



Saltwater Recreational Fisheries **POLICY**



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy DISCUSSION GUIDE

NOAA Fisheries is developing an Agency-wide saltwater recreational fishing policy which outlines a set of principles to guide our actions and decisions over the long term. We would like your thoughts on what should be included in the new policy.

POLICY PURPOSE

A national policy, which articulates a clear statement about core operating principles, could provide:

- A platform for a common understanding of agency perspectives.
- Guidance for agency activities, interactions, and management pertaining to our nation's saltwater recreational and non-commercial fisheries.

POLICY SCOPE

The term "recreational fishing" means different things to different people. These different definitions may encompass a range of activities and many segments of the fishing community such as:

- Shore and private/non-for-hire vessels.
- For-hire vessels (e.g., charter, headboats, guides, and lodges).
- Recreational fishing industries (e.g., bait and tackle manufacturers and distributors, tournaments).
- Non-commercial fishermen.
- Expense fishing.
- Subsistence fishing.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you define recreational fisheries?
2. What activities do you think constitute recreational fisheries?
3. What might be the effect of defining recreational fisheries in this way in the national policy?

POSSIBLE POLICY GOALS - OVERVIEW

Below are four draft policy goals for consideration. They are informed by NOAA Fisheries' own practices and input from many in the recreational/non-commercial fishing communities. They are intended to limit neither discussion nor consideration of other potential policy goals. The four possible goals are:

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, diverse, and high quality recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal marine fisheries management system.
3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.
4. Enhance transparency, follow-through, and continuity of action.

Discussion Question:

1. Are these goals appropriate for a national policy?
2. Are there others which should be considered?

POSSIBLE POLICY GOALS - IN DETAIL

In creating the new policy, we want to both build on what has already been learned through our ongoing conversations with constituents and provide the opportunity for the exchange of new ideas. Each draft policy goal is presented below with some relevant questions to stimulate discussion.

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/policy/index.html>



NOAA FISHERIES

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of various fishing lures and fishing rods. The lures are colorful, with many having long, flowing skirts in shades of pink, orange, yellow, and blue. Some lures have white heads with black eyes. The fishing rods are visible in the upper portion of the image, with their handles and reels partially obscured by the lures. The overall image has a soft, out-of-focus quality, creating a textured backdrop for the text.

AGENDA

- Timeline
- Scope & draft goals
- Recent Input
- Discussion



A group of people are fishing from a boat on the ocean. In the foreground, a man wearing a purple cap, glasses, and a dark hoodie with an "ABIDE" patch is smiling and holding a fishing rod. Behind him, several other people are also fishing. The ocean is blue with some whitecaps, and the sky is overcast. The text "Summit commitments" is overlaid on the top right of the image.

