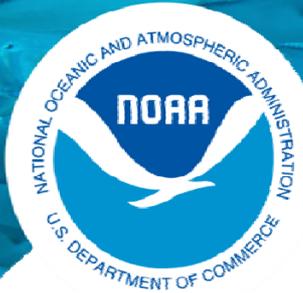


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# Recreational Fisheries Discussion

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting  
Recreational Fisheries Sub-Committee

October 24, 2012



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# Discussion Outline

- Background
- National and Regional Recreational Fisheries Action Agenda Accomplishments
  - Improved Fishing Opportunities
  - Improved Recreational Catch and Effort Data
  - Improved Socio-economic data
  - Improved Communication
  - Institutional Orientation
- MAFAC Recommendation Status Update
- Looking Forward



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## Recreational Fishing Statistics

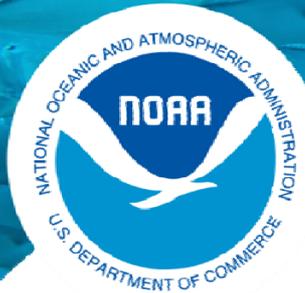
**85** million trips

**500,000**  
jobs supported

**\$82**  
billion  
economic  
impact

**12**  
million  
anglers

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

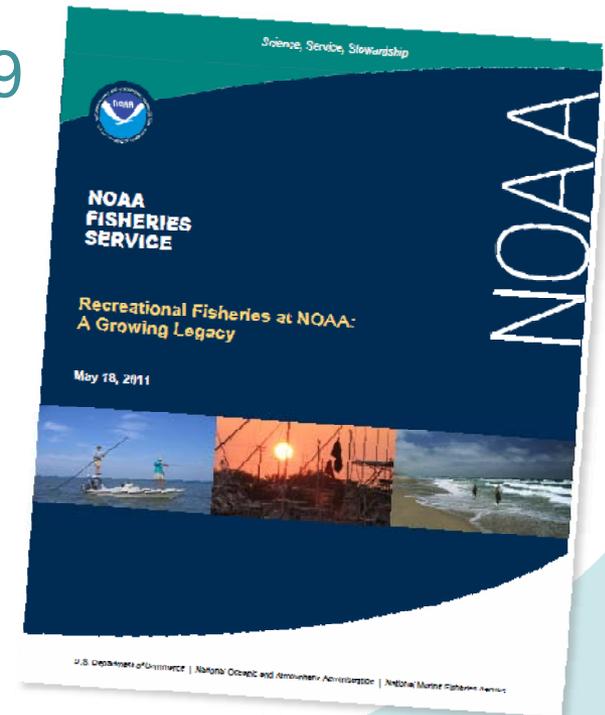


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# NOAA's Commitment to Anglers

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)for
- Following through on commitments
- Empowering anglers as responsible stewards and resource users
- Developing National and Regional Action (Inc. Atlantic HMS) Plans to address priority issues



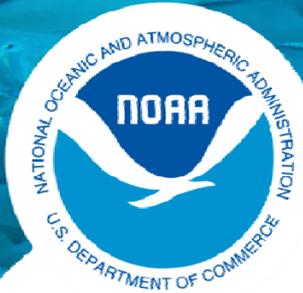


# Improved Fishing Opportunities



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# Improved Fishing Opportunities



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## •Allocation

- Addressed through the National Catch Share Policy
- Opened conversations in Councils
- Developed an internal document on history of allocation
- Commissioned an external study on perspectives associated with allocation

## •Improving Stewardship

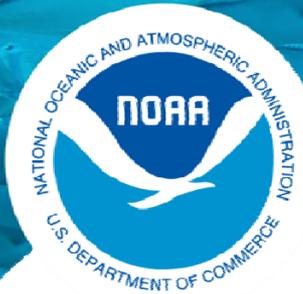
- Release mortality/barotrauma workshops
  - FishSmart Gear Program
- Sportfishing Conservancy partnership in National Marine Sanctuaries

## •Rigs to Reefs/Idle Iron

- NOAA participation in interagency discussions to help preserve recreational fishing opportunities

