

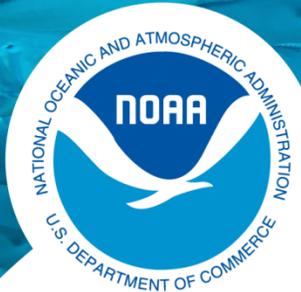


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Recreational Fisheries Discussion

Regional Fishery Management Council Training

October 28-30, 2014



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Discussion Outline

- Community Description & Perspective
- Recreational Fisheries Management Tools
- Recreational Engagement Initiative Overview
- National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
- 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.”



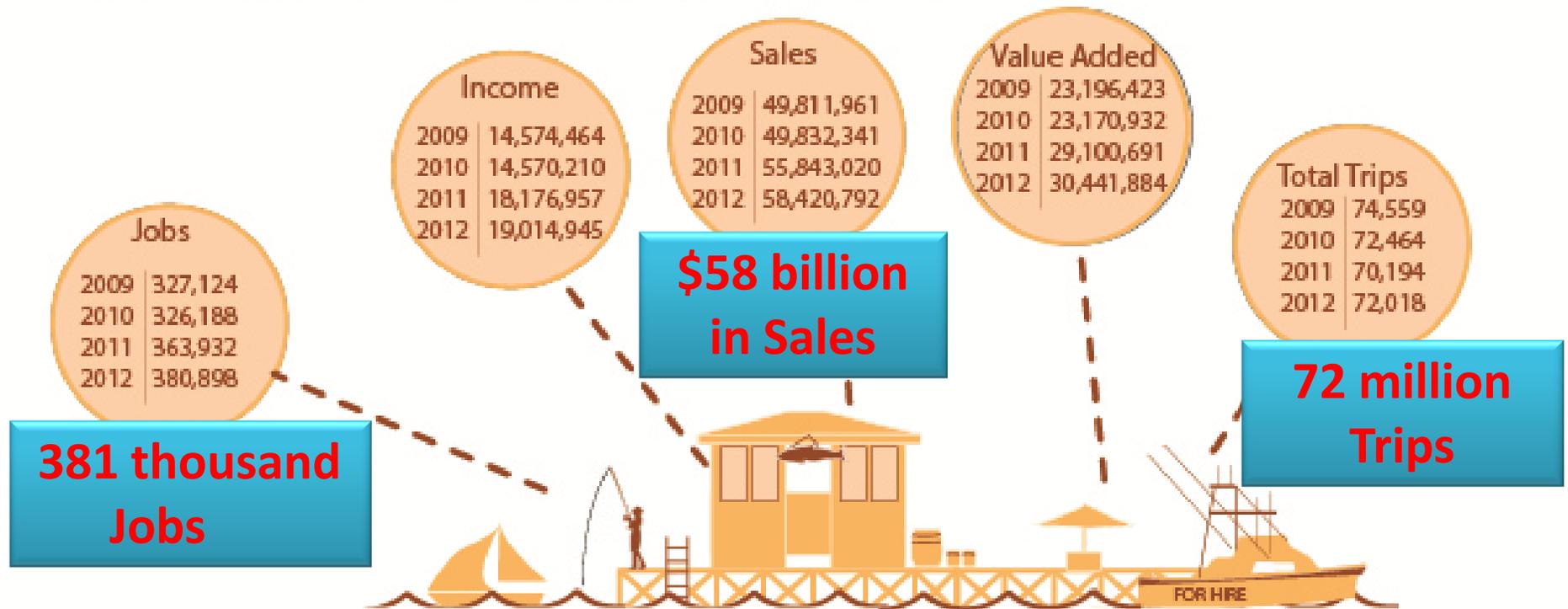
Recreational Fisheries & Community

Recreational Fishing Community and Constituency



2012 Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Economic Impacts

Recreational Fisheries Economic Impact Trends for the United States (thousands of dollars and trips)





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Managing Recreational & Commercial Fishing

What's the big difference?

