



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Regional Recreational Fisheries Action Agenda

2014–2015

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service**



**NOAA
FISHERIES**



A Message from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

I am proud to present NOAA Fisheries' Regional Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Action Agendas for 2014–2015. These Action Agendas are the culmination of an important collaborative dialogue with recreational fisheries constituents and signify our continuing commitment to anglers. They were prepared by NOAA Fisheries staff in our Regional Offices and Science Centers and will be implemented for, with, and by people in your community.

Our vision for the future is thriving fish stocks, healthy fish habitats, vibrant coastal communities, and world-class fisheries. Achieving this goal requires a foundation of trust—built through sustained action—between NOAA and the recreational saltwater fishing community. In 2009, NOAA pledged to improve relations with the recreational fishing community and announced the Recreational Fisheries Engagement Initiative. We have now made many improvements and completed dozens of important projects in every region and nationally. Responding to the requests of fishermen, we created a new opportunity for angler input, by establishing recreational fisheries working group associated with the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, and we are improving recreational catch data through the Marine Recreational Information Program and socio-economic information through a number of surveys. We also are enhancing conservation by working with anglers to improve the survival of recreationally released fish. These updated Agendas build on our progress and put us on a path for continued success.

Our track record of measured, significant progress has helped us establish a firm foundation on which we can build as we turn our attention toward evolving issues. Looking forward, some of the issues and challenges we will face include: the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; continued implementation of improved methods for recreational data collection and reporting; and increased demand for fishing opportunities as coastal populations grow and oceans warm.

An open and honest dialogue with the recreational community is critical. As we head toward our next Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Summit, planned for April 1–2, 2014, we'll look for new opportunities to engage about the future of recreational saltwater fishing. As our budgets continue to be a challenge, partnership becomes even more critical. Please take a few minutes to review this document and share it with others in your community. Follow our progress through our e-newsletter FishNews and through regional recreational fisheries websites. I look forward to continuing the conversation and I will see you on the water.

Eileen Sobeck
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries



Background

The marine recreational and non-commercial fishing community is NOAA Fisheries' largest single constituency. In 2011 alone, an estimated 11 million anglers took 70 million fishing trips, which contributed roughly \$85 billion to the national economy in sales and valued added impacts and supported 364,000 jobs. Recognizing that partnership is the best approach to effectively address the interests of anglers, NOAA embarked on the Recreational Fisheries Engagement Initiative, in 2009. The goal of this focused effort was to establish a stronger and more trusting partnership with the recreational fishing community. To implement this Initiative, a National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries was appointed, and a National Recreational Fisheries team was created.

In 2010, NOAA Fisheries convened a National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit near Washington, DC, that gathered over 100 participants from all regions, representing a broad range of saltwater fishing backgrounds and experience. The direct result of the Summit was the development of a National Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Action Agenda.

The need for external engagement and input on recreational fisheries management and science at the regional scale was recognized, and hence the NOAA Fisheries Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinator Network was created. This team works in concert with a National Recreational Fisheries Team to help develop and implement the Engagement Initiative through national and regional action agendas. These agendas are aligned with five broad goals to improve recreational fisheries identified at the national Summit and outlined in NOAA's 2010 National Saltwater Action Agenda:

- Improved recreational fishing opportunities.
- Improved recreational catch, effort, and status data.
- Improved social and economic data on recreational fisheries.
- Improved communication.
- Improved institutional orientation.

Nearly four years have passed since the 2010 Summit and much has been accomplished. It is time to update the regional Action Agendas to reflect the evolving priorities of constituents and changing fishery conditions as stocks rebuild. Spring 2013 included many opportunities to work with anglers on developing the way forward and identify priorities for 2014 and 2015, such as the roundtable discussions hosted in each NOAA Fisheries region and the Managing Our Nation's Fisheries III Conference. Building on input from these events and others, the regional Action Agendas serve as public roadmaps detailing region specific priorities and objectives for addressing recreational fishing issues. The input obtained during the development of these documents will also be used to inform the focus of a planned April 2014 National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit.

