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Recreational Fisheries Discussion

Regional Fishery Management Council Training
October 22-24, 2013



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Discussion Outline

- Community Description & Perspective
- Recreational Fisheries Management Tools
- Recreational Engagement Initiative Overview
- Recent Activity in Data Improvement
- Looking Forward



Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

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Purpose

“...to **promote** domestic commercial and **recreational fishing** under sound conservation and management principles.”



Recreational Fisheries &
Community



Diversity of Recreational Fisheries

Sub-tropical waters

- Billfishes
- Snappers
- Wahoo
- Sharks
- Groupers
- Mackerel
- Tunas
- Drums & Grunts
- Sea bass

Temperate waters

- Cod & Haddock
- Flounders
- Sea bass
- Tunas
- Rockfish
- Mackerel
- Bluefish
- Drums
- Salmon

Sub-arctic waters

- Pacific Salmon
- Rockfishes
- Pacific Halibut
- Lingcod

Recreational Fishing *Community and Constituency*





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Recreational Fishing Statistics (2011)

70 million trips

455,000
jobs supported

\$102
billion in
sales &
value added
impacts

11
million
anglers

More than just an enjoyable way to spend time with friends
and family...



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Managing Recreational & Commercial Fishing

What's the big difference?

Priorities

Commercial

- Profit
- Efficiency

Recreational

- Opportunity
- Access
- Outdoor Experience



Many recreational issues often relate to concerns over limits on **OPPORTUNITY & ACCESS**

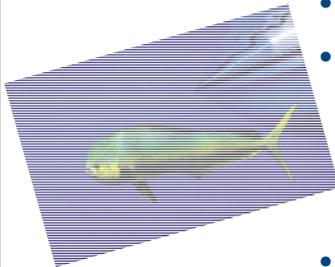
- Quota Allocation
- Annual Catch Limits
- Catch Shares
- Timely and accurate data
- Marine Protected Areas
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

A large school of blue fish, likely blue snappers, swimming in clear blue water. The fish are densely packed and moving in the same direction, creating a sense of motion and abundance. The background is a gradient of light blue to white.

Tools for Managing Recreational Fisheries



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Management Toolbox

Primary Tools

- Quota allocation and annual catch limits
- Seasonal fishery openings/closures
- Area closures
- Possession limits by species and/or species complex
 - Number of fish per angler/vessel/trip/day
 - Species prohibitions (e.g., great white sharks)
- Size limits by species
 - Minimum and/or maximum sizes and slot limits



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Management Toolbox (continued)

Secondary Tools

Gear restrictions

- Gear prohibitions (e.g., nets, fish traps, etc.)
- Gear requirements (e.g., circle hooks, release gears)

Tertiary Tools

Practices

- Venting requirements
- Prohibition on removal from the water
- Release in a manner that maximizes probability of survival
- Landing condition to facilitate species identification (e.g., *heads/tails intact*)
- Restrictions on sale/purchase

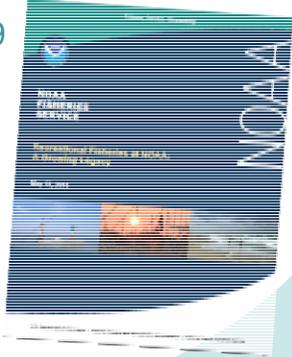


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NOAA's Commitment to Anglers

NOAA embarked on a Recreational Fisheries Engagement Initiative in 2009 to establish a strong and trusting partnership with the community by:

- Listening to anglers (National Summit & Regional Outreach)
- Developing National and Regional Action Agendas to address priority issues
- Following through on commitments
- Empowering anglers as responsible stewards and resource users



The cover of the report features the NOAA logo, the title "NOAA RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE", and a photograph of a boat at night with its lights on.



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Recreational Engagement Initiative Highlights

- Improved Fishing Opportunities
 - Barotrauma workshops
- Improved Recreational Catch and Effort Data
 - Marine Recreational Information Program
- Improved Socio-Economic Data
 - Saltwater Angler Expenditures
 - Socio-economic data gap analysis
- Improved Communication
 - National and Regional recreational fisheries websites
 - Regional recreational coordinator network created
- Institutional Orientation
 - Visibility of Recreational Fishing

DATA IMPROVEMENTS

- Catch & Effort
- Socio-economic



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Recreational Data *Catch & Effort*

NOAA Fisheries provides two estimates of recreational fishing activity:

Catch: the number, species and size of fish caught.

Effort: the number of fishing trips taken during a particular reporting period.

Detailed descriptions of survey methods and catch estimates can be found at:
www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov



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Importance of Data Quality

If we over-estimate harvest...

Lower Catch Limits
Fewer fishing opportunities

If we under-estimate harvest...

