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Updating NOAA Fisheries' National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
May 31, 2023

Open Comment: August-December 2022

Wide Solicitation of Input:

- 150-Day Comment Period
- In-person meetings in ten coastal states including Hawaii and Puerto Rico
- Councils, Commissions, Coastal State Directors
- Hosted four webinars, Open Online Comment Portal, and dedicated email comment “in-box”

Responses:

- 480 individual responses through online portal
- 50+ Organizations submitted formal letters
- 150+ comments gathered through in-person meetings and webinars

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES INITIATIVE

Section 1 of 6

Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy Revision

Recognizing the need to adapt with changing circumstances, and informed by the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit, NOAA Fisheries requests your input during the public comment period of Aug 1st thru Dec 31st, 2022.

Policy comments can also be emailed directly to recreational.fisheries@noaa.gov

First Name & Last Name

Short answer text

Which region do you most often fish in or represent? *

1. Alaska Region
2. West Coast Region
3. Gulf of Mexico Region
4. South Atlantic/Caribbean Region
5. Mid-Atlantic Region
6. New England Region
7. Pacific Island Region
8. National

After section 1 Continue to next section

Section 2 of 6

Section title (optional)

Description (optional)

#1: 2015 Policy Statement:
It is the policy of (NOAA Fisheries) to foster, support, and enhance a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation.

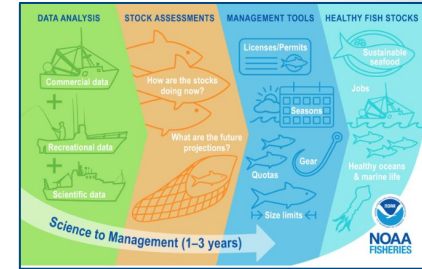
Question: How might the 2015 policy...



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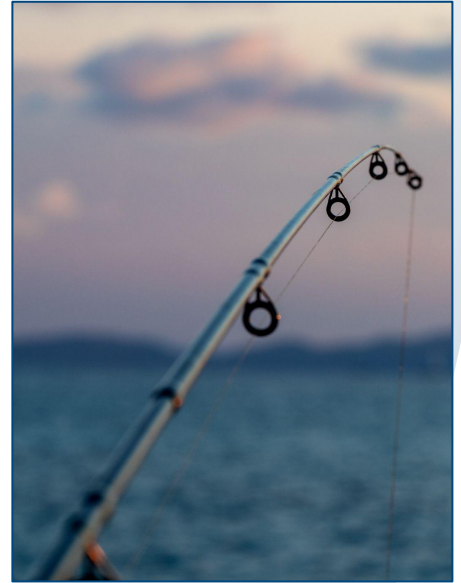
Comments Received & Actions of Interest:

- Climate Resilient Fisheries & Climate Change Impacts
- Equity & Environmental Justice
- Ecosystem Management & Habitat Conservation
- Regulatory Access
- Offshore Ocean Uses- Wind Energy /Aquaculture / MPAs
- Science & Data Collection - Catch & Effort / Socio-Economics
- Accountability & Reporting
- Engagement / Education / Outreach
- Increasing Efficiency
- Policy Implementation



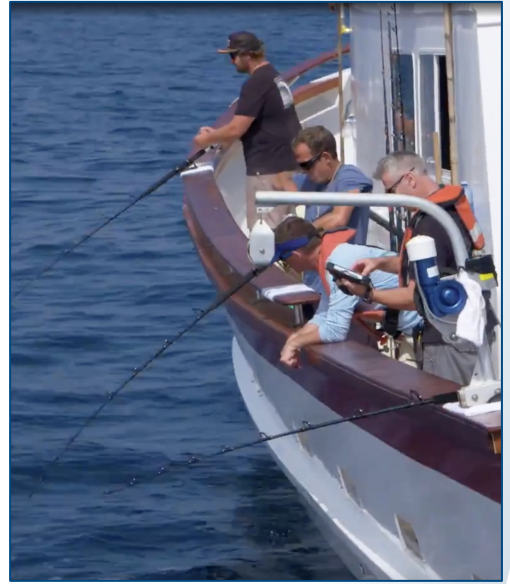
Proposed New Policy Goals

- Advance climate-ready policies and programs to respond to climate-driven changes and impacts on fishery resources and the ecosystem
- Pursue and support equitable treatment and meaningful involvement of underserved and underrepresented communities in recreational fisheries and stewardship