Pacific Islands Region

Regional Overview

The Pacific Islands Region encompasses the largest geographical management area in the federal fishery management system, including all or part of three Pacific archipelagos (Hawaii, Samoa, and Mariana Islands) and seven widely spaced remote islands and atolls. All are home to diverse ecosystems and cultures where fishing forms an integral part of everyday life.

The Pacific Islands Regional Office and the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center are both based in Honolulu. The Regional Office engages in the management and conservation of marine resources through input to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's membership from American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Fishery management plans are developed for 46 fish stocks or stock complexes with some of these stock complexes (i.e., coral reef fish) potentially containing hundreds of species. The Regional Office maintains a field office in Pago Pago, American Samoa, and supports staff in Guam and the CNMI.

The Science Center is responsible for research and monitoring in the region with laboratories in Honolulu and staff in each of the territories. The Center conducts a wide range of activities, including research on coral reef systems, fisheries oceanography, fisheries biology, stock assessment, protected species, and fisheries monitoring.

Recreational/non-commercial fishing in the Pacific Islands region encompasses a wide range of motivations that include subsistence and traditional fisheries where marine resources are harvested for non-profit distribution within fishing communities or to defray expenses to allow the continuation of fishing activities. The region also has developing and well-established for-hire fishing opportunities (e.g., deep sea charter boats, guided reef fishing, and eco-tourism).

Following is a brief description of the Pacific Islands region, followed by some key issues and drivers of concern and interest to recreational/non-commercial fishing from the various sub-regions.

- **Habitat** – Marine habitats include coastal mangrove and fringing reefs, coral atolls, seamounts, isolated reefs, and coastal and deep-slope habitats. The region is characterized by high volcanic islands and low atolls with no continental shelf. Fringing reefs drop off to abyssal depths close to shore, providing recreational/non-commercial fishing access to a variety of pelagic species.



- **Species and fisheries** – Troll, handline, and pole fisheries target tuna, billfish, mahimahi, and wahoo, or concentrate on coastal pelagic species (*akule*, *opelu*) or on the shallow-water snapper/grouper/emperor complex, particularly in the tropical Pacific territories. Non-commercial/subsistence harvest of a wide variety of coral reef fish and crustaceans employs a variety of gear types and methods. Spearfishing, reef gleaning, and deepwater snapper fishing for a variety of species are important activities.
- **Data collection** – Non-commercial fishery data collection is accomplished through sub-regional efforts with infrastructure and personnel support provided by the Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources, CNMI Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, and the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources with support from Science Center and the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, specifically through the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and the Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network (WPacFIN). Data collection in Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa is a combination of boat- and shore-based roving and access point surveys of commercial and non-commercial fishermen. The Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey, administered by MRIP, targets non-commercial fishermen.

Setting the Stage

Recreational (non-commercial) fishery interests in the Pacific Islands Region are represented through working groups organized by Regional Office and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. The initial Saltwater Recreational Fishing Action Agenda (2011) was developed by the Regional Office and the Science Center with input from the recreational/non-commercial fishing community. Two important objectives listed in the action agenda have been accomplished: conducting a regional recreational fishing summit meeting, and hiring a full-time recreational fisheries coordinator for the region.

The Pacific Islands Recreational (Non-Commercial) Fishing Summit was held in August 2012 in Honolulu. This meeting gathered 28 delegates with diverse fishery backgrounds from American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and the main islands of Hawaii to deliberate on recreational fisheries issues. A list of project proposals and suggestions for improving non-commercial fisheries was developed for consideration by NOAA Fisheries for further development.