Overfishing
Less Fish to Catch



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

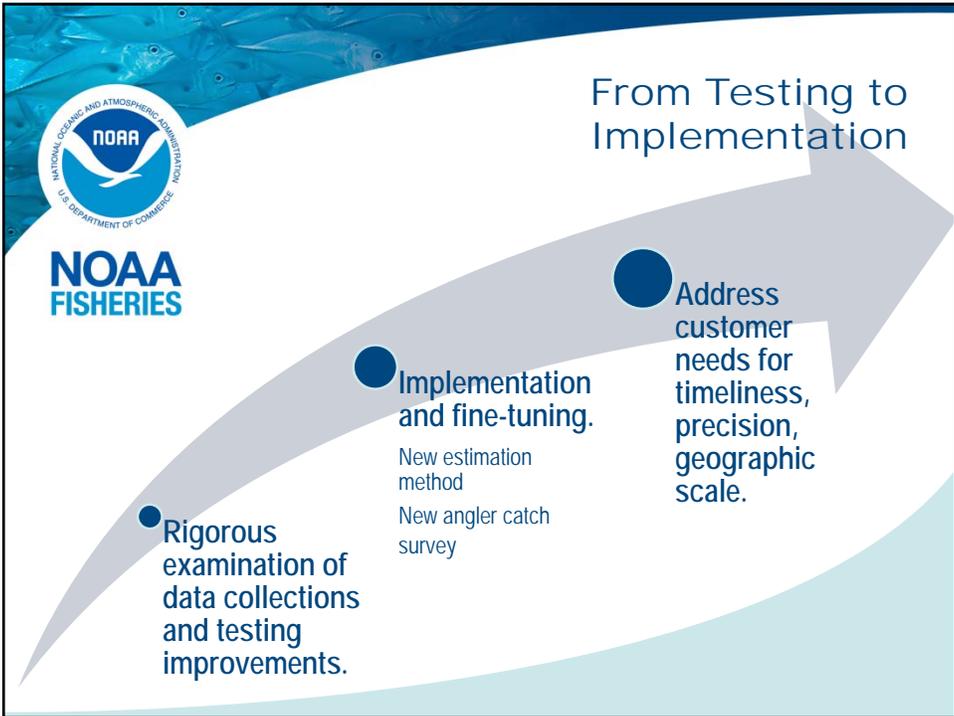
The Marine Recreational Information Program

NOAA FISHERIES The new way we're collecting and reporting recreational fishing catch and effort data.



MRIP plays a critical role in sustainably managing our ocean resources by providing estimates of fishing activity that are both **accurate** and **trusted**.

Find out how at www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov.



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From Testing to Implementation

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- Rigorous examination of data collections and testing improvements.**
- Implementation and fine-tuning.**
 New estimation method
 New angler catch survey
- Address customer needs for timeliness, precision, geographic scale.**



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Dynamic and constantly evolving

Ongoing work includes:

- New methods to replace telephone effort surveys.
- Alternatives for collecting and reporting data from the for-hire sector.
- New and improved survey methods for the Pacific coast, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Methods to ensure we're accurately capturing HMS activity.
- Evaluating new electronic reporting technologies.

As changes are made, we'll work with managers, scientists and anglers to best integrate new information into stock assessments and management.



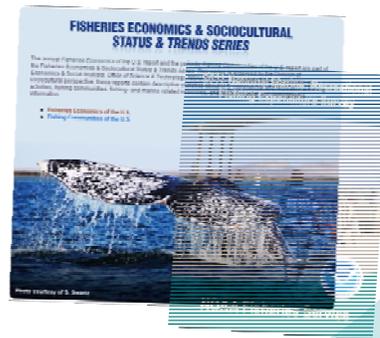
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Recreational Data *Socio-economics*

Ongoing Related Work

Data for decision-making

- Nationwide Angler Expenditure Survey
- National Angler Perceptions and Motivations Survey



More information and to learn about economic resources you can use, check us out online at:
www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5



Angler Perception Survey Key Findings

1. Anglers are optimistic about the future.
2. Anglers fish for a variety of reasons.
3. Anglers prefer management that protects access and opportunity.
4. Anglers would like management to improve.
5. Anglers possess a strong conservation ethic.

A large school of blue fish swimming in the water, filling the background of the slide.

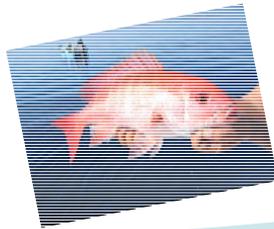
Looking Forward



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On the Horizon in 2014

- Recreational economics workshop (Winter/Spring 2014)
- 2014 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit (April 2014)
- Next generation national recreational action agenda (Fall FY2015)



Questions ?

Our Website:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/>