
Recent Activity

- South Atlantic FMC
- Mid-Atlantic FMC
- New England FMC
- Pacific FMC
- Western Pacific FMC
- State Agency webinar
- Public webinars
- MAFAC RecFish WG
Scope of the POLICY

Who and what constitutes recreational fisheries?

• Shore and private/non-for-hire vessel?
• For-hire vessels?
• Recreational fishing industries?
• Non-commercial fishermen?
• Expense fishing?
• Subsistence fishing?
What we have heard

• Sale of fish/expense fishing conflicts with nature of recreational fishing
• Subsistence fishing is different than recreational
• Include non-angling activities fish watching / ecotourism
Possible goals of the POLICY

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, healthy, and diverse recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.

2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal fisheries management system.

3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.

4. Enhance transparency, follow-through, and long-term continuity of action.
Possible Goals of the Policy

What we have heard

• Add a science & data theme
• Consistency and stability
• Opportunity & access (inclusive of allocation)
• Abundance drives recreational fisheries
• Federal – state partnership
• Singular recreational community w/diverse needs
• Fishing culture and communities
## Upcoming Input Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>September / October</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Gulf States Commission</td>
<td>• State Directors / NMFS meeting</td>
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<td>• Pacific States Commission</td>
<td>• Atlantic Highly Migratory Species AP</td>
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<td>• Atlantic States Commission</td>
<td>• North Pacific FMC</td>
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<td>• Caribbean FMC</td>
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<td>• Gulf FMC</td>
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Recap

1. We’re delivering on our promise.

2. The policy is a set of high-level principles to guide Agency decisions over the long-term.

3. Input and suggestions should be submitted up until September 12.

4. A draft policy will be available for review this fall.
Submit comments and follow our progress online at
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/
Discussion Highlights

- Predictability and consistency
- Need for new management approaches
- Inadequate tools and resources re data collection
- Habitat loss
- Post-release survival
- Commercial orientation of decision-makers
- Communication
- Decentralized and diverse constituency
- Lack of angler involvement
- State/Federal coordination