

Science, Service, Stewardship



Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Recreational Fisheries Action Plan

Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel
April 5-7, 2011

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Background/Overview



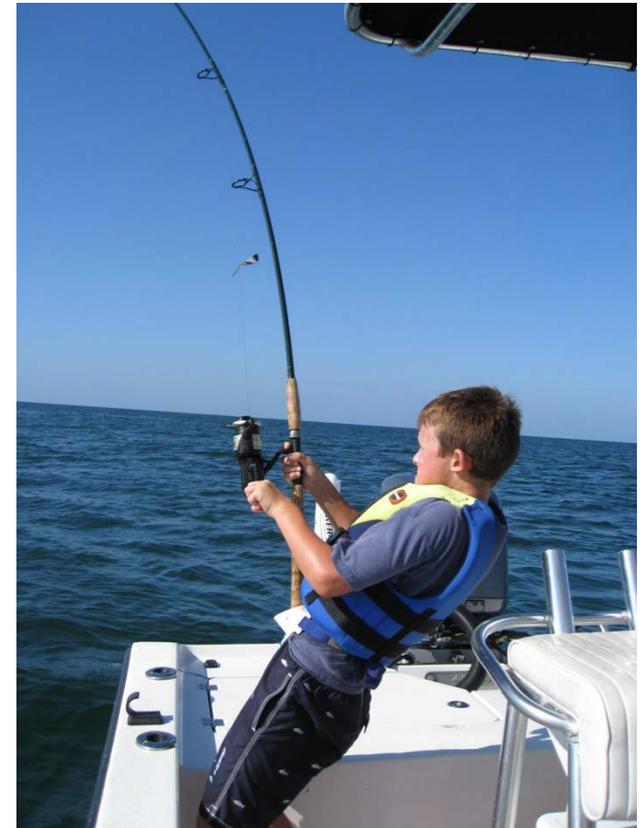
NOAA Recreational Engagement Initiative (Sept. 2009):

- Regional Recreational Coordinators (Nov. 2009)
- MAFAC Recreational Fisheries Working Group (April 2010)
- National Recreational Policy Advisor (April 2010)
- Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit (April 2010)
- National Recreational Saltwater Fishing Action Agenda (Oct. 2010)



Recent Activities

- MRIP Annual Catch Limit Workshop (February 2011)
- MRIP Recreational Data Timeliness workshop (March 2011)
- MRIP Estimation Methodology implemented (January 2011)
- MRIP/MRFSS Catch Estimate Re-estimation Workshop (March 2011)
- Recreational Barotrauma workshop (March 2011)

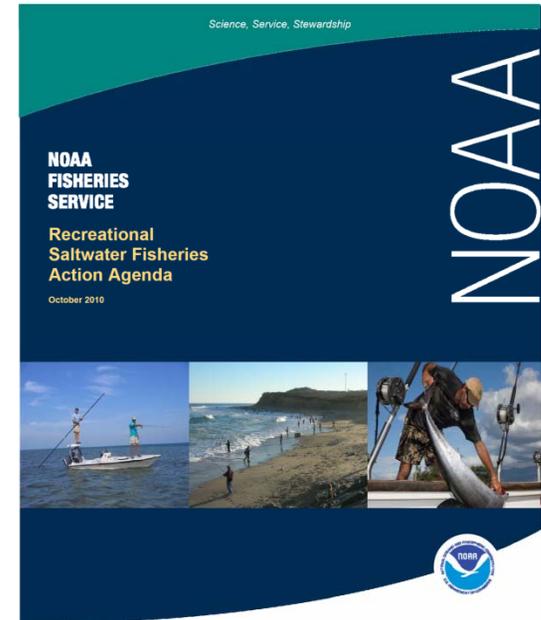




Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Action Agenda

Five overarching goals w/tangible objectives:

- Improved recreational fishing opportunities
- Improved recreational catch, effort, and status data
- Improved social and economic data
- Improved communications
- Institutional orientation
 - Develop regional action agendas reflecting local priorities





Where Do We Stand?

- Multiple HMS Management Division and MRIP projects that fit within the goals of National Action Agenda.
- Others may be needed to develop an HMS specific Recreational Action Agenda.





Goal 1 – Improved Recreational Fishing Opportunities

- Rebuilding of North Atlantic swordfish – healthy stock increases availability for recreational & commercial interests
- Bluefin tuna subquota management provides fishing opportunities for anglers across regions through modifications in size and retention limits
- Blue and white marlin 250 limit – structured to allow continuing opportunities for anglers across regions
- Roundscale spearfish – inclusion in Atlantic HMS management unit with management measure identical to white marlin; fishery able to continue as it has been



Goal 2 – Improved Recreational Catch, Effort, and Status Data

- Tournament and non-tournament reporting – ongoing
- Tournament registration ongoing – ongoing
- Billfish/Swordfish internet & phone reporting – ongoing
- Cooperative research efforts in South Florida recreational fishery for swordfish
- Improving the timeliness of bluefin tuna landing reports and estimates
- Additional funding for assessment work, including ICCAT species



Goal 2 – Improved Recreational Catch, Effort, and Status Data

MRIP HMS Related Actions & Projects:

- National Angler Registry exemption for Atlantic HMS rec. permitted anglers
- HMS For-Hire Survey – Florida Pilot Study (final report ~April 2011)
- Catch card pilot program in Puerto Rico (billfish) – ongoing
- Massachusetts Recreational Bluefin Tuna Landings Census Pilot
 - Phase I - Design and Testing (awaits funding decision for 2011)
- Testing for Non-response Bias in the Large Pelagics Telephone Survey (awaits funding decision for 2011)
- For-hire electronic logbook studies in Puerto Rico and Gulf of Mexico



Goal 3 – Improved Social and Economic Data on Recreational Fisheries

Updates of social and economic data are needed across all components of U.S. recreational fisheries

- 2011 Marine Recreational Expenditure Survey
- For-hire Cost & Earnings Survey Mid-Atlantic & New England (data collection through Sept. 2010)
- Decennial Economic Survey of for-hire boats in the Southeast U.S. (data collection completed)





Goal 4 – Improved Communication



- Regular Advisory Panel Involvement
- HMS News
- Careful Catch and Release Brochure – developed in response to AP member comments
- Attendance at boat shows and recreational or species-specific shows
- Work with press outlets to address specific issues such as regulations applying to kayak fishing
- Tournament registration list available on-line
- NMFS staff are available to answer questions and provide fishery expertise



Atlantic HMS Recreational Action Agenda

- **HMS AP discussion/input is integral to development** of the HMS plan to meet the fishery's needs.
- What needs do you see related to:
 - Improved recreational fishing opportunities
 - Improved recreational catch, effort, and status data
 - Improved social and economic data
 - Improved communications
 - Institutional orientation



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Possible Items/Actions for Consideration



Socio-Economic Data

- Ditton and Stoll 2003 remains the benchmark socio/economic study for the U.S. recreational billfish fishery
- Tuna fishery socio-economic data—especially YFT, albacore
- Information re: human dimensions of recreational fishing limited

Yellowfin & Albacore Tuna fishery

- More & Better Catch/Effort
- Understanding of fish migrations and how this affects availability

Blackfin tuna

- Currently no management—limited data collected

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Let's Hear YOUR Ideas

As the HMS Management Division develops the Atlantic
HMS Recreational Fisheries Action Plan...

We Need Your Input!

- Improved recreational fishing opportunities
- Improved recreational catch, effort, and status data
- Improved social and economic data
- Improved communications
- Institutional orientation

