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Recreational Fisheries Discussion

Regional Fishery Management Council Training

October 27-29, 2015



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Discussion Outline

- Community Description & Perspective
- Recreational Fisheries Management Tools
- National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
- Recent Activity in Data Improvement
- Looking Forward



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Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

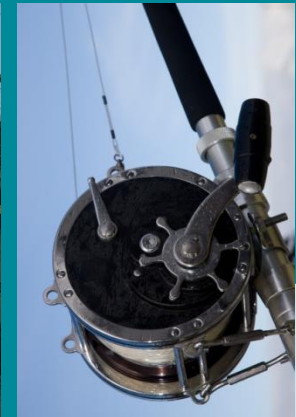
Purpose

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

The background image is a faded, light blue-toned photograph of a boat's interior. It shows a steering wheel on the left, a dashboard with a digital display in the center, and various control panels and equipment on the right. The overall scene is out of focus and serves as a backdrop for the title text.

Recreational Fisheries & Community

Recreational Fishing Community





2013 Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Economic Impacts

**72 million
Trips**



**\$25 billion
Trip and Durables Expenditures**



**\$52 billion
Sales Impacts**

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



Managing Recreational & Commercial Fishing

What's the big difference?

Priorities

Commercial

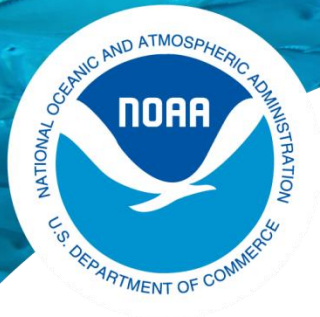
- *Efficiency*
- *Profit*

Recreational

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

The background image is a faded, light blue-toned photograph of a boat's interior. It shows a steering wheel on the left, a dashboard with a mounted electronic device (likely a GPS or fish finder) in the center, and various control panels and equipment on the right. The overall scene is slightly out of focus, emphasizing the text overlay.

Tools for Managing Recreational Fisheries



Management Toolbox

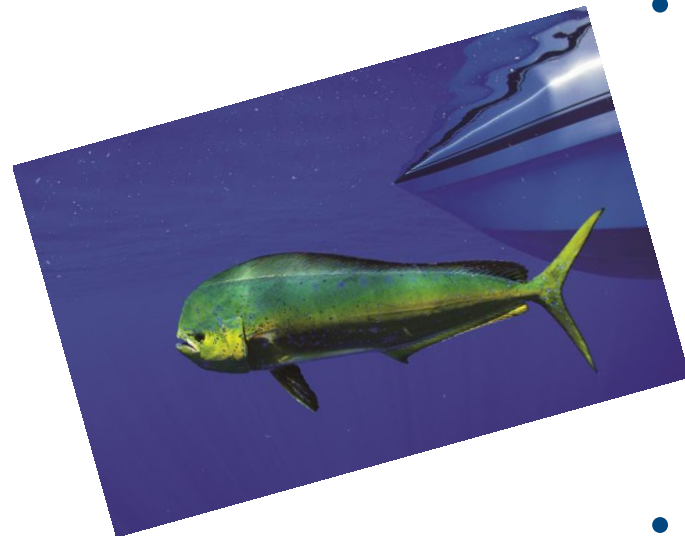
Primary Tools

- 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 or maximum sizes and slot limits





Management Toolbox (continued)

Secondary Tools

Gear restrictions

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

Tertiary Tools

Practices

- 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

The background image is a faded, light blue-toned photograph of a ship's deck. In the foreground, a telescope or surveying instrument is mounted on a tripod-like structure. The ocean is visible in the background, with a white wake from the ship's movement. The overall image has a soft, ethereal quality.

