

Science, Service, Stewardship



Recreational Fisheries Engagement Initiative Update

Marine Fisheries Advisory Council
May 25, 2011

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

NOAA



Background/Overview



NOAA Recreational Fisheries Engagement Initiative

- Acknowledgement of strained relationship
- Realization that stewardship responsibilities could be better fulfilled collaboratively
- Understanding of the need to be proactive



Initial Commitments & Actions

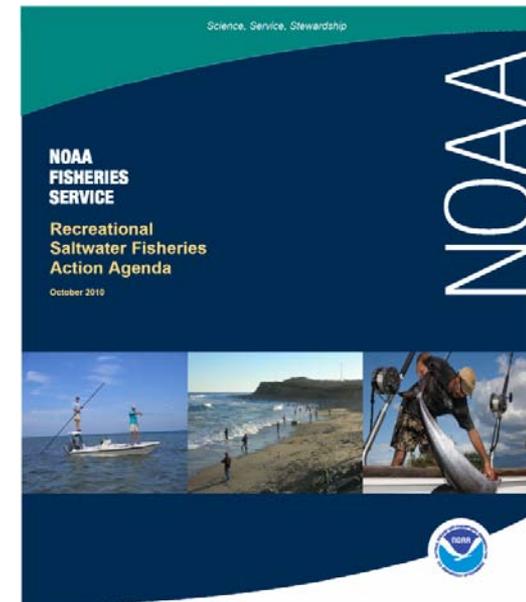
- Regional Recreational Coordinators (11/09)
- MAFAC Recreational Fisheries Working Group (04/10)
- National Recreational Policy Advisor (04/10)
- Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Summit (04/10)
- National Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Action Agenda (10/10)



Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Action Agenda

Five overarching goals w/tangible objectives, including, improved:

- Recreational fishing opportunities
- Recreational catch/bycatch, effort, and status data
- Social and economic data
- Communications
- Institutional orientation

