

## RECREATIONAL FISHING POLICY UPDATE

In April 2014 NMFS, in conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, conducted a second Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Summit (Agenda C.2.a, Attachment 1; available in electronic form only). One recommendation from the Summit was a call for an agency-wide saltwater recreational fisheries policy. The purpose of the recommendation was to establish a national policy that distinguishes recreational fishing from commercial fishing in order to:

- ensure access to recreational fishing opportunities,
- maximize predictability in seasons and allocations,
- allow flexibility for addressing regional differences while maintaining state/federal consistency at the policy level,
- recognize recreational fishing's economic importance, and
- acknowledge the differing objectives and needs of recreational and commercial fishing.

Mr. Russell Dunn explained to the Council at the June 2014 meeting that a NMFS policy was in development with efforts to receive input and comment from interested persons throughout the country. To that end, a series of 11 informational "town hall" meetings about recreational fisheries policy were held this June through October, including one conducted as an evening adjunct in conjunction with the Pacific Council's June 2014 meeting.

This agenda item has been scheduled for the November Council meeting in anticipation that a draft policy document would be presented for review and comment. However, at the time of the briefing book deadline, no draft was available. NMFS will provide an update on available information and expectations for Council comments.

### **Council Action:**

**Provide comments and guidance on further development of a draft recreational fisheries policy.**

### Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.2.a, Attachment 1: 2014 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit Summary Report (**Electronic Only**).

### Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Provide Comments on Further Development of the Recreational Fishery Policy, as Needed

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