

# National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit

## *Pre-Summit Survey*



**MAKERS**  
architecture • planning • urban design

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## INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes responses to the January, 2014 National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Pre-Summit Survey, conducted by Summit facilitators – MAKERS architecture and urban design. The survey gathered the perspectives of Summit invitees regarding current recreational fishing conditions, challenges, and opportunities as well as progress in recreational fisheries management since the 2010 Summit. Results will inform development of the April, 2014 Summit Agenda.

## I. TABULATED RESPONSES

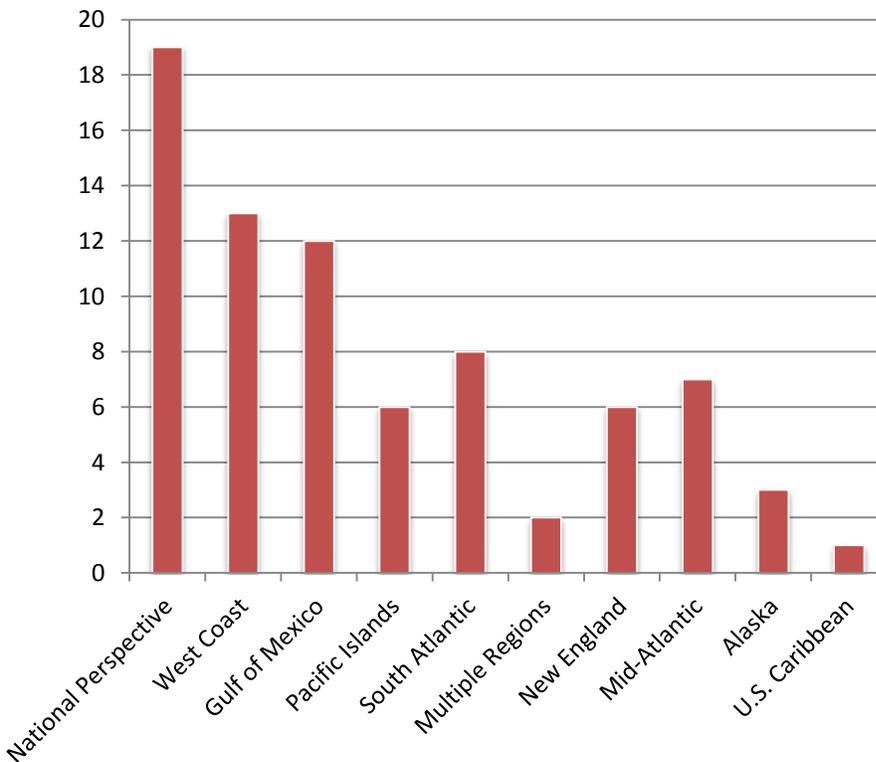
The survey was completed by 77 respondents which represent fishing community members such as individual anglers, charter boat operators, and national angling or trade organizations.

### Survey Respondents

77 recreational fishing community (“**Community**”) representatives completed the survey representing the regions noted below.

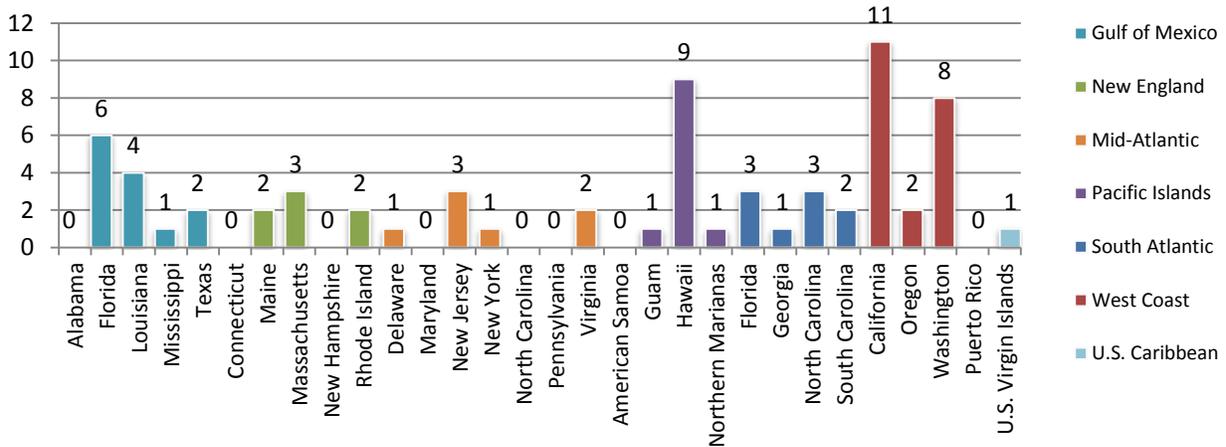
### Regions Represented

*What region are you representing?*



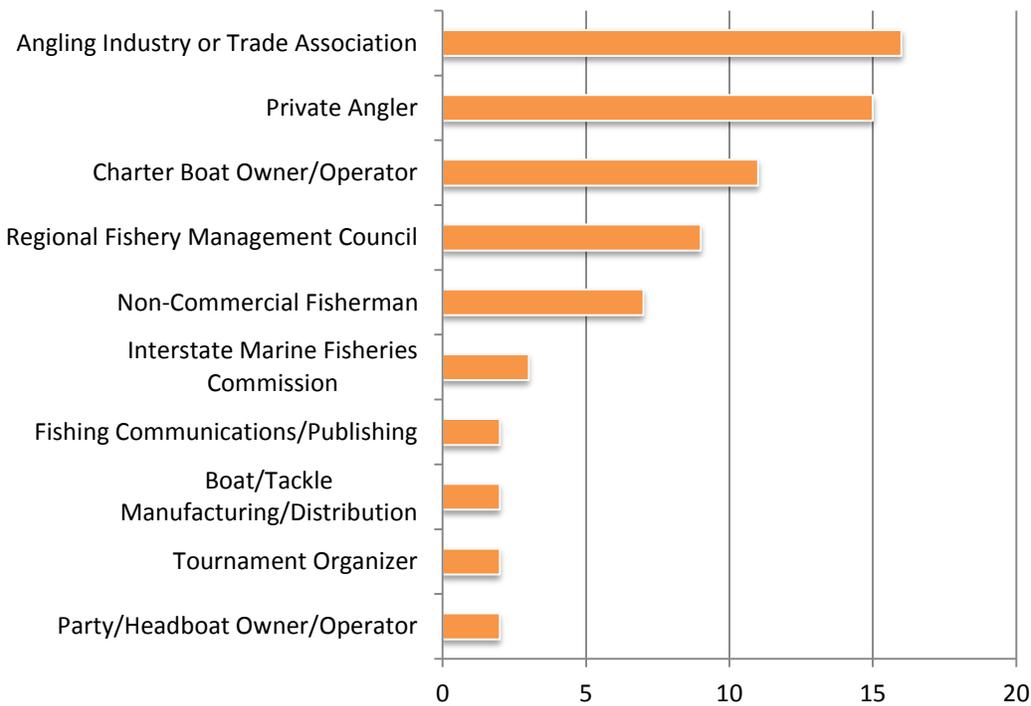
## States Represented

Which state in [the region]?



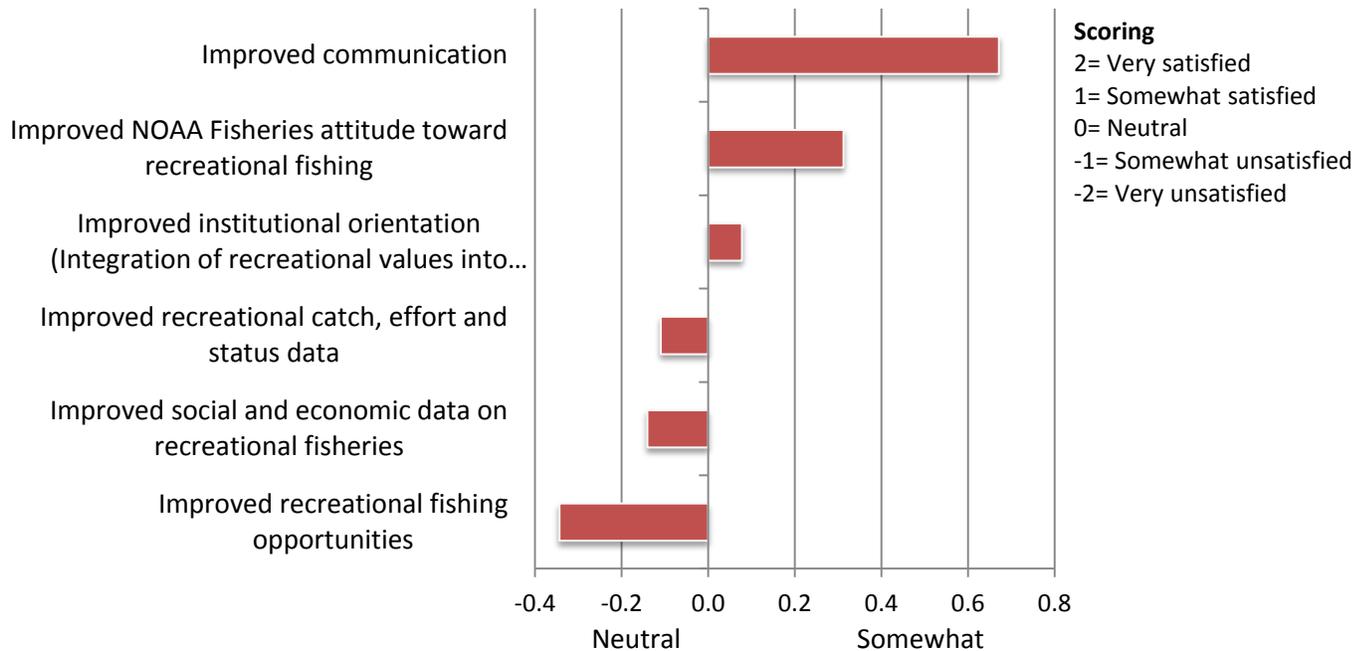
## Perspectives Represented

What perspective do you primarily represent?