The newly hired full-time recreational fisheries coordinator for the region, David Itano, conducted a follow-up Recreational/Non-Commercial Fisheries Roundtable meeting in early 2013 to focus on issues

of concern, and to provide recommendations and priorities to inform the development of the 2014–2015 Saltwater Recreational Fishing Action Agenda. Most of the issues were shared across the region by these stakeholders despite the diversity of cultures and fisheries represented. They included:

- **Loss of fishing access** – The loss of fishing opportunities due to the establishment or expansion of federal sanctuaries, marine national monuments, and marine protected areas (MPAs), as well as reduced shoreline access due to private ownership, coastal development, and military use.
- **Protected species issues** – Fishermen expressed frustration over depredation of catch by marine mammals and sharks and potential restrictive management to curtail protected species interactions despite low observation rates.
- **Infrastructure** – Inadequate, damaged, or poorly maintained harbors, boat ramps, restrooms, parking, etc. were noted as a concern to fishery development and human safety in all areas.
- **Conflicts with newly arrived or immigrant fishing communities** – All four island areas noted increasing conflicts between local or long-established fishing communities and non-indigenous fishermen who may not be familiar with local fishing traditions, culture, or regulations.
- **Data collection and involvement in scientific studies** – Fishermen support improving quality and timeliness of studies and want to provide their practical experience and knowledge in designing future studies.
- **Angler registry** – Although the difficulty in obtaining non-commercial catch, effort, and economic data due to the lack of recreational fishing licenses is recognized, general support for such a system is lacking. Other and better ways to obtain this information are needed.
- **Communication and outreach** – Fishermen seek additional transparency and open dialogue with NOAA Fisheries. Increased face-to-face interface was recommended from all areas of the region.

The meetings, conference calls, direct dialogue, and input received from the recreational/non-commercial fishing community reinforced that these issues and concerns are shared by fishermen across of the region.

Pacific Islands Region: Goals and Objectives

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PROJECT(S)	DETAILS
GOAL 1 – Improved Recreational (Non-commercial) Fishing Opportunities	Objective 1: Promote best practice techniques for tagging and/or handling of non-commercial catch to maximize post-release survival, obtain critical life history data, and increase the spawning stock and number of fish available in the future.	<p>Project 1: Coordinate and promote recreational/non-commercial tagging programs.</p> <p>Several sport fish tagging programs currently exist in the region (i.e., for bonefish, jacks, Pacific threadfin, barracuda), which can confuse fishermen due to variation in reporting procedures, rewards, etc. NOAA Fisheries will assist in a coordinated outreach program to promote best practices in the capture, handling, tagging, data processing, and analyses of recreationally released fish to improve survival, reporting rates, data quality, contribution to science, and information dissemination.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Enhanced communication and collaboration, outreach materials, resource benefits.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>
		<p>Project 2: Assist Billfish Tag and Release efforts.</p> <p>NOAA Fisheries will compile and distribute best available science and best practices on billfish capture, tagging, recovery, and release that emphasizes condition factor to those engaged in volunteer billfish tagging efforts. Coordinate with billfish taggers in the region, facilitate supply of tagging equipment, and provide training, information, and feedback to promote high-quality/condition releases.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Enhanced communication and collaboration, outreach materials, resource benefits.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>
		<p>Project 3: Promote methods to reduce barotrauma impacts to released bottomfish.</p> <p>NOAA Fisheries will promote survival of released bottomfish through the use of descending devices and other techniques to minimize barotrauma and injury of released bottomfish species through education and outreach via presentations and the distribution of appropriate materials.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Enhanced communication and collaboration, outreach materials, resource benefits.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>
		<p>Project 4: Barbless Circle Hook Project.</p> <p>The Science Center will provide barbless circle hooks and educational materials at fishing tournaments, fishing festivals, fishing clubs, and associations in Hawaii and encourage anglers to use barbless circle hooks to minimize hooking injury and ease release in good condition of unwanted or tagged fish and protected marine species (sea turtles, Hawaiian monk seal, seabirds, etc.).</p>	<p>Deliverable: Enhanced communication and collaboration, outreach materials, resource benefits.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>
	Objective 2: Improved habitat for recreational/non-commercial fish stocks.	<p>Project 1: Enhance and foster local abundance of recreational/non-commercial stocks through improved rearing and spawning habitats and minimizing direct impact of fishing gear to coral reef habitat.</p> <p>The Regional Office and the Science Center will promote healthy stocks through collaborative efforts with other NOAA offices, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state and territory agencies through engagement in NOAA's Habitat Blueprint to foster productive fish habitat capable of producing greater quantities of sustainable marine resources for recreational/non-commercial fisheries.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Interagency communication and collaboration, outreach materials, resource benefits.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>

