

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting, San Diego, CA
April 28-30, 2015

1. Title of Discussion: National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Policy, Its Implementation, and West Coast Challenges

2. Presenters: Russell Dunn, National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries
Craig Heberer, Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, West Coast Region

3. Objective/Purpose: **Informational**

The purpose is to provide an update since the last meeting: finalization and release of the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy and National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plan, and to highlight activities specific to southwest coast recreational fisheries.

4. Background/Synopsis:

On February 12th, 2015, NOAA Fisheries released a new National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy, which was developed with input from MAFAC, recreational fishing and boating communities, conservation organizations, and managers across the nation. NOAA Fisheries then committed to develop a specific action plan within 60 days, and this was achieved. On April 13th, NOAA Fisheries released the 2015-2018 National Implementation Plan. This Implementation Plan is organized around the six guiding principles in the policy.

The policy and the implementation plan are the outcome of a process that began with the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit in 2014. NOAA Fisheries has conducted a series of important actions to connect with fishermen and better address the needs of the recreational fishing community including: hosting two national recreational fisheries summits expanding other outreach activities, implementing national and regional recreational fisheries action agendas, and improving recreational catch and effort data through the Marine Recreational Information Program.

Along the West Coast, there are a number of active recreational issues and activities which will be discussed. These include (1) bluefin tuna sportfishing regulations and U.S.-Mexico implications; 2) rockfish barotrauma/descender device use and management implications; 3) sea lion depredation and non-lethal deterrence; and 4) commercial sardine closure and live bait fishery dynamics.

5. Options listed from 1 to n: NA

6. Preferred Recommendation: NA

Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: