

Science, Service, Stewardship



Recreational Fishery Issues

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

November 10, 2009

Gordon Colvin

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Agenda

- Key Issues of Interest to the Recreational Community
- The NOAA Response
 - Senior Recreational Advisor
 - National Recreational Fishing Summit
- The MAFAC Role
 - Advice on Key Issues
 - Assistance in Planning Recreational Summit
- Issue Brief: Towards More Trusted Data



HOT TOPICS: What Anglers Are Talking to Us About

- Draft **catch shares policy** and their implications in mixed-use fisheries.
- Increasing recognition of recreation in the **Ocean Policy Task Force** interim report.
- Ensuring recreation is adequately considered as NOAA creates a **marine spatial planning** policy.
- Addressing **allocation**.
- Managing under **ACL's/AM's**.
- Progress at improving **data** quality.



What We're Hearing

NOAA and anglers are far too often at odds over policy and process because:

- NOAA doesn't understand and therefore doesn't fully recognize recreational fishing.
 - Fishing relies on both the fish (*sustainability*) AND the opportunity to get on the water (*access*).
- NOAA and anglers don't have enough conversations.



How We're Responding

On September 2, Dr. Lubchenco announced her commitment to take a fresh look at the Agency's relationship with the recreational fishing community.

Message From the Under Secretary

September 2, 2009

Improving Engagement with the Recreational Fishing Community

Saltwater recreational fishing is among the most popular outdoor sports in America with anglers representing one of NOAA's largest organized constituencies. Not only are anglers stewards of our ocean, they contribute greatly to the economic vitality of our coastal communities. For these reasons, I believe it is in NOAA's best interests to adopt policies and practices that will protect ocean ecosystems and ensure one of America's most treasured pastimes endures for future generations.

NOAA is entrusted with ensuring the long-term sustainability and use of America's living marine resources. Our policies are framed by congressional mandates and the president's priorities and based



What the Announcement Does

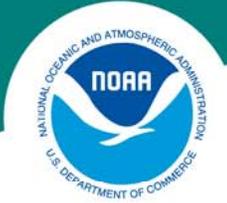
Addresses long-standing issues that interfere with a stronger partnership between NOAA and its recreational fishing constituency.

Aims to build a “*solid foundation of trust and respect [through]...more and better conversations.*”



Backing Up Words with Action

- Creates Senior Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries.
- Identifies HQ and regional staff to support Senior Advisor.
- Convenes national Summit and subsequent roundtables to identify and resolve issues.



Timeline

Fall 2009

- Position announcement closes November 13.
- Work with MAFAC on Summit planning and logistics.

Winter 2010

- Full-time senior adviser in place.
- Convene national Summit.

Spring 2010

- Joint problem-solving round tables.



Discussion



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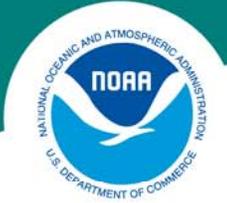
ISSUE BRIEF: Towards More Trusted Data

The Marine Recreational Information Program

**A new data collection and analysis initiative to help ensure
the long-term sustainability of fisheries.**



www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov



What MRIP Will and Won't Do

What MRIP will enhance:

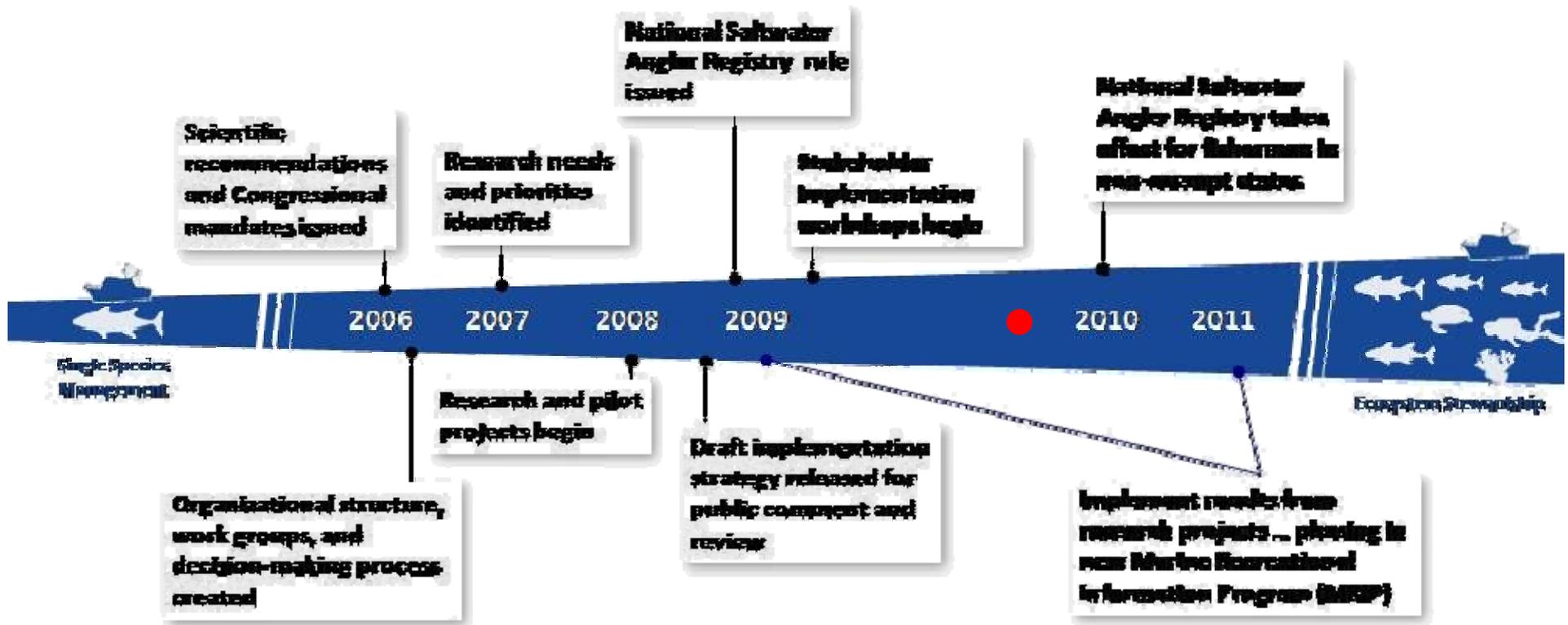
- Accountability
- Accuracy
- Timeliness
- Decision-making abilities

