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NOAA Fisheries National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

Alex McOwen

New Council Member Training
November 15, 2023

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

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



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NOAA Recreational Fisheries Program

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



2023 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy Statement

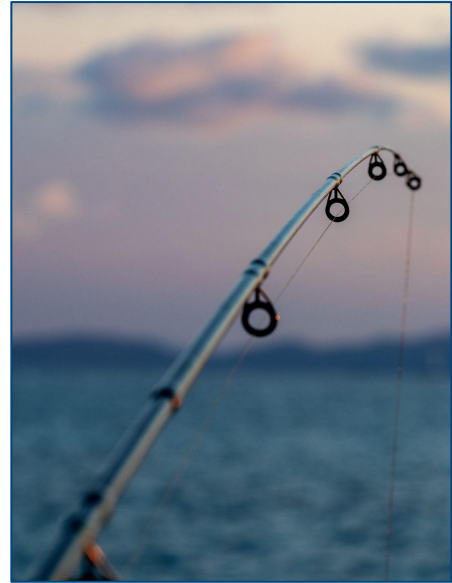
“It is the policy of NOAA Fisheries to foster, support, and enhance a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater recreational and non-commercial fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation.”



Policy Goals



- 1. Support, maintain, and recover sustainable saltwater recreational and non-commercial fisheries resources, including protected species, and healthy marine and estuarine habitats**
2. Promote inclusive and sustainable saltwater recreational and non-commercial fishing for the social, cultural, and economic benefit of the nation
3. Enable enduring participation in, and enjoyment of, saltwater recreational fisheries through science-based conservation and management
4. Advance climate-ready policies and programs to understand and respond to climate-driven changes and impacts on fishery resources and the ecosystem
5. Pursue and support equitable treatment and meaningful involvement of underserved and underrepresented communities in recreational and non-commercial fisheries and stewardship

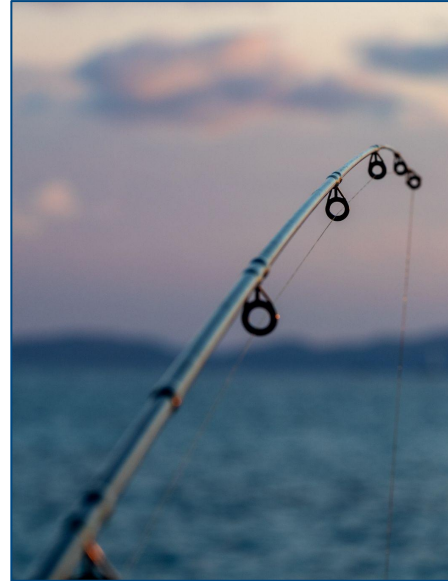


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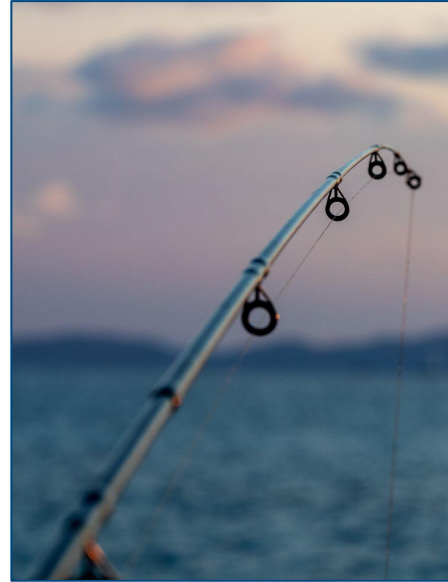


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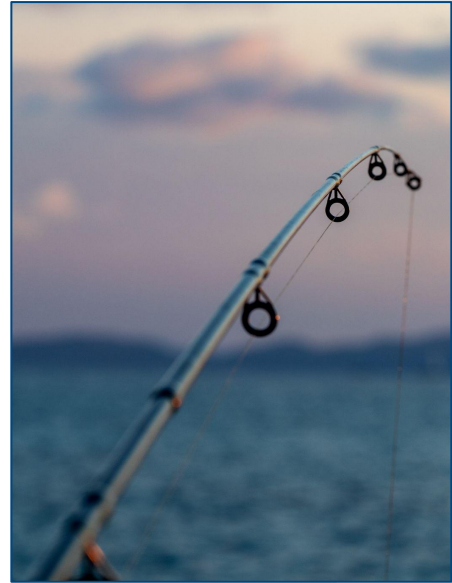


