



# Recreational Fisheries

A Priority in Motion at NOAA

Russ Dunn, National Policy Advisor on Recreational Fisheries  
**New Council Member Training • Silver Spring, November 2016**

# Discussion Outline

- Community Description & Perspective
- Recreational Fisheries Management Tools
- National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy & Regional Implementation Plans
- Marine Recreational Information Program

# Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

## *Purpose*

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



# RECREATIONAL FISHERIES AND COMMUNITY



NOAA FISHERIES

# Recreational Fishing Community and Constituency



NOAA FISHERIES

# Saltwater Recreational Fishing is BIG Business

## U.S. Recreational Fisheries Economic Impact Trends, 2014

**439,000  
Jobs**

### Jobs

|      |         |
|------|---------|
| 2014 | 439,000 |
| 2013 | 420,000 |
| 2012 | 425,000 |
| 2011 | 364,000 |

### Income (BILLIONS)

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| 2014 | \$22.0 |
| 2013 | \$21.1 |
| 2012 | \$21.4 |
| 2011 | \$18.2 |

**≈\$61 Billion**

### Sales (BILLIONS)

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| 2014 | \$60.6 |
| 2013 | \$58.1 |
| 2012 | \$58.8 |
| 2011 | \$55.8 |

### Value Added (BILLIONS)

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| 2014 | \$35.5 |
| 2013 | \$34.0 |
| 2012 | \$34.4 |
| 2011 | \$29.1 |

**68 Million  
Trips**

### Total Trips (MILLIONS)

|      |      |
|------|------|
| 2014 | 68.0 |
| 2013 | 71.9 |
| 2012 | 72.0 |
| 2011 | 71.3 |



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# 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
- Size limits by species





# Management Toolbox (continued)

## Secondary Tools

### *Gear restrictions*

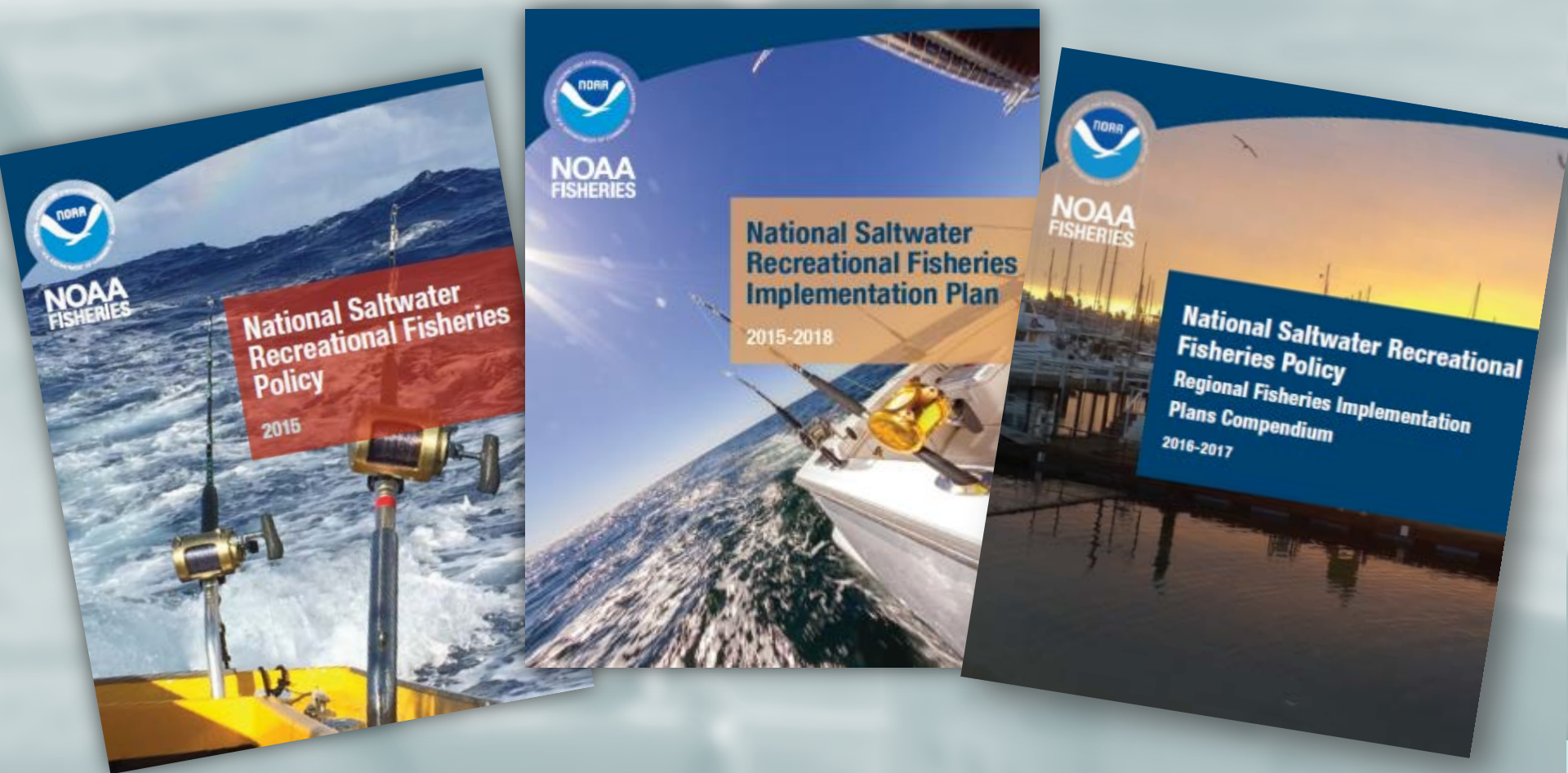
- Gear prohibitions (e.g., nets, fish traps, etc.)
- Gear requirements (e.g., circle hooks, release gears)