Pacific Islands Region: Goals and Objectives

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PROJECT(S)	DETAILS
GOAL 1 - Improved Recreational (Non-commercial) Fishing Opportunities	Objective 3: Improve infrastructure, facilities, and safety for shoreline and boat-based fishing.	<p>Project 1: Identify the condition, status, and needs of recreational/non-commercial fishing infrastructure and shoreline access in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI with an emphasis on safety.</p> <p>The Regional Office will collaborate with state and territory agencies to coordinate information collection and compile a report on the status of infrastructure (harbors, boat ramps, aids to navigation, restrooms, parking, lighting, security, etc.). The project will coordinate with existing GIS database sources in state and territorial offices and within NOAA. Issues of public safety, habitat condition, and changes in access over time will be noted.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Publish a public record/report detailing condition of facilities in each region, including maps of shoreline access.</p> <p>Timing: Data collection in 2014, report generation in 2015.</p>
	Objective 4: Improve fish aggregation device (FAD) programs.	<p>Project 1: Promote FAD efficiency and longevity, and cost-savings in FAD programs.</p> <p>The Regional Office and the Western Pacific Council coordinated a workshop in 2013 on small-scale anchored fish FADs to enhance non-commercial fisheries and food security that focused on improving FAD design, longevity, and associated research while minimizing costs. The Regional Office will continue to collaborate with the Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and territory fishery offices to share information and convene regional FAD workshops on an annual or biennial schedule to review progress and new technology.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Document the workshop and recommendations in an outreach report format.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>
	Objective 5: Reduce impact of depredation on recreational/non-commercial fisheries by non-target species and minimize impacts to protected species.	<p>Project 1: Foster communication between fishermen and scientists to assist in the development of research solutions to reduce depredation rates of protected/non-target species with recreational (non-commercial) fisheries.</p> <p>NOAA Fisheries will liaise with the local fishing community to foster open communication in developing cooperative research strategies to reduce/minimize interactions with and depredation from sharks, sea turtles, marine mammals, and other non-target species and to better document interactions and continue to promote and develop best practices and related outreach efforts (e.g., Fishing Around Sea Turtles (FAST)).</p>	<p>Deliverable: Improved information and data on which to base studies and management decisions.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>
GOAL 2 - Improved Recreational (Non-commercial) Catch, Effort, and Stock Status Data	Objective 1: Improve catch and effort data from Hawaii recreational/non-commercial fisheries.	<p>Project 1: Design / Modify methodology for HMRFS shoreline fishing effort surveys.</p> <p>The Science Center will work with MRIP statistical consultants, NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources, and the Regional Office to develop a data collection design for estimating shore-based effort that is consistent with recommendations resulting from an MRIP review process of the Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Development and pilot testing of a data survey and estimation process for Hawaii non-commercial fishing effort. Report the results to the recreational/non-commercial fishing community at public meetings/workshops.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>