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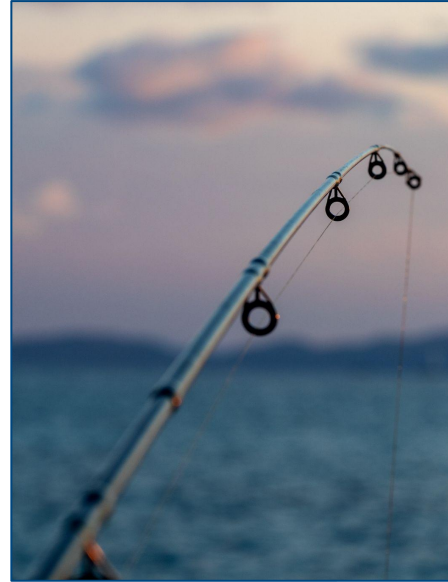


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Regional Implementation Plans



Agency developed and will track, measure progress of, and update national and regional saltwater recreational fisheries implementation plans.

National

Alaska

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

New England/Mid-Atlantic

Pacific Islands

Southeast (including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea)

West Coast



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What Will You Likely Hear from Rec Anglers?

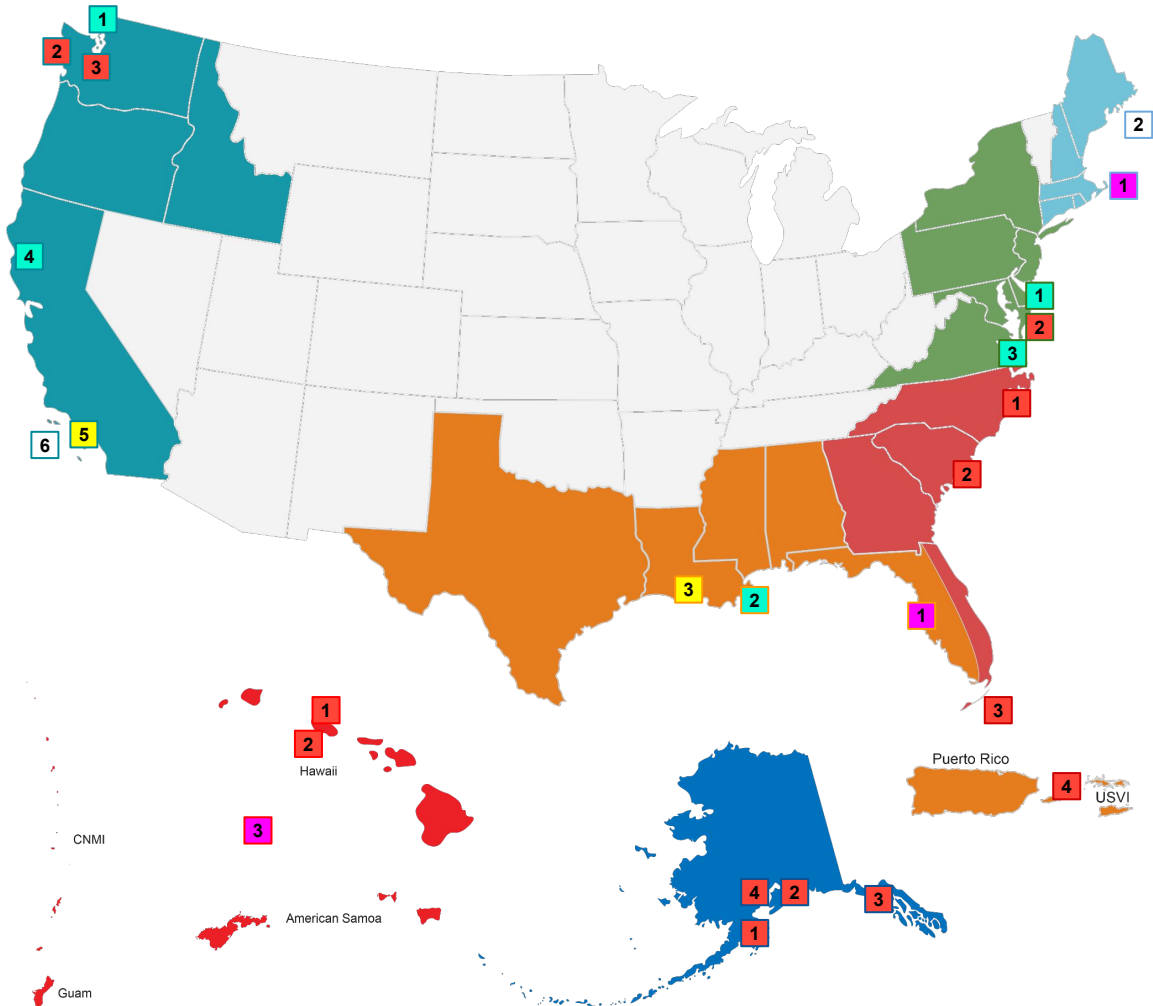
- **Data**
 - Confidence in data
 - Improved catch, effort, & economics data
 - Application of data
- **Management** - Need to balance flexibility with predictability
- **Depredation** - Sharks and/or marine mammals



