



NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of the
Assistant
Administrator

2014 National Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit

Overview and Next Steps
Council Coordinating Committee
May 14, 2014



AGENDA

- Summit Overview
- What's Next
 - National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
 - National Action Agenda



SUMMIT VIDEO

Pre-Summit Goal & Objectives

Goal: Continue building trust by identifying priority saltwater recreational fishing community issues and collaborative solutions

Objectives:

- Open/reinforce lines of communication
- Obtain Information to develop road-map for action

Summit Participants



88



NOAA

49

Councils and
Commissions

ALL



NOAA FISHERIES

Building the Agenda



Summit Agenda

1. Angler Satisfaction: Management & Policy Considerations
2. Healthy Recreational Fisheries
3. Science & Data
4. Successful Relationships
5. Regional Engagement

Discussion Highlights

Managing for Angling Satisfaction

What are some challenges?

- Predictability and consistency
- Need for new management approaches
- Lack of understanding among anglers
- Council make-up and orientation
- Inadequate tools and resources of data collection

What are some potential solutions?

- Create a national marine recreational fishing policy
- Recognize the social and economic important of recreational fishing
- Enhance angler coordination and collaboration with NOAA regional offices and science centers
- Use up-to-date technology for catch accounting



Discussion Highlights

Healthy Recreational Fisheries

What are some challenges?

- Forage base
- Habitat loss
- Post-release survival
- State/Federal coordination
- Communication

What are some potential solutions?

- Transition to ecosystem-based management
- Manage to protect the forage base
- Continue FishSmart



Discussion Highlights

Science and Data

What are some challenges?

- Trust and confidence in catch information
- Integration of socio-economic information into decision-making
- Timeliness of data
- Lack of angler involvement
- Adequate stock assessments

What are some potential solutions?

- More fishery independent data
- Use social and economic data to inform allocation decisions
- Increase angler involvement in data collections
- Improve quality and timeliness of data



Discussion Highlights

Successful Relationships

What are some challenges?

- Commercial orientation of decision-makers
- Limited regional communication
- Lack of funding to support regional outreach
- Weak relationship between states and NOAA
- Decentralized and diverse constituency



What are some potential solutions?

- More regular, consistent interaction between NOAA and angling community
- Require governors to submit at least one recreational representative for council seats
- Prepare best practice guide for more effective communication
- Improve state-level advocacy for recreational fishing at councils

Outcomes and Next Steps

Following up on commitments made at the Summit

National Policy development

Join us for public listening sessions at Council meetings

Finalize and distribute Summit report

Formulation of National Action Agenda

Purpose / Benefit

Provide guidance

- Articulate a core set of principles used to guide NOAA Fisheries' activities, interactions, and decision making processes with regard to saltwater recreational fisheries

Institutionalize commitment to healthy recreational fisheries

- Facilitate integration of saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout the major programs and activities of NOAA Fisheries

Historical Revelation!

