

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# **Recreational Fisheries Discussion**

Regional Fishery Management  
Council Training

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# Magnuson-Stevens Act

## *Purpose*

“...to **promote** domestic commercial and **recreational fishing** under sound conservation and management principles.”

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# Recreational Fishing *Community and Constituency*





# Recreational Fishing Community

- Private angling
  - Vessel
  - Shore based
- Spearfishing

## For-hire vessels/services

- 6-pack
- Guides
- Headboats
- Lodges
- Tournament operators
- Tackle manufacturers, distributors, retailers
- Marinas

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## Recreational Fishing

**74** million trips

**327,000**

jobs generated

**\$73**

billion  
economic  
impact

**11**

million  
anglers

**More than just an enjoyable way to spend time  
with friends and family...**



# Recreational Fishing *Regional Perspective*

Region	Angler Trip & Durable Equipment Expenditures (\$'000s)
Gulf of Mexico	\$12,544,820
Southeast Atlantic	\$7,479,816
Mid-Atlantic	\$4,161,460
Pacific	\$1,970,478
New England	\$1,838,632
Western Pacific	\$588,474
Alaska	\$388,944
Caribbean	N/A



# Managing Recreational & Commercial Fishing

*What's the big difference?*

## Motive

### Commercial maximizes

- *Profit*

### Recreational maximizes

- *Opportunity*
- *Access*



# Many recreational issues of concern come down to limits on **OPPORTUNITY & ACCESS**

- Allocation
- Annual Catch Limits
- Catch Shares
- Timely and accurate data
- Marine Protected Areas
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning



# Management Toolbox

- Authorized and prohibited gear types
- Terminal tackle restrictions
- Individual bag limits
- Vessel possession limits
- Size limits
- Fishing seasons
- Area closures
- Recreational fishery catch allocations
- Release requirements (e.g. venting)
- Reporting requirements
- Prohibited species



## Recreational Data *Catch & Effort*

NOAA Fisheries provides two estimates of recreational fishing activity:

- **Catch**, or the number, species and size of fish caught.
  - Generally determined through shore-side intercepts.
- **Effort**, or the number of fishing trips taken during a particular reporting period.
  - Generally determined through telephone surveys.

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## Recreational Data *Catch and Effort*

Data quality is important because

**If we over-estimate harvest...**

Lower Catch Limits  
Fewer fishing opportunities

**If we under-estimate harvest...**

Overfishing  
Less Fish to Catch



## NRC Findings on Catch Estimation Method

- The formulas we use to estimate catch are not matched to how we gather data in the field.
- Shore-side sampling methods emphasize maximizing angler intercepts at the expense of statistical rigor.

**These two factors inserted potential for bias into the point estimates and their precision.**

*NRC recommended we fix both the way we estimate catch and the way we gather data.*



## MRIP Response to the NRC Findings

**We've eliminated the potential for bias.**

- The new catch estimation methods will yield **more accurate numbers with a known level of precision.**
  - Estimates can be made more precise through **committing the resources to increased sample sizes.**

This creates a solid foundation for future improvements to precision and timeliness. Additional changes are underway to improve sampling methodology and address effort issues.

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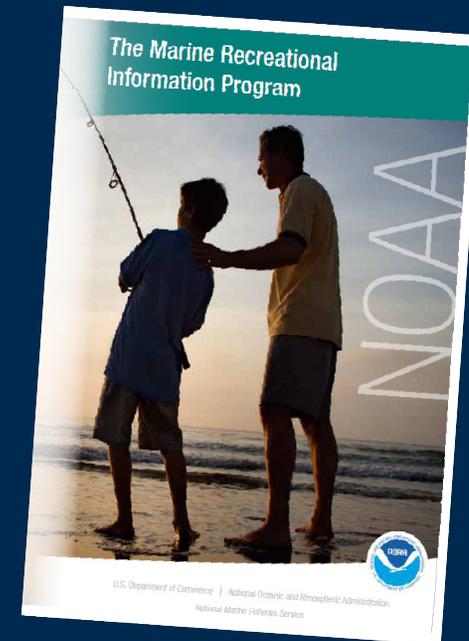


## Recreational Data *Catch and Effort*

### The Marine Recreational Information Program

#### Reducing Uncertainty

- Better data collection and estimation methods
- Increase sampling to improve precision
- Possibly shorten time to make estimates



A variety of outreach materials  
are available online at:  
[www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov](http://www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov)

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## **Recreational Data** *Socio-economics*

National Standards require social and economic factors to be considered in designing management plans.