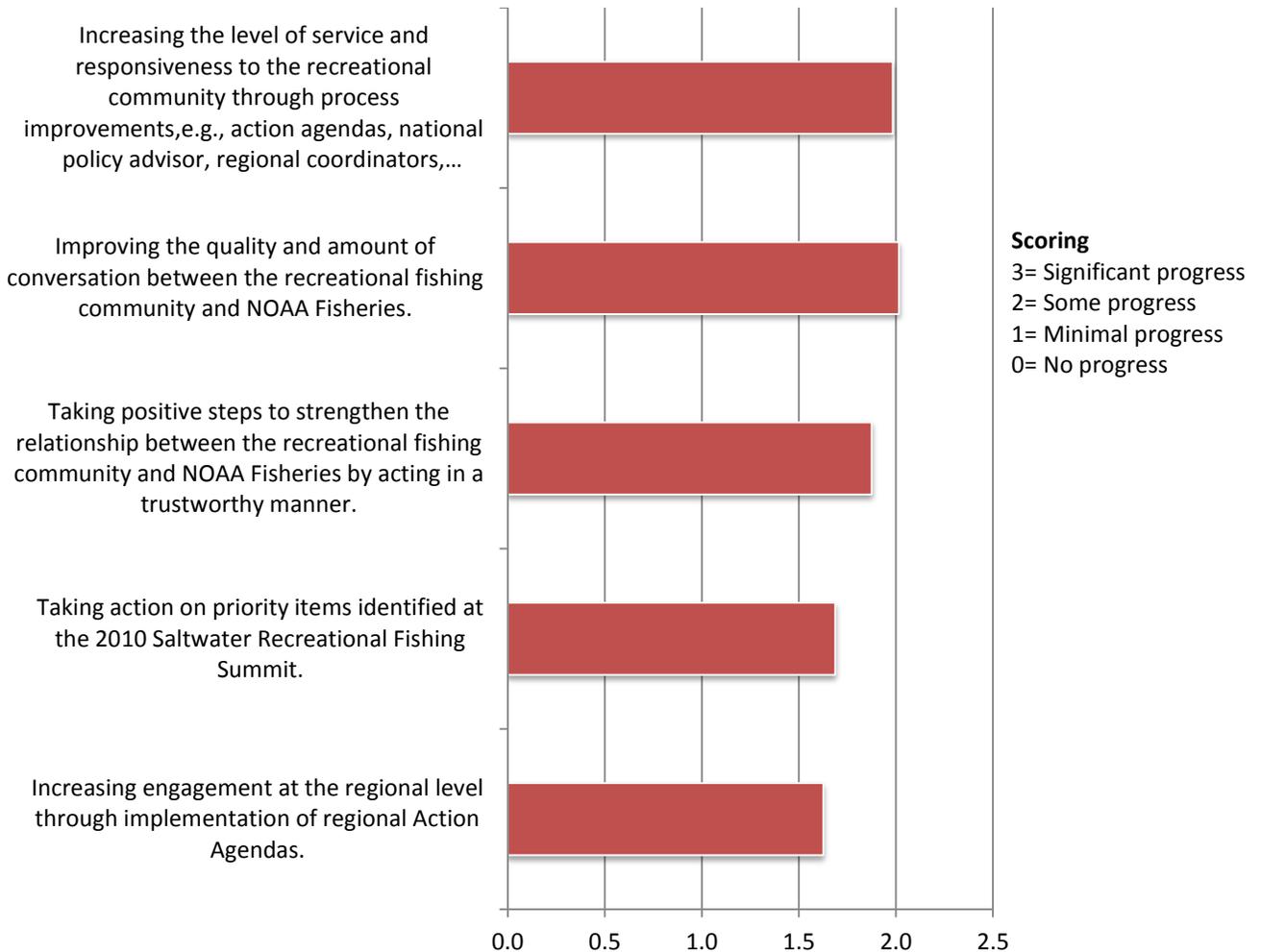
## Improvement on Action Agenda Goals

*In what areas have you seen progress on the Action Agenda Goals since the 2010 Summit? Please rate from “very satisfied with progress” to “very unsatisfied with progress.”*



## Commitments from 2010 Summit

NOAA Fisheries made a number of commitments at the 2010 Summit. Please convey your perception of progress in fulfilling these commitments from “significant progress” to “minimal progress.”



## II. SUMMARY OF OPEN ENDED RESPONSES

The tabulations below are a general summary of the openended responses presented in Section III. Because the categorization of specific responses into general topics is somewhat subjective, the tabulations are intended to indicate general trends rather than quantifiable results.

### Progress Since 2010 Summit

*Please briefly describe any progress you see as particularly noteworthy since the 2010 Summit.*

Area	Not Improved	Improved
Science		
Engagement	8	32
Policy		2
Actual Results	9	1

### Missed Opportunities

*Since the 2010 Summit, what opportunities to improve marine recreational fishing have been missed?*

Catch Share	11
Data/Science	11
Policy	9
Lack of Resources	4
Communication	4
MRIP	2
Cultural	1
Fishing Industry	1

## Looking Around

### Tailwinds – Improvements

*How has marine recreational fishing improved since 2010?*

**MAKERS' Comments:**

- Several respondents noted improvements in stocks and opportunities, which somewhat contradicts responses to Question 1 – Responses vary by region.
- This question concerns real physical results as opposed to agency efforts evaluated in Question 1.

None	24
Fishing Opportunities	11
Engagement	10
Data/Science	6
MRIP	2
State Management	2
Institutional (NOAA)	0

### Headwinds – Hindering

*What is hindering progress toward improved marine recreational fishing?*

**MAKERS' Comments**

- The responses to this question featured a lot of specific observations.
- There were a number of comments about the Agency's orientation toward commerce and allocation by the pound.
- The tabulated multiple choice responses indicated that institutional orientation and use of science and data and fisheries management processes were the two greatest hinderings toward progress.
- The more specific topic area responses noted flexible management practice (39), economic data (32), timely data collection and analysis (25), recreational fishing allocation (24) and catch and effort data (24) were the most important issues to consider.

Agency's general institutional processes	21
Agency's commercial emphasis	13
Data	11
Catch share/allocation	4
Natural limitations	4
Fishing community	3
Lack of resources	2
Environmental rules	2

## Currents – External Factors

*What are the most important external factors, e.g. budgetary, social, political, economic, legislative, etc., affecting saltwater recreational fishing?*

### MAKERS' Comments:

- There was acknowledgement that there is currently a difficult political and budgetary environment.
- Some still feel that the recreational fishing community and its contribution are not sufficiently recognized.

Political	26
Budgetary	17
Lack of recognition	6
Environmental advocacy	4
Orientation to commerce	4
Habitat loss	3
Data	3
Institutional, general	3
Technical programs ineffective	1
Social	1
Lack of recreation fish leadership	1

## Looking Forward

*What are the three (3) most important actions that NOAA Fisheries could take to improve marine recreational fishing?*

### MAKERS' Comments:

- It appears that respondents felt that the most important next actions involve catch allocation and data.
- Stock assessments, state coordination, and management changes are also important.
- There were a number of specific suggestions that merit discussion.

Responses	
Revise catch allocation methods	20
Better data	14
Stock assessments	9
Coordination with states	7
Look at other forms of management (Regional)	7
Better communication	6
Better recognition of rec. fish	6
Recreation fish advocate in regions and regional-based mgmt	5
Change MSA	5
Finish or improve MRIP	5
Reasonable latitude in stock rebuilding	5
Better representation by recreation fish community	4
More timely response to data	3
Better habitat protection	3
Better economic impact data	3
Management flexibility	2
Better science	2
Social science research	2
Support cultural activities (e.g., Pacific Islands)	2
Cooperative research	2
Moratorium on MPA's	2
Advisory Committee in NOAA	1
Revise or delete exempt fishing program	1
Revise regulatory reviews	1
Get rid of ACLS on non-assessed stocks	1
Revise incentives for sale of caught fish	1
Broaden Spanish speaking outreach	1
Manage for-hire fishing boats separately	1
Improve Angler self reporting tools	1
Regulations stability	1
Conflict resolution in councils	1
More money	1
Adaptive management	1
Lawyers to oppose environmentalists	1
Address by-catch kill	1
Contact with tackle industry	1
Amend marine mammal act	1
Hire staff with on-the-water experience	1

## Most Important Recreation Fishing Actions

*What are the three (3) most important actions the recreational fishing community could take to improve marine recreational fishing?*

### MAKERS' Comments:

- Most effective opportunities for recreational fishing community actions are “becoming more involved in the process,” which appears to include a variety of policy, decision making and functional activities.
- Help with data collection activities also noted as a real opportunity.
- Nine respondents noted that better inter-community coordination was needed.
- Six respondents noted advocating for more NOAA funding and resources.

Responses	
More involvement in process	22
Better reporting and help with data collection	18
Collaboration with NMFS (generally)	10
Catch and release program	9
Internal communication (general)	9
Help NOAA secure budgets	6
Cooperative research	5
Revise MSA	4
Obey regulations	4
Work with conservation community	3
Patience	2
Reduce by-catch	2
Help with communication	2
Communication with government	2
Describe vision for fisheries	2
Support habitat restoration	2
Engage commercial fisheries	2
Argue for State/Fed management	1
Stop Walton Foundation's efforts to privatizing public resources	1
Work with MRIP	1
Smaller boats and efficient engines	1
Coast-wide management instead of state or regional	1
Support funding through licensing	1
Support MPA's	1

## Successful Collaboration Examples

*Are you aware of examples of real world collaboration among anglers, regulators and researchers? If so, what allowed those collaborations to succeed?*

### MAKERS' Comments:

- Many responses to this question were very specific. A review of the individual examples is warranted.

## Vision

*Please envision a future for saltwater recreational fishing in which everything is good. Please describe what this ideal future would look like. What would anglers, industry, scientists, and managers be doing different in 2020 from what they are doing today?*

### MAKERS' Comments:

- Community responses to this question varied widely without a clear pattern.