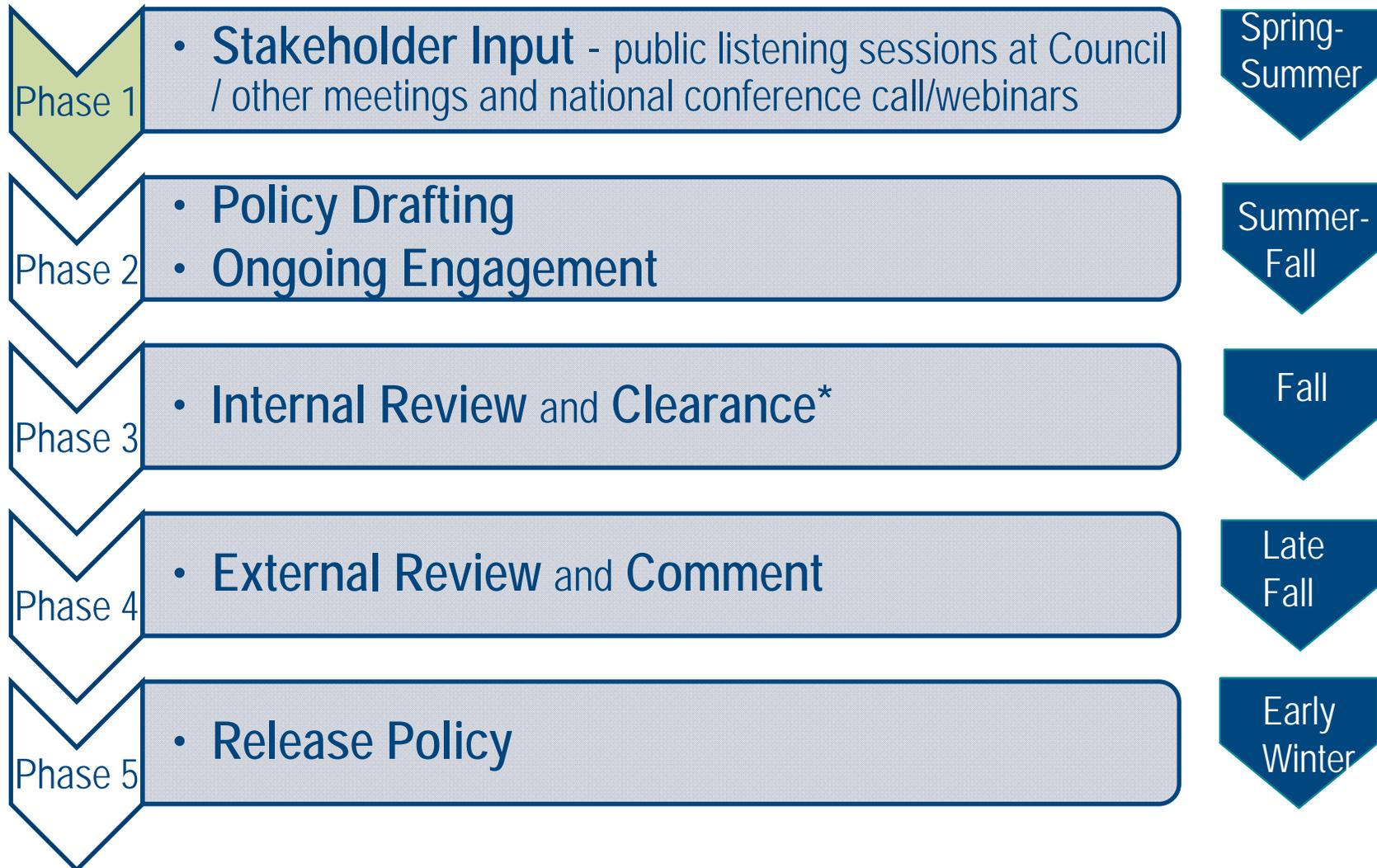
A marine recreational fishing policy already exists.

"NMFS, through its various programs, will protect, conserve, enhance, manage and develop fishery resources of importance to the nation in order to:

- 1. Increase the nation's food supply.*
- 2. Promote increased opportunities for both commercial and marine recreational fishermen consistent with the concept of optimum yield.*
- 3. Promote activities which will assist the commercial and marine recreational fishing industries to thrive and expand."*

