

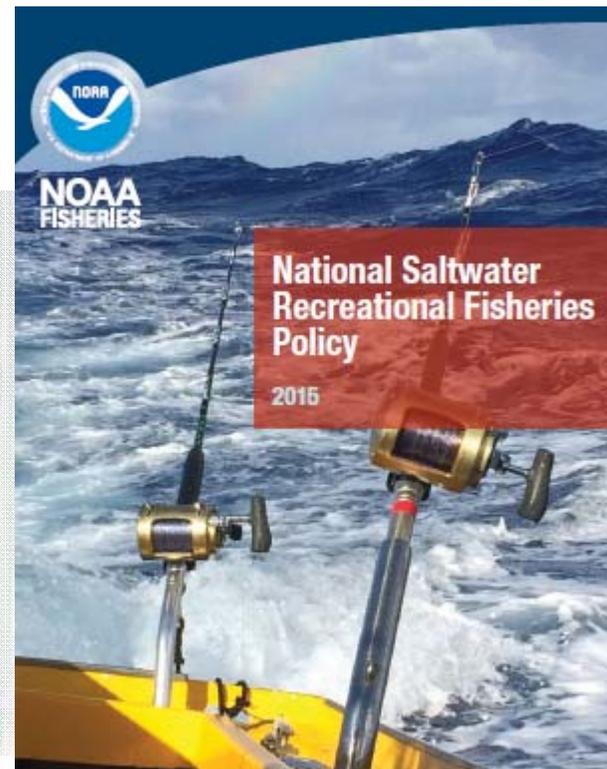


Saltwater Recreational Fisheries POLICY

Agenda

➤ National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

- Background
 - Policy Goals
 - Guiding Principles
 - 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)

The background of the slide is a photograph of a boat's deck. A searchlight is mounted on a pole, pointing towards the horizon. The ocean is visible in the distance, and the boat's structure is in the foreground. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be read clearly.

Why develop a policy?

1. Institutionalize Agency commitment
2. Guide agency actions over the long-term
3. Foster accountability to recreational stakeholders



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 fishing 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

- Aligning program goals and implementation strategies

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

- Cutting edge tools
- Management approaches which may better accommodate recreational fisheries

Principles cont.

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

- Partnering with external interests; engaging in cooperative research

6. Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public

- Plain language communications
- Expanded regional engagement

Next Step: Implementation

- National implementation plan (April 2015)
- Regional implementation plans (2016)
- Status update (2017)

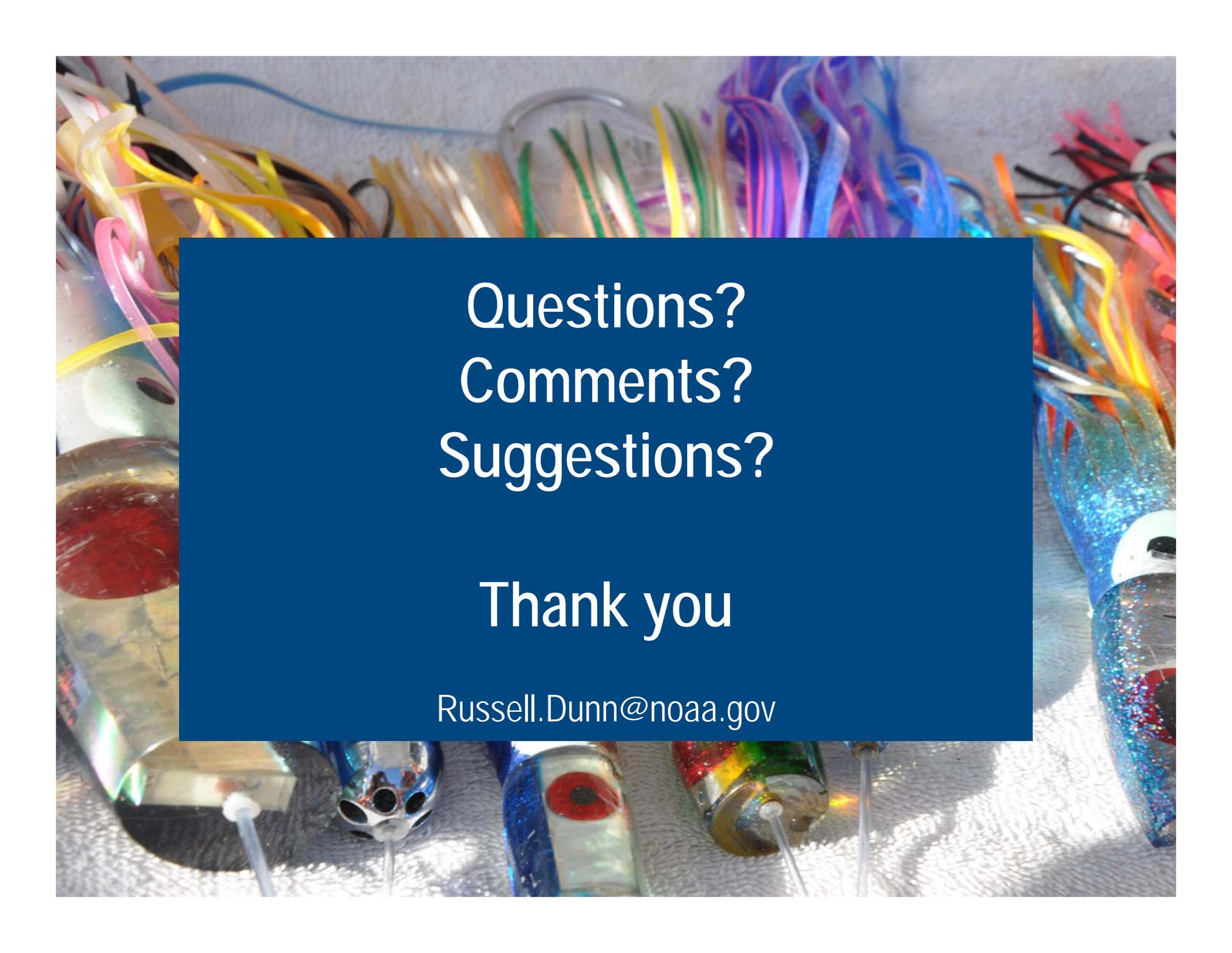
Recent Highlights

Competitive Grant Programs

- Saltonstall-Kennedy funding availability

Recreational Economic Information

- Bait and Tackle Shop Survey

The background of the slide features a collection of colorful streamers in shades of yellow, pink, blue, and purple, scattered across a white, textured surface. In the foreground, several clear glass bottles are visible, some of which are decorated with colorful streamers and have small white tubes protruding from their openings. The overall scene suggests a festive or celebratory event.

Questions?
Comments?
Suggestions?

Thank you

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Backup Slides