

APPENDIX B

2016-2017 Greater Atlantic Regional Recreational Fisheries Action Agenda

Principle (National Policy)	Objective(s)/Strategy	Project(s)/Deliverables	Details	Timeline	Progress
1. Support ecosystem conservation and enhancement	Habitat restoration for both recreationally targeted fish and/or for the forage fish upon which those species depend	Provide financial and technical assistance to partners for dam removal and enhancement of fish passages	These projects will restore miles of streams and acres of historic spawning habitat	Ongoing	
	Examining ecosystems services of habitat and forage species and climate change impacts	River herring research and monitoring efforts will enhance our understanding of the importance of this forage species to recreationally important stocks. The NEFSC will work with partners to improve river herring bycatch monitoring and mitigation in commercial fisheries, improve fish passage infrastructure on New England streams and rivers, and work to improve our understanding of the importance of river herring ecosystems services	Current pilot studies to improve bycatch monitoring in commercial herring fisheries will evolve to full implementation within the next few months. Testing of environmental gradients to determine river herring and ocean herring overlaps and localized abundance will be conducted. River herring monitoring efforts through collaborations with State Agencies and local communities will help improve our relative annual estimates of this stock	This is an on-going effort with commercial fishermen. There are potentials for developing similar systems with the recreational community. We anticipate this effort to be a long term objective	
	Increase recreational angler stewardship activities (e.g., Ethical Angling equipment) and other activities for	(1) Increase barotrauma recovery equipment usage through educational programs	Distribute barotrauma equipment to Port Agents and state partners, provide training for anglers	Distribution in first quarter 2016; trainings continual	

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	public participation in restoration	(2) Increase outreach activities regarding seasons, bag, and size limit regulations	Create and distribute material describing importance of compliance, referencing NMFS and state regulations	Development and distribution in first quarter 2016	
	Increase awareness of ethical angling practices near protected species by ensuring consistent and accurate information is distributed to the public on safe fishing practices and protected species interactions	(1) Increase awareness of protected species activities and responsibilities for recreational boaters and anglers to ensure safe fishing practices related to protected species	Distribute recreational fishing stickers, brochures, etc. related to protected species: (a) Help Sea Turtles While Fishing, (b) Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Protection Guidelines for Rec boaters and anglers, (c) Sturgeon recreational information sticker	Ongoing	
		(2) Increase awareness of "See a Spout, Watch Out" Program to educate recreational boaters about responsible whale watching from private vessels		Ongoing	
2. Promote public access to quality recreational fishing opportunities	Ensure fishing opportunities consistent with stock condition	Support the development of management measures that are consistent with scientifically sound limits that are designed to maximize recreational opportunity within catch limits		Ongoing	

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	Improve coordination between GARFO and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS)	(1) Include Sanctuary materials at outreach events		Ongoing	
		(2) Collaborate with SBNMS on "Fisheries Management in the Sanctuary" brochure	Describe how fishing is managed in SBNMS, including the roles and responsibilities of the SBNMS management, GARFO, and the Councils	In development	
	Increase the flexibility of the bioeconomic model used to manage the Gulf of Maine recreational cod and haddock fisheries	Explore the feasibility of adjusting the bioeconomic model to quantify monthly, rather than bi-monthly, effects of different regulatory scenarios on angler effort, catch, expenditures, and welfare in the Northeast.	This is intended to increase the flexibility that managers have to ensure that annual catch limits are not exceeded, while maximizing fishing opportunities and benefits to for-hire businesses and recreational anglers.	In development for FY 2016 measures	
	Increase understanding of the "true" value of marine saltwater fishing rights for Massachusetts anglers.	Estimate the value anglers place on marine saltwater fishing rights in Massachusetts.	Report on the value anglers place on having saltwater fishing rights in Massachusetts.	A peer-reviewed manuscript will be available in 2016.	
3. Coordinate with state and Federal management entities	Support Council and Commission development of actions intended to increase success of recreational fisheries management	Provide technical and policy assistance for Council and Commission actions, notably the Comprehensive Summer Flounder Amendment, a Black Sea Bass Amendment to address ongoing management challenges, and a limited entry Amendment for the New England groundfish for-hire fleet.		Ongoing	

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	Improve coordination between GARFO and States on recreational fisheries issues, including data gathering, analytical techniques, and improved estimates of fishing effort and catch. Support development of additional electronic reporting systems for for-hire vessels	Collaborate with ACCSP on smartphone application that complies with state and Federal trip reporting requirements (i.e., eTrips/M)		Completion expected early 2016	
4. Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges	Support development of additional electronic reporting systems for for-hire vessels	(1) Develop universal web-based application for federally permitted vessels, including for-hire fleet		In development	
		(2) Increase awareness of for-hire vessels eVTR reporting		In development	
	Increase awareness of, and compliance with, Federal recreational fishing regulations among private anglers	Support development of a "Fish Rules" smartphone application in the Greater Atlantic Region	Longline studies and working with state agencies to acquire survivability information	In development	
	Continue to fund research on recreational fishing impacts, particularly on recreational discard mortality	Support execution and consideration of studies of recreational discard mortality for cusk and haddock in the Gulf of Maine	Separate tagging studies of recreational discard mortality of cusk and haddock in the Gulf of Maine have been funded.	Ongoing	