## 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

# Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy & National & Regional Implementation Plans



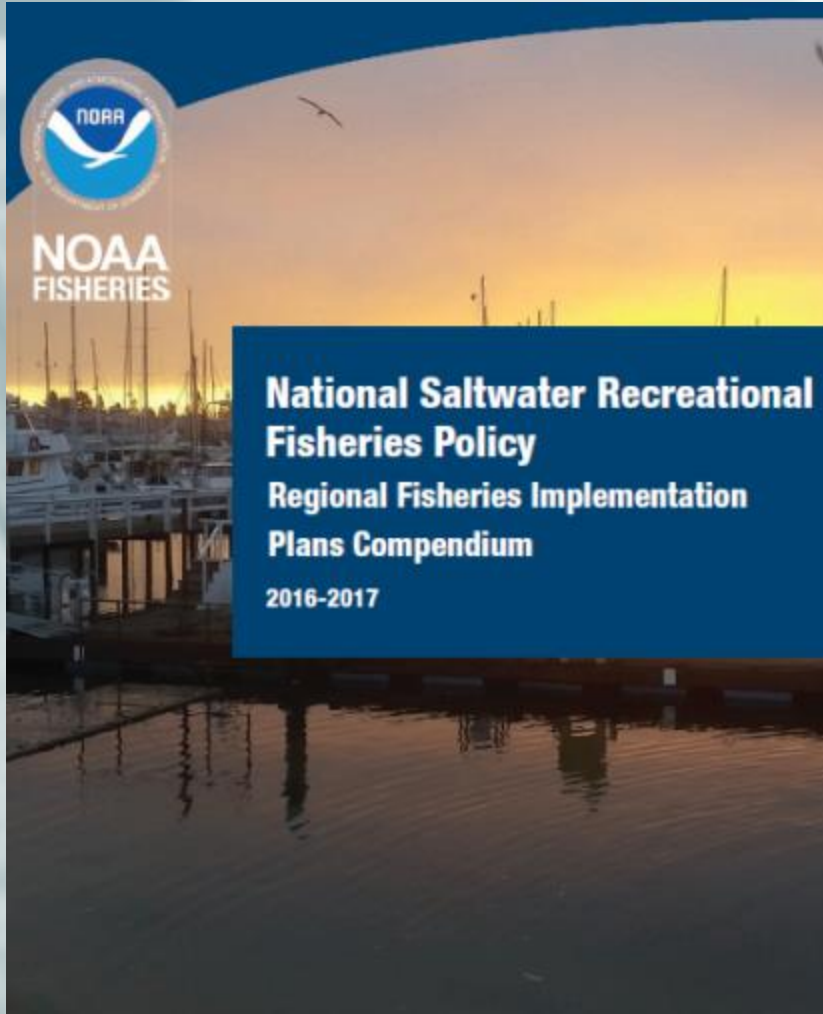
# It is the policy of NMFS to:

