

*Science, Service, Stewardship*

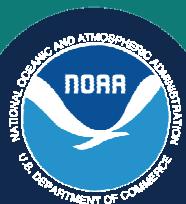


## **Recreational Fisheries Discussion**

Fishery Management Council  
Training

October 21, 2010

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## Magnuson-Stevens Act Definition

MSA § 3, paragraph 37:

“The term “recreational fishing” means fishing for sport or pleasure.”



## **Recreational Fishing Community**

- Private anglers
  - Vessel
  - Shore based
- Speargun
- Fore-hire vessels/services
  - 6-pack
  - Guides
  - Headboats
  - Lodges
- Tournament operators
- Tackle manufacturers, distributors, retailers
- Marinas



## **National Scope of Recreational Fisheries**

In 2008:

- 12 million saltwater anglers took 85 million trips
- Contributed approximately \$82 to the national economy
- Supported 384,000 jobs



## Regions-at-a-glance

Region	Angler Trip & Durable Equipment Expenditures (\$'000s)	Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing Expenditures (\$'000s)
Gulf of Mexico	\$12,544,820	\$3,075,710
Southeast Atlantic	\$7,479,816	\$265,600
Mid-Atlantic	\$4,161,460	\$328,723
Pacific	\$1,970,478	\$207,043
New England	\$1,838,632	\$81,191
Western Pacific	\$588,474	\$301,946
Alaska	\$388,944	\$254,950
Caribbean	N/A	N/A



## **Top Ten Recreational Species**

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Catch (# of Fish)</b>
1	Drum: seatrouts	50,688,000
2	Drum: croaker & sandspot	46,588,000
3	Summer Flounder	24,519,000
4	Striped Bass	13,986,000
5	Sharks	5,488,000
6	Rockfish/Scorpion fish	2,307,000
7	Salmon	1,214,000
8	Small Tunas/Atlantic Bonito	1,027,000
9	Pacific Halibut	875,000
10	Large Tuna	791,000



## Recreational Issues

- Access & opportunity
- Data collection
  - Catch & effort
  - Socio-economic
- Allocation
- Catch shares
- National Ocean Policy / Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning
- Representation in the management process
- Deepwater Horizon disaster impacts

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## Counting Catch



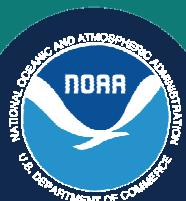
The slide features a white background with a teal header bar at the top. On the left side of the white area, there is a circular NOAA logo. To the right of the logo, the text "MRIP TV Presents" is displayed in large, bold, blue capital letters. At the bottom right of the white area, there is a small logo for the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). This logo consists of a blue rectangle divided into two sections: the left section contains the text "MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM" and the right section contains a stylized white fish silhouette against a blue background. Below this, the text "YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR FISHING DATA" is written in a smaller, sans-serif font.



# Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)

MRIP is a process for:

developing and certifying, scientifically sound survey  
and estimation methods and making the methods  
available for regional use.



# Why was MRIP Initiated?

## Existing Regional Recreational Angler Data Collection Programs

Saltwater Logbook Program

Statewide Harvest Survey

Pacific RecFIN

Ocean Sampling Program  
Puget Sound Sampling Program

Ocean Recreational Boat Survey  
Shore and Estuary Boat Survey

California Recreational Fisheries Surveys

Large Pelagic Survey

NE Vessel Trip Reporting Program

For-Hire Survey

MRFSS

WPacFIN

HI Marine Recreational Fishing Survey

TPW Angler Survey

Southeast Headboat Survey

MRFSS

None



## NRC Recommendations (Summary)

Improve the process.

- Ensure that survey methods are sound.

Once that's complete, build out additional tools to meet specific needs.

Throughout, make sure to engage stakeholders and customers in the process to:

- Create a better product.

- Ensure broad buy-in of end product.



## NRC Recommendations cont.

- Charter, party and other for-hire recreational fishing operations should be required to maintain logbooks of fish landed and kept as well as fish caught and released;
- The survey fails to provide a valid and reliable method of accounting adequately for fish caught and not brought back to the dock;
- Panel surveys, which contact anglers repeatedly through time, should be considered;
- Development and maintenance of a central data warehouse for recreational fisheries and development of appropriate dissemination tools (Role of Federal Agency).



# MSRA Mandates

- Establish and implement a regionally based registry program for recreational fishermen in each of the 8 fishery management regions
- In consultation with stakeholders, establish a program to improve the quality and accuracy of information with a goal of achieving acceptable accuracy and utility for each individual fishery.
- To the extend possible, implement the recommendations of the NRC report.
  - An adequate number of dockside interviews to assure accurate statistics;
  - Collection and analysis of vessel trip report data from for-hire fishing;
  - Surveys that utilize Federal or State registries of anglers and vessels;
  - Development of a weather corrective factor to apply to catch and effort statistics
  - Establishment of an independent committee to review data and statistics, identify deficiencies, and determine appropriate correction measures.



## MRIP Goal

**Goal --- A nationwide system of surveys operating with consistent standards and sufficient flexibility to meet national, regional, and state needs, and to provide reliable information about recreational fishing in a timely manner to support effective and fair management.**

- Success is NOT how different the "new" numbers are from the "old" numbers.
- Success IS the precision of, and level of confidence in, the numbers that are generated



## What are the priorities?

- Improved accuracy, which primarily means:
  - addressing potential biases in past survey designs;
  - Reduced variance of estimates
- Improving the way we manage and share information.
- Increasing spatial resolution and timeliness.



## MRIP National Strategy

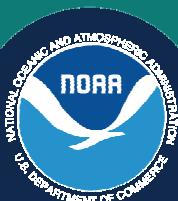
- Regional flexibility
- Development of survey design, estimation and management standards and best practices
  - Utilization of angler registries as sample frames
  - Unbiased sampling and estimation designs
  - For-hire specific data collection approaches
  - Quality assurance and quality control standards
  - Enhanced information management and data dissemination tools



## Regional Surveys

Regional survey partners will make their own decisions to meet regional needs within the “umbrella” guidance of MRIP to apply survey parameters such as:

- Basic survey design choices
- Coverage and resolution beyond standard minimums
- For-hire data collection approach
- Biological sampling requirements



## MRIP Governance Structure





## What does it all mean?

In the short term, MRIP will mean greater certainty in the **quality** of the estimates.

—By its very nature an estimate is not a precise number.

In the longer term, MRIP can allow for such things as:

—More frequent surveys.

—Incorporating of complementary data sets.

—Other strategies for meeting customer needs.

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## More Information

[www.countmyfish.noaa.gov](http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov)

