

Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Town Hall
August 12, 2014

Input on Scope:

- A great guideline for public to evaluate is to have a list of all of the definitions by each state/territory on how each defines recreational fishing
- Believe recreational fishermen should not sell, it's to have fun and enjoy the fishing.
- Charter boats participate with the recreational fishermen/constituents to keep that romantic definition to recreational – enjoy fishing, bring some fish home to cook with the family.
- Charter boats behave like commercial fishermen, every decision I make is to make a profit.

Input on draft goals:

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, diverse, and high quality recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
 - a. Management
 - In terms of abundance in Caribbean, it depends and flips between USVI and Puerto Rico. Folks here in general want plate size fish.
 - b. Conservation and Enhancement
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal marine fisheries management system.
3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.
 - Reinforce that participants should produce science/data too – cooperative research. This should be part of the policy.
 - Where do we consider obligation of submitting landings data? The agency should start to require this.
 - Meeting with anglers more, go to the tackle shops, tournaments – good example for sport fishermen.
 - Work through local newspapers and the radio
4. Enhance transparency, follow-through, and continuity of action.

Other Issues:

- Consider and appreciate the unique value charter fishermen can have in terms of data collection and the quality of data they can collect on recreational fish.
- We don't want the policy to restrict our ability to collaborate.
- Happy to see the policy goals-right where we fit in.
- NOAA should account for different levels of expertise (especially with data collection), e.g. species identification.
- Remember translations – translate current documents online now and in the future.