



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

**Recreational
Fisheries
Initiative**

Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit 2018

**MAFAC Meeting – Portland, OR
June 26, 2018**

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2018 National Saltwater Rec. Fish Summit

NMFS - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (March 2018)

Theme: Improving Opportunity and Stability in
Recreational Fisheries

Objective: Identify a discrete suite of challenges
where tangible progress can be made
through collaboration

Discussion Topics

- Innovative Management Alternatives and Approaches
- Socio-Economics in Recreational Fisheries Management
- Angler Engagement in Collaborative Data Collection and Reporting
- Expanding Recreational Fishing Opportunity through Conservation

General Takeaways

- Sustained engagement with rec. community has improved dialogue
- Remaining challenges are complex & difficult to address
- Improved opportunity is desired
- Greater collaboration, transparency, & understanding is needed

Innovative Management

- Recognition that many innovative approaches are possible under existing law
- Fishermen, councils, and NOAA need to collaborate to move innovative management forward.
- Substantial enthusiasm for finding appropriate fisheries to pilot novel/innovative management
- Acceptance of an iterative approach

Socio-Economics

- *Perspective: better data, more analyses, and greater consideration in management will improve rec. opportunity*
- Calls to provide the Councils with “needed socio-economic information”
- Public input into the NMFS’ prioritization and planning, including the socioeconomic strategic plan, is desired

Data Collection and Reporting

- Data was a central discussion point raised by constituents in every session—catch, effort, socioeconomic.
- *Perspective: more, better, and more timely catch/effort data will lead to more fishing opportunity*
- Recreational electronic catch & effort reporting seen as the future, but challenges were recognized
- Interest in advancing ER with private angler ER pilot program(s) outside the Gulf

Conservation

- Foster additional habitat and forage fish conservation
- Innovative gears have a roll to play to improve rec. fish conservation and fishing opportunity
- Reducing recreational discard mortality remains a priority

Engagement and Building Trust

Increased engagement & communication is needed to increase trust. Suggested actions to increase trust included:

- Greater participation / transparency in priority setting & planning
- More collaborative research and greater involvement in research design
- Improve angler confidence in data
- Enhance fishing opportunity
- Expand understanding of the science and management process (MREP)

Discussion Items

- For participants in the room, what were your Summit takeaways, including for potential collaborative activities?
- How can NMFS more effectively engage the recreational community (regionally and nationally)?
- What opportunities do you see to establish / expand public-private partnerships?

Questions And Suggestions?