

* stated by more than one constituent

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Town Hall
June 11, 2014**

Input on Scope:

- Catch & release?
- Include the word culture; maintaining fishing culture is important
- Sport-diver fishery should be included
- Sale of fish is not recreational, it is commercial
- Low income fishermen should be considered in the policy
- View recreational fishing as the sum of its components, but recognize the needs of each component
- Work through private/for-hire differences in the policy
- Policy should encourage fishery management to be more child-friendly; encourage children to go fishing.

Input on draft goals:

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, diverse, and high quality recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
 - a. Management
 - Provide guidance on how to use economic numbers to reach MSY
 - Fair and reasonable access to the resource for anglers
 - Allocation/re-allocation should be addressed
 - Accountability of the recreational sector
 - Stability is necessary to maintain participation
 - b. Conservation and Enhancement
 - Have the policy promote a higher level of fish abundance
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal marine fisheries management system.
 - There should be recreational and commercial fishing parity, including with regard to funding
 - Stronger regional support is needed
 - Raise the visibility of recreation in the National Ocean Policy CMSP discussions
3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.
 - Lack of trust (in data) leads to angler apathy
 - Encourage youth involvement- perhaps kids can keep fish that adults can't?
 - Community grants can foster engagement and partnership

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4. Enhance transparency, follow-through, and continuity of action.
 - More inclusive data review, to include advisory panels

Other Issues:

- Address the adequacy of data
- Have a science and data goal
- Include economics in the goals
- The policy should hold the weight of the National Standards in management- the policy should be equal in power.
- Replace/Revise/Corroborate (possibly using VTRs) MRIP- need wave 1 sampling, and e-reporting on phones
- There should be parity between commercial and recreational data.