

National Webinar
Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Town Hall
July 9, 2014

Input on Scope:

- Add more specificity i.e , include categories like reef fish, charter boat
- Policy should cover more than just recreational fishing, expand to ecotourism activities like “fish watching”
- Add a science and data goal

Input on draft goals:

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, diverse, and high quality recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them. a. Management

- Let the states manage more fisheries currently managed under the Federal management process
- Greater access and opportunity to the resource that have been rebuilt or rebuilding should be available
- Stability is essential for successful recreational fisheries
- Consistency among states would simplify and facilitate compliance
- Need to explicitly discuss trust
- Move away from quota based management to fishing mortality based management

b. Conservation and Enhancement

- No specific input received

2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal marine fisheries management system.

- Federal regulations should be consistent with the States’ regulations

3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.

- The Policy should be coordinated with other state and federal policies
- Lack of trust (agency and data collection) leads to angler apathy
- Adequate representation of recreational interests is needed on the Regional Fishery Management Councils
- Provide funding for release mortality based research at the NOAA Fisheries science centers
- Engage in more cooperative research

4. Enhance Transparency, follow-through, and continuity of action.

- Encourage federal councils to provide more timely assessments
- Explain why particular fishery management actions are being considered/implemented
- Use plain language

Other Issues:

- Data is part of the problem, there is a difference in what data NOAA uses vs the data other experts use
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- Use the saltwater angler registry to improve data collection
- Policy should be flexible enough to allow for regional differences
- The policy should not advocate for sector separation or catch shares
- The policy needs to have teeth to be effective
- Develop real-time (self-reporting) data collection
- Hope policy leads to change
- Concern on how policy will affect
 1. How decisions are made within the National Standard Guidelines
 2. How NOAA determines budget for recreational fisheries management (ratio of govt. expenditure vs recreational fishing contribution to the National Economy.)
 3. Internal approval process when an action comes out of the council process