## Info Needs

*What information would you like to see provided in advance to help you prepare for the Summit?*

Responses	
Agendas, abstracts	10
This survey and options for discussion	2
How Agency views itself	2
Simple briefing papers on MSA, MAFAC, RFWG	2
Future NOAA plans	1
Results of recently completed national survey of preferences	1
Look at 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s	1
List of panels	1
How rec. fish are counted	1
Resources for social economic data	1
Report catch since 2010 summit	1
Grouper and snapper info	1
Put it on webcasts	1
Cooperative research opportunities	1
Background on MSA	1

## Outcomes

*From your perspective, what would be the most important outcome from the Summit?*

### MAKERS' Comments:

- Comments emphasized collaboration activities setting a doable action agenda, a commitment for agency action, rethinking current management system and priorities and input into MSA reauthorization.
- If there is one phrase that comes from the survey input, it is: "Commitment for Collaborative Action." Another might be: "Advancing Recreational Fishing" that addresses the concerns about the Agency's institutional orientation and furthers the recognition of recreational fishing's importance.

Responses	
Set achievable goals and priorities	8
Form a more collaborative relationship	8
Commitment to complete what has been started	7
Develop a more fair allocation system	4
Better recognize importance of recreation fish community	3
Change the management system	3
Chart a course for action with measureable objectives	3
Create a structure for community participation	1
Better Gulf Coast management	1
Hold next summit in a more affordable place	1
Achieve more fishing opportunities	1
Document the results in the press to hold NOAA's feet to the fire	1
Support Pacific Island fishing	1
Have an impact on MSA update	1
Find a way to provide better data	1
Allocate more resources to regional staff	1
Prioritize support to rebuild fisheries	1

### III. OPEN ENDED RESPONSES

#### Progress Since 2010 Summit

Please briefly describe any progress you see as particularly noteworthy since the 2010 Summit.

Region	Progress Since 2010 Summit (Community Responses)
Alaska	N/A
Alaska	Ground work on national level for recreational fishing concerns, but no visible difference on a local level.
Alaska	Better interaction between industry and council
Gulf of Mexico	Staff level employees in some areas are definitely more communicative and open.
Gulf of Mexico	More recreational angler meetings to gather input
Gulf of Mexico	MRIP moving towards implementation
Gulf of Mexico	There has been substantially enhanced engagement at the national level
Gulf of Mexico	N/A
Gulf of Mexico	None
Gulf of Mexico	The National Policy Advisor's leadership has put us in a better position to communicate and to advocate for our sector within the agency. He is an asset to NOAA.
Gulf of Mexico	N/A
Gulf of Mexico	Not a lot to my knowledge
Mid-Atlantic	Better PR announcements but little in real terms. ,
Mid-Atlantic	NONE
Mid-Atlantic	The relationship with recreational fisherman is getting better but still needs improvement
Mid-Atlantic	NE region supported the development of the Mid's omnibus amendment
National Perspective	Very little except for improved web and pamphlets, nothing substantial to improve recreational angling access
National Perspective	Much better communications and focus on what the recreation fishing industry needs.
National Perspective	There is a recreational fishing advocate in NOAA but the institutional bias For commercial is still overwhelming. Recreational fishing is commerce. Big commerce.
National Perspective	All lip service
National Perspective	Engagement and communication have significantly improved
National Perspective	Communication from NOAA much improved
National Perspective	Slightly improved communication between NOAA and recreation anglers but little substantive gains
National Perspective	I lack the time necessary to provide a meaningful response here
National Perspective	I did not personally attend the 2010 summit but did read the agendas, bulletins & pledges.
National Perspective	national coordinator, allocation study, better communication
National Perspective	Attention to and leadership engagement with recreational fishing considerations has been sustentative (i.e., NOAA Fisheries is accessible and listens).
National Perspective	N/A
National Perspective	Significant progress has been made dealing with barotrauma and highlighting "best practices" for recreational fishing.
National Perspective Other	Certainly the hiring of a national recreational fishing advisor has been an important Step forward.
National Perspective	Some headway in recognizing the significance of recreational angling, though minimal from a policy perspective.
National Perspective	Improved statistics, collection of data on socioeconomics
New England	Regional outreach has improved
New England	The National Policy Director and Staff have been particularly helpful. The creation of the

	RFWG was a step forward; a balanced membership that represents all views should be utilized going forward.
New England	there is better outreach from NMFS
New England	Communication between the NMFS Regional Office & Recreational Fishing Community Organizations
Other	particular improvement at national level weaker in regions
Other	The most significant progress has been made in the conversion from MRFSS to MRIP.
Pacific Islands	None.
Pacific Islands	Hiring of a "Recreational Specialist" / Bringing together jurisdictions to prioritize projects
Pacific Islands	We have a representative for the Pacific islands
Pacific Islands	Regional Coordinator Hiring, regional Summits, Continued group virtual meetings.
South Atlantic	Communication
South Atlantic	Did not attend 2010 Summit
South Atlantic	Did not attend summit but read transcript
South Atlantic	Communications
South Atlantic	Improvements in MRIP methodology; socioeconomic studies on recreational anglers from the NMFS Office of Science and Technology
West Coast	Better communication between NOAA and the recreational sector
West Coast	The support of Fish-Smart and the barotrauma work is very significant.
West Coast	No changes to fisheries
West Coast	I have found the Northwest region of NOAA to be very open and help for the last 10 year!!!!
West Coast	Good outreach to the Recreational Industry with communication and sensitivity to needs.
West Coast	We are talking but NOAA needs to be hearing and understanding our concerns
West Coast	Better relationship with NMFS, as they have become more responsive to recreational fisheries issues.
West Coast	Use of descending devices for rockfish
West Coast	Better monitoring of recreational effort and harvest data on the east coast. Significantly better communication and increased engagement at the national level.
West Coast	Excellent progress in collection of economic and social data

## Missed Opportunities

*Since the 2010 Summit, what opportunities to improve marine recreational fishing have been missed?*

Region	Missed Opportunities (Community Responses)
Alaska	N/A
Alaska	NMFS adopting a catch sharing plan that divides recreational sector and allows harvest measures to be applied differently to recreational anglers who pay for the same for a fishing license.
Alaska	We lack a full time outreach coordinator in Alaska and because of that the majority of recreation stakeholders are uninformed
Gulf of Mexico	More communication from higher levels.
Gulf of Mexico	Continued erosion of fishing seasons and bag limits in recreation sector, leading to mistrust of NOAA and their real intentions for recreation outreach.
Gulf of Mexico	Moving towards implementation quicker
Gulf of Mexico	There is substantial "wanting" for meaningful engagement at the regional level.
Gulf of Mexico	Need to end any efforts to implement catch shares in the recreational sector. This is a major problem and the opportunity to end the concept has been missed.
Gulf of Mexico	Tangible results that benefit recreational angling.
Gulf of Mexico	Dr. Lubchenko's plans to establish guidelines for regular reallocation in fisheries were

	never implemented. Hopefully, Dr. Sullivan can move us in the direction of action on this important topic.
Gulf of Mexico	N/A
Gulf of Mexico	Listen to both recreational and commercial--good luck finding a happy medium
Mid-Atlantic	The full implementation of MRIPS including vessel logs, angler registration lists and increase sample size.
Mid-Atlantic	Better data.
Mid-Atlantic	Counting recreational fish is still way off!
Mid-Atlantic	Data collect is still bad!! Too many outliers drive the system
National Perspective	No action in fishery management to support increased recreational angling opportunities
National Perspective	Still no movement on allocation
National Perspective	Better data. Better management of recreational fishing. Fewer closings. Institutionalizing Recreational Fishing in NOAA.
National Perspective	More effective actions should have been taken proactively to head off the worst of the red snapper debacle in the Gulf of Mexico.
National Perspective	None
National Perspective	Following through on some larger policy changes, e.g., allocation, NS1 review
National Perspective	Improved data
National Perspective	Adapting MSA for recreational anglers
National Perspective	I lack the time necessary to provide a meaningful response here
National Perspective	Recreation statistics and social science data still needs improvement, looking at alternative ways to manage recreation fisheries
National Perspective	Not sure.
National Perspective	N/A
National Perspective	The recreational community missed the chance to pat NMFS on the back when they did do a good job.
National Perspective	Not sure of any.
National Perspective	Recognition of anglers desires not be locked out or giving catch shares to other sectors.
New England	No movement to management practices that reflect the needs of recreational fisheries. MSY does not meet the needs of a recreational fishery.
New England	I think there were opportunities to balance the regional council membership with a more even com/recreation makeup. I don't think that happened, particularly in NE
New England	DTA still need to be greatly improved
New England	Lack of developing social economic data for use in management
Other	taking a stronger leadership role on allocation and not implementing conflict resolution to deal with the excessive gulf issues
Other	Continued effort needs to be made to have the public understand the purpose and limitations of the data collected through MRIP.
Pacific Islands	none
Pacific Islands	none that I'm aware of
Pacific Islands	cultural practices and beliefs
Pacific Islands	Our coordinator, is excellent, but has no travel budget, and can't do effective outreach in our vast region without it!
Pacific Islands	The institutional orientation that demonstrates a "walk that matches the talk". In Hawaii the asst. regional administrator for sustainable fisheries has yet to attend a council meeting or recreational coordinator meetings.
South Atlantic	Not certain
South Atlantic	Not including high-liner fishermen in the data collection and rulemaking process.
South Atlantic	gathering critical biological and catch and effort statistics
South Atlantic	Acquiring additional social scientists and economists at the regional offices and Councils to allow adequate analysis and data collection specific to the recreational sector.
West Coast	Promoting positive collaboration between the recreational and commercial sectors

West Coast	The commitment to establish a framework for sport commercial allocation has been missed.
West Coast	There has not been anything showing that any fisheries are rebuilding. All info from NOAA publically has ignored this
West Coast	The partnership between all users has been great.
West Coast	On the West Coast we are so constrained by Overfished Species (yelloweye rockfish, canary rockfish and Cowcod in So. CA) that efforts have been dampened or negated to a large degree.
West Coast	The ESA listing process needs to be reviewed and a major revamping needs to occur. There are fish on the list that should not be on the list. We need more action to start occurring while we talk
West Coast	We have struggled in our relationships with Mexico, and we have been shut out of many near-shore areas as a result of the states' Marine Life Protection Act.
West Coast	Lack of communication since the merger with the NW
West Coast	Lack of meaningful engagement from northwest regional office
West Coast	Access to rebuilding populations of rockfish off California are still severely constrained by depth and seasonal restrictions.

