



NOAA FISHERIES

Recreational Fisheries Initiative

To better serve saltwater recreational anglers and our coastal communities, NOAA Fisheries is asking for your guidance in revising our 2015 National Policy for Saltwater Recreational Fisheries.

The National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy is essential to shaping NOAA Fisheries' approach to recreational anglers and their fisheries. It serves as a platform to help the public understand NOAA Fisheries' perspective and approaches to recreational fisheries issues.

Its goals and principles help guide Agency deliberations with regard to supporting and maintaining high quality sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries.

NOAA recognizes the need for the Policy to adapt with a changing climate and the evolving needs of recreational fisheries and anglers to remain relevant.

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?*

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U.S. Secretary of Commerce
Gina M. Raimondo

Acting Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Dr. Richard Spinrad

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
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www.fisheries.noaa.gov

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](#)



[Recreational Fisheries Policy Online Comment Portal](#)



[2022 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit Report](#)



[NOAA Fisheries Recreational Points of Contact](#)

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