

NOAA's Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Initiative (Initiative)

NOAA embarked on an initiative in September 2009 to strengthen our partnership with the saltwater recreational fishing community. The Initiative began by arranging a number of organizational elements to support the renewed focus and create the foundation for a sustained effort. Information about the national Initiative, and the many steps throughout NOAA Fisheries that have been taken to implement it, are found at:

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

Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

The Initiative has led to the call for an agency-wide saltwater recreational fisheries policy. The policy is now in development with efforts to receive input and comment from interested persons throughout the country. An informational "town hall" about recreational fisheries policy will be held Monday, June 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency in association with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's meeting. Information about the saltwater recreational fisheries policy can be found at:

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/documents/recfish_policy_fact_sheet.pdf.

West Coast Regional Activities

Within the NMFS West Coast Region (WCR), steps are being taken to best organize to implement the Initiative. The West Coast Regional Recreational Fisheries Action Agenda for 2014-2015 (Action Agenda) can be found at:

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/documents/noaa_rfaa_wcr.pdf.

Within the WCR, the Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD) is responsible for implementing the Initiative and the Action Agenda. SFD's new Recreational Fisheries Coordinator will hold a full time position and will be located in the Long Beach office. The Coordinator will lead a team of existing staff with members located in each major office along the coast. The team will continually assess regional needs and set goals and priorities locally, and be responsible for development and updates to the Action Agenda for the WCR. Team members serve as liaisons between stakeholders and the Regional Coordinator.