Pacific Islands Region: Goals and Objectives

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PROJECT(S)	DETAILS
GOAL 2 - Improved Recreational (Non-commercial) Catch, Effort, and Stock Status Data	Objective 1: Improve catch and effort data from Hawaii recreational/non-commercial fisheries.	<p>Project 2: Identify the universe of recreational/non-commercial boat-based effort in Hawaii.</p> <p>NOAA Fisheries will work with the State of Hawaii to develop modifications to the state Vessel Registration System (paper and web-based) to identify vessels used for recreational/non-commercial fishing activities. This project will produce an annually updated framework for fielding boat-based fishing surveys and facilitate outreach.</p>	<p>Deliverable: A non-intrusive mechanism to access the Hawaii boat-based recreational/non-commercial fishing community that is updated annually.</p> <p>Timing: 2014.</p>
	Objective 2: Improve catch and effort data to aid in stock assessments in Hawaiian fisheries.	<p>Project 1: Pilot project to document catch and effort from Hawaii recreational/non-commercial fisheries.</p> <p>The Regional Office will partner with the Science Center and recreational fishing clubs to develop and test a data collection system to document non-commercial fishing catch, effort, and motivations with potential application to all non-commercial fishermen.</p>	<p>Deliverable: A tested data collection system with forms and procedures for collecting volunteer catch, effort, and motivation data from non-commercial fisheries. Published as a NOAA Administrative Report.</p> <p>Timing: 2014.</p>
	Objective 3: Incorporate local ecological knowledge of recreational/non-commercial fishermen into the management process.	<p>Project 1: Utilizing recreational/non-commercial and commercial fishermen knowledge and perspectives in assessing Annual Catch Limits in the Pacific Islands Region.</p> <p>The Science Center will incorporate the knowledge and experience of fishermen into the management process and refinement of annual catch limits for data-poor species (particularly for coral reef species complexes where some catch history exists but stock assessments are lacking) through discussions with stock assessment scientists and traditional fishermen.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Published in an outreach report format and as a NOAA Administrative Report.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>
GOAL 3 - Improved social and economic data on recreational (Non-commercial) fisheries	Objective 1: Obtain current information on the non-commercial fisheries of the Pacific Islands region.	<p>Project 1: Update Guam and American Samoa Fishing Community Profiles.</p> <p>The Science Center will augment and strengthen understanding of the fishing communities of all island areas using primary and secondary research methods to update and provide a broader information base on fisheries with strong cultural and non-commercial motivations.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Published in an outreach report format and as a NOAA Administrative Report.</p> <p>Timing: 2014.</p>
	Objective 2: Document the impact of the loss of fishing opportunities on fishing communities of the Pacific Islands region.	<p>Project 1: Improve understanding of community concerns, attitudes, and socio-economic impacts regarding the loss of fishing access and opportunities.</p> <p>Fishing access by communities in American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and Hawaii is being impacted by the combined result of federal, state, and territory designation of sanctuaries, marine national monuments, MPAs, and restricted access to/through military and private lands. NOAA Fisheries will examine the social and economic impacts of these closures on fishing communities and develop strategies with communities to mitigate impacts when planning future actions.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Published in an outreach report format and as a NOAA Administrative Report.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>

Pacific Islands Region: Goals and Objectives

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PROJECT(S)	DETAILS
GOAL 3 - Improved social and economic data on recreational (Non-commercial) fisheries	Objective 3: Promote communication and minimize conflicts between non-commercial fishing groups and communities of the Pacific Islands region.	<p>Project 1: Interview and document local boating culture, traditions and customs and disseminate outreach materials in appropriate languages to mitigate conflict between fishing communities/groups.</p> <p>Conflicts between the indigenous or long-established fishing communities of American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and Hawaii and non-indigenous or “newcomer” groups have a long history of creating friction, but are poorly documented. NOAA Fisheries will interview the affected fishing communities and develop guidelines and highlight local regulations translated in appropriate languages to increase awareness and open lines of communication.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Published in an outreach report format and as a NOAA Administrative Report. Outreach and education materials.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>
GOAL 4 - Improved Communication	Objective 1: Provide a communication link between NOAA Fisheries and the recreational/non-commercial fishing community of the Pacific Islands Region.	<p>Project 1: Develop a Recreational/Non-Commercial Regional Communication Plan.</p> <p>Develop a multi-media plan, including in-person appearances at fishing tournaments/clubs, presentations, website development, conference calls, maintenance of a listserv, video clips, TV fishing shows, publication in fishing magazines, social media and collaboration with government and NGO outreach programs. Maintain a calendar of recreational/non-commercial related venues/events, and schedule contact with all island areas to maintain a two-way dialogue. Liaise with other programs engaged in recreational fishing outreach such as NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program.</p>	<p>Deliverable: Improved communication with and input from the recreational/non-commercial community of the region.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>
	Objective 2: Reduce conflict and enhance communication among recreational/non-commercial fishing groups.	<p>Project 1: Develop and disseminate locally appropriate Codes of Conduct for fishing and boating protocols to assist in the sharing of local fishing customs, traditions, and practices specific to each sub-region.</p> <p>Newly arrived fishermen or fishing groups are often unaware of local fishing norms (e.g., procedures at boat ramps, trolling etiquette, and FAD fishing rules) and conflicts result. The Regional Office will work with representatives from different fishing groups to develop locally valid Codes of Conduct for responsible fishing and boating practices to be distributed via a multi-media approach.</p>	<p>Deliverable/Outcome: Outreach materials.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>
	Objective 3: Recognize outstanding commitment to improving recreational/non-commercial fishing in the Pacific Islands Region.	<p>Project 1: Develop an award program for contributions to improving recreational/non-commercial fishing in the region.</p> <p>Develop an award to honor individuals and organizations for their contributions to the conservation and improvement of recreational/non-commercial fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region.</p>	<p>Deliverables: Periodic awards provided to individuals/organizations with ancillary public relations benefits.</p> <p>Timing: 2014–2015.</p>