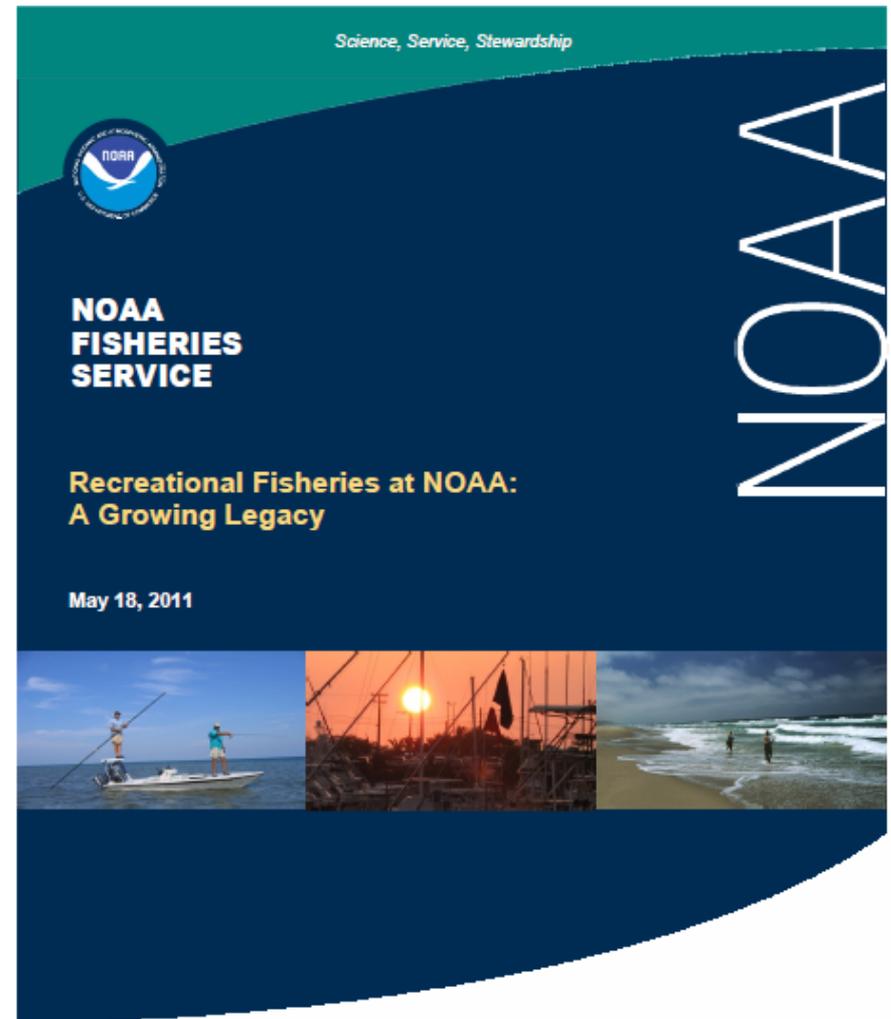




Progress report and video
update released May 18th:

Recreational Fisheries at NOAA: A Growing Legacy

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/PartnershipsCommunications/recfish/index.htm>





Recent Headway

- MRIP Catch Estimation Methodology implemented (01/11)
- Scientific Annual Catch Limit Data Workshop (02/11)
- MRIP Recreational Data Timeliness workshop (03/11)
- MRIP/MRFSS Catch Estimate Re-estimation Workshop (03/11)
 - *Re-estimated historical recreational catch data* (06/11)
- Recreational Barotrauma workshop (03/11)





Additional Headway



- Improvements to the National Catch Shares Policy
- Championed recreational fisheries in interagency National Oceans Policy process.
- Incorporated Recreational Policy Advisor into FMC appointment process
- Expedited 2010 South Atlantic red snapper assessment update in response to angler concerns (allowed for elimination of proposed closed area)
- Strategy to engage the FMCs & constituents on quota allocation
- Initiated efforts to identify and expand flexibility in implementation of National Standard 1 (ACL issue).



Next Ports of Call



- Recreational Fisheries Year in Review *05/18/11*
- Recreational Expenditure field surveys *Ongoing*
- Recreational Economic Gap Analysis & Workshop *Summer/Fall 2011*
- Regional Recreational Action Plans *Summer 2011*
- Catch estimates using new methodology *Summer 2011*
- Recommendations to improve data timeliness *Summer 2011*



FishSmart Barotrauma Workshop March 14-17, 2011

Goals

- *Identify best practices and equipment* for use by anglers to increase the survival of angler-sought saltwater fishes
- *Develop outline for messages* directed to anglers to employ in their interaction with saltwater species
- *Provide guidance* to management bodies, and
- *Identify gaps in the current state of knowledge* in need of additional research efforts/funding



Barotrauma Workshop cont.

Topics:

- Avoidance: Management techniques and fishing techniques designed to prevent encounters of unwanted species/sizes
- Size: Effect of catching various sizes of fish on stock sustainability
- Venting *and* Decompression/Recompression: Techniques and appropriate uses
- Fish Friendly Tackle: Techniques and gear for releasing fish



Barotrauma Workshop Findings

- Guidelines for releasing recreationally caught marine fishes
- Guidelines specific to Saltwater recreational fish caught in deep water
- Recommendations for regulatory agencies
- Gaps in the current state of knowledge



Thanks for your attention!

Questions?

Comments?



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BACK-UP SLIDES



Next Ports of Call



- Improved Recreational Fishing Opportunities
 - Identify and implement flexibility in Annual Catch Limits
 - Continue to engage FMCs & constituents on allocation of fishery resources
 - Seek opportunities to strengthen angler involvement with the National Sanctuaries Program
 - Continue to work to reduce recreationally induced bycatch mortality
 - Habitat improvements for recreationally important species
- Improved Recreational Catch, Effort and Status Data
 - Continue MRIP implementation
 - Increased number of stock assessments in S.E. Atlantic and GOM



Ports of Call cont.



- Improved Socio-Economic Information
 - 2011 Marine Recreational Expenditure Survey
 - Socio-economic data gap analysis and workshops
- Improved Communications
 - Continue to engage with recreational fishermen on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
 - New recreational fisheries webpage
- Institutional Orientation and Planning
 - Release of regional (including Atlantic HMS) recreational action agendas
 - Host a symposium on managing recreational fisheries at the 2011 American Fisheries Society meeting