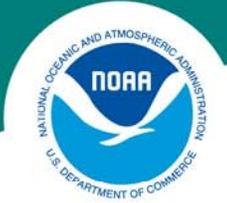
What MRIP will not do:

Provide a silver bullet solution to all our fishery management problems



MRIP Implementation Timeline





Current Status

- **Evaluation** Evaluating past surveys.
- **Innovation** Challenging assumptions and testing new methods.
- **Activation** Ensuring that updated designs deliver on their promise of improvement.
- Implementing National Saltwater Angler Registry

**Progress and priorities detailed in
Implementation Plan 2009/2010 Update**



Framework for Change

2009 Highlights:

- National Saltwater Angler Registry
- For-Hire Survey Review
- Evaluation of Whether Estimation Procedures Appropriately Match Sample Designs



Registry Status

- Ready to register non-exempt anglers and for-hire fishing vessels beginning January 1, 2010.
- Build the registry database with information from anglers that register with NOAA Fisheries and with state license/registry data submitted to NOAA.
- Develop and refine telephone and mail survey methods thorough dual frame and registry-based pilot projects.

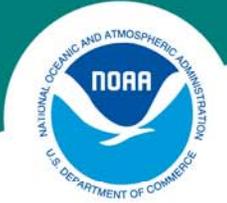


For-hire Survey Review

What this project will mean to you:

Provide a thorough, field-tested understanding of the cost, timeliness, and practicality of moving to a census-based electronic logbook system.

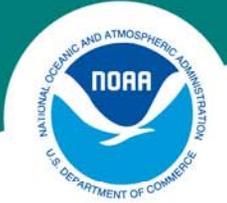
And ultimately a better accounting of the for-hire sector and more complete counts of their customers.



For-hire Survey Review

Major Progress to Date:

- Completed a comprehensive, independent review of ongoing for-hire fishery data collections that included recommendations for doing things better.
- Initiated pilot projects to test electronic reporting methods, ways to account for non-response, and the the feasibility of logbook reporting in the Gulf of Mexico.



For-hire Survey Review

Next Steps:

- Develop and pilot methods for electronic reporting and validation of self-reported data.
- Carry out a pilot project to test the feasibility of electronic trip reporting in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Help regional partners implement survey improvements that address the findings and recommendations of the for-hire review.



Estimation Matched to Survey Design

What this project will mean to you:

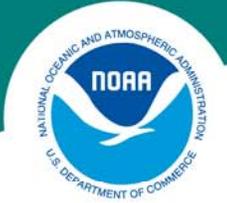
- Confidence that historical estimates reflect new statistical advancements and are on equal footing with MRIP estimates moving forward.
- A solid statistical foundation on which to make additional survey improvements.



Estimation Matched to Survey Design

Major Progress to Date:

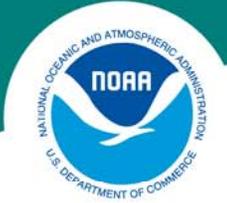
- Conducted a review of sampling and estimation method for the intercept component MRFSS.
- Developed a revised estimation method and recommendations for changes to intercept sampling design.



Estimation Matched to Survey Design

Next Steps:

- Calculate estimates of catch for the Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico utilizing the revised estimation method.
- Recalculate and revise historic estimates of catch for the Atlantic and Gulf coasts based on the revised method.
- Test the recommended changes to intercept survey methods side-by-side with current methods and to evaluate the results.
- Extend practices to other regional data collection programs.



Data Issues of Concern to the Recreational Constituents

- Adequacy of current data for ongoing regulatory actions.
- Timing of implementation of survey design and operational improvements.
- Availability of data for in-season decision-making in consideration of Accountability Measures requirements for 2010 and 2011.



Discussion

