



# Saltwater Recreational Fisheries **POLICY**



# AGENDA

## National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

- What, Why, and How?
- Who have we been talking with?
- Timeline: Where are we now?
- Scope and draft goals
- Recent input
- Discussion

# What is a **POLICY**

## **DOES:**

Influence how we carry out  
responsibilities under the law

## **DOES NOT:**

Have the force or effect of law  
Create regulations



# Why do we need a **POLICY**

1. Institutionalizes our commitment.
2. Guides agency actions over the long-term.
3. Helps ensure we remain accountable to our recreational stakeholders.





# Policy Development Process & Timeline



# Building the **POLICY**

**Public  
Comment**

**MAFAC  
White Paper**

**Regional  
Roundtables**

**Town  
Halls**

**Recreational Saltwater  
Fishing Summit**

**Morris-Deal  
Commission  
Report**

# POLICY

## We've been talking with lots of people

- All Council meetings (*North Pacific next month*) and *Atlantic HMS AP*
- All three Commissions
- State Agency webinar
- National Public Town Halls (webinars and in-person)
- MAFAC RecFish Working Group webinar
- Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council meeting
- National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils

**We've presented to more than two dozen meetings and webinars in total.**



# Scope of the **POLICY**

**Who and what activities should be considered under the policy?**

- **Shore and private/non-for-hire vessel?**
- **For-hire vessels?**
- **Recreational fishing industries?**
- **Non-commercial fishermen ?**
- **Expense fishing?**
- **Subsistence fishing?**



# Scope of the **POLICY**

## What we have heard

- Sale of fish/expense fishing conflicts with nature of recreational fishing.
- Subsistence fishing is different than recreational.
- Include non-angling activities fish watching/ecotourism.

## Possible goals of the

# POLICY

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, healthy, and diverse recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal fisheries management system.
3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.
4. Enhance transparency, follow-through, and long-term continuity of action.



# Possible Goals of the **POLICY**

## What we have heard

1. Include a science and data theme.
2. Consistency and stability.
3. Opportunity and access (inclusive of allocation).
4. Abundance drives recreational fisheries.
5. Federal – state partnership.
6. Singular recreational community with diverse needs.
7. Fishing culture and communities.

What are your thoughts about the

# **POLICY**

**We've outlined some draft goals and heard some additional suggestions. Now it's your turn...**

- 1. Do these goals sound reasonable?**
- 2. What ideas are missing?**
- 3. Any red flags?**
- 4. Are there any potential impacts which concern you?**



## Possible goals of the

# POLICY

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, healthy, and diverse recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal fisheries management system.
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# POLICY

## Recap

1. The policy is a set of high-level principles to guide Agency action over the long-term.
2. Policy helps ensure Agency accountability.
3. A draft policy will be available for review this fall.



The background of the image is a close-up photograph of several fishing lures. These lures are cylindrical and decorated with various patterns, including solid colors, stripes, and glitter. They are adorned with long, thin, colorful streamers in shades of yellow, orange, red, blue, and green. The lures are arranged in a row, and their details are clearly visible. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

**Thank you for your comments.**

Tell your friends and colleagues.

Submit comments and follow our  
progress online at

*[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/)*

And on Twitter @ *#ifishsaltwater*