NOAA's Commitment

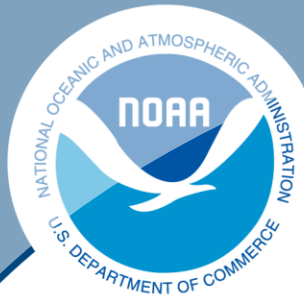


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NOAA's Commitment to Anglers

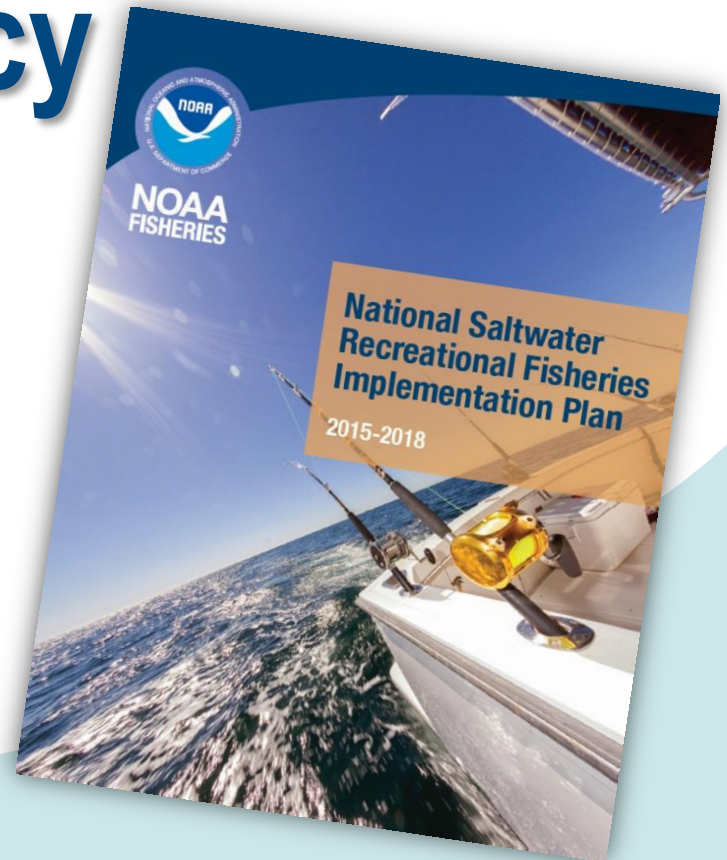
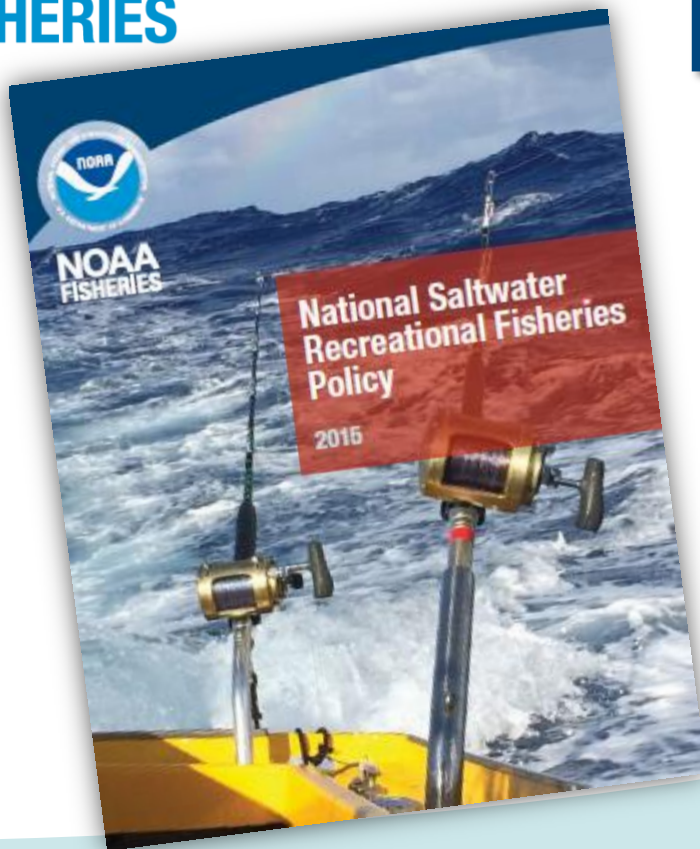
Establish and maintain a strong and
trusting partnership with the
recreational fishing community
through action

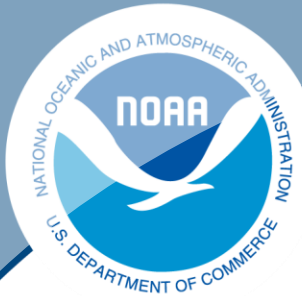




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National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy





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It is the policy of NMFS to:

“...foster, support, and enhance a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation.”