What Will You Likely Hear from Rec Anglers?

- **Climate change**
 - Visible impacts
 - Resource impacts & access
 - Concern that management & science not keeping pace
 - More climate-related data are needed
 - Winners & losers
- Maintaining **access** & opportunity to fish
- **Habitat** conservation and restoration





NATIONAL ANGLER ENGAGEMENTS

NEW ENGLAND

1. [Bilingual Family Fishing Event](#)
2. Cooperative Groundfish Research

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
4. Fish descending devices

GULF

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

PACIFIC

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

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

Angler Engagement in Habitat Restoration

Goal: enhance collaboration with recreational, subsistence, cultural, and non-commercial fishing communities and to protect and restore habitat.

Funding projects with both habitat enhancement & recreational community engagement.



FY	Total NOAA Support	# projects
FY19	>\$120,000	3
FY20	~\$170,000	4
FY21	~\$250,000	4
FY22	~\$150,000	3
FY23	~\$180,000	4

Recreational Fisheries FY24 Priorities

- Implementing the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
- Engagement & events
- Partnerships to improve data
- Cooperative research
- Habitat
- Equity & Environmental Justice





Thank You

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(on detail through January 2024)

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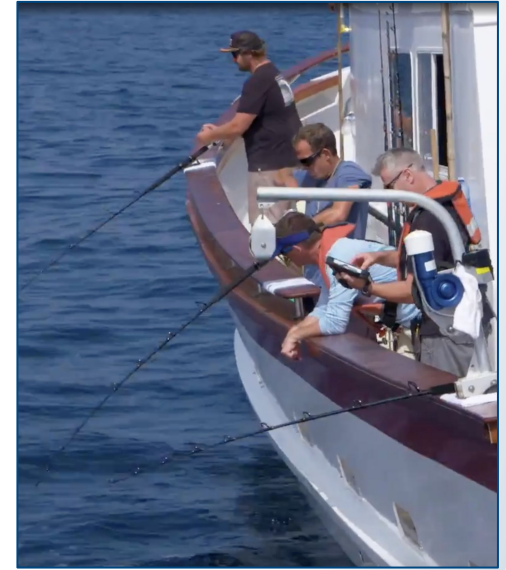
Guiding Principles

1. Support ecosystem conservation, sustainability, and enhancement
2. Promote inclusive public access to sustainable and abundant recreational fishing opportunities
3. Coordinate with State, Tribal, and Federal research and management entities
4. Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, environmental, and climate related challenges
5. Provide scientifically sound and trusted social, cultural, economic, and ecological information
6. Communicate and engage with the recreational and non-commercial fishing public



Additional Key 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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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)



Summit Findings

Climate	Ocean Uses
Climate driven impacts are visible	Desire to engage early in planning
Science/Management not keeping pace	Impacts not understood
More data are needed	Critical data are lacking
Climate winners / losers	Loss of access / changes in the fishery
Resource impacts & loss of access	Maintain decommissioned structures

Summit Findings cont.

Data	Management
Uncertainty is undermining trust	Better account for socio-economic factors
Climate change exacerbating uncertainty	Increased management responsiveness
Data being used beyond their capacity	Increased management flexibility
Perception of non-responsiveness	Balance speed / flexibility / stability
More & better data faster	