Pacific Islands Region: Goals and Objectives

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PROJECT(S)	DETAILS
GOAL 5 - Institutional Orientation	Objective 1: Foster two-way dialogue and contact between the recreational/non-commercial fishing community and NOAA Fisheries.	Project 1: Foster communication between NOAA Fisheries management and the fishing communities of the Pacific Islands region. The Regional Administrator and the Science Director will hold town hall meetings/conference calls with the recreational/non-commercial fishing community to discuss topical issues on a bi-annual basis. Territories and outer island participants can participate via conference line.	Deliverable: Increased communication and dialogue. Timing: 2014–2015.
		Project 2: Convene monthly outreach and information-sharing meetings. The Regional Office will hold monthly meetings open to the public at the Honolulu Service Center at Pier 38, Honolulu, to discuss topical issues. Invited speakers and NOAA Fisheries management may participate. Territories and outer islands can participate via conference line.	Deliverable: Increased communication and dialogue. Timing: 2014–2015.
	Objective 2: Demonstrate Agency commitment to improve the condition, stewardship, and management of recreational/non-commercial fisheries of the Pacific Islands Region and enhance program planning.	Project 1: Pacific Island Regional Recreational/Non-commercial Roundtable Meeting. The Regional Office will coordinate a recreational/non-commercial roundtable meeting with representation from American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and all islands of Hawaii on an annual basis to review progress and plan additional activities in support of the Recreational Fisheries Engagement Initiative.	Deliverable/Outcome: Increased communication and dialogue. Timing: 2014–2015.

Additional Activity Supporting Non-Commercial Fisheries

The Pacific Islands Region Recreational Fisheries Coordinator is a member of the Western Pacific Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and participates in all SSC, Council, and Advisory Panel meetings, representing on all non-commercial fishery issues. Coordination on non-commercial fishing issues is maintained with regional universities, NGOs, and the research community. The Coordinator participates in a broad range of recreational fisheries of the Pacific Islands region.

The Science Center representative of the Recreational Fisheries Engagement Initiative Regional Coordinator Network works closely with the Regional Office, MRIP, WPacFin, and the State of Hawaii on a wide range of non-commercial fishery data issues.

Summary

The 2014–2015 Pacific Islands Region Saltwater Recreational Fishing Action Agenda provides a framework for NOAA Fisheries to work with the culturally diverse and geographically widespread recreational/non-commercial fishing communities of the region to improve their recreational/non-commercial fisheries. The projects outlined in this Action Agenda are developed from concerns voiced at two constituent meetings in 2012 and 2013 with representation from American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and Hawaii. In many cases, recommendations from the meetings overlapped with already existing work program goals and projects. The Agenda should be considered a living document to be followed, amended, and revised over time with critical input from government partners, non-governmental groups, and the broader Pacific Islands non-commercial fishing community.



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