# Improved Fishing Opportunities

Continued



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- **Regulatory/Administrative**

- National Standard 1 review
- Worked with anglers on the Fishery Science Improvement Act
- Worked with the councils re: Annual Catch Limits

- **On-the-water**

- Gulf of Mexico red snapper total allocation increased from 5 million pounds in 2008 to 8 million pounds in 2012, with recreational quota increasing accordingly.
- S. Atlantic 240 foot snapper-grouper prohibition lifted
- South Atlantic Red Snapper was opened for a short season in 2012, for the first time in almost 3 years

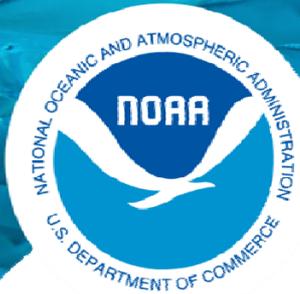




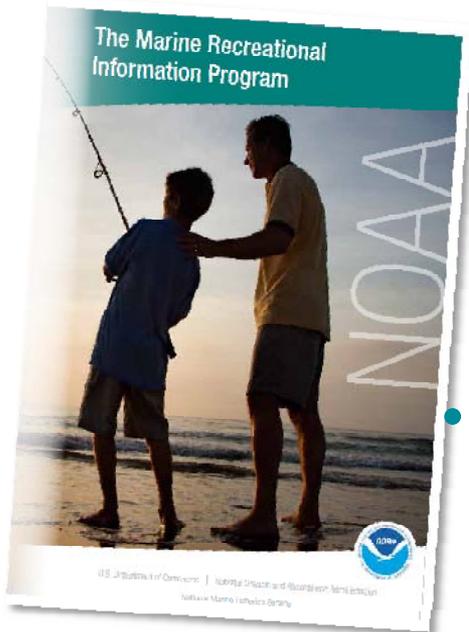
# Improved Recreational Catch and Effort Data



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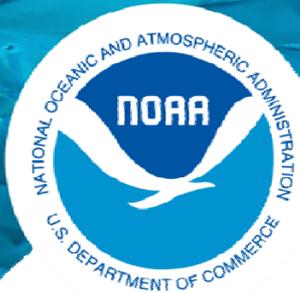


# Improved Recreational Catch and Effort Data

- **Marine Recreational Information Program**
  - Committed nearly \$40mil (2008-1012)
  - National Angler Registry
  - New, unbiased catch estimation methodology
  - Retrospective recreational catch estimates for the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts
  - Gulf of Mexico for-hire logbook pilot
  - North Carolina shoreside catch estimation study pilot
  - Review of intercept surveys in California, Washington and Oregon to facilitate methodological improvements
- **Deepwater Horizon**
  - Emergency data collection
  - \$700K for-hire survey



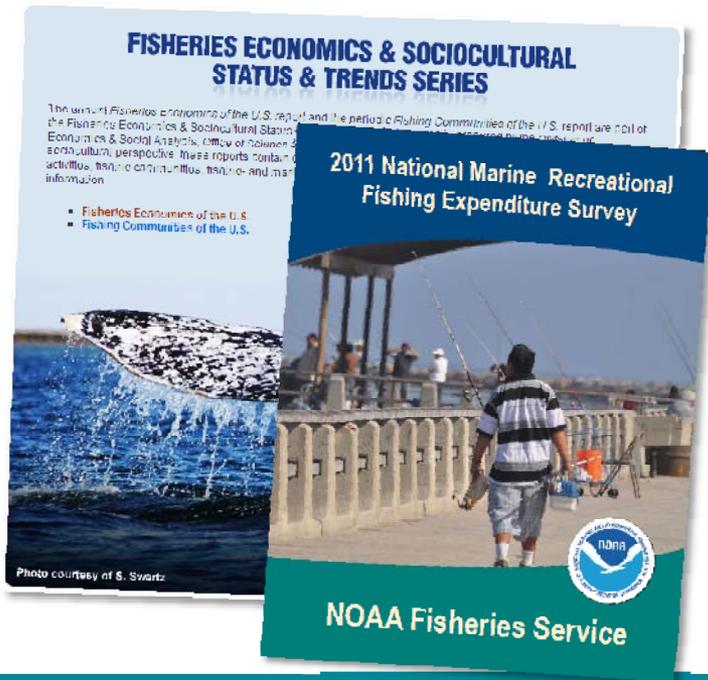
# Improved Socio-Economic Data



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# Improved Socio-Economic Data

