

New England Fishery Management Council
Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Town Hall
June 17, 2014

Input on Scope:

- Charter/for hire and private anglers are all recreational fishermen and shouldn't be broken into different groups, it will create strife
- Treat for-hire and private anglers as part of a larger recreational community, but try to tailor management to meet different needs of both
- If you sell fish, you are commercial- it is black and white
- Recreational is not equal to trivial either socially or economically
- There is a disconnect between how the public perceives who is a recreational fisherman and how managers define them
- The policy should include a statement on data/science

Input on draft goals:

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, diverse, and high quality recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
 - a. Management
 - Minimize the drastic changes in regulations for recreational anglers
 - The whip-saw effect of substantial regulatory changes within seasons and from season-to-season is hurting participation
 - Stability is important to successful management
 - There shouldn't be any in-season changes for recreational fisheries
 - Manage to the data available, rather than use insufficient data to manage recreational fisheries like commercial fisheries
 - Manage with tools that are appropriate to recreational fisheries. Annual catch limits do not work for recreational fisheries.
 - b. Conservation and Enhancement
 - A goal of management should be to have greater abundance. Abundance drives recreational fishing activity
 - Protect the forage base
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal marine fisheries management system.
 - There should be better private angler representation on the Fishery Management Councils
 - There should be cooperate research parity between commercial and recreational fisheries
3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.
 - Electronic reporting should be a step in continual improvement of data

- Enable NOAA Fisheries scientists to innovate
- Make it easier to do cooperative research by supplying (NMFS) scientific expertise for cooperative projects. Forcing anglers to find academic partners is difficult and stifles projects

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

Other Issues:

- With depleted abundance, coastal communities risk losing their destination fishing status
- Use fishing groups to get better data for management
- The Rec. Policy should be translated into action, including the National Standards, especially regarding how MSY is defined