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Recreational Fisheries Discussion

Regional Fishery Management Council Training

October 23-25, 2012



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Discussion Outline

- Recreational Engagement Initiative Overview
- Community Description & Perspective
- Recreational Fisheries Management Tools
- Recent Activity
- Looking Forward



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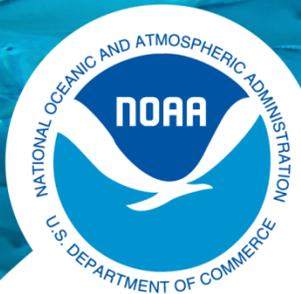
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Purpose

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



NOAA's Commitment

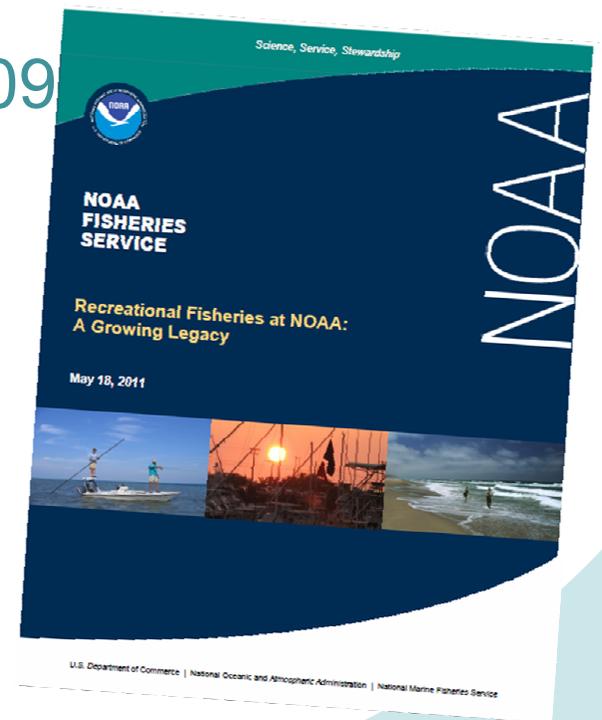


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NOAA's Commitment to Anglers

NOAA embarked on a Recreational Fisheries Engagement Initiative in 2009 to establish a strong and trusting partnership with the community by:

- Listening to anglers (National Summit & Regional Outreach)
- Developing National and Regional Action Agendas to address priority issues
- Following through on commitments
- Empowering anglers as responsible stewards and resource users





Recreational Fisheries & Community



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Diversity of Recreational Fisheries

Sub-tropical waters

- Billfishes
- Snappers
- Wahoo
- Sharks
- Groupers
- Mackerel
- Tunas
- Drums & Grunts
- Sea bass

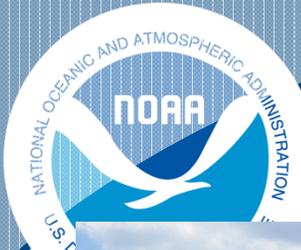
Temperate waters

- Cod & Haddock
- Flounders
- Sea bass
- Tunas
- Rockfish
- Mackerel
- Bluefish
- Drums
- Salmon

Sub-arctic waters

- Pacific Salmon
- Rockfishes
- Pacific Halibut
- Lingcod

Recreational Fishing Community and Constituency



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Recreational Fishing Statistics

85 million trips

500,000
jobs supported

\$82
billion
economic
impact

12
million
anglers

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



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Recreational Fishing Community

Private angling:

- Vessel
- Shore based

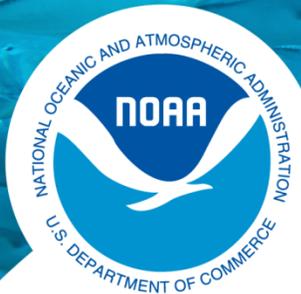
Spearfishing

For-hire vessels/services:

- 6-pack
- Guides
- Headboats
- Lodges

Other Constituents:

- Tournament operators
- Tackle manufacturers, distributors, retailers
- Marinas



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Managing Recreational & Commercial Fishing

What's the big difference?