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	Seek more balanced consideration of commercial and recreational sectors in fishery policy discussions	Ensure recreational impacts are discussed with decision makers, where appropriate		Ongoing	
	Establish a process for communicating feedback from recreational industry	Increase communication and feedback efforts between staff and fishers	Ensure that during recurring and targeted interactions between staff and fishers ideas are relayed back to appropriate staff.	Ongoing	
	Collaborate on the development of critical science priorities and data needed to improve stock assessments and fisheries management.	(1) Fishery independent survey on for-hire vessels to examine distribution and abundance estimates for important Atlantic coast recreational stocks	S-K funded project with Rutgers University will conduct a pilot study of black sea bass with for-hire partners	Project began Jan 2016	
		(2) Work closely with recreational anglers, fishing organizations, and shark tournaments to tag highly migratory pelagic sharks with the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program.	Monitor movements of sharks around the Atlantic and Caribbean basins to better understand migratory patterns and life history. There are thousands of volunteers that tag fish and return tags for rewards. Biological data (age and growth, fecundity, and feeding) is also collected at shark tournaments.	Ongoing. (The tagging program has been functional for over 50 years. We are working to enhance the program and better integrate into cooperative research and recreational fishing activities.)	
5. Provide scientifically sound and trusted social,	Produce accurate stock assessments for	(1) Support development of benchmark black sea bass stock assessment		Assessment scheduled for	

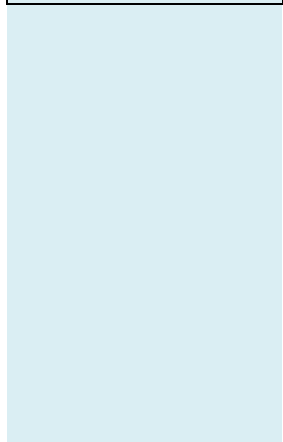
Principle (National Policy)	Objective(s)/Strategy	Project(s)/Deliverables	Details	Timeline	Progress
cultural, economic, and ecological information.	recreationally important fish stocks			completion late 2016	
		(2) Complete stock assessments (or updates) as needed for other stocks.	Updates: summer flounder, bluefish, scup, cod, haddock	Ongoing	
		(3) Support evaluation of Blueline tilefish in the Mid-Atlantic	Collaborate with SEFSC on understanding status of blueline tilefish north of Cape Hatteras.	Assessment scheduled for completion 2017	
	Support research on recreational fishing impacts on protected species and species of concern	Develop and undertake a survey to better understand the extent of interactions with sea turtles in mid-Atlantic recreational fisheries	The survey should include characteristics of fishing gears (e.g., bait, line type, hook type and size, etc.) used in these fisheries to understand what factors may result in higher bycatch rates. Work closely with our stranding network partners in Virginia who are doing some limited studies related to gear when a take has occurred to better understand the extent of interactions to ensure that the studies complement each other and are not duplicative.	Project development in 2016, implementation to follow	
	Understand economic contributions of recreational uses of ocean and coastal resources.	(1) Assist in the estimation of the economic contribution of marine angler expenditures	Data on angler expenditures allows NOAA Fisheries to better understand the economic	Results will be published in a NOAA Technical	

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		on durable goods in the United States	contributions of marine recreational fishing to the nations' economy. Economists at the NEFSC assisted with the survey design and analysis.	Memorandum in 2016	
		(2) Assist in the development and analysis of the National Marine Recreational Use Survey	Expenditures and contributions will be developed for recreational fishing, recreational shellfishing, ocean hunting of waterfowl, viewing or photographing the ocean, beachcombing, boating, water contact sports, and other outdoor activities not involving water contact.	A final report of a statistically sound survey approach and report that provides expenditure and contribution estimates for the nation as well as the Northeast Region is expected in late 2016.	
		(3) Assist in the estimation of the economic contribution of marine angler expenditures on trip-related goods in the United States	Data on angler expenditures allows NOAA Fisheries to better understand the economic contributions of marine recreational fishing to the nations' economy. Economists at the NEFSC will assist with the survey design and analysis	Surveys will be administered during 2016 and a NOAA Technical Memorandum in late 2017/early 2018	
	Enhance the working relationship and	(1) GARFO membership and active participation on MRIP		Ongoing	