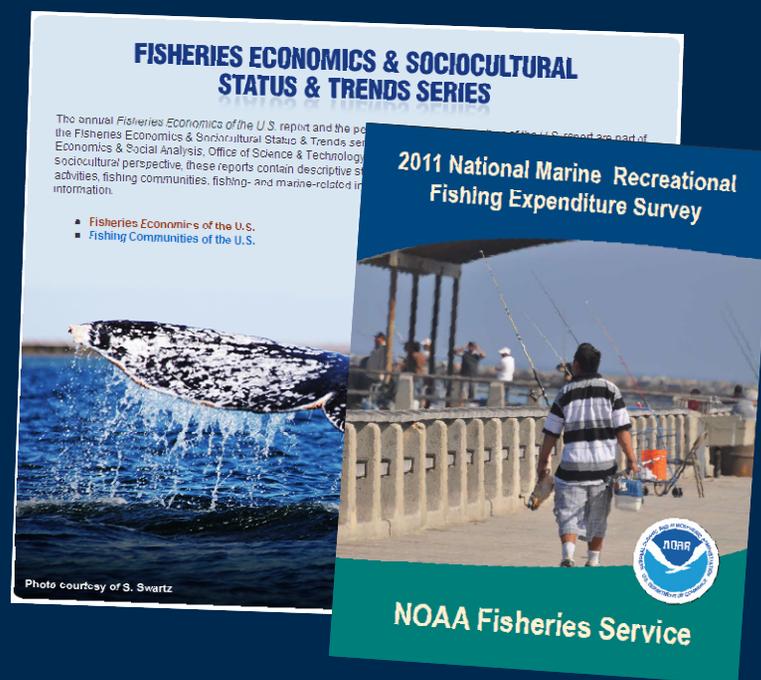


## Recreational Data *Socio-economics*

### Ongoing Recreational Related Work

Data for decision-making

- Nationwide Angler Expenditure Survey
- Programmatic Gap Analysis
- Regional Revealed Preference Surveys
- MORE



More information and to learn about economic resources you can use, check us out online at:

[www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5)

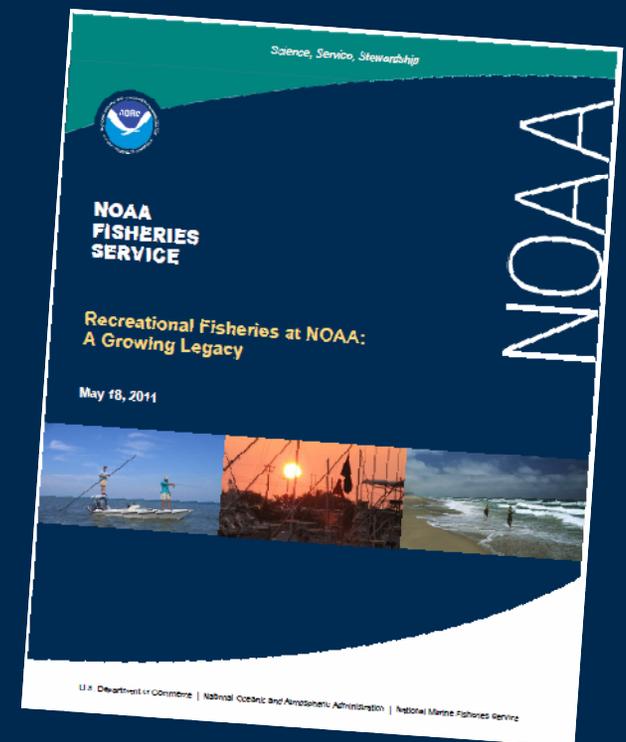
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# NOAA's Commitment to Anglers

NOAA embarked on a focused effort in September 2009 to establish a strong and trusting partnership with the recreational fishing community by:

- Listening to anglers
- Developing actions to address priority issues
- Following through on commitments
- Empowering anglers as responsible stewards and resource users.





## 2011-2012 Ports of Call

- 2011 Marine Recreational Expenditure Field Surveys *Ongoing*
- Regional Recreational Fisheries Action Plans *12/2011*
- Historical Rec. Fish Catch Estimate Revisions *01/2012*
- Recreational Economics Stakeholder Workshop *Q2/2012*
- Rec. Release Mortality Regional Workshops *Spring/Fall2012*

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## **Regional Recreational Fisheries Action Plans**

Outline concrete actions that continue to aid conservation and support a vibrant recreational fishery.

High likelihood of being accomplished this year with our current level of support.

Success will be judged not on the number of our promises, but on the strength of our actions.

