

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Town Hall
June 23, 2014

Input on Scope:

- Depending on how subsistence is defined, there is a lot more of it happening than is documented
- Subsistence fishing is different than recreational fishing
- There isn't a lot of subsistence fishing in Federal waters
- Subsistence may be tied to the need for the catch
- Expense fishing is a slippery slope toward commercial fishing
- In CA, it is illegal to sell recreationally caught fish
- The USCG definition of commercial, is that if you sell your catch, you are commercial and must follow all of the commercial Coast Guard regs (safety, etc.)

Input on draft goals:

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, diverse, and high quality recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
 - a. Management
 - Find a better balance between reactive/defensive [against lawsuits] management with more long-term less pressing management planning
 - Stability of fisheries from year to year often comes at the cost of opportunity, especially in data poor fisheries
 - Re-building timelines are too restrictive
 - Increasing angler opportunity should be the goal of rec. management
 - Allocation should be a component of the policy
 - The Policy should complement the MSA
 - b. Conservation and Enhancement
 - Science, policy, and compliance are all key to conserving and effectively managing stocks
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal marine fisheries management system.
 - There should be full-time regional recreational fisheries coordinators in every region
 - Recreational and commercial issues should have a balanced amount of time before the Councils
 - Funding for and prioritization of recreational research projects should be equal to those for commercial fisheries (i.e. cooperative research, bycatch reduction)
3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.

- Improve coordination with the States
- Enable/Encourage new recreational entrants
- Improve and innovate to gather better private anglers data
- Partnership between commercial and recreational sectors when appropriate should be encouraged

4. Enhance transparency, follow-through, and continuity of action.

Other Issues:

- The National Policy should address MMPA/ESA issues
- Safety should be integrated into the policy
- Enhance data collection
- NMFS should retain all authority over fishing including 'fishing activities' in all National Marine Sanctuaries
- Be aware of how the Policy may affect commercial fisheries
- The Policy should allow for regional differences
- The socio-economic importance of recreational fisheries should be considered in the Policy