Recreational Fisheries and Habitat Connections

National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting

February 27, 2013

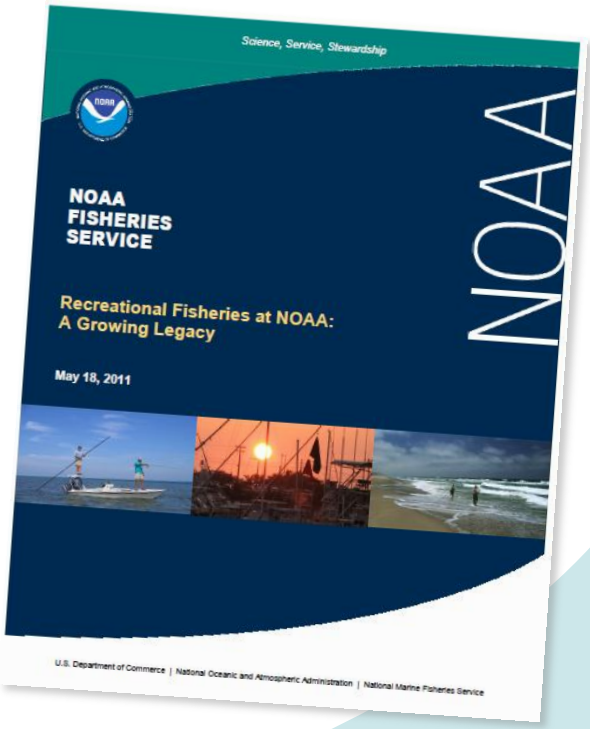
Arlington, VA

Introduction

- 12 million saltwater recreational anglers; 85 million saltwater trips; $82 billion economic contribution
- Natural connection between healthy habitat and robust recreational fisheries
- Mutual benefits of a shared vision and collaboration

NOAA's Commitment to Anglers

NOAA has undertaken an initiative to establish a strong and trusting partnership with the recreational community



- Listening to anglers
- Empowering anglers as responsible stewards and resource users
- Developing National and Regional Recreational Action Agendas to address priority issues
- Following through on commitments

Recreational Engagement Initiative

Goal is improved:

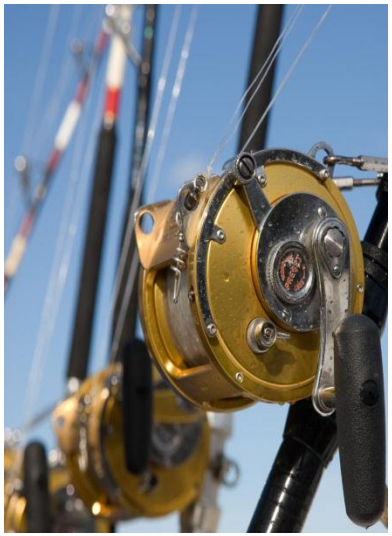
- Fishing Opportunities
- Recreational Catch and Effort Data
- Socio-economic data
- Communication
- Institutional Orientation

Approach:

- Address important regional needs
- Build upon existing programs consistent with vision themes
- Build public/private partnerships where possible
- Focus on outcome rather than process improvements

Recreational Engagement Initiative Highlights

- Improved Fishing Opportunities
  - Barotrauma workshops
  - Gulf Red Snapper
- Improved Recreational Catch and Effort Data
  - Marine Recreational Information Program
- Improved Socio-Economic Data
  - Saltwater Angler Expenditures
  - Socio-economic data gap analysis
- Improved Communication
  - Regional recreational fisheries websites and newsletters
  - Regional recreational coordinator network created
- Institutional Orientation
  - Visibility of Recreational Fishing



On the Horizon

NOAA FISHERIES

2013

- Regional recreational fisheries roundtables
- National angler perceptions survey
- MONF III
- Regional recreational action agenda

2014

- National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit II
- Next generation national recreational action agenda

RFEI - Habitat Linkages

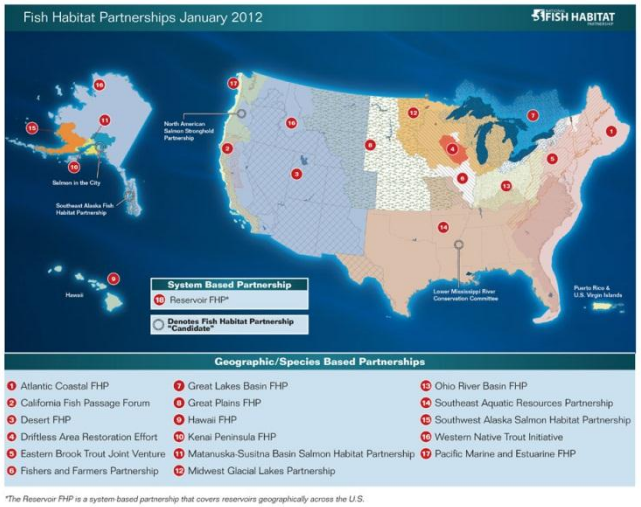
Nationally

- Coordination with NMFS OHC on NFHP and other habitat projects
- Habitat component within National Action Agenda
- Conduit to national recreational fishing community

RFEI - Habitat Linkages (Continued)

Regionally

- Communication between Regional recreational and NFHP coordinators/regional partnerships
- Habitat components within regional action agendas
- Dissemination of key habitat information/science to regional/local recreational community



Looking Forward

- How can the marine recreational fishing community be engaged to help ID and resolve habitat challenges?
- In what ways might NFHP be able to bring focus on habitat issues important to the marine recreational fishing community?

Thank You

Questions or Comments:

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