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	communication between the Office of Science and Technology and Regional Office and Science Center staff	Transition Team, RecTech Committee, VTR data submitted complete and timely, etc.			
		(2) Support MRIP outreach plan		Ongoing	
	Increase multidisciplinary and cross cutting science through greater investments in cooperative and collaborative research, as described in NEFSC Strategic Plan	(1) Work to develop similar self-reporting applications that may be used on smart phones and tablet computers	NEFSC fishery dependent reporting systems are now fully functional for commercial operators	Development in 2016	
		(2) Studies are proposed to make comparisons among current recreational fishing estimates and catch gathered via mail, telephone, and face-to-face interviews conducted during access point surveys	NEFSC recreational fishing staff will collaborate with State agencies currently conducting access surveys	Development in 2016	
	Enhance the working relationship and communication between the Office of Science and Technology and Regional Office and Science Center staff	Collaborate with Rutgers University researchers on a recreational fishery independent survey to estimate black sea bass distributions and abundance	This survey will be conducted on recreational party/charter fishing vessels in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern New England regions	Survey to be conducted in 2016	Funded (SK)
	Support collaborative research with SBNM	Working with Stellwagen Bank Charter captains on initiating cooperative research	Support whale-safe gear (hook) research, etc	Undetermined	
6. Communicate and engage with the	Increase interaction between recreational fishing	(1) Formalize Regional Recreational Fisheries Team to enhance regional	Organizational chart with recreational fishing responsibilities on	To be completed early 2016	

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recreational fishing public.	community and Regional Office staff and leadership	coordination of recreational issues	recreational fishing website		
		(2) Increase port agent outreach to bait and tackle shops, etc.		Ongoing	
		(3) Leadership participation at recreational events.	John Bullard will be a participant at the Recreational Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) session in Baltimore	Completed January 2016	Complete
	Increase visibility of NOAA Fisheries in the recreational fishing community	(1) Attend and participate in recreational fishing, sporting and boating shows	Attend at least 7 shows with strong saltwater fishing components	Beginning January 2016	
		(2) Increase social media presence for recreational fishing issues/news/activities	Develop comprehensive social media strategy for recreational information	First half of 2016	
		(3) Increase distribution of regulatory information at high visibility points	Distribute regulatory information at bait and tackle shops, angler access points, etc.	Development through first half of 2016	
	Improve awareness and understanding in the recreational fishing community of relevant scientific and management issues, including stock assessments, data collection and usage, management process	(1) Develop information sheets or pamphlets for public distribution	Topics should include: recreational data collection and usage (MRIP, VTR, Stock Assessment, etc), description of FMP-specific recreational management measures process, etc.	Development through first half of 2016	

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		(2) Assist in planning and participate in at least one MREP workshop focused on recreational anglers	Participate in the program and present on recreational fisheries management MREP in Baltimore	Completed January 2016	
		(3) Maintain and utilize a recreational contacts database for focused recreational outreach		Ongoing	
	Increase institutional awareness for recreational fisheries	(1) Provide GARFO/NEFSC staff training on MRIP, other recreational concerns	Set up staff webinars, egg-timers, etc. on recreational topics	Ongoing	
		(2) Publicize internal recreational fishing activities to GARFO/NEFSC staff		Ongoing	



APPENDIX C

Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and Northeast Fisheries Science Center Recreational Fisheries Points of Contact (click on each name for email address)

Regional Office (John Bullard , Regional Administrator)	
Recreational Fishing Coordinator	Moira Kelly , Sustainable Fisheries Division
Stakeholder Engagement Division	Dr. Kevin Chu , Assistant Regional Administrator Greg Power , Port Agent Supervisor Port Agents: Pam Thames (Portland, ME), Caleb Gilbert and Don Mason (Gloucester, MA), Bill Duffy (New Bedford, MA), Walt Anoushian (Narragansett, RI), Vic Vecchio (East Hampton, NY), Joanne Pellegrino (Toms River, NJ), Josh O'Connor (Cape May, NJ), Steve Ellis (Hampton, VA)
Sustainable Fisheries Division	Michael Pentony , Assistant Regional Administrator Michael Ruccio , Team Supervisor (Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass FMP) Tobey Curtis , Bluefish Doug Potts , Tilefish(golden, blueline) Dr. William Whitmore , Mark Grant Groundfish (cod, haddock)
Protected Resources Division	Ellen Keane , Sea Turtles Allison Rosner , Marine Mammals Diane Borrgaard , Sturgeon & Salmon
Habitat Conservation Division & Habitat Restoration Center	Lou Chiarella , Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation John Catena , Northeast & Great Lakes Regional Supervisor, NOAA Restoration Center
Analysis and Program Support Division	Hannah Goodale , Assistant Regional Administrator Dr. Jay Hermesen , Statistician, Commission Recreational Technical Committee Member Jim St. Cyr , Supervisor, Vessel and Dealer Reporting Group
Science Center (Dr. William Karp , Director)	
Recreational Fishing Coordinator	Dr. Earl Meredith , Cooperative Research
Populations Dynamics Branch	Dr. Gary Shepard , MRIP Operations Team Member, Black sea bass and striped bass stock assessment lead Dr. Mark Terceiro , Summer flounder and scup stock assessment lead Dr. Anthony Wood , Bluefish stock assessment lead Michael Palmer , Gulf of Maine cod and haddock stock assessment lead Paul Nitschke , Tilefish stock assessment lead
Social Sciences Branch	Scott Steinbeck , Recreational fisheries economics