



NOAA FISHERIES

At NOAA Fisheries, we love fish. We also agree with the roughly 11 million Americans who think wetting a line is a great way to spend time.

That's why we launched an initiative back in 2010 to improve our science and stewardship for saltwater fishermen everywhere. The effort is about better understanding fishermen's needs, better tailoring our programs, and empowering recreational fishermen to be effective stewards.

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Online at:

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational

National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy



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/>



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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