

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Town Hall
June 9, 2014

Input on Scope:

- Use the same definition of recreational fishing that is used in NMFS economic analyses
- Sale of fish is a commercial activity, not recreational. It crosses a fundamental line.
- A recreational angler is a recreational angler regardless of platform (beach, pier, private boat, charter boat, headboat).
- Add a science/data goal:
 - Science should be robust, defensible, transparent; considered qualitative and quantitative data; be timely and should build confidence.
- Include non-consumptive uses such as “fish watching” or “ecotourism”; think beyond recreational fishing.

Input on draft goals:

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, diverse, and high quality recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
 - a. Management
 - Use the Policy to find/use flexibility in MSA
 - MSA isn't something to deviate from for this policy, and it wasn't a painless tool for commercial fisheries. Policy should show balance.
 - Inconsistent and changing regulations and seasons are especially challenging with high costs of fishing (fuel, boat, permit)
 - Stability and predictable seasons should be a priority (related to above)
 - Rather than shifting unused recreational quota to commercial fishers, it should be rolled-over to the next year for anglers' use
 - States should retain their power to manage
 - Simplify/streamline regulations when possible
 - ACLs led to species specific regulations, which is turn complicated going fishing
 - Support managing for angler satisfaction
 - Look into catch cards used in the North Pacific
 - Council balance is regional and not an issue everywhere
 - The resource must remain available to all who want to use it—recreational, commercial and seafood consumers (i.e., restaurants, seafood markets)
 - Balance allocations across fisheries, over time, and geographically
 - Tailor management on a regional / intra-regional basis.
 - Recreational fisheries must be accountable for staying within management limits
 - b. Conservation and Enhancement
 - Improve water quality so that there aren't any consumption advisories for fish

- Concern over supporting stock enhancement, make it lower priority than sustainable management of wild stocks, habitat restoration, and water quality
 - Reducing discards should be a priority
 - Habitat conservation and improvement should be a priority
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal marine fisheries management system.
- Maintaining working waterfronts is important for all fishermen
3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.
- Policy needs to address partnership with States (not only with anglers)
 - Good partnership example is artificial reefing in South Carolina
 - Part of the communication challenge is the quantity of information; there is too much information available. Make your message unique to have it read
 - [Limited]Private recreational angler participation in science and management is a problem. Must engage them more and get them to the table.
 - Use tournaments and fishing clubs for outreach
 - Some of what NOAA hears is based on a lack of information
 - Use BassPro Shops and others for help with outreach
 - Work with fishing clubs to assess what data they collect and how it can be used for management (especially tournaments)
 - Figure out self-reported data*
 - Guidance on e-self reporting data would be helpful (guideline for quality, etc)
4. Enhance transparency, follow-through, and continuity of action.

Other Issues:

- Develop real-time recreational data reporting, start with for-hire fishery
- Make sure we are asking about discards, with catch surveys
- Ecosystem modeling should be a priority.
- Figure out how self-reported data* can be collected from the recreational anglers.
- Develop guidance on e-self reporting data (guidelines for quality, etc)
- Enhance understanding of predator-prey relationships to improve management
- Can the USFWS Policy be a template for the NOAA Policy?
- Concern that the Policy will negatively impact commercial fisheries re: there are different ways to look at economics with regard to defining OY; shifting allocations
- Include the intrinsic value of recreational fishing to human health. This is tied to getting outside and eating what you catch