Key Proposed Updates

- Strengthened focus on sustainability
- Incorporated:
 - offshore development
 - depredation
- Expanded reference to:
 - cooperative & collaborative data collection
 - engagement, communications, education
- Committed to track and measure implementation



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Primary MAFAC Inputs

- ✓ Incorporate a climate goal
- ✓ Better incorporate equity and environmental justice considerations
- ✓ Include consideration of deterring interactions with marine mammals
- ✓ Address ecosystem interactions like discards and depredation
- ✓ Increase angler education & engagement
- ✓ Improve data collection in coordination with management communities
- ✓ Incorporate additional metrics



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Draft Policy Comments:

- Address different modes / users within recreational fisheries
- Frame bycatch as an management issue
- Strengthen focus on modernizing data collection



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Next Steps

June - July: Agency Review of Draft Policy, Goals, and Implementation Plans

September: Public Release

October: Initiate Updated Implementation Plans for 2024-2026 (3 Year Implementation Plans)

More Information: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov>

Team Email: recreational.fisheries@noaa.gov

[Recreational Coordinators Contact Information](#)



Recent Recreational Engagement Activities

- Recreational Economics Workshop (OST)
- California CPFV Fleet Cooperative Groundfish Sampling (SWFSC)
- Northeast Recreational Groundfish Study Fleet (NEFSC)
- Cooperative Tagging Program (SEFSC)
- Collaborative Habitat Conservation Projects and Workshops (OHC)
- Release Mortality Mitigation Gear and Materials (CFMC)
- Recreational Quota Entity Constituent Engagement (AKR)
- Protected Resources Outreach (PIR, SER)
- Family Fishing Days Events (ONMS, SER, GAR, WCR)



