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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



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# Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

## *Purpose*

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

A large school of fish, likely bluefish, swimming in clear blue water. The fish are densely packed and moving in a coordinated pattern. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue gradient that curves across the bottom right corner. The title text is centered in the upper half of the image.

# Recreational Fisheries & Community



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## 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*



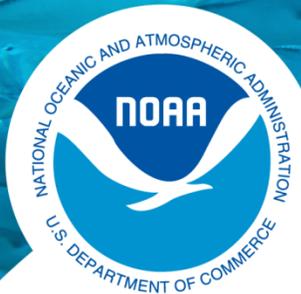
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## Many recreational issues often relate to concerns over limits on **OPPORTUNITY & ACCESS**

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



# Tools for Managing Recreational Fisheries

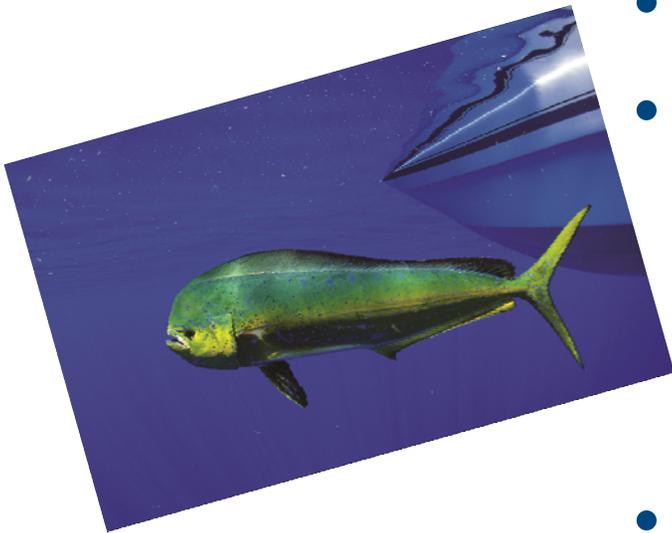


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# Management Toolbox

## 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



# Management Toolbox (continued)



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## **Secondary Tools** ***Gear restrictions***

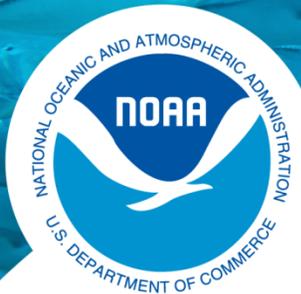
- Gear prohibitions (e.g., nets, fish traps, etc.)
- Gear requirements (e.g., circle hooks, release gears)

## ***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



# NOAA's Commitment

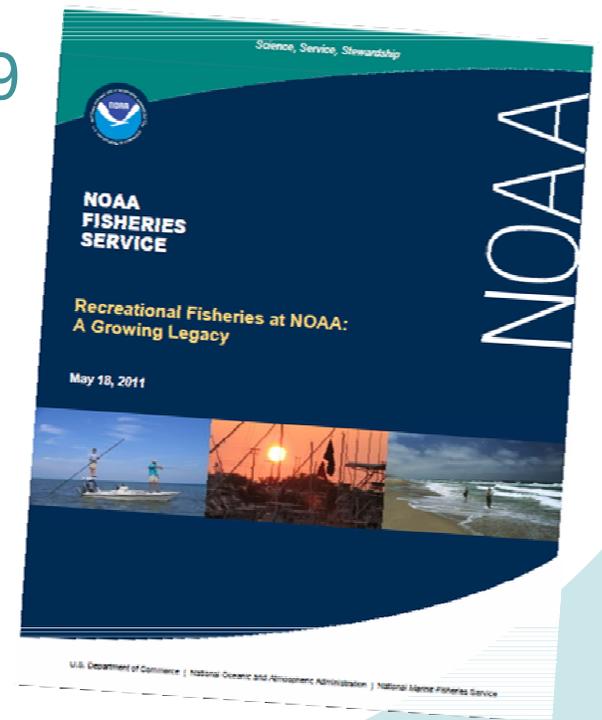


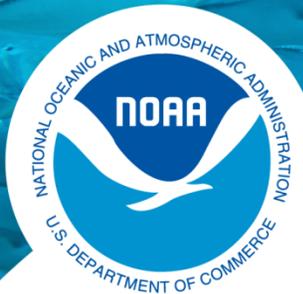
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## NOAA's Commitment to Anglers

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





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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*

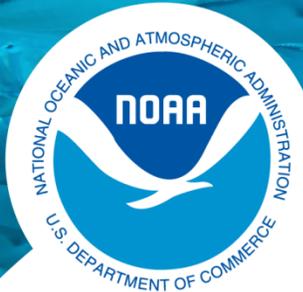
NOAA Fisheries provides two estimates of recreational fishing activity:

**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](http://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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# The Marine Recreational Information Program

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](http://www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov).



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# From Testing to Implementation

● **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.



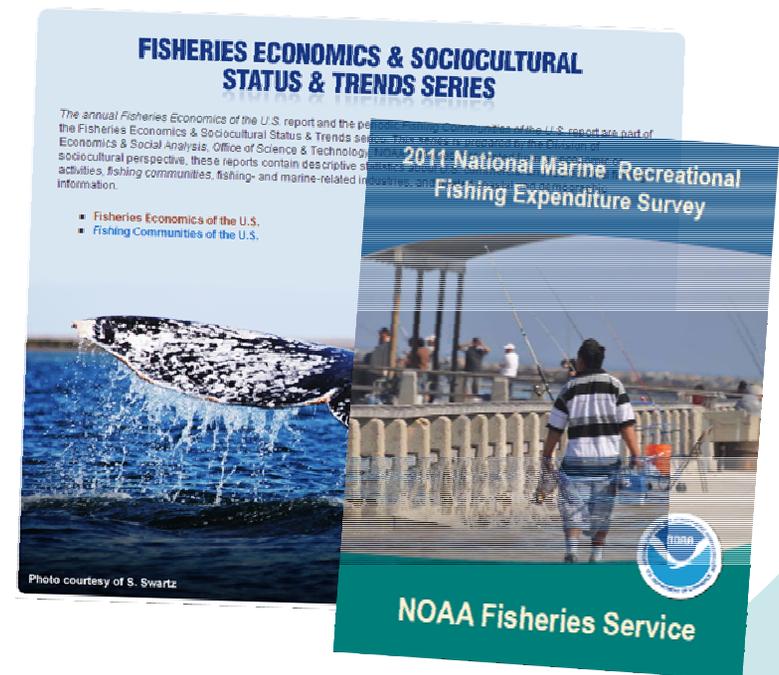
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## Ongoing Related Work

Data for decision-making

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

# Recreational Data *Socio-economics*



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

# Angler Perception Survey Key Findings



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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 fish, likely mackerel, swimming in the ocean. The fish are densely packed and moving in a coordinated pattern. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue circular shape that frames the text. The text "Looking Forward" is written in a white, sans-serif font, centered within the blue circle.

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/>