Priorities

Commercial

- *Profit*
- *Efficiency*

Recreational

- *Opportunity*
- *Access*
- *Outdoor Experience*



Tools for Managing Recreational Fisheries

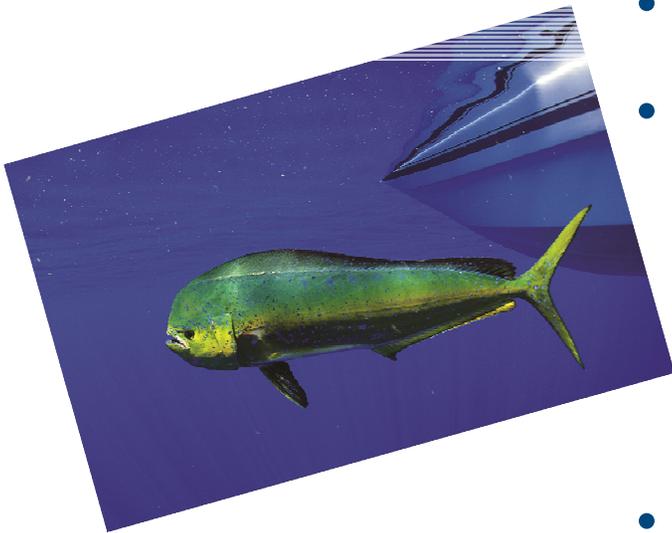


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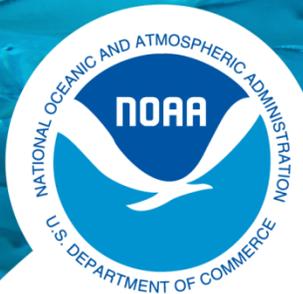
Management Toolbox

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

- 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

NOAA's Commitment to Anglers

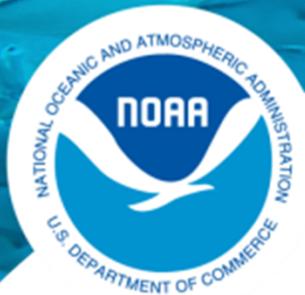


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United States

Establish a strong and trusting
partnership with the recreational
fishing community through action

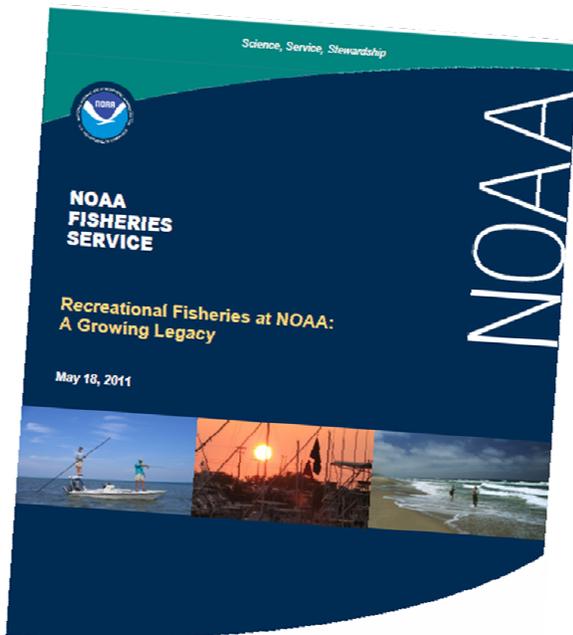




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Engagement Initiative Themes 2010-2014

- Fishing Opportunities
- Recreational Catch and Effort Data
- Socio-economic data
- Communication
- Institutional Orientation





Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit

(April 1-2, Alexandria, VA)

Goal: Identify priority saltwater recreational fishing community issues and collaborative solutions

Objectives:

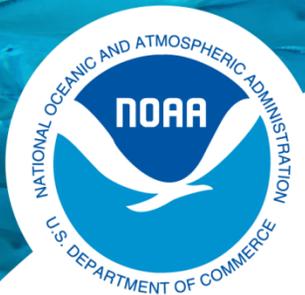
- Information to develop road-map for action
- Open lines of communication

