



Management Reform, Flexibility & Optimum Yield

Developing recreational management measures that meet angler needs while ensuring that fisheries resources are not overfished nor experiencing overfishing has become increasingly complex. Major drivers in current efforts for recreational management reform include: concerns related to uncertainty and variability in the recreational fishery data, the need to change measures (sometimes annually) based on those data, the perception that measures are not reflective of current stock status, and that management measures don't always have the intended effect on overall harvest.

On December 31, 2018, the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (Modern Fish Act) was signed into law. While the law did not fundamentally change the Magnuson-Stevens Act, it did authorize fishery managers to use certain management approaches in recreational or mixed use fisheries that some consider alternative approaches to traditional poundage based catch limits. In practice, efforts to expand fishing opportunities by applying alternative management approaches are perceived as having limited success.

The first part of the management session will provide an overview of ongoing efforts to develop and apply management flexibility in the context of improving fishing opportunities and seeking to better understand the fishing public's vision for management reform/flexibility.

Further, as required by the Modern Fish Act, the recent review of NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) by the National Academies of Science (NASEM) recommended the following:

NOAA Fisheries and the Councils should develop a process for engaging recreational fisheries stakeholders in a more in-depth discussion of optimum yield and how it can be used to identify and prioritize management objectives that are better suited to the cultural, economic, and conservation goals of the angling community.

This second part of this session can be viewed as a preparatory first step in the NASEM recommended process. It is intended to develop a common understanding of optimum yield (OY) as defined in statute, regulation, and in practice. We will then learn about anglers' perspectives on OY, human dimensions in considering OY, and the potential for OY to guide management from the Council perspective.

During the entire management discussion, we hope that these and similar questions will spark discussion:

- What does successful recreational fisheries management reform look like to you?
How can that vision be achieved?



- Has management flexibility been used in your region?
 - Has it been successful? If not, what has limited its success?
- What does OY look like for the recreational community in your region?
- What are the next steps the angling community and management partners should consider to advance recreational fisheries management and consideration of recreational OY perspectives?

Additional Background Information

NOAA Fisheries Management

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/sustainable-fisheries#management>

ASMFC Management

<http://www.asmfc.org/fisheries-management/program-overview>

MAFMC/ASMFC Recreational Management Reform

<https://www.mafmc.org/actions/recreational-reform-initiative>

NASEM The Use of Limited Access Privilege Programs in Mixed-Use Fisheries

<https://www.nap.edu/read/26186/chapter/1>

National Standard Guidelines

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/laws-and-policies/national-standard-guidelines>