## Looking Around

### Tailwinds – Improvements Since 2010

*How has marine recreational fishing improved since 2010?*

Region	Improvements Since 2010 (Community Responses)
Alaska	I'm not sure that it has
Alaska	None
Alaska	It has not in Alaska
Gulf of Mexico	Has it? Lots of fisheries are still closed to fishing. Stripers are down.
Gulf of Mexico	It has not in the Gulf.
Gulf of Mexico	MRIP has examined several important areas to improve management - catch and effort, census methods, etc.
Gulf of Mexico	Some recreational fisheries (Populations) have grown permitting improved fishing
Gulf of Mexico	No tangible actions
Gulf of Mexico	The fact that most anglers expect so little out of federal fisheries management has prompted greater promotion of state management of marine resources.
Gulf of Mexico	Leadership at NMFS has been more receptive to understanding the place of recreational fishing in its management regime.
Gulf of Mexico	Local level regulations allowed
Gulf of Mexico	Yes
Mid-Atlantic	Unfortunately, it has not.
Mid-Atlantic	No
Mid-Atlantic	It really hasn't
Mid-Atlantic	Stocks in the Mid continue to rebuild giving increased opportunity
National Perspective	Very little
National Perspective	Seem to be over the hump with regard to closures
National Perspective	It hasn't.
National Perspective	It is not clear that it has.
National Perspective	loosing access to rebuilt stocks
National Perspective	From a biological standpoint, many stocks have improved.
National Perspective	Better communication of issues
National Perspective	Has not
National Perspective	Overall, I don't believe it has.
National Perspective	Overall, recreational fishing has NOT improved since 2010, but has degenerated greatly during a 7-year span.
National Perspective	better communication with managers, more responsiveness to adjusting federal requirements to rec. fisheries
National Perspective	Better data systems for understanding recreational angling participation and effort.
National Perspective	From swordfish to groundfish there are some expanded opportunities on both coasts.
National Perspective	Better angler participation data is important.
National Perspective	MRIP has resulted in better data collection.
National Perspective	The importance of recreational fishermen has been recognized and data has been better incorporated into decisions
New England	It hasn't
New England	I have not seen a measurable improvement in Recreational Fishing. I believe the foundation had been laid to work towards improved recreational fishing and we need to continue the work.
New England	It hasn't in the NE at all
New England	Marine recreational fishing has not improved since 2010

Other	Overall improvement with stocks but not always fishing as an example red snapper in gulf where fishing has been in turmoil as the stock improves
Other	Consideration has been made for flexibility in the application of ACL/AMs in the recreational fishery.
Pacific Islands	Better communication
Pacific Islands	No comments
Pacific Islands	There is more awareness in the regional Office, The Council has always been aware, The science Center has engaged in some HD projects
Pacific Islands	The regional recreational coordinator's position has been filled and communication channels opened.
South Atlantic	Communication with community
South Atlantic	We are seeing greater cooperation and communication between all parties.
South Atlantic	It has not improved due to more regulations
South Atlantic	No improvement unless you consider the economy
South Atlantic	Increased representation for recreational sector on decision-making entities (MAFAC, Councils, etc)
West Coast	Improved mortality studies on constraining species
West Coast	The economic importance is continuing to build.
West Coast	No changes in our fisheries as NOAA is cutting funding for our hatcheries in Washington State
West Coast	Somewhat
West Coast	The Recreational Community now has a direct conduit through MAFAC to the Secretary and NOAA that was not there previously.
West Coast	We have changed our way of modeling and our metrics
West Coast	Better tackle.
West Coast	Improved data collection
West Coast	From a northwest coast perspective no noticeable change. In California and at least parts of the east coast regional communication has improved partnerships established.
West Coast	Populations of depleted groundfish have been substantially rebuilt off the Pacific coast.
West Coast	Improved assessments of constraining Pacific rockfish, incorporation of barotrauma release / survivability into catch accounting and projection modeling.

## Headwinds – Hindrances to Progress

*What is hindering progress toward improved marine recreational fishing?*

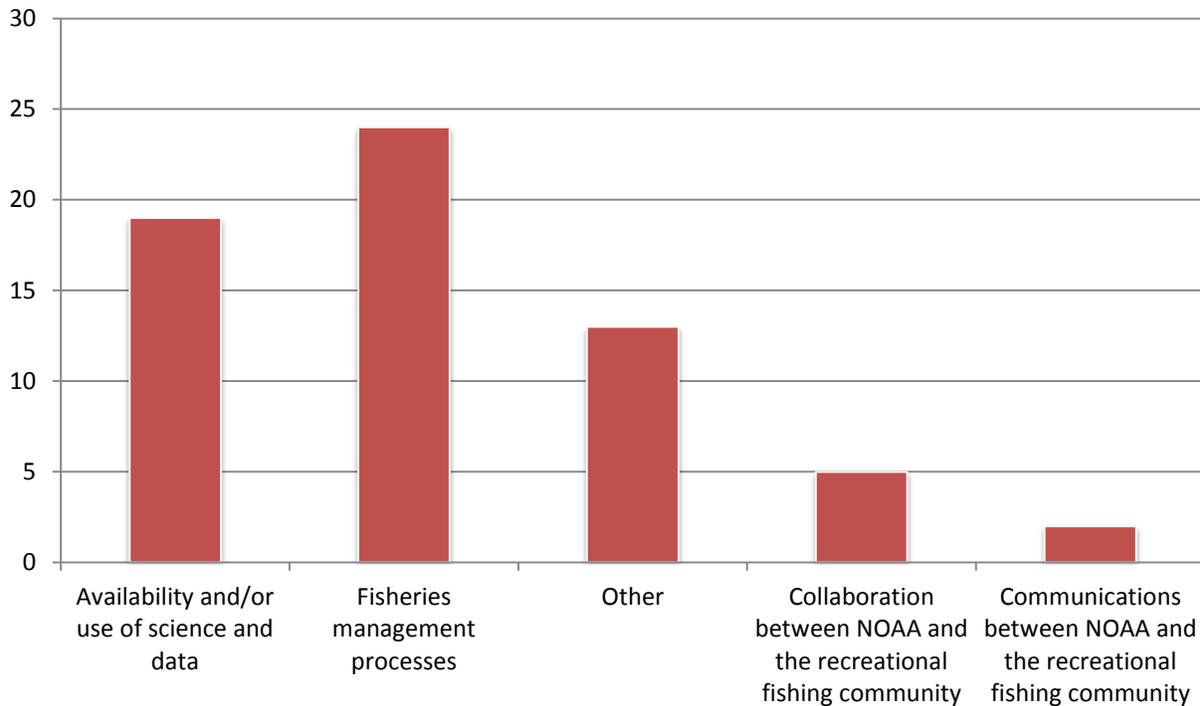
- The tabulated multiple choice responses indicated that availability and use of science & data and fisheries management process were the two greatest hinderings toward progress.
- The more specific topic area allocationings noted flexible management practice (39), economic data (32), timely data collection and analysis (25), recreational fishing allocation (24) and catch and effort data (24) were the most important issues to consider.

Region	Hindrances (Community Responses)
Alaska	A commercial dominated management process
Alaska	Lack of understanding of the needs of recreational anglers and how they need to be managed differently than the commercial fishing sector.
Alaska	Unwillingness to include all fishers in the halibut CSP
Gulf of Mexico	Bureaucracy, politics, the usual.
Gulf of Mexico	That is the big question whose answer is eluding everyone.
Gulf of Mexico	Lack of timely data;
Gulf of Mexico	Lack of timely fisheries data and analysis continues to hinder management response.
Gulf of Mexico	The access that EDF has to fisheries administrators
Gulf of Mexico	ENGOS more focused on their funding agendas than common sense.
Gulf of Mexico	Stringent regulations
Gulf of Mexico	Bureaucratic bullshit
Mid-Atlantic	A real commitment by the NE Region.
Mid-Atlantic	Data
Mid-Atlantic	Recreational surveys
Mid-Atlantic	poor data collection MRIP does not seem to be any better than MRFSS
National Perspective	Current MSA requirements and arbitrary rebuilding goals and deadlines. Little improvement in recreation data collection
National Perspective	Still no long strong vision regarding recreational fishing. Stuck on allocation issues.
National Perspective	Failure to revisit allocations. Failure to recognize the commercial importance of recreational fishing. Implementing closures on poor data.
National Perspective	Use of accurate socio-economic data in federal marine fisheries management decisions.
National Perspective	Magnuson Act, Data collection and managing recreation quotas by pounds – it doesn't work
National Perspective	We've attempted to cram recreational fishing into the current system which, driven by MSA, is geared toward commercial fishing. We need separate policy/policies within NOAA for managing recreational fisheries.
National Perspective	Accurate data
National Perspective	NOAA's institutional bias
National Perspective	That's too weighty a question to effectively answer here -- perhaps in itself indicative of one area hindering such progress: effective communication w recreational fishing community
National Perspective	budget restrictions, management process reluctance to consider change, stock assessments and social science data, rec. fishing community unwillingness to consider and embrace new ways of doing things
National Perspective	Lack of appreciation, by the average citizen, of the importance of recreational angling to the economic viability of coastal communities and their way of life.
National Perspective	A failure by industry and governance to adapt to changing demographics.
National Perspective	More flexibility on fisheries stock rebuilding schedules.
National Perspective	NOAA Fisheries' interpretation of MSA and their determination to continue managing fisheries on the commercial poundage-based model.
National Perspective	Lack of communications with politicians and other regulators at a federal level.
New England	In-trained commercial management practices. Lack of appreciation of the value

