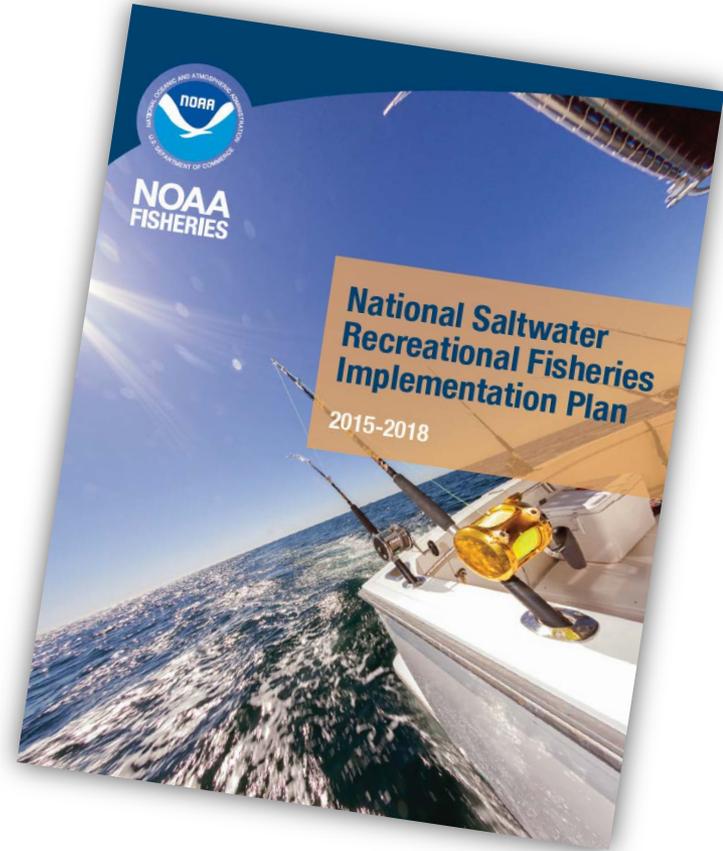
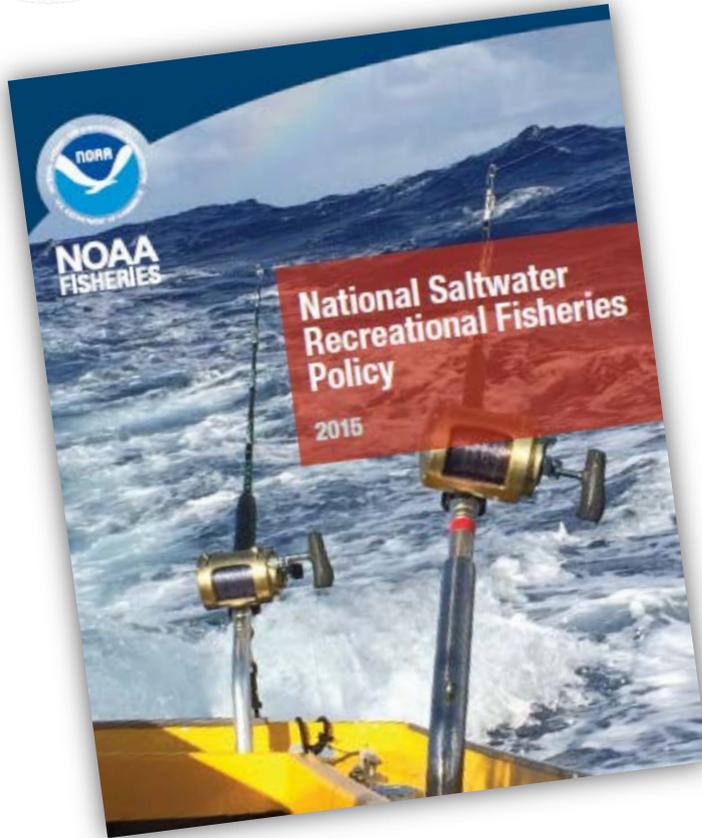




# WAYPOINTS: National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy and Implementation Plan



Council Coordinating Committee  
June 2015

# Agenda

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

# Background

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

A grayscale photograph of a boat's deck. In the foreground, a fish finder or electronic display is mounted on a vertical pole. To the left, a person is leaning over the side of the boat, looking down. The background shows the open ocean with waves. 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, including habitats
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
2. Promote public access to quality recreational fishing opportunities
3. Coordinate with state and federal management entities

# Guiding Principles

4. Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges
5. Provide scientifically sound and trusted social, cultural, economic, and ecological information
6. Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public

# Implementation Plan

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

# Implementation Plan

## Support ecosystem conservation and enhancement

- Advance adoption of release survival techniques and best practices
- Enhance public education & support partnerships, including angler-based control efforts, to address invasive species

## Promote public access to quality recreational fishing opportunities

- Support review of harvest allocations on a regular basis, including issuance of guidance developed w/CCC
- Collaborate w/Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to ID and highlight recreational fishing opportunities

# Implementation Plan

## Coordinate with state and federal management entities

- Undertake joint state-federal angler education projects to improve understanding of fisheries regulations
- Establish regular dialogue with U.S.F.W.S. to ID mutual priorities and partnership opportunities

## Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges

- Develop & implement a Bio-economic Length Structured Angler Simulation Tool (BLAST) to assess effects of management actions
- Conduct acoustic tagging and telemetry studies to better understand commonly targeted recreational species

# Implementation Plan

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

- Initiate Natural Research Council review of MRIP
- Develop a national strategic plan to guide socio-economic research on recreational fisheries

Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public

- Work with stakeholder groups to host roundtable discussions
- Maintain open lines of communications and “no surprises” approach

# Next Steps

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

A festive background image featuring a large pile of colorful streamers in shades of yellow, pink, blue, and purple. In the foreground, several water balloons are visible, some containing colored liquids like red and blue. The scene is set on a white, textured surface.

Questions?  
Comments?

Thank you

[Russell.Dunn@noaa.gov](mailto:Russell.Dunn@noaa.gov)