Summit commitments

Summit report

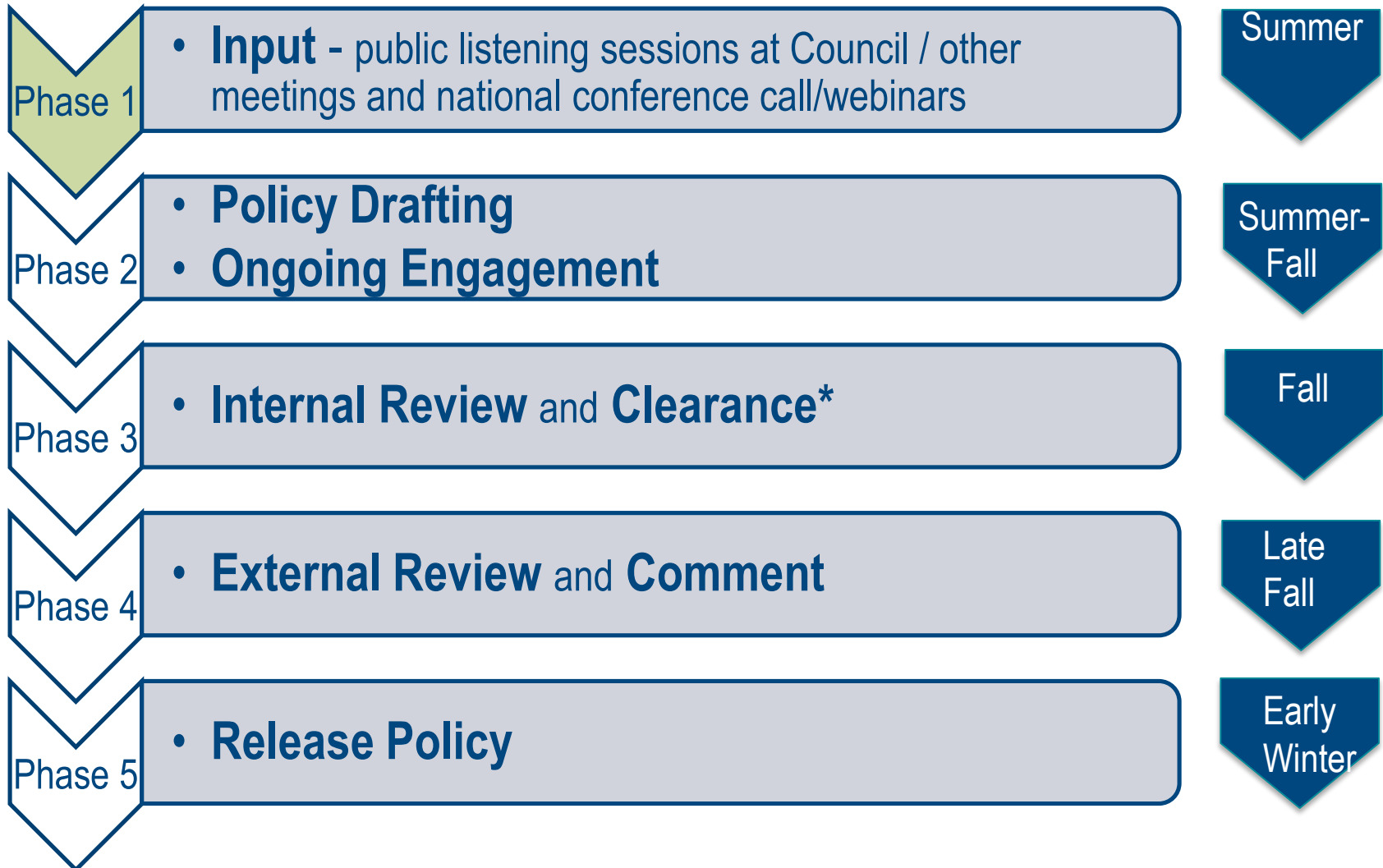
National Policy

**Formulation of National Action
Agenda**



NOAA FISHERIES

Policy Development Process & Timeline



Recent Activity

Councils	States	General Public
South Atlantic FMC	State Agency webinar	Town halls associated w/each Council meeting
Mid-Atlantic FMC	ASMFC	Public webinar (x2)
New England FMC	GSMFC	Silver Spring, MD
Pacific FMC		MAFAC RFWG
Western Pacific FMC		
Caribbean FMC		

Upcoming Input Opportunities

August	September / October
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pacific States Commission• Gulf FMC & public town hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Directors / NMFS meeting• North Pacific FMC

What is a **POLICY**

DOES:

**Influence how we carry out
responsibilities under the law**

DOES NOT:

**Have the force or effect of law
Create regulations**



Why do we need a **POLICY**

1. Institutionalizes our commitment.
2. Guides agency actions over the long-term.
3. Platform for common understanding of agency perspective.
4. Helps ensure recreational fishing will have a seat at the table.



Building the **POLICY**

**MAFAC RFWG
White Paper**

**Recreational
Saltwater
Fishing
Summit**

**Town
Halls**

**Regional
Roundtables**

**Morris-Deal
Commission
Report**

MONF II

Scope of the

POLICY

How do you define “recreational fisheries”?

Who and what activities should be considered under the policy?

- **Shore and private/non-for-hire vessel?**
- **For-hire vessels?**
- **Recreational fishing industries?**
- **Non-commercial fishermen ?**
- **Expense fishing?**
- **Subsistence fishing?**



What we have been hearing...

Scope

- Sale of fish/expense fishing conflicts with nature of recreational fishing
- Subsistence fishing is different than recreational
- Consider non-angling activities fish watching / ecotourism
- Culture and communities

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Goal 1: Foster and enhance sustainable, healthy, and diverse recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.

Consider socio-economics as management is being formulated.

Recognize role of forage species.

Manage recreational fisheries differently than commercial fisheries.

Periodically review allocations.

Better understand and manage for angler satisfaction.

Find ways to empower anglers as resource stewards and incentivize conservation.

Support enhancement efforts such as artificial reefs and stock enhancements.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Goal 2: Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal fisheries management system.

Adopt a national recreational policy

Better incorporate rec. fishing in Agency planning documents

Hire a full-time RecFish coordinator in each NOAA Fisheries region

Support equitable balance of Council membership

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Goal 3: Encourage Partnership, Engagement, and Innovation

Work cooperatively to collect biological, catch, and socio-economic data from anglers.

Encourage cooperation among anglers and scientists on research and data analysis.

Explore new co-management options with the states.

More listening and conversation.

Find ways to work together to support conservation and enhancement efforts.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Goal 4: Transparency, Follow-through, and long-term Continuity of Action

More frequent updates
re: status of NOAA
commitments &
programs

Better communicate the
need/basis for rulemakings
and simplify science

Long-term funding for
recreational programs

What we have been hearing.....


Main Themes

- Add a science & data theme
- Regulatory consistency and fishery stability
- Opportunity & access (inclusive of allocation)
- Abundance drives recreational fisheries
- Federal – state partnership
- Singular recreational community w/diverse needs
- Fishing culture and communities

Possible goals for the

POLICY

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, healthy, and diverse recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal fisheries management system.
3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.
4. Enhance transparency, follow-through, and long-term continuity of action.



Thank you for your comments.

Tell your friends and colleagues.

**Submit comments and follow our
progress online at**

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

And on Twitter @ *#ifishsaltwater*