Charter Boat Owner/Operator	recreational fisheries provide
New England	Political Divides and Agendas. Horrible recreational catch and effort data, Continuing to manage the for hire industry as the same as the private angling community
New England	poor data and out dated regulations
New England	Recreational fishing is a secondary concern in Council decisions/lack of good data for management use
Other	Lack of innovative ways to manage recreation fishing when data are not real time and not revising NS 1 to give better guidance an MSA flexibilities.
Other	The expectations of the recreational community need to be calibrated with the productivity of different species.
Pacific Islands	Lack of data
Pacific Islands	No comments
Pacific Islands	Delays in Hiring staff and lack of travel \$ hinder communication; Websites are not enough in our region, need face to face.
Pacific Islands	institutional orientation with a truly "regional" approach that considers the uniqueness of the Western Pacific
South Atlantic	Fuel prices, more fish
South Atlantic	The NOAA bureaucracy
South Atlantic	Management decisions are too slow and should follow science quicker
South Atlantic	economics and population pressures on the resources and habitat quality
South Atlantic	Continued necessary increase in the number of recreational anglers who are informed and involved in the process in a meaningful way. This is a two-way street and additional effort is needed on behalf of the stakeholders.
West Coast	Inflexible rebuilding policies regarding overfished species
West Coast	An outdated...stuck approach to allocation. We need a recreational policy in Magnuson and the agency work.
West Coast	Money and showing that some rockfish in our region are recovering. All shown as declining resources
West Coast Charter Boat Owner/Operator	It takes too long to address and do something about non-fishing issue (i.e. Bird, sea lions water issue, ect.).
West Coast	For the West Coast, the IFQ system is directed to the Trawl Industry and Commercial Enterprises and Recreational Fishing has minor impact at the Council levels. NMFS, the M-S Act and National Standards are written primarily for trawl and commercial interests.
West Coast	ESA. NOAA agendas, flawed science
West Coast	Strident, emotional opposition to recreational fishing by well funded protectionist environmental groups.
West Coast	More restrictions on fishable areas, less access to fish
West Coast	From my perspective I would list the commercial bias and makeup of the regional councils.
West Coast	Access to these rebuilt populations of groundfish has not increased. Access has in fact been decreased due to imposition of MPAs and further depth restrictions.
West Coast	Lack of salmon habitat restoration sufficient to sustain fishable levels of stocks, while at the same time demanding that hatchery production be curtailed in order to favor wild production.

## Hindrances to Improved Marine Recreational Fishing

*What category below most significantly hinders progress toward improved marine recreational fishing?*



### Other Responses

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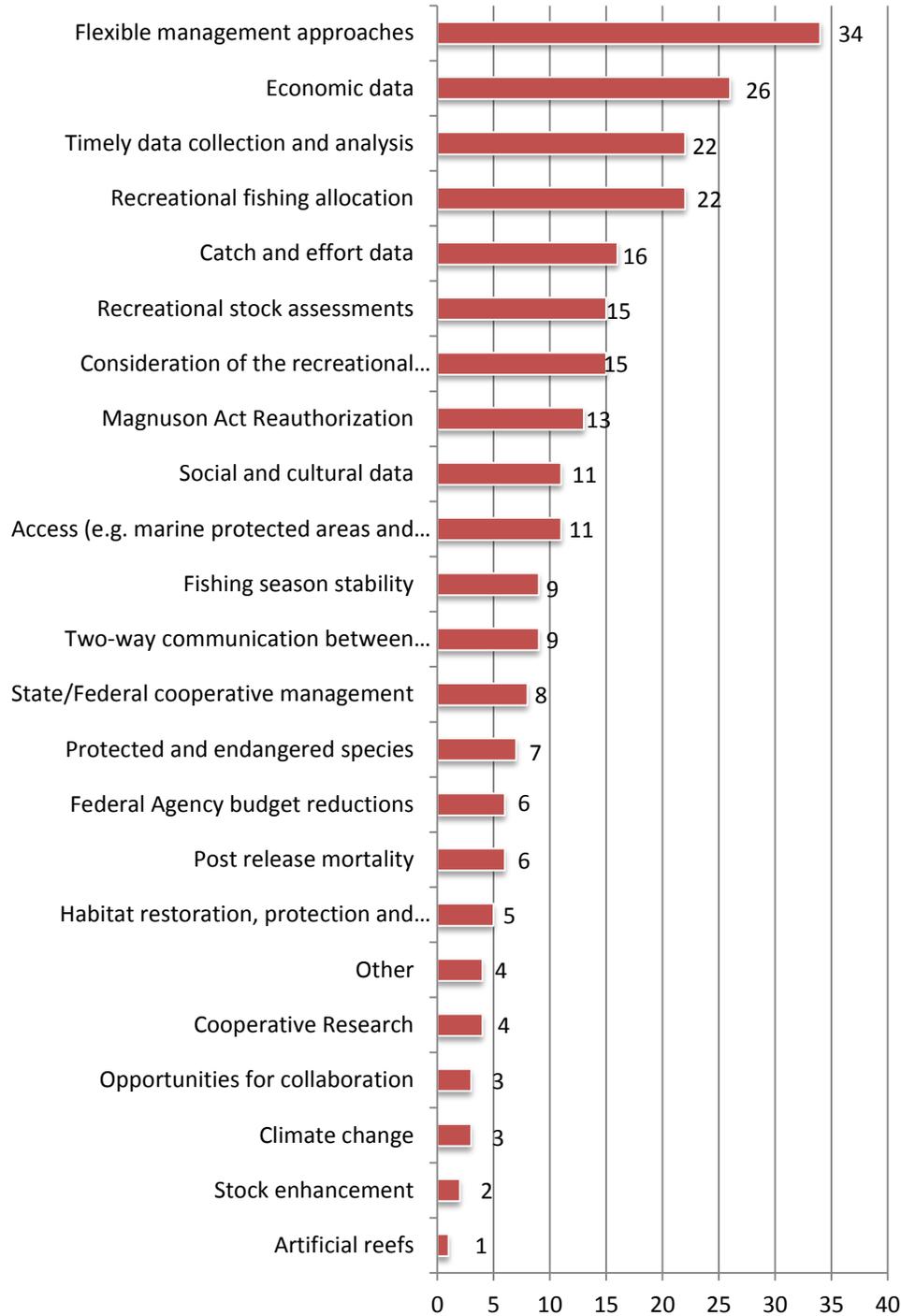
#### Community

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- Rebuilding policies.
- Groups like EDF that create shell groups which pretend to represent recreational anglers but really do not.
- Stock allocation and lack of a viable regional recreational plan in the PNW region.
- Availability and/or use of BELIEVABLE science and data by stakeholders.
- Lack of leadership and support at next level above our Recreation coordinator, Siloing of different parts of regional office.
- NOAA is stuck with having a 35 year old vision of marine fisheries that is commercial in focus, hard to change that!
- All the above.
- While the process is WAY TO SLOW AND CUMBERSOME, it will work, it just isn't able to respond in a timely manner. Science and data products can always be improved.
- Actually all of the above could be improved.
- ACL, accountability measures managing by pounds zero flexibility with SSC.
- I don't see any of these being a issue.
- Clearly defining who is a recreational fisher and then how that person is represented in the management process.
- Please put me down for a check in all categories.

## Specific Issues Hindering Progress

A number of specific issues have been identified as hindering progress toward improved recreational fishing. Please check the four (4) issues you feel are most important to consider at the Summit.



## Other Responses

### Community

- Recreational fishing representation on Council.
- Lack of trust between commercial, recreational, and charter sectors.
- Consideration of the different recreational needs in management decisions.
- Complexity in management.

## Currents – External factors

*What are the most important external factors, e.g. budgetary, social, political, economic, legislative, etc., affecting saltwater recreational fishing?*

Region	External Factors (Community Responses)
Alaska	Political
Alaska	Commercial fishing influences in fisheries politics.
Alaska	Budgetary and active participants serving in leadership
Gulf of Mexico	Political, budgetary
Gulf of Mexico	Political affecting negatively. Economic not being considered appropriately. Legislative not correcting broken system.
Gulf of Mexico	Lack of adequate resources to address the management of recreational fisheries (ACLs)
Gulf of Mexico	Legislative inertia: The Magnuson-Stevens Act needs to be retooled to broaden its ability to address recreational fisheries and to limit litigator liability
Gulf of Mexico	lobbying by anti-fishing groups
Gulf of Mexico	Political - the environmental community's success in picking winners and losers to drive a very narrow agenda and ultimately reduce access to marine resources.
Gulf of Mexico	Budgets will always matter. In a time of limited financial resources, it's impossible to expand the scientific mission of the agency.
Gulf of Mexico	Legislative – too many widespread regulations that do not make sense for certain areas.
Gulf of Mexico	political and legislative and the entire process; flawed data on part of NOAA
Mid-Atlantic	Budgetary
Mid-Atlantic	Not enough money.
Mid-Atlantic	Legislative!
Mid-Atlantic	MRIP is doing a poor job and we have no choice but to rely on it.
National Perspective	Legislative. The current MSA.
National Perspective	The world has changed, NOAA hasn't. NOAA loves to talk about climate change. Nobody noticed the change in the fisheries.....
National Perspective	Commercial bias within NOAA, the Magnuson Stevens Legislation. Lack of good socio-economic data on recreation fishing. Failure to force Councils to look at allocations. Lack of budget for good data and science on recreation fishing stocks.
National Perspective	Social
National Perspective	Political wacked-out green groups who have an agenda
National Perspective	Water quality, coastal development, changing demographics, effects of the economy on anglers, shrinking federal budget
National Perspective	Legislative
National Perspective	NOAA bias to commercial interests
National Perspective	Again, all of the above; however, I feel at 30K level, it's still the culture/philosophy toward recreational fisheries at NOAA and a failure to manage those fisheries in a way reflecting their economic and social importance.