Thank You

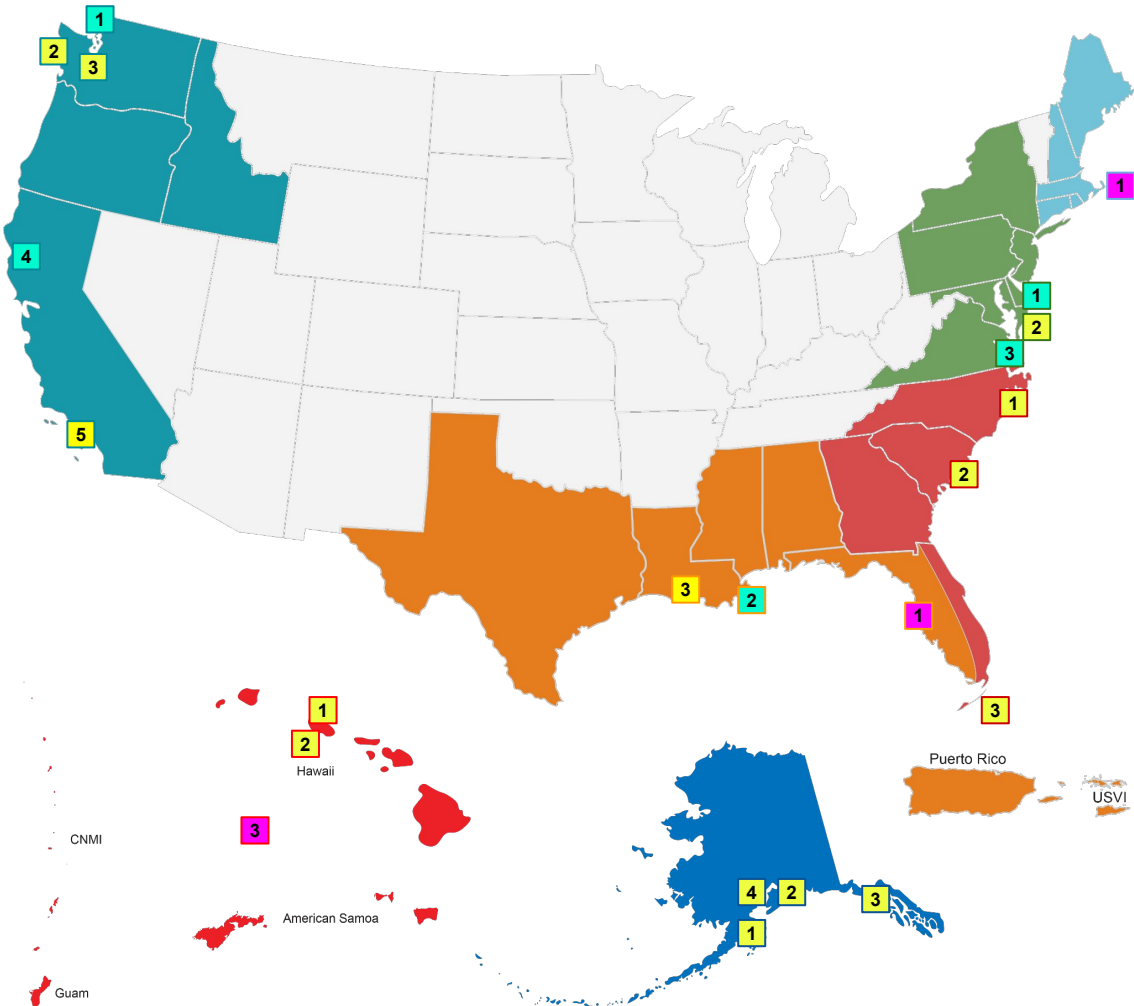


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Discussion Questions & Prompts

- How might the policy statement be amended to better frame NOAA Fisheries' approach to recreational fisheries?
- How might the **scope** of the policy be amended to include **appropriate participants and activities**?
- How might the policy **goals be added to, narrowed, or amended** to better inform the Agency's focus for recreational fisheries?
- How might the guiding principles of the policy, including implementation strategies, be added to, narrowed, or amended to **better guide Agency objectives and actions**?
- **Are there concepts**, such as climate change, that are either **missing** or should be considered for removal from the policy that are not captured in your comments up to this point?
- What **other suggestions** do you have for NOAA to consider as we revise the policy and goals and develop implementation plans?





NATIONAL ANGLER ENGAGEMENTS

NEW ENGLAND

1. [Bilingual Family Fishing Event](#)

MID-ATLANTIC

1. [Maryland Workshop](#)
2. [Oyster Reef & Salt Marsh Restoration](#)
3. [Virginia Workshop](#)

SOUTH ATLANTIC/CARIBBEAN

1. [Salt Marsh & Oyster Restoration](#)
2. [Marsh Grass & Oyster Reef Restoration](#)
3. Keys Prop Scar Restoration Project

GULF

1. [Return 'em Right Campaign](#)
2. Louisiana Workshop (planned)
3. [Habitat Restoration & Education](#)

PACIFIC

1. [Puget Sound Workshop](#)
2. Wetland Restoration
3. [Coastal Cutthroat Trout Research](#)
4. [Eel River Workshop](#)
5. [Eelgrass Restoration](#)

NORTH PACIFIC

1. Stream Restoration
2. [Coastal Cutthroat Trout Research](#)
3. [Stream Restoration](#) & Montana Creek Restoration and Angler Outreach Project
4. Plants for Salmon

PACIFIC ISLANDS

1. [Coral Reef Restoration](#)
2. Community-Based Coral Restoration Areas in West Oahu
3. [Non-Commercial Fisheries Sustainability Grants](#)

	Habitat & Angler Engagement Projects funded through NFHP
	Recreational Fisheries & Habitat Workshops
	Regional Angler Engagement Projects