Priorities

Commercial

- *Profit*

Recreational

- *Opportunity*
- *Access*
- *Outdoor Experience*



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Many recreational issues often relate to concerns over limits on **OPPORTUNITY & ACCESS**

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



Tools for Managing Recreational Fisheries



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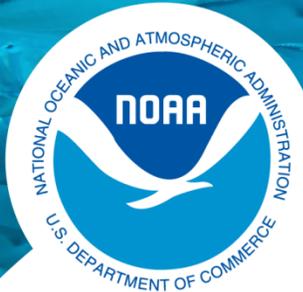
Management Tools

Array of management tools utilized in U.S. marine recreational fisheries.

Primary Tools

- Quota allocation and annual catch limits
- Seasonal fishery openings/closures
- Area closures
- Possession limits by species and/or species complex
 - Number of fish per angler/vessel/trip/day
 - Species prohibitions (e.g., great white sharks)
- Size limits by species
 - Minimum and/or maximum sizes and slot limits

Management Toolbox (continued)



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Secondary Tools

Gear restrictions

- Gear prohibitions (e.g., nets, fish traps, etc.)
- Gear requirements (e.g., circle hooks, release gears)

Tertiary Tools

Practices

- Venting requirements
- Prohibition on removal from the water
- Release in a manner that maximizes probability of survival
- Landing condition to facilitate species identification (e.g., *heads/tails intact*)
- Restrictions on sale/purchase



DATA IMPROVEMENTS

- Catch & Effort
- Socio-economic

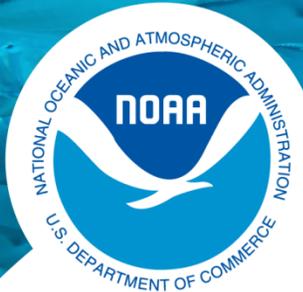


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Recreational Data *Catch & Effort*

NOAA Fisheries provides two estimates of recreational fishing activity:

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



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Importance of Data Quality

If we over-estimate harvest...

Lower Catch Limits
Fewer fishing opportunities

If we under-estimate harvest...

Overfishing
Less Fish to Catch

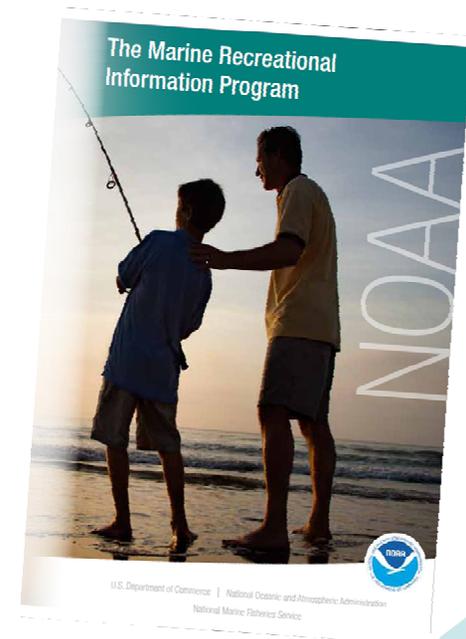


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The Marine Recreational Information Program

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

NOAA released retrospective calculations using MRIP in January 2012 . **See reference handout for more information**



A variety of outreach materials are available online at:
www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov



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Recent MRIP Progress

2011

- Implementation of new unbiased methodology to estimate recreational catch & effort

2012

- Release of updated historical catch & effort estimates for Atlantic and Gulf coasts
- Gulf of Mexico for-hire logbook pilot
- North Carolina shoreside catch estimation study pilot
- Enhanced website



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MRIP: Next Steps

- Additional updated historical Atlantic & Gulf catch and effort estimates (1998-2003)
- Implement intercept survey re-design
- Implement intercept survey methodological improvements
- Pilot studies to address recommended improvements to survey designs for Washington, Oregon, and California.



