Saltwater recreational fishing is woven into our nation’s social and economic fabric. NOAA Fisheries, the federal agency responsible for the stewardship of our ocean and coastal resources, is asking for your help in developing a national policy on saltwater recreational fisheries. At the 2014 national Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit, NOAA Fisheries committed to develop an Agency-wide policy.

Why do we need a saltwater recreational fisheries policy?
For an organization the size of NOAA, process and policy are important. A clear statement about our operating principles does two things: 1) it institutionalizes our commitment to healthy recreational fisheries and the benefits they provide to the nation and 2) it provides guidance when difficult choices need to be made.

What is a policy exactly?
A national saltwater recreational fisheries policy outlines a set of principles to guide NOAA actions and decisions over the long-term. The policy will share basic tenets with the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), the legislation that governs fisheries management in federal waters. While the MSA outlines the legal requirements, this new policy will make clear the values we will keep in mind when implementing the law. Further, the policy will serve as the underpinning to the Agency’s recreational fishing Action Agenda, which we update every 4 years.

How can I share an opinion?
This summer, you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts on what should be in NOAA Fisheries’ saltwater recreational fisheries policy. There will be a number of ways to add your voice to the conversation:

- **In Person:** Join us in person at one of the public town hall meetings held in conjunction with an upcoming Regional Fishery Management Council meeting.
- **On the Phone:** Call in to one of the national informational webinars.
- **Online:** Share a comment online.

The full schedule, discussion questions, and details on how to share your thoughts can be found on our website at: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/)
National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
Public Town Hall Meeting Calendar

JUNE
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting
Sawgrass Marriott
Ponte Verde, FL
June 9 @ 6:00pm

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting
Radisson Hotel of Freehold
Freehold, NJ
June 11 @ 5:00 pm

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting
Holiday Inn by the Bay
Portland, ME
June 17 @ TBD

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting
Hyatt Regency Orange County
Pacific Room
Garden Grove, CA
June 23 @ 7:00 pm

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting
Harbor View Center
Honolulu, HI
June 25 @ 7:30 pm

JULY
National Town Hall
NOAA Science Center
1301 East-West Hwy
Silver Spring, MD
July 24 @ 2:00pm
RSVP to Danielle.rioux@noaa.gov

AUGUST
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting
Crowne Plaza
Alexandria, VA
Date/Time TBD

Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Puerto Rico /Date/Time TBD

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting
Beau Rivage Resort
Biloxi, MS
Date/Time TBD

SEPTEMBER
Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel
Silver Spring, MD
Date/Time TBD

OCTOBER
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Hilton Anchorage
Anchorage, AK
Date/Time TBD