NOAA Fisheries Invites Comments to Update Recreational Fisheries Policy

With the perspectives shared during the 2022 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit, NOAA Fisheries requests your input on revising the Policy during the public comment period of August 1–December 31, 2022.

To assist with this request, we ask that you considered the following:

**2015 POLICY STATEMENT**
It is the policy of [NOAA Fisheries] to foster, support, and enhance a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation.

Question: How might the 2015 policy statement be amended to better frame NOAA Fisheries’ approach to recreational fisheries?

**SCOPE OF THE 2015 POLICY**
The policy pertains to non-commercial activities of fishermen who fish for sport or pleasure, as set out in the Magnuson-Stevens Act definition of recreational fishing whether retaining (e.g., consuming, sharing) or releasing their catches, as well as the businesses and industries (e.g., the for-hire fleets, bait and tackle businesses, tournaments) which support them.

Question: How might the scope of the 2015 policy be amended to include appropriate participants and activities?

**2015 POLICY GOALS**
1. Support and maintain sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries resources, including healthy marine and estuarine habitats
2. Promote saltwater recreational fishing for the social, cultural, and economic benefit of the nation
3. Enable enduring participation in, and enjoyment of, saltwater recreational fisheries through science-based conservation and management

Question: How might the 2015 policy goals be added to, narrowed, or amended to better inform the Agency’s focus for recreational fisheries?

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE
GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE 2015 POLICY
1. Support ecosystem conservation and enhancement
2. Promote public access to quality recreational fishing opportunities
3. Coordinate with state and federal management entities
4. Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges
5. Provide scientifically sound and trusted social, cultural, economic, and ecological information
6. Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public

Question: How might the guiding principles of the policy, including implementation strategies, be added to, narrowed, or amended to better guide Agency objectives and actions?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS
• Are there concepts either missing or that should be considered for removal from the 2015 policy that are not captured in your comments up to this point (e.g., climate change)?
• What other suggestions do you have, if any, for NOAA to consider as we revise the 2015 Policy?

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCES
2015 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
2022 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit Report

Recreational Fisheries Policy Online Comment Portal

NOAA Fisheries Recreational Points of Contact
Russ Dunn
National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries
Russell.Dunn@noaa.gov
Tim Sartwell
Recreational Fisheries Specialist
Tim.Sartwell@noaa.gov