Goals

- 1. Support and maintain sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries resources, including habitats**
- 2. Promote saltwater recreational fishing for the benefit of the nation**
- 3. Enable enduring participation in saltwater recreational fishing through science-based conservation and management**



Guiding Principles

- 1. Support ecosystem conservation and enhancement**
 - Restoration, conservation, enhancement of habitat
- 2. Promote public access to quality recreational fishing opportunities**
 - Expand fishing opportunities based on conservation gains
- 3. Coordinate with state and federal management entities**
 - Aligning program goals and implementation strategies



Guiding Principles

- 4. Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges**
 - Cutting edge tools
- 5. Provide scientifically sound and trusted social, cultural, economic, and ecological information**
 - Partnering with external interests; engaging in cooperative research
- 6. Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public**
 - Expanded regional engagement

The background image is a faded, light blue-toned photograph of a boat's interior. In the upper center, a compass is mounted on a vertical pole. To the left, a steering wheel is partially visible. The lower part of the image shows the boat's dashboard with various gauges and controls. The background also captures the view of the ocean and a distant, hazy shoreline under a clear sky.

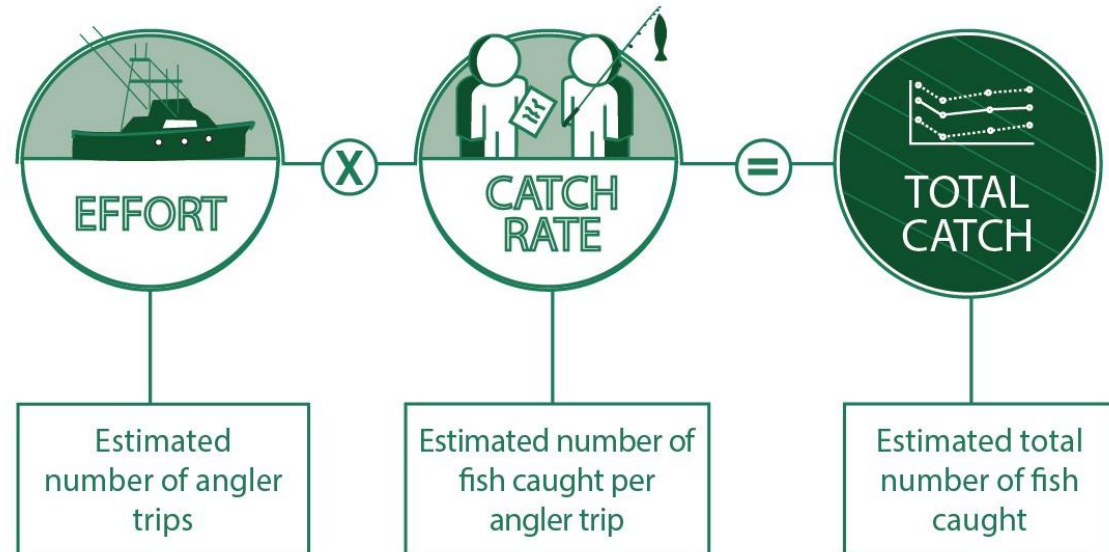
Recreational Data



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Recreational Data *Catch & Effort*

Most recreational catch data is estimated from data collected in surveys that sample fishing activity in two phases:



Detailed descriptions of survey methods and catch estimates can be found at:
www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov



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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 available to catch



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The Marine Recreational Information Program

The improved way of collecting and reporting recreational fishing catch and effort data.



