

National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Town Hall
Silver Spring, MD
July 24, 2014

Input on Scope:

- Fishing is culture in coastal communities, and it should be captured in the scope.
- Eco-tourism does not qualify as recreational fishing, and shouldn't be covered by the policy
- Recreational fishing doesn't include selling, trading, or bartering
- HMS general category permits complicate the sale of fish issue
- Non-commercial defines the community by what isn't commercial, rather than what the community is
- Non-commercial is vague

Input on draft goals:

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

a. Management

- Ensure management is data-driven

b. Conservation and Enhancement

- Include concept of "conservation return" to the recreational community

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

- Need better balance on the Fishery Management Councils

3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.

- More extensive and open outreach is needed
- All of this should be aiming at improved access for anglers

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

- There should be a recreational fisheries budget line

Other Issues:

- Data improvements are critical to moving forward
- Incorporate the idea of promoting recreational fishing into the policy