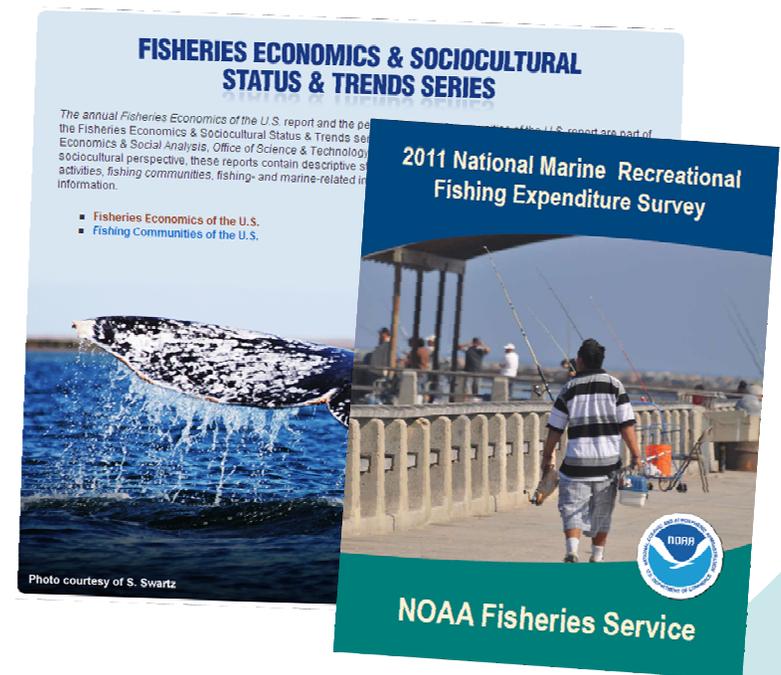
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Ongoing Related Work

Data for decision-making

- Nationwide Angler Expenditure Survey
- Regional Revealed Preference Surveys
- National Angler Human Dimensions Survey
- International manual on economic impact assessment of recreational fisheries

Recreational Data *Socio-economics*



More information and to learn about economic resources you can use, check us out online at:
www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5

A large school of fish, likely mackerel, swimming in the ocean. The fish are densely packed and moving in a coordinated pattern. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue circular shape that frames the text. The text "Looking Forward" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within the blue circle.

Looking Forward

2013 Priorities



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1. Improve how NOAA collects and reports recreational fishing information by **implementing a new method for collecting data** from anglers and **releasing results from the angler expenditure survey**.
2. Provide a recreational fishing experience that reflects the needs and desires of the recreational community. We'll begin by undertaking **new human dimension research** and responding to a **new NOAA-funded report on allocation**.
3. Fulfill NOAA's promises to make a difference at the regional and local levels through the continued implementation of regional action agendas, **regular town-hall conference calls with regional leadership**, and at least **one constituent meeting in each region**.
4. Ensure timely angler awareness of the facts driving issues and identify **opportunities for engagement** through cooperation, communication, and transparency, including the upcoming **Managing Our Nation's Fisheries III** conference.
5. Help anglers become better marine stewards by providing science-based information on barotrauma and catch and release techniques developed through the **FishSmart**.
6. Continue to **strengthen science** through the application of cutting edge stock assessment techniques, and improve survey data collection using advanced technologies and alternative survey platforms.

A large school of fish, likely mackerel, swimming in the ocean. The fish are densely packed and moving in a coordinated pattern. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue circular shape that frames the text. The text "Thank you" is written in a white, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

Thank you



Useful Websites:

NOAA Fisheries Regional Recreational Contacts:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/PartnershipsCommunications/recfish/recfish_contacts.htm

Recreational Fisheries Updates and Reports:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/PartnershipsCommunications/recfish/index.htm>

Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP):

<http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/index.html>