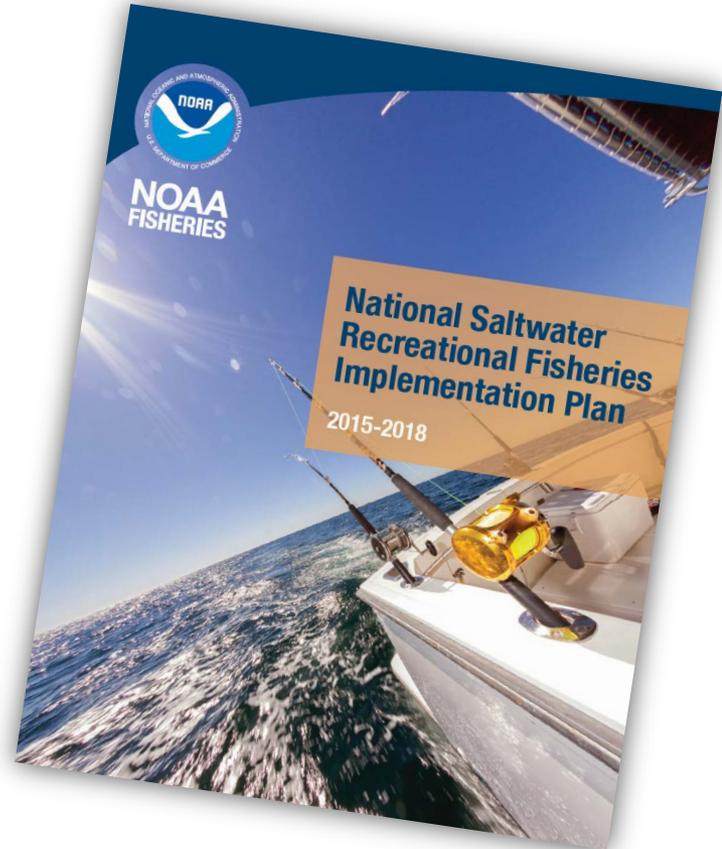
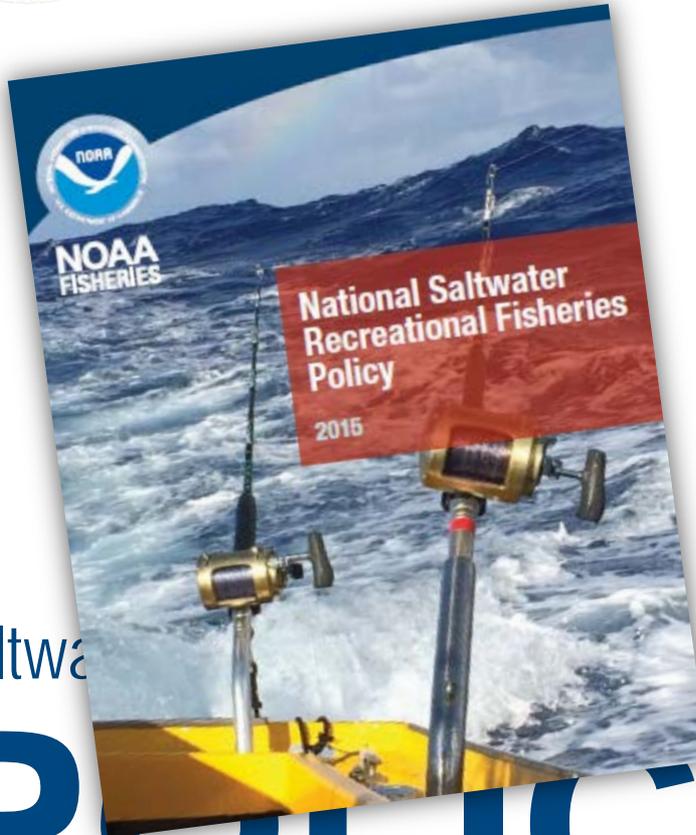


WAYPOINTS: National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy and Implementation Plan



Saltwater Fisheries

POLICY

MAFAC, April 2015

Agenda

- National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
 - Background
 - Policy Goals
 - Guiding Principles
- Implementation Plan
- Next Steps
- Additional Highlights

Background

- **Morris-Deal Commission Report** (February 2014)
- **National Saltwater Angling Summit** (April 2014)
 - **NMFS commitment to develop RecFish policy**
- **Scoping / drafting** (June – October 2014)
- **Public comment on draft** (November – December 2014)
- **Release of final policy** (February 2015)

A grayscale photograph of a boat's deck. In the foreground, a searchlight is mounted on a pole, and a lifebuoy is visible. The background shows the ocean with white-capped waves under a clear sky. A dark blue horizontal bar is overlaid at the top of the image, containing white text.

It is the policy of NMFS to:

"...foster, support, and enhance a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater Recreational fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation."

Policy Goals

1. Support and maintain sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries resources
2. Promote saltwater recreational fishing for the benefit of the nation
3. Enable enduring participation in saltwater recreational fishing through science-based conservation and management

Guiding Principles

1. Support ecosystem conservation and enhancement

- Restoration, conservation, enhancement of habitat
- Best practices

2. Promote public access to quality recreational fishing opportunities

- Expand fishing opportunities based on conservation gains
- Recurring evaluation of allocations

Guiding Principles

3. Coordinate with state and federal management entities

- Align program goals and implementation strategies
- Identify areas for collaboration

4. Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges

- Cutting edge tools
- Management approaches to better accommodate recreational fisheries

Principles cont.

5. Provide scientifically sound and trusted social, cultural, economic, and ecological information

- Partner with external interests; engage in cooperative research
- NRC Review of MRIP

6. Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public

- Plain language communications
- Expand regional engagement

Implementation Plan

- 60 day commitment
 - **ACHIEVED**-- April 13th, 2015
- Four year timeframe
- Built around Policy's Guiding Principles
 - Identifies 50+ actions

Next Steps

- Regional implementation plans (2016)
- Status update (2017)



Questions?
Comments?
Suggestions?

Thank you

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