October 13, 1981

Policy Development Process



Draft Policy Structure

Overarching Policy Statement

- Broad & Inclusive

↳ Guiding Elements

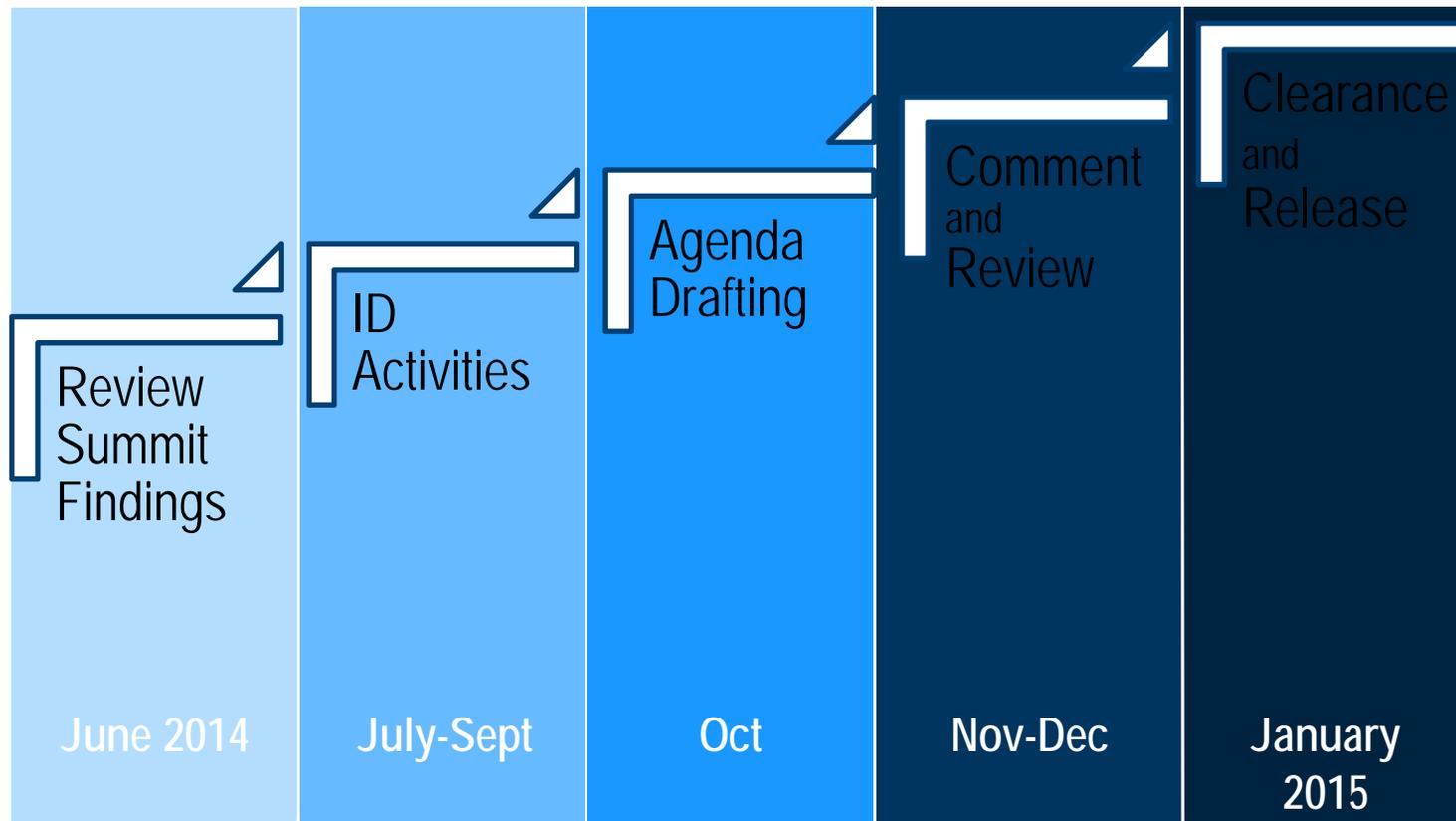
- Focused amplifying statements

↳ Strategies/Approaches

- General implementation approaches



Action Agenda Update Process



A woman wearing a cap and sunglasses is smiling while holding a large fish on a boat. The background shows a vast ocean with many seagulls flying. The entire image has a light blue tint.

THANK YOU

COMMENTS

or

QUESTIONS??

-
- BACK UP SLIDES



SALTWATER ANGLERS ATTITUDES & OPINIONS

2013 SURVEY RESULTS



Key Findings

1. Anglers are optimistic about the future.
2. Anglers go fishing for a variety of reasons.
3. Anglers prefer management that protects access and opportunity.
4. Anglers would like management to improve.
5. Anglers possess a strong conservation ethic.