National Perspective	Broken Congress & a stubborn administration is allowing showroom environmentalists to dictate the future of recreational fishing in America by way of both regulatory and legislative mandate.
National Perspective	State and federal budgets, coastal demographic changes, politics of change
National Perspective	As noted above, lack of appreciation for the value of recreational fishing in economic and legislative policy.
National Perspective	Poor recreational leadership
National Perspective	In no particular order -- access, local and regional governmental recognition of the economic and cultural values of recreational angling. ,
National Perspective	Public perceptions and powerful environmental groups that do not accurately portray recreational anglers and conservation that is driven by politics, not science.
New England	Politicians and fisheries managers refuse to realize the economic benefits of fully utilized recreational fisheries.
New England	Political Agendas, Different needs of the different recreational user groups which currently cannot be addressed fairly when managing the sector as one.
New England	there is very little political will to change the way things are done
New England	Recreational representation on management bodies/politics
Other	access based on ability to catch fish, economic limitations, implementation of MSA with too little flexibility
Other	Data collection funding and uncertainty in stock assessments
Pacific Islands	Funding & political
Pacific Islands	Lack of budgets
Pacific Islands	Political Will, Lack of recognition of major differences between Western Pacific and other regions. i.e. we have true subsistence
South Atlantic	economic - fuel prices, budgetary - need more stock assessment scientists
South Atlantic	Each of the above mentioned factors now impact recreational fishing. Unfortunately it's no longer just about how many fish are in the ocean.
South Atlantic	Political
South Atlantic	Economics and habitat and water quality
South Atlantic	Willingness (or lack thereof) to compromise to reach collective goals; misinformation among stakeholders; lack of adequate social science and economics staff at the regional offices and Councils for analysis and data collection for all stakeholder groups
West Coast	Funding and political.
West Coast	The lack of resources in the future, as the budget cuts continue.
West Coast	Not being up to date on positive recovering fisheries when happening.
West Coast	Funding of hatchery's
West Coast	Budget ( Funding for hatcheries in the NW) political (ESA)
West Coast	Budgetary, political and legislative. Most legislative problems are at state level.
West Coast	Political, California has an anti fishing political climate
West Coast	political and economic
West Coast	Bureaucratic inertia by NOAA general counsel due to fear of lawsuit by Environmental NGOs. Also inflexibility of rebuilding plans due to the structuring of Magnuson-Stevens Act.
West Coast	The initiative to set aside NO fishing areas - MPAs - is not based on sound science, but on dogma that favors protection over sustainability

## Looking Forward

### Most Important NOAA Fisheries Actions

*What are the three most important actions that NOAA Fisheries could take to improve marine recreational fishing?*

Most Important NOAA Fisheries Actions (Community Responses)			
Region	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3
Alaska	Provide a recreational advisory committee in NOAA regional offices	Provide funding for a recreational fishing advocate in local regions	Provide changes in MSA that elevates recreational fishing as a national benefit
Alaska	Better communication	Flexibility in mgmt	Better representation
Gulf of Mexico	communications	better data & more timely	more stock assessments
Gulf of Mexico	Allocating adequate resources to the collection of recreational data	Increasing the speed and efficiency of incorporating improvements	Working with state partners to maximize the benefit of limited resources
Gulf of Mexico	Pursue electronic reporting	Establish ranges of allowable catch rather than specific targets	Accept greater margins of error in recreational stock assessments
Gulf of Mexico	end the concept of allocating catch shares in the recreational fishery	end the concept that splitting shares between CHB and private anglers is a good idea	focus on timely data gathering and stock assessment
Gulf of Mexico	Engage the National Research Council or some other independent agency to develop allocation guidelines and mandate that the Councils reallocate on a regular, timely basis.	Delete or greatly restrict the Exempted Fishing Permit program, which is being laughably abused.	Allocate resources to conduct annual stock assessments to recreationally important stocks so managers base decisions on the condition of the stock rather than trying to count every fish caught. Make the management system fit the data you have instead of trying to base your management system on data you'll never have.
Gulf of Mexico	Require regular looks at allocation in every fishery (esp. mixed-use fisheries)	Openness to shared management with states and interstate commissions	Latitude in rebuilding
Gulf of Mexico	Allow states to manage certain species	More on water research	Let the rec. anglers work directly with the NOAA biologists
Mid-Atlantic	Elevate to equal status of Commercial fishery.	Do what you say.	Provide more attention to habitat protection and enhancement.
Mid-Atlantic	Better stock assessment	better recreational data	Money spent on getting better recreation economic data
Mid-Atlantic	Seasons.	Bag limits.	More improved population surveys
Mid-Atlantic	Finish MRIP implementation	.	.
Mid-Atlantic	reconsider accountability measures because MRIP does not reflect what is occurring	require the elimination of annual reviews and move towards 3-5 year regulations and reviews	recognize the future of fishing in the US is recreational

National Perspective	support substantial changes to the MSA that allow flexibility in management	move recreation fisheries away from commercial fishery style management	cooperative independent research using for-hire vessels and private recreation vessels
National Perspective	Develop guidelines and force councils to deal with allocation issues	Get better economic regarding the recreational sector.	Achieve reasonable latitude in stock rebuilding times
National Perspective	Get rid of ACLs on fish stocks that have not been assessed and implement more flexible management	Do stock assessments	Force Councils to look at allocations
National Perspective	Work with regional councils to see that reallocation considerations are actually made on a regular basis	Provide regional councils with timely and accurate socio-economic data for use in management decisions	Look to other forms of fishing and hunting management for more efficient and proven methods for management
National Perspective	Establish a process for reallocation	Develop and implement alternative management strategies for recreational fishing	More frequent and better prioritized stock assessments
National Perspective	Better and timely fishing data	Allocate resources based on economic impact	more flexibility in MS
National Perspective	Done with this survey		
National Perspective	Ask me at the end of the conference.		
National Perspective	more timely catch / effort data, including embracing electronic self reporting	more social science research	critical examination of new ways to manage recreational fishing
National Perspective	Provide more flexibility for stock rebuilding schedules	Lead on the allocation issue -- promote regional discussion unto that end	Improve messaging about the value of recreational angling to economic and social fabric of this country.
National Perspective	Spend time with recreational fishermen not just industry leaders	Remove any incentives for the sale or barter of recreational caught fish	Broaden your outreach in Spanish
National Perspective	Develop a different management model for recreation fisheries	Re-examine allocations based on current economic, social and environmental factors.	Give management to the states where appropriate.
New England	Validate the economic value of recreation fisheries	Allow recreational access to fisheries	Utilize management practices that provide quality recreation fisheries
New England	Manage the for hire sector separately from the private angling sector	Develop models that use/allow angler self reporting tools to help in data collection	Facilitate opportunities for an equal representation of recreational fishermen to meet and develop solutions collaboratively
New England	better allocations	more flexibility	stability in regulations
New England	Increase representation on management bodies	Develop economic impact science/data	Stabilize and completely implement MRIP
Other	help improve MSA for	better instill the new	develop a new approach to

	recreations	recreation philosophy from headquarters in the regions	collaboration and conflict resolution within the councils
Pacific Islands	Communication	Education & Outreach	More opportunities
Pacific Islands	Improved data collection	support cultural (Pacific Islands) practices and beliefs	allow take on specific species for cultural practices in the Pacific Islands
Pacific Islands	Support Coordinators with outreach and travel \$	Make ACL more realistic and flexible	Get more timely data
Pacific Islands	An institutional orientation complementary of stated goals and objective	Common sense approaches inclusive of fishery participant input and advice	A budget that fulfills its goals
South Atlantic	Take seriously economic returns and compatibility with conserving fish	Greater allocations	Hire many more stock assessment scientists
South Atlantic	better and more accurate data collection	Flexibility in rebuilding stocks	use of adaptive management
South Atlantic	Better and more timely data	Include fishermen in the management process	Many bottomfish species in great shape but no fishing is allowed
South Atlantic	Work more closely with the state agencies who are closer to constituents	Implement cooperative research efforts with the fishery	Gather more biological data for stock assessments
South Atlantic	Increased collection of recreation landings information or individual reporting to augment MRIP estimates	Additional social scientists and economists in the regions and at the Council to increase data collection on recreational demographics and issues	requirements for reporting, registration, and other data collection for private recreational anglers
West Coast	More cooperative research. i.e.; greater support of EFP's	Greater local control of management	More robust defense against protectionist litigation
West Coast	Implement regional plans in each region.	fix the stuck allocation system	work more closely with the states on management, including deferring to states in some cases
West Coast	Take harvest control on Terns and Cormorants	Increase Hatchery production	Increase hatchery Production
West Coast	Shift of emphasis of the M-S Act and National Standard from Commercial to include recreational value to the nation.	By-catch damage to non-targeted species. i.e. Halibut kill by trawl and Pollock industry.	Socio-economic parity of recreational value to commercial export value.
West Coast	Place a Moratorium on any future MPA's	Allow hatchery raised brood stock fish to spawn naturally with wild fish. Enhance stocks not split them	Fund Hatcheries and artificial reef program to rebuild saltwater habitat
West Coast	Better and more timely data and stock assessments.	More interaction with anglers on the water.	More contact with representatives of tackle industry.