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

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



# Recreational Fisheries Policy Regional Implementation Plans



- Support NOAA Fisheries Core Mission and Recreational Fisheries Policy
- Developed in consultation with recreational community, councils, and other management partners
- Region specific tangible commitments
- All five NOAA Fisheries Regions and Atlantic HMS Management Division
- 2 year time-frame
- <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>



| Region                            | Selected Objective   |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Pacific Islands                   | Improve understanding of community concerns, attitudes, and socio-economic impacts regarding the loss of fishing access and opportunities.   |
| Alaska                            | Improve agency awareness of recreational fishing issues and projects in Alaska and share knowledge with partnering agencies and management bodies.   |
| West Coast                        | Strengthen existing partnership with state Fish and Wildlife Agencies and other state resource agencies to collect needed data for conservation and management of west coast co-managed species. |
| Greater Atlantic                  | Collaborate on the development of critical science priorities and data to improve stock assessments/ inform fisheries management.  |
| Atlantic Highly Migratory Species | Explore ways to bolster compliance, education, and outreach on Atlantic HMS issues.  |
| Southeast                         | Engage recreational anglers to enhance understanding of the fishery management process and empower stakeholders to contribute to the process.  |

# Implementation Plan Commitments

| Plan Area                         | # Commitments | Duration    |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| National                          | 69            | 2015 – 2018 |
| Pacific Islands                   | 35            | 2016 - 2017 |
| Alaska                            | 26            | 2016 – 2017 |
| West Coast                        | 44            | 2016 – 2017 |
| Greater Atlantic                  | 44            | 2016 – 2017 |
| Atlantic Highly Migratory Species | 30            | 2016 – 2017 |
| Southeast                         | 44            | 2016 – 2017 |
| Total                             | 292           |             |



# RECREATIONAL DATA

# 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**.

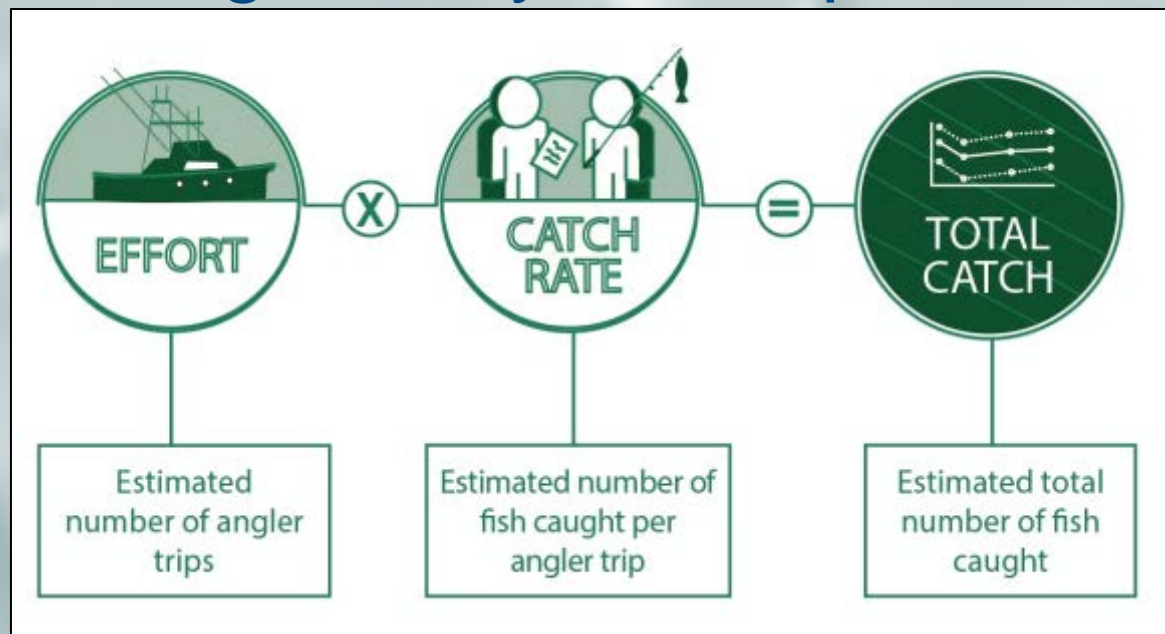
Find out how at [www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov](http://www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov).



# Recreational Data

## *Catch & Effort*

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



Detailed descriptions of survey methods and catch estimates can be found at:  
[www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov](http://www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov)

# Recreational Data

## *Socio-economics*

### Data for decision-making

- Nationwide Angler Expenditure Survey 2016-2017
- Atlantic HMS Tournament Economic Survey



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

## National Team

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## Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinators

### Greater Atlantic (Maine-Virginia)

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### West Coast

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### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

#### North

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# NOAA Fisheries Rec Fish Initiative Contact Information

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/  
recreational/get\\_connected.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/get_connected.html)

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# Questions ?

OUR WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.NMFS.NOAA.GOV/SFA/  
MANAGEMENT/RECREATIONAL/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/)



# 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