Outcomes:

- Commitment to develop a National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
- A second National Action Agenda



National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy



We are developing a policy to:

- 1. Institutionalize our commitment.**
- 2. Guide agency actions over the long-term.**
- 3. Help ensure we remain accountable to our recreational stakeholders.**



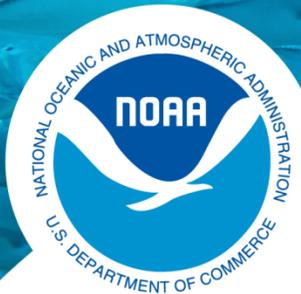


Draft Themes of the Policy

- **Promoting Access**
- **Open and transparent communication**
- **Ecosystem conservation and enhancement**
- **Fed-State partnership**
- **Supporting Innovation**
- **Providing credible, always improving data**

A large school of fish, likely bluefish, swimming in the water. The fish are densely packed and moving in a coordinated pattern. The water is a deep blue color. The text "Recreational Data" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Recreational Data



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Recreational Data *Catch & Effort*

Most recreational catch data is estimated from data collected in surveys that sample fishing activity in two phases:

Catch rate: the **number** of fish caught **per trip** (by species, state, mode of fishing, etc).

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

Total Catch = # caught per trip X # of trips

Detailed descriptions of survey methods and catch estimates can be found at:

www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov



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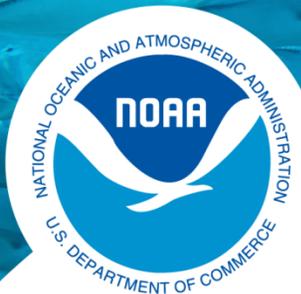
Importance of Data Quality

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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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.



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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, special needs fisheries.**



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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 methods to collect more timely and precise estimates for pulse and rare event fisheries, such as red snapper, including use of electronic reporting technologies.

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

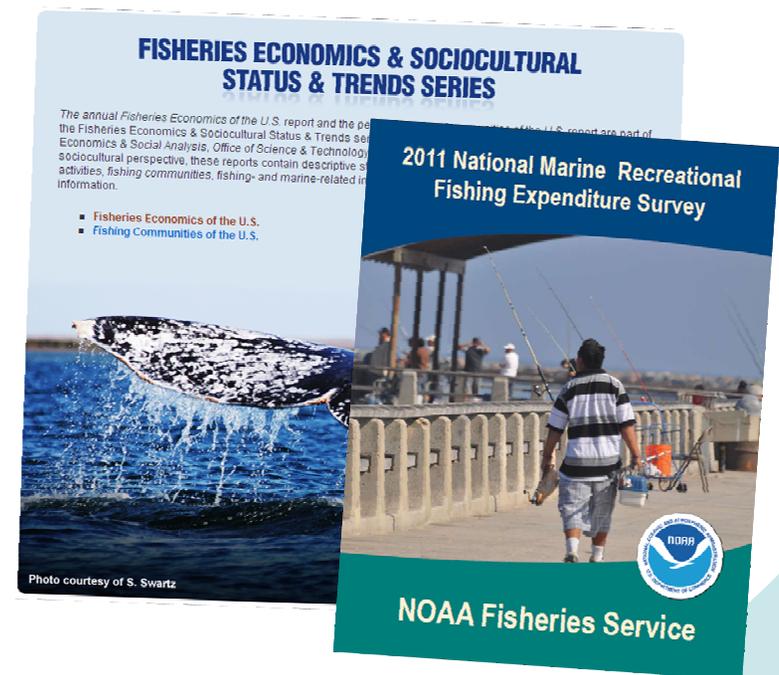


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Data for decision-making

- Nationwide Angler Expenditure Survey
- National Angler Perceptions and Motivations Survey
- National Bait & Tackle economic 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

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 bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within the blue circle.

Looking Forward



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On the Horizon in 2015

- **National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy (Draft- fall 2014; Final- Winter 2015)**
- **Next generation national recreational action agenda (Winter 2015)**





Questions ?

Our Website:

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