West Coast	Amend the MMPA	Hire staff with on the water experience	Spend time with recreational fishermen
West Coast	Achieve a balanced recreational and commercial representation on the management councils	Continue to improved recreational catch and effort data	Allocation based on economics
West Coast	Use more flexible rebuilding plans.	Avoid "following the noise" when determining harvest guidelines	Allow individual fishery management councils to tailor rebuilding plans to specific areas.
West Coast	Focus salmon hatchery operations on sustaining fisheries rather than insisting wild fish are more important UNTIL there is sufficient habitat restoration to sustain wild stocks at fishable levels	Oppose the MPA movement with its current focus on protection rather than sustainability	Improve science of stock assessment, catch accounting / forecasting, and economic impact analysis

## Most Important Community Actions

*What are the three most important actions the recreational fishing community could take to improve marine recreational fishing?*

Most Important Recreational Fishing Community Action (Community Responses)			
Region	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3
Alaska	Better educate anglers to the needs and benefits of better recreational catch reporting		
Alaska	Equal bag limits for sport and for hire	More involvement in the process	Better catch accountability
Gulf of Mexico	Help NOAA secure the necessary budgets	Provide feedback about priority needs	Help collect data
Gulf of Mexico	Participate in data collection activities to ensure accurate data are collected	Understand that implementation of improvements takes time	
Gulf of Mexico	Preach the importance of accurate and timely reporting	Encourage self regulatory compliance	Lobby for regional State-Federal management
Gulf of Mexico	Generate a more cohesive lobby	Participate in data collection	Become more entrenched in the process, throw more resources into lobbying
Gulf of Mexico	Convince the Walton Foundation to cease funding efforts to privatize public marine resources.	Succeed in having MSA adopt new/separate guidelines for the management of recreational fisheries.	Continue efforts to eliminate bycatch from destructive commercial fishing gear.
Gulf of Mexico	Better educate angler advocates (citizen scientists)	Help to better educate managers	Get engaged in regulatory and legislative arenas
Gulf of Mexico	Abide by slots and limits	Get involved	Stay involved
Mid-Atlantic	Cooperation in research	Catch and release program	Work more closely with MRIP
Mid-Atlantic	Recreational registry	Reporting your catch	More regulations on reporting
Mid-Atlantic	Work in a constructive manner	Support expanded funding	

	with NMFS	for NMFS	
National Perspective	Support change to the MSA to allow more flexibility in management and manage recreation fisheries by calculating mortality compared to overall biomass	Support cooperative independent data research	Get more involved in fishery management
National Perspective	Speak with one voice	Prioritize	
National Perspective	Get Congress to mandate changes in Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization		
National Perspective	Release mortality reduction	More effective communications with decision makers at various levels of federal government	Articulate with specificity what well managed recreational and mixed use fisheries can and should look like
National Perspective	Use tools and techniques to improve the survivability of caught and released fish	Aid in data collection	Be more active in management processes
National Perspective	Assisting in better data from Recreation sector		
National Perspective	Done with this survey		
National Perspective	Ask me at the end of the conference!		
National Perspective	Be more willing to look at the responsibility of the recreation community to look at new ways of managing, including accountability	More dialogue, shared goals with conservation community, other stakeholders	Look for more positive, forward looking initiatives as compared with negative, looking back
National Perspective	Look for successful collaboration and celebrate it.	Support habitat restoration funding and management programs.	
National Perspective	Think - not only about catching fish, but how I can best minimize any of the potential adverse consequences of my part in the whole process.	Teach conservation by example to both young and new anglers	Balance opportunity with protein.
National Perspective	Get more engaged with MSA reauthorization		
New England	Help provide good and timely catch and effort data	Become more engaged in the fisheries management process	engage in dialogs with commercial counterparts in shared fisheries
New England	Buy into the mindset that providing accurate data in a timely manner is helpful.	Put aside self-serving agendas and work to create management tools that help all recreation fishermen equally	Engage in the management process with more consistency and bring legal, fair solutions to the table
New England	be more aware of changes in regulations	attend more meetings	fill out log books for better catch data
New England	Increase representation on	Recreational organizations	Participate in developing

	management bodies	must learn to work together	cooperative research
Other	better participation in fish management process	better communication among recreation community	reduce release mortality through new technologies
Pacific Islands	Provide data on catches	Collaborating with Management & policy makers	Understanding the process
Pacific Islands	Implement cultural fishing practices	developing best fishing management through partnership with fishermen	involve the fishing community in the policy making process
Pacific Islands	Educate themselves about the Management Process (state and federal!)	Engage in the management process, go to meetings, speak up, educate peers	Write simple plain language, info on regulatory actions pending, club newsletters, Regional Fishing mags
Pacific Islands	Continued presence and participation in recreation fisheries meetings and matters - don't give up!	Continue participation in cooperative research initiatives	Make your existence known to your Congressional delegation.
South Atlantic	Smaller boats, more efficient engines	Communicate more about party boat and charter boat options	PSAs about the benefits from being outdoors fishing - cooler than video games and junk food
South Atlantic	Use of appropriate devices to reduce barotrauma	Assist in providing timely, accurate catch data	
South Atlantic	Give more data but is hard to do when it seems to be used against us. It seems scientists or regulators don't use or want to hear success stories	better communications with state and federal agencies	manage stocks on coast wide basis not state or regional
South Atlantic	Support funding (license all users)	Support MPA's but on a site by site basis where scientifically sound	Support habitat restoration and artificial reefs
South Atlantic	be informed and involved--take advantage of the myriad ways NOAA and the Councils work to make info available (email and mailing lists, social media, etc)	private recreational anglers should be willing to provide detailed information about catch and effort	collaborate with NMFS to find ways to build stakeholder trust in the science
West Coast	Get involved	Fund the representation	Self monitor regulatory compliance
West Coast	Improved coordination between fishing groups and industry	Deal with the reality of growing demand and stable resource availability	Better communications on things like recompression and barotrauma reduction.
West Coast	Go to meetings and give input	Be more forth coming of fishing info	Be involved learn what goes into the season setting process
West Coast	Improve government/private research project to provide better population data and biology gaps.	Reduce non-target mortality by funding release devices and public education.	Public Education to change angler's attitudes from harvesting every fish that is allowed to one of personal consumption. Avoid greed and wastage.
West Coast	Assist with 2 and 3 above	Conduct angler education	Volunteer to help

West Coast	Adopt regular use of descending devices.	Get better educated on reasons for actions by Regional Councils.	Take only what they need, and release the rest. "Ethical Angling."
West Coast	Respond to data collection requests	Be better organized politically	Work with commercial interests for common goals
West Coast	Reduce by-catch and associated mortality	Better collaboration between different recreational sectors	Improve communication with state and federal managers
West Coast	Learn proper and timely recompression techniques for releasing groundfish.	Continue to support catch and release fisheries	Devise methods to increase catch accountability and reporting
West Coast	Embrace the emerging techniques/gear development to avoid critical stocks and to reduce discard mortality of regulatory discards	Support those management actions that are solidly based on science	Get involved in the fishery management process (RFMPs) to effectively make the changes that are impacting the recreational fishing experience.

## Successful Collaboration Examples

*Are you aware of examples of real world collaboration among anglers, regulators and researchers? If so, what allowed those collaborations to succeed?*

Region	Successful Collaboration Examples (Community Responses)
Alaska	Funding and industry acceptance
Gulf of Mexico	N/A
Gulf of Mexico	No
Gulf of Mexico	Open communications
Gulf of Mexico	Yes: LA Wildlife and Fisheries, RFRI, and private anglers participate together in hosting fishing rodeos. Good open communication amongst the groups
Mid-Atlantic	A trust between anglers and the agency.
Mid-Atlantic	Bag it, notch it, check it, tag it program - Telecheck record
Mid-Atlantic	NYS Sea Grant post release mortality studies
National Perspective	Sedar process in the southeast, providing recreation anglers access to observe and provide real world experiences
National Perspective	Trust, happens all the times in the states.
National Perspective	Use of release tools in CA's rockfish fishery. Succeeded because the PFMC embraced it and trust was built among anglers, scientists and managers
National Perspective	Done with this survey
National Perspective	Some, when a genuine interest/commitment was shown on/by all sides coupled with at least some initial TRUST.
National Perspective	shared goals, understanding language used, willingness to listen
National Perspective	MNFS work with fishermen and scientists on addressing barotrauma: Fish Smart, The Sport-fishing Conservancy and NERO on Best Practices and
National Perspective	Not as much in saltwater as there is for inland freshwater fisheries, where such collaboration is common practice. Communication and trust are invariably the keys to success.
New England	Maine recreation fishers have an excellent collaboration with MRIP through our state agency. Open and trusting dialogs have made this possible.
New England	The ACCSP handheld data collection project: The project was conceived by industry and industry was involved in all phases of project design and implementation.
New England	Electronic log books for the for-hire boats
New England	RI Party Charter Assn. electronic data collection program / cooperation from all involved and leadership
Other	yes leadership to implement collaboration, use of professionals in facilitation and collaboration, persistence, and enough time to reach a collaborative state
Pacific Islands	Not aware
Pacific Islands	It doesn't, the lack of trust with the regulatory agency and the fishing community
Pacific Islands	Many in our region, mostly because a few Individuals who cared went the extra mile. Example: American Samoa, CNMI Monument fishing regulations allowing Non-commercial fishing to include Customary Exchanging
South Atlantic	Funding from outside government in most cases
South Atlantic	The collaboration of the California Charter Boat Association and NOAA working together on a cow cod(rock fish) barotrauma project
South Atlantic	No
South Atlantic	Yes. Good vision and leadership

South Atlantic	No
West Coast	Yes. All of the heavy lifting was done by the anglers and the local state agency
West Coast	Good collaboration on barotrauma research in Southern California. Good relationships between fleet and researchers.
West Coast	The PFMC process in a great example of that.
West Coast	Yes, our local angler group has funded studies with our local University to study halibut Age/Wgt relationships and population's dynamics. Funding for salmon habitat improvements in local rivers and estuaries.
West Coast	Providing Descended devices for Anglers in the NW
West Coast	Sport fishing Association of California (SAC) is a leader in this collaboration.
West Coast	Use of angler knowledge.
West Coast	Good communications and active engagement of managers to form partnerships.
West Coast	Yes. Proper funding for researchers, enthusiastic engagement of researchers with anglers. Researchers being enthusiastic anglers, themselves.