- Internal Gap Analysis of Socio-Econ. Data
  - Workshop discussion on results
- Regional Economic Studies
  - Alaska, Hawaii, Atlantic Coast
- National Saltwater Angler Expenditure Survey
  - Survey of every coastal state (*results 2013*)
- National Angler Human Dimensions Survey
- International manual on economic impact assessment of recreational fisheries

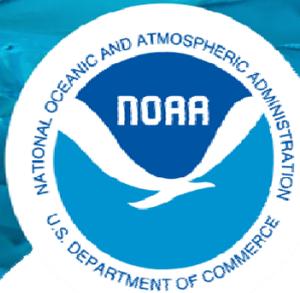


More information and to learn about economic resources you can use, check us out online at:

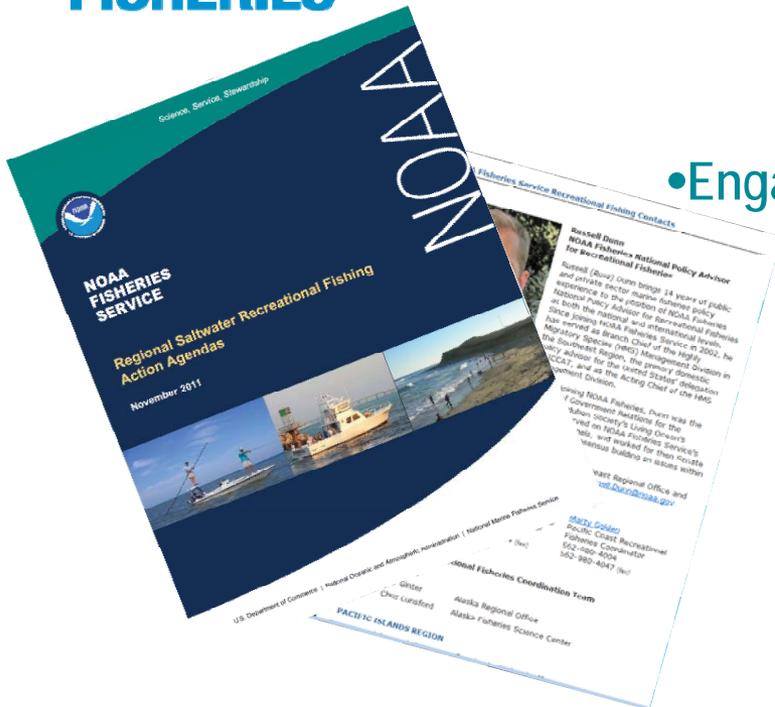
[www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5)



# Improved Communication



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# Improved Communication

## • Outreach/Education

- Informational videos developed
- Regional recreational fisheries websites and newsletters
- 'Recreational Fishing Month' (April 2012)
- Regular dialogue
- Catch-a-Special-Thrill (CAST)

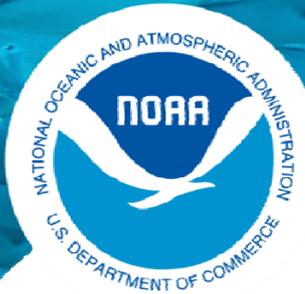
## • Engagement/Listening

- Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit
- Regional recreational coordinator network created
  - Regional Recreational Fishing Action Agenda devel.
- MRIP regional listening sessions
- MAFAC Rec. Fish. Working Group
- Council visits
- Open door engagement with agency leadership



# Institutional Orientation

# Institutional Orientation



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## •Visibility of Recreational Fishing

- Senior recreational fishing advisor position created with broad access to senior leadership
- Improving balance of Fishery Management Councils
- Recreational fisheries module into the Fishery Management Council new member training

