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New England Fishery Management Council
June 24, 2010

NOAA RECREATIONAL FISHERIES UPDATE

Recreational Fishing Engagement Initiative

- ◆ Initiated by Dr. Lubchenco in October 2009
 - ◆ Realization/acknowledgement that the relationship between NOAA and the recreational community was strained

- ◆ RFEI included five initial commitments:
 - NOAA Team: Colvin, Darby, Winer
 - Rec. Coordinators in every region
 - New Leadership – AA Schwaab, Nat. Policy Advisor Dunn
 - MAFAC Recreational Fisheries Working Group
 - Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit

National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries

- ◆ New position created by Dr. Lubchenco to:
 - ◆ Develop a strong and trusting **partnership** with the marine recreational fishing community
 - ◆ Proactively engage recreational fishing constituents to identify and **address** their concerns
 - ◆ Ensure that recreational issues are given appropriate consideration in the fisheries management process
 - ◆ Provide policy advice to AA Eric Schwaab, as necessary

Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit

- ◆ Initiate an open, honest dialogue to develop a trusting and productive partnership
- ◆ Over 100 recreational constituents from across the country, including U.S. territories
 - ◆ For-hire vessel owners/captains
 - ◆ Private recreational fishermen
 - ◆ Tournament Operators
 - ◆ Tackle manufacturers/retailers
 - ◆ National interest groups
 - ◆ Outdoor writers
 - ◆ Fishery Management Council & Commission members
 - ◆ MAFAC Recreational Fisheries Working Group

Recreational Summit Cont.

- ◆ Summit agenda was guided by participant input obtained via a pre-summit survey
 - ◆ **Visions Themes for a Successful Future**
 - ◆ Better communications, cooperation, and increased trust
 - ◆ Improved quality, quantity, and timeliness of data & science
 - ◆ Improved fishery management decisions based on a more complete understanding of soci-economic contributions
 - ◆ Improved access to the resource and expanded recreational fishing opportunities

Recreational Summit cont.

- ◆ Remarks by Dr. Lubchenco, AA Schwaab
- ◆ Constituent panel presentations:
 - ◆ The landscape of saltwater recreational fishing in the U.S.
 - ◆ Key Challenges facing recreational saltwater fishing today
 - ◆ Regional perspectives on key challenges
 - ◆ Learning from successful efforts
- ◆ Interactive small working groups
- ◆ Combined Constituent/NOAA panel reflecting on next steps

Recreational Summit cont.

- ◆ Participants divided into small working groups
- ◆ Asked to identify major challenges & solutions to achieving the four vision themes
- ◆ 34 challenges and more than 200 solutions (some overlapping) identified by participants
- ◆ Participants asked to individually rank the order of importance/priority of challenges/solutions within each vision theme

Summit Results

- ◆ **Top Ranked Priority Actions (Overall)**
 - ◆ Integrate the values of recreational fishing into the NOAA mission statement.
 - ◆ Improved data i.e. social and economic data.
 - ◆ Recognize the uniqueness of recreational fisheries and manage those to their best economic advantage (e.g., do not treat recreational catch in the same manner as commercial catch).
 - ◆ Greater representation of recreational interests on the Councils.
 - ◆ Increased recreational influence within the marine spatial process.

Summit Results

Top Ranked Priority Actions by Vision Theme:

- ◆ **Improved Communication, Cooperation, & Trust:**
 - ◆ Integrate the values of recreational fishing into the NOAA mission statement.
 - ◆ Recognize the uniqueness of recreational fisheries and manage those to their best economic advantage (e.g., do not treat recreational catch in the same manner as commercial catch).
- ◆ **Better Data & Science**
 - ◆ Better social and economic data
 - ◆ Reprioritize within NOAA to allocate existing funds to improving data collection for recreational fishery.

Summit Results cont.

- ◆ **Improved Fishery Management Decisions**
 - ◆ Greater representation of recreational interests on the Councils
 - ◆ Increased recreational influence within the coastal and marine spatial planning process
- ◆ **Improved Recreational Access and Opportunity**
 - ◆ Improve data timeliness so economic data can be included in assessment of management actions
 - ◆ Examine and reevaluate historical allocations in order to accommodate expanding recreational fisheries.

Summit Follow-through

Working on many fronts simultaneously

- ♦ Summit materials posted on-line -- Final Summit report released on June 3, 2010
- ♦ Draft action agenda guided by summit input
 - ♦ Engaged MAFAC RFWG
- ♦ Reviewing NOAA strategic plan
- ♦ Examining Council nominations
- ♦ Allocating additional funding to improve timeliness of data collection
- ♦ Fast-tracking stock assessments of key rec. species, as appropriate
- ♦ Working to accelerate components of MRIP, as appropriate
- ♦ Developing new communications tools/outreach efforts
- ♦ Planning follow-up regional meetings
- ♦ Working to ensure consideration of fisheries concerns, including recreational, in CMSP



[ecsummit video.mt](http://ecsummitvideo.mt)