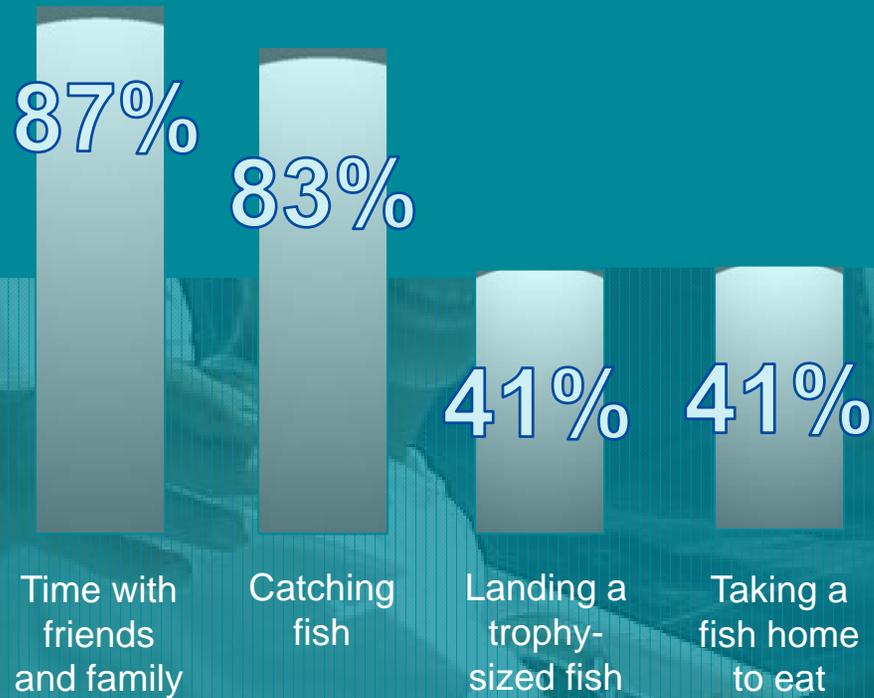
Anglers are optimistic about future fishing opportunities.



81%

Plan to take the same number or more trips next year as last.

Anglers fish for a variety of reasons.





Fishing is about both access and opportunity.

Anglers would like management to provide:

High quality areas

Diversity of fish species

Availability of abundant fish





Fishing is about both access and opportunity.

Anglers prefer management strategies that preserve fishing opportunities:

Minimum sizes

Artificial habitats

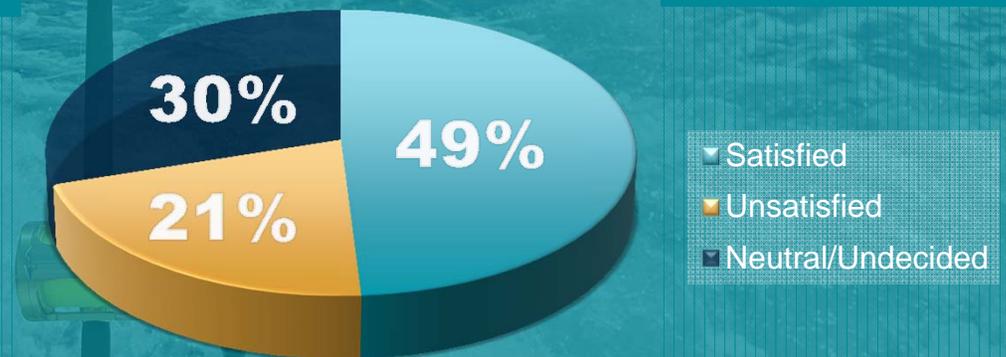
Bag limits

Closed areas

Shorter seasons

Management can improve.

- ✓ Provide more fish.
- ✓ Better incorporate angler input in decision-making.
- ✓ Use high-quality data in assessments.
- ✓ Enforce regulations.
- ✓ Ensure consistent state/fed regulations.
- ✓ Make regulations simpler.



Do harvest limits provide enough fish?

Anglers have a strong conservation ethic.

95% Believe it's important to ensure high quality fishing for future generations.

Strong support for conservation goals.