## Vision

*Please envision a future for saltwater recreational fishing in which everything is good. Please describe what this ideal future would look like. What would anglers, industry, scientists, and managers be doing different in 2020 from what they are doing today?*

Region	Vision (Community Responses)
Alaska	For Alaska, the recreational fishery is united and managed under one set of regulations. Regulators are aware that there is need for flexibility in managing a recreational fishery to a TAC.
Alaska	Having allocations being adequate in times of average abundance to be consistent and with traditional bag limits. Real time catch-reporting. Agency outreach.
Gulf of Mexico	Collecting more timely data w/ cooperation from the fishing public; conducting more robust stock assessment on an annual basis.
Gulf of Mexico	It would look like state management of inshore marine species.
Gulf of Mexico	Working together toward common goals (agreeing on the common goals is the tough part).
Mid-Atlantic	Work much closer together so there is mutual trust.
Mid-Atlantic	We take the management of recreation fisheries away from NOAA.
Mid-Atlantic	Everyone working together rather than a "us and them" attitude. Consider industry regulations differently.
Mid-Atlantic	"Everything" will never be totally "good." If tough decisions are made with precise data in an open way, then I think management is doing what it should.
Mid-Atlantic	Seasons, size, bag limits do not change every year. In place for 3-5 years. Require certain forms of tackle to minimize post release mortality. Support youth angling programs.
National Perspective	Abundant stocks, reasonable allocations, reasonable, stable seasons, with a community that is working with the regulators to improve the experience.
National Perspective	Noted in previous answers.
National Perspective	You guys are dreaming - No green groups.
National Perspective	Improved collaboration and allocation of resource protecting it for future generations.
National Perspective	Done with this survey.
National Perspective	Regretfully I'm out of time on this; better no answer than a hastily written, insufficiently thoughtful response.
National Perspective	Better data - better social science integration - more dynamic allocation process - better willingness of recreational community to look at new ways of managing, i.e. don't try to

	manage back to 1998.
National Perspective	Talking.
New England	Ideally if the stocks were in better shape there would be less effort on some of the over fished stock and less effort on the rebuilt stocks. It is very easy to exceed catch targets in both case but for very different reasons
Pacific Islands	"Recreational Fishing" would be redefined as "Non-Commercial", I think we (Recreational fishing community) are making progress and are heading in the right direction we just need to maintain the drive and see it through.
South Atlantic	Informed stakeholders, adequate data collection on recreational catch, and great communication.
West Coast	One half of the political barriers have been removed. The rest would take care of itself.
West Coast	Better anticipation of problems to begin solving early. Better social and economic data. More stability in season expectations. More flexible allocation systems. Regional plans with specific goals and regular dialogue.
West Coast	I think we need to get the Recreation groups to be use for more research Info learn how NOAA can use it and apply it to new fishing Ideas.
West Coast	Summer long seasons with conservative limits. Management will be collaborative with users.
West Coast	More Cooperative research.
West Coast	Active engagement in management using best available science with best economic utilization to achieve long-term conservation goals.

## Information Needs

*What information would you like to see provided in advance to help you prepare for the Summit? (If you know of a source that would be useful to others, please note the online link with a description of the initiative.)*

Region	Information needs (Community Responses)
Alaska	Sharing sessions on recreational fishing activities that are aimed at improving the recreational fishing experience.
Alaska	Not sure.
Gulf of Mexico	Future NOAA plans, where limited budgets have impacted efforts, etc.
Gulf of Mexico	Results, regionally displayed, of the recently completed national survey of marine recreational fisheries preferences.
Gulf of Mexico	Can't get to summit.
Gulf of Mexico	Rather than a listing of everything that NMFS has said they would do in the new Administration, let's see what the agency has actually done.
Gulf of Mexico	Results of this survey and future regulations for consideration
Mid-Atlantic	Go back in time (1960's 70s' and 80's) and determine what programs were successful.
Mid-Atlantic	List of panels since I do not want to waste my time and money
Mid-Atlantic	How the recreational fish are counted.
Mid-Atlantic	Agenda, abstracts of presentations.
National Perspective	The website would include all available presentations, papers, etc to be used at the summit.
National Perspective	Summary of what the agency is doing for recreation, what it views as the limitations, and the recreation community can help achieve progress

National Perspective	What are the current resources available in NOAA Fisheries to provide socio-economic data to the regional councils?
National Perspective	The agenda and any related info but in summary/abstract form (time to read long research reports just won't happen).
National Perspective	Summary of progress since last summit, summary of MSA proposals, MAFAC recreation fisheries S/C recommendations, TRCP Commission recommendations.
National Perspective	A summary of this survey.
New England	Report card on NOAA's progress since rge 2010 summit. Road blocks encountered since the 2010 summit.
New England	The agenda and a briefing book.
New England	Tough to answer without and agenda. A detailed agenda and briefing book would be good.
Other	Presentations.
Pacific Islands	Topics to be discussed.
Pacific Islands	Agenda and topics of discussions.
Pacific Islands	simple briefing materials on progress toward MSA re-organization, MAFAC RFWG "White Paper", Simple Briefing on Council process and role of science, good and bad.
Pacific Islands	What "institutional orientation" initiatives NOAA Fisheries has defined to improve its commitment to recreational fisheries and fishermen of the nation.
South Atlantic	Issues, if delineated, that will be discussed and by category of fish - reef, coastal, HMS, etc.
South Atlantic	Broad question would like more information on SAMFC grouper, snapper latest stock assessment and where those numbers were obtained.
South Atlantic	Not sure.
West Coast	Not attending.
West Coast	Rate of growth in recreational fishing last 20 years projected into the next 20 years – as compared to jobs in the commercial sector.
West Coast	All the supporting Documents on the Agenda.
West Coast	A priority list of what the focus of the Summit will be so that the time spent can be used most efficiently.
West Coast	Make this available on webcast. Agenda sent out and those who cannot attend be able to comment.
West Coast	Latest status of stocks important to anglers nationwide.
West Coast	Cooperative research opportunities.
West Coast	Goals of summit and discussion topics scheduled to meet those goals.
West Coast	Provide history and background on the Magnusson-Stevens Act.

## Summit Outcomes

*From your perspective, what would be the most important outcome from the Summit?*

Region	Desired Outcomes (Community Responses)
Alaska	An action item that would create regional recreational fishing committees, advocates, liaisons, or other means for representation in policy making bodies selected from recreational fishing stakeholders.
Alaska	A set of truly achievable goals.
Gulf of Mexico	A clear, concise list of priorities agreed upon by the community.
Gulf of Mexico	Development of relationships among fishing public and scientists to allow for collaboration.
Gulf of Mexico	Recognition and commitment that the recreational community has to step up to establish more effective management. Collaboration and support, financially and politically, are essential to any significant further progress.
Gulf of Mexico	Ending any potential for catch shares in the recreational fishery.
Gulf of Mexico	Something beneficial to recreational angling that actually trickles down through NMFS and has a positive impact at the Gulf Council.
Gulf of Mexico	Progress to building a management-as-partner relationship.
Gulf of Mexico	Common goals on future fishing controls amongst governing bodies, recreation and community anglers.
Mid-Atlantic	Complete what you have committed to doing.
Mid-Atlantic	To hold it in a place that is more affordable.
Mid-Atlantic	A great relationship between recreational fisherman and NOAA; meaning there seems to be a great deficit between populations, estimates, and abundances; if we could all be on the same page, it would help bridge the gap between "research" and "industry."
Mid-Atlantic	Better working relationship between NMFS and the recreational community, amend Magnuson to reflect the improved relationship, i.e. annual accountability measures.
National Perspective	A serious change to the current management system regarding recreation fisheries.
National Perspective	Setting 5 goals that can be accomplished over the next 3 years.
National Perspective	Real change in the manner in which NOAA manages and respects recreational fishing.
National Perspective	Consensus on near term actions NOAA Fisheries could be taking and some long term issues that could be dealt with in MSA reauth or administratively.
National Perspective	A commitment from NOAA to implement top priorities (e.g., allocation, alternative management) with timetable, list of actions required, etc.
National Perspective	Improved flexibility in MS with better data collection in Recreation sector to provide a more fair allocation process.
National Perspective	Done with this survey.
National Perspective	More opportunities for better recreational fishing experiences for more saltwater anglers in this country.
National Perspective	Better communication, understanding among various interests.
National Perspective	Stronger relationships across all sectors of the recreational fishing community in its broadest sense.
National Perspective	For the recreational outdoor press to give a broad, accurate accounting of the summit so that leadership's feet are held to the fire along with NMFS.
National Perspective	An appropriate paradigm shift in how NOAA Fisheries manages the recreational sector, based on a set of cooperatively developed, well defined and reasonable management goals and approach.
New England	Increased respect of the value of fully utilized recreational fisheries.
New England	Having the public feel like they were being listened to.
New England	I would like to feel real progress was made as opposed to feeling as if summit was political window-dressing.

Other	Better collaboration within recreation community and NOAA with trust at Regional levels. A commitment to tackle the big outcomes of the meeting.
Pacific Islands	That we continue to address the action plan.
Pacific Islands	Supporting the Pacific Islands fishing goals and objectives.
Pacific Islands	Resolutions that positively impact MSA reauthorization, and gain more recognition at all levels of the economic and non-economic social and cultural value of recreational fishing.
Pacific Islands	A true commitment from NOAA in terms of institutional orientation, budgets and actions commensurate with its "talk."
South Atlantic	Helping chart a path forward for recreational fishing to provide more access and of course better fishing. Also, possibly provide input for the reauthorization of MS.
South Atlantic	Accurate and more timely data to make decisions.
South Atlantic	Realistically- better communication among all fishery participants and some consensus on issues.
South Atlantic	Meaningful goals and action items that benefit the public and resource as a whole, not just beneficial to the recreational sector.
West Coast	No attempts to take allocation from other sectors. Stick with uniquely recreational issues.
West Coast	A new agenda, carried out at the national and regional levels...regular, improved communications.
West Coast	Keeping improving the communications and applying new Ideas.
West Coast	That goals identified be measurable and attainable with specific target dates and metrics for success.
West Coast	A change of direction and attitude from NOAA.
West Coast	Clearly state the value of recreational angling to the nation in terms of dollars and jobs.
West Coast	Commitment to full time recreational staff for research and outreach in regions and centers.
West Coast	Specific actions to be taken by NMFS to improve recreational fishing while meeting conservation goals.
West Coast	Successful support for more flexibility in rebuilding fisheries.
West Coast	Improved understanding among the fishermen of how they can effectively participate in the management process, and how that process will listen to and respect their inputs and needs.