MRIP plays a critical role in sustainably managing our ocean resources by providing estimates of fishing activity that are both **accurate** and **trusted**.

Find out how at www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov.



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From Testing to Implementation

● **Rigorous examination of data collections and testing improvements.**

● **Implementation and fine-tuning.**

New catch estimation method

New angler catch survey

New fishing effort survey

● **Address customer needs for timeliness, precision, geographic scale, special needs fisheries.**



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Dynamic and Evolving for the Better

Ongoing work includes:

- Replacing telephone effort surveys.
- Alternatives for collecting and reporting data from the for-hire sector.
- New and improved survey methods for the Pacific coast, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Methods to ensure we're accurately capturing HMS activity.
- Evaluating new methods to collect more timely and precise estimates for pulse and rare event fisheries, such as red snapper, including use of electronic reporting technologies.

As changes are made, we are working with managers, scientists and anglers to best integrate new information into stock assessments and management.

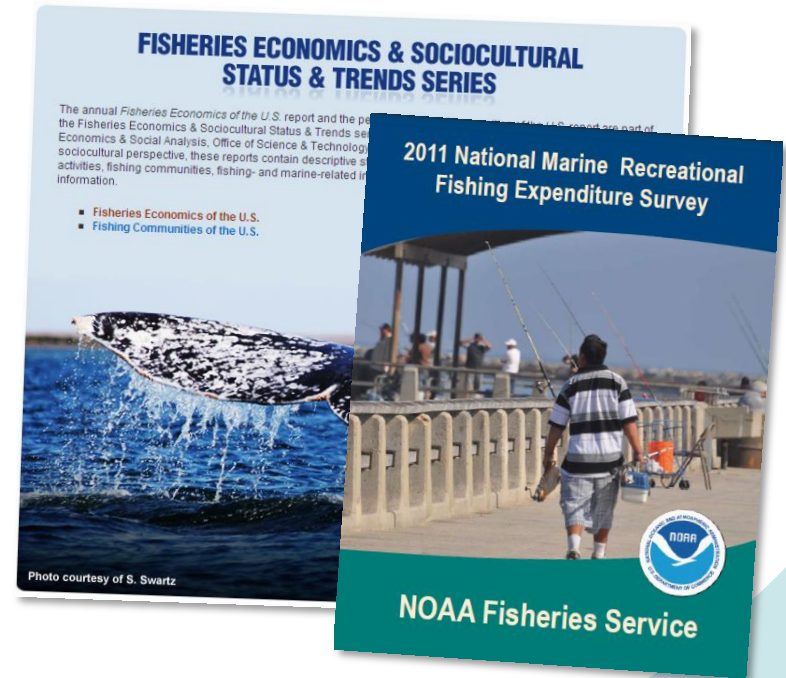


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Data for decision-making

- National Angler Perceptions and Motivations Survey
- Nationwide Angler Expenditure Survey
- National Bait & Tackle economic survey
- Atlantic HMS Tournament Economic Survey

Recreational Data *Socio-economics*

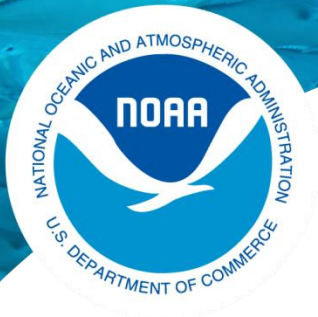


More information and to learn about economic resources you can use, check us out online at:
www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5

The background image is a blurred photograph of a ship's deck. In the foreground, there are various pieces of equipment, including what appears to be a searchlight or a camera mounted on a pole, and some structural elements of the ship. The ocean is visible in the background, with waves and a horizon line. The overall tone is light blue and hazy, giving it a dreamy or futuristic feel.

Looking Forward

On the Horizon in 2016



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- **Regional Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plans (Early 2016)**
- **Artificial Reef Workshop (Summer 2016)**
- **National Research Council Review of MRIP (Late 2016)**





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Questions ?

Our Website:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/>