



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Recreational
Fisheries
Initiative

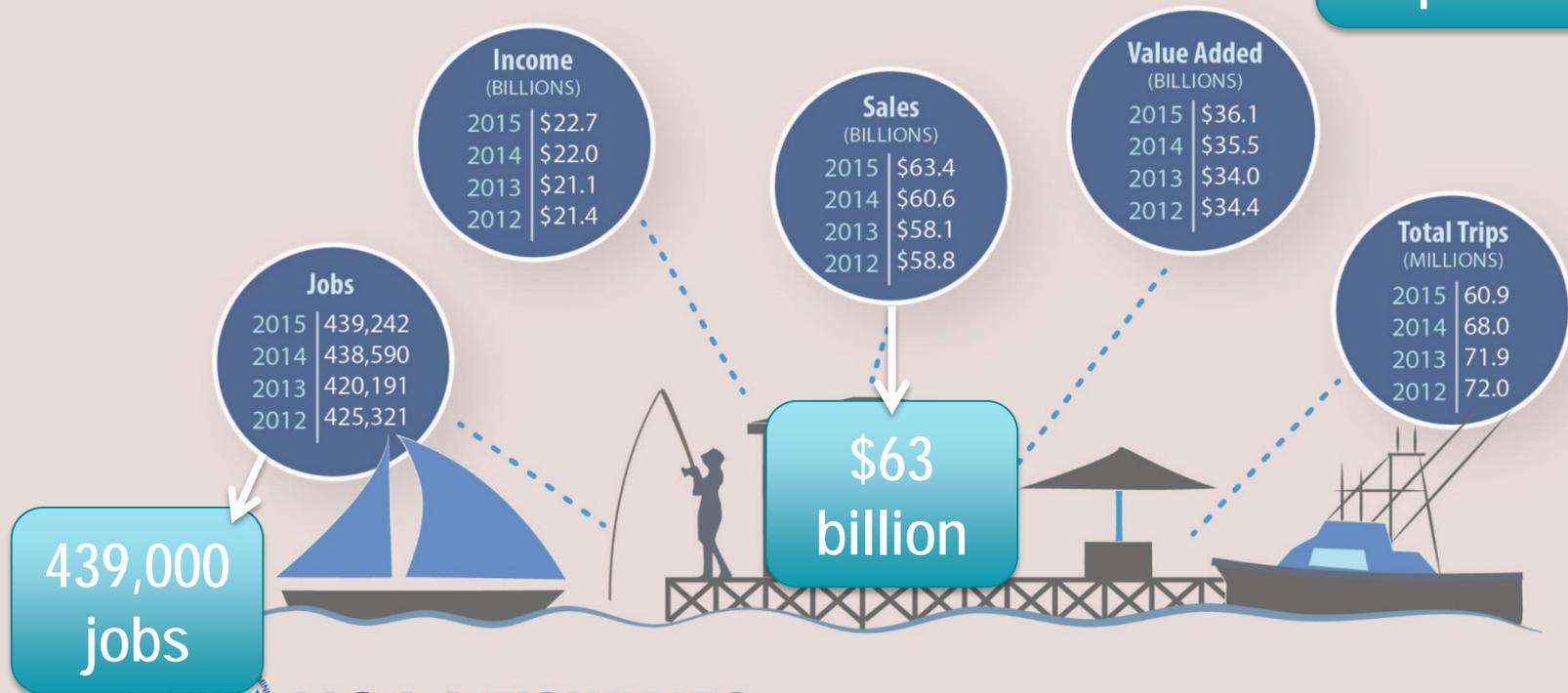
Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Update

Council Coordinating Committee
Gloucester, MA
May 17, 2017

Saltwater Recreational Fishing is BIG Business

U.S. Recreational Fisheries Economic Impact Trends, 2015

\$28.7 billion expenditures



NOAA FISHERIES



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Regional Roundtable Discussions

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Alaska: | Anchorage, AK | Dec. 7, 2016 |
| West Coast: | Long Beach, CA | March 1 |
| | Newport, OR | March 3 |
| Southeast: | Jacksonville, FL | March 27 |
| | Houston, TX | March 29 |
| Greater Atl. Region: | Howell, NJ | April 3 |
| | Rye, NH | April 5 |
| Pacific Islands: | Honolulu, HI | May 4-5 |
| Atl. Highly Migratory Species: | Silver Spring, MD | May 10 |

Regional Roundtable Discussions 2016-2017

Purpose

- **Improve communications and strengthen partnerships**
- **Refresh NMFS' understanding of rec. fish community priorities**
- **Identify emerging & long-term issues**

Key Issues Raised

Alaska

- Halibut allocation
- Representation in the management process
- Communication challenges

Long-term concern: habitat destruction/degradation

West Coast

- Sanctuaries and monuments
- Access and availability
- Communication challenges

Long-term concern: Access; fishery demographics

Key Issues Raised

Southeast

- Frustration, process exhaustion
- Data
- Access and species availability

Long-term concern: Loss of access/opportunity

Greater Atlantic

- Data
- Regulatory stability
- Access/opportunity

Long-term concern: Regulation & loss of access

Key Issues Raised

Pacific Islands

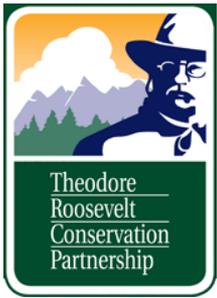
- **Communications**
- **Cooperation and partnership**
- **Challenges of geographic scale**

Long-term concern: Lack of young participants

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

- **Charter issues: commercial / non-commercial**
- **Post-release mortality**
- **Reporting compliance**

Long-term concern: Accuracy of stock assessments



Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership & the American Sportfishing Association Approaches for Improved Federal Saltwater Fisheries Management



Approaches for Improved Federal Saltwater Fisheries Management

Recommendations:

- Harvest Rate Management
- Depth/Distance Based Management
- Harvest Tags
- Improved Angler Harvest Data
- Release Mortality Reduction
- Conservation Equivalency
- Reevaluating Optimum Yield