



NOAA
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Updating NOAA Fisheries' National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

Council Coordination Committee
May 23, 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

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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)

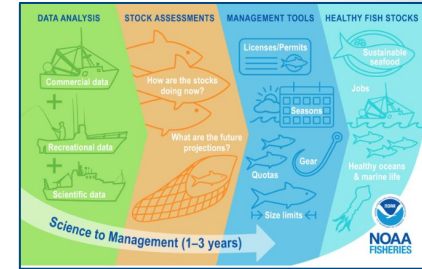
#1: 2015 Policy Statement:
It is the policy of (NOAA Fisheries) to foster, support, and enhance a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation.

Question: How might the 2015 policy...



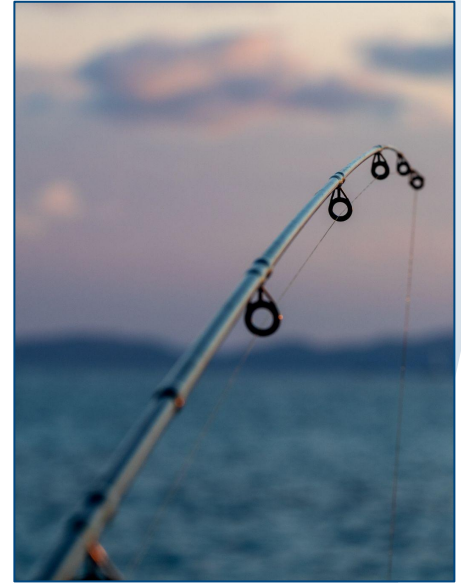
Comments Received & Actions of Interest:

- 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



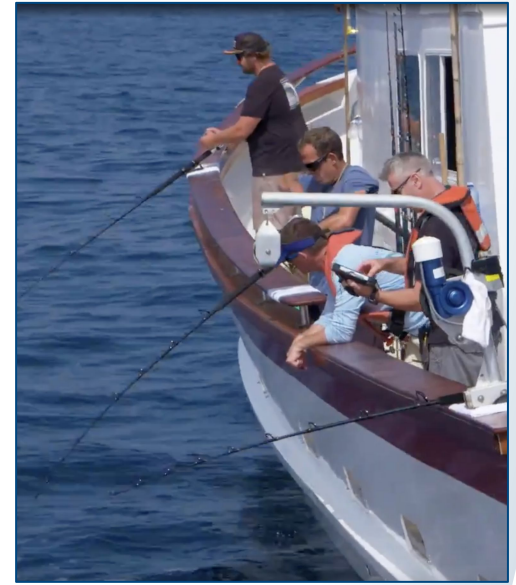
Proposed New Policy Goals

- 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 Council Inputs

- ✓ Incorporate climate
- ✓ Better incorporate equity and environmental justice considerations, including non-commercial fishers
- ✓ Improve data collection in coordination with management communities
- ✓ Incorporate offshore development
- ✓ Strengthen angler engagement, education and participation in science & management
- ✓ Incorporate additional metrics



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

May 31: Discussion with MAFAC

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](#)



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?



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)