## •Planning for the Future

- Next Generation Strategic Plan
- Dedicated recreational fisheries action agendas
- 2013 NMFS Budget Priorities Guidance Memorandum



# MAFAC Recommendations



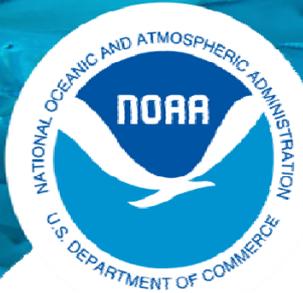
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# MAFAC Recommendations



1. **MAFAC encourages NOAA to continue work on barotrauma, paying particular attention to the post-release recovery of species**
  - **Ongoing:** NOAA sponsored a series of successful national and regional workshops to identify science-based approaches and practices to avoid and reduce recreational release mortality.
  - Outlining focused national science strategy re: release mortality
2. **MAFAC recommends that NOAA incorporates in the budget process consideration of recreational fishing initiatives.**
  - Under discussion

# MAFAC Recommendations cont.



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3. MAFAC requests there be equitable representation of all recreational, commercial, and other interests on the Regional Fishery Management Councils.
  - Ongoing: 2012 Appointments increased recreational representation by 1 seat, with one appt. yet to be made on the WPFMC (MAFMC +2, WPFMC -1)
4. Identify regional stakeholder organizations and local media by Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinators in collaboration with RFWG members
  - Underway
5. Publish on the NOAA Website and in appropriate media, the contact information of the Regional Recreational Fishing Coordinators and a description of their duties.
  - **Completed:** Website created:  
([http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/PartnershipsCommunications/recfish/recfish\\_contacts.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/PartnershipsCommunications/recfish/recfish_contacts.htm))

# MAFAC Recommendations cont.



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6. That the Regional Coordinators obtain input from RFWG members in their region regarding any draft action plans as pertains to recreational fishing.
  - Completed for 2010 National Action Agenda
  - Completed for 2011 action agendas
  - Planned for 2013 updates
  
7. That the RFWG be utilized when appropriate to develop input on initiatives that will be vetted through the MAFAC Rec. Fish. Subcommittee for recommendations.
  - Ongoing- focal area of new staff support

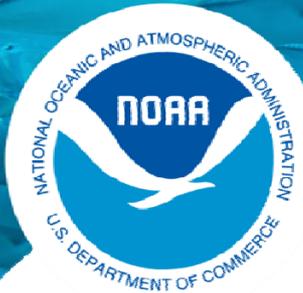


# Looking Forward



**NOAA FISHERIES**

# 2013 Priorities

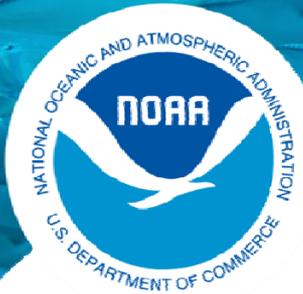


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1. Improve how NOAA collects and reports recreational fishing information by **implementing a new method for collecting data** from anglers and **releasing results from the angler expenditure survey**.
2. Provide a recreational fishing experience that 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.



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# NEXT STEPS

## •Improved Fishing Opportunities:

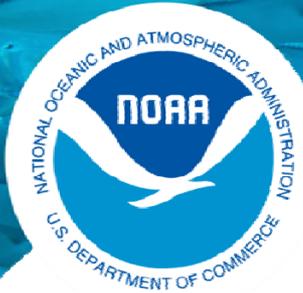
- Rigs to Reefs
- Managing Our Nations Fisheries III
- Allocation efforts
- Release mortality science strategy
- FishSmart

## •Improved Recreational Catch and Effort Data

- MRIP
- 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.

# NEXT STEPS

## Continued



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- **Improved Socio-Economic Data**

- National Saltwater Expenditure Survey results release
- National Angler Perceptions Study (*to be fielded late 2012*)

- **Improved Communication**

- Regional Recreational Fisheries Mini-Summits
- Regular town-hall conference calls with regional coordinators

A large school of fish, likely mackerel, swimming in the water. The fish are densely packed and moving in a coordinated pattern. The water is a deep blue color. The text "Thank you" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Thank you



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