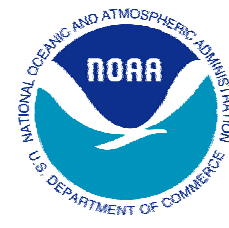
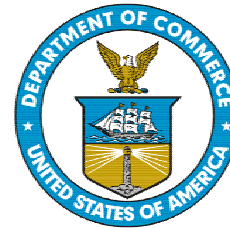
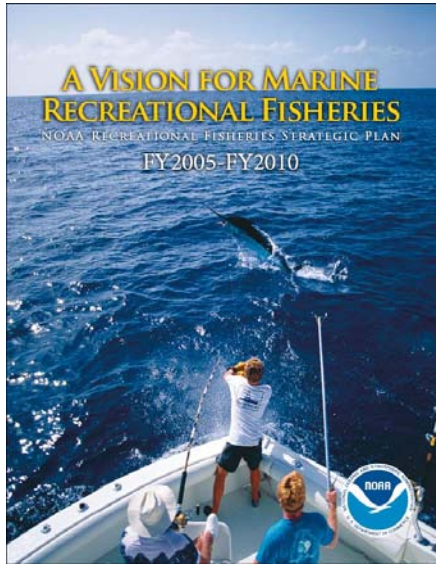


NOAA Fisheries Service Recreational Fisheries



Fisheries managers need guts

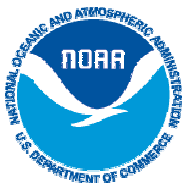
By Byron Stout

The National Marine Fisheries Service — the managers of all saltwater fishing, from state boundaries out to 200 miles offshore — recently used the world's largest boat show to make what may be its biggest-ever announcement.

Of course, the Fisheries Service called its big plan a "renewed commitment to recreational fisheries," just to reassure us that this wasn't the first time they ever thought about us 17 million sporties. Actually, it pretty much is. Suddenly, fishery managers have realized, there's a heretofore unnoticed elephant in the phone booth. Hello!

You would think the Fisheries Service — a sub-sub division of the Department of Commerce — would have noticed before now that commercial fishing isn't the only game in town.

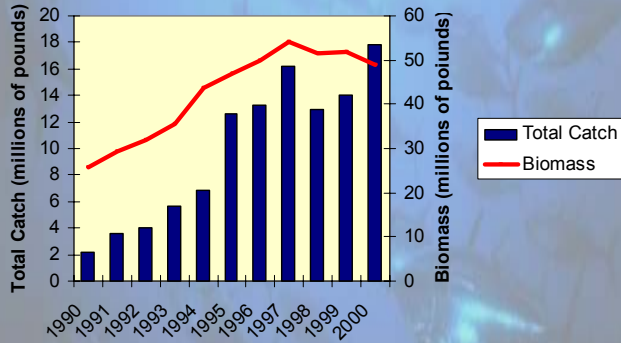
Recreational Fisheries: A Renewed Commitment



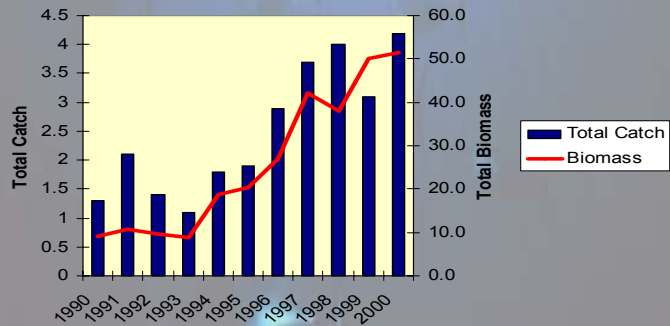
Healthy Ecosystem

S

Atlantic Striped Bass



Weakfish



More and Better Fishing

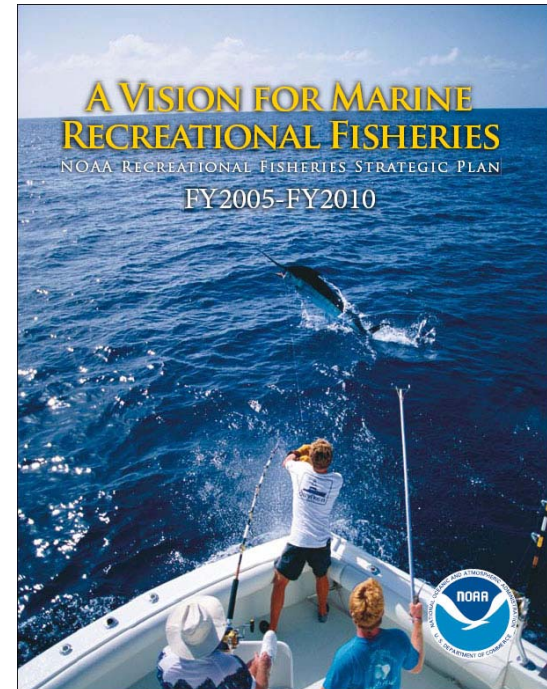


Our Vision for Recreational Fisheries

Through healthy and diverse marine ecosystems, the American people will enjoy a diverse array of recreational fishing experiences.

Our Commitment:

- *Improve the science and management of recreational species and their habitats.*
- *Keep anglers informed about and involved in the management process.*
- *Promote marine stewardship.*




Implementation

Key Components:

- **Strong regional approach**
 - **Regional implementation teams that involve key stakeholders**
 - **Teams led by Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinators**
 - **Regional efforts tied together by national team**
- 

Regional Coordinators

Responsibilities:

- **Select the regional implementation team**
 - **Conduct public team meetings to match regional activities with the national priorities**
 - **Develop regional work plans based on team input**
 - **Collect and report regional activities to the National Implementation Team for coming year AOP development**
 - **Meeting twice annually with other regional coordinators**
- 

Regional Team Makeup

NOAA Fisheries

- **Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinator**
- **Sustainable Fisheries**
- **Protected Resources**
- **Habitat Conservation**
- **Law Enforcement**

Stakeholders

- **Sea Grant**
- **National Marine Sanctuary**
- **Regional Fisheries Management Councils**
- **State Marine Fisheries Commissions**
- **State Fish & Game Departments**
- **Recreational Fishing Industry**
- **Recreational Fishing Charter Boat Operator**
- **Recreational Fishing Organizations**



Regional Implementation Team Meeting Agenda

Goal: To identify recreational fishing priorities for the Southwest Region and develop specific strategies for achieving these priorities.

Day 1: Regional Priorities

- Outline broad national priorities from the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan
- Identify regional recreational fishing issues that fit within the parameters for the Plan
- Select regional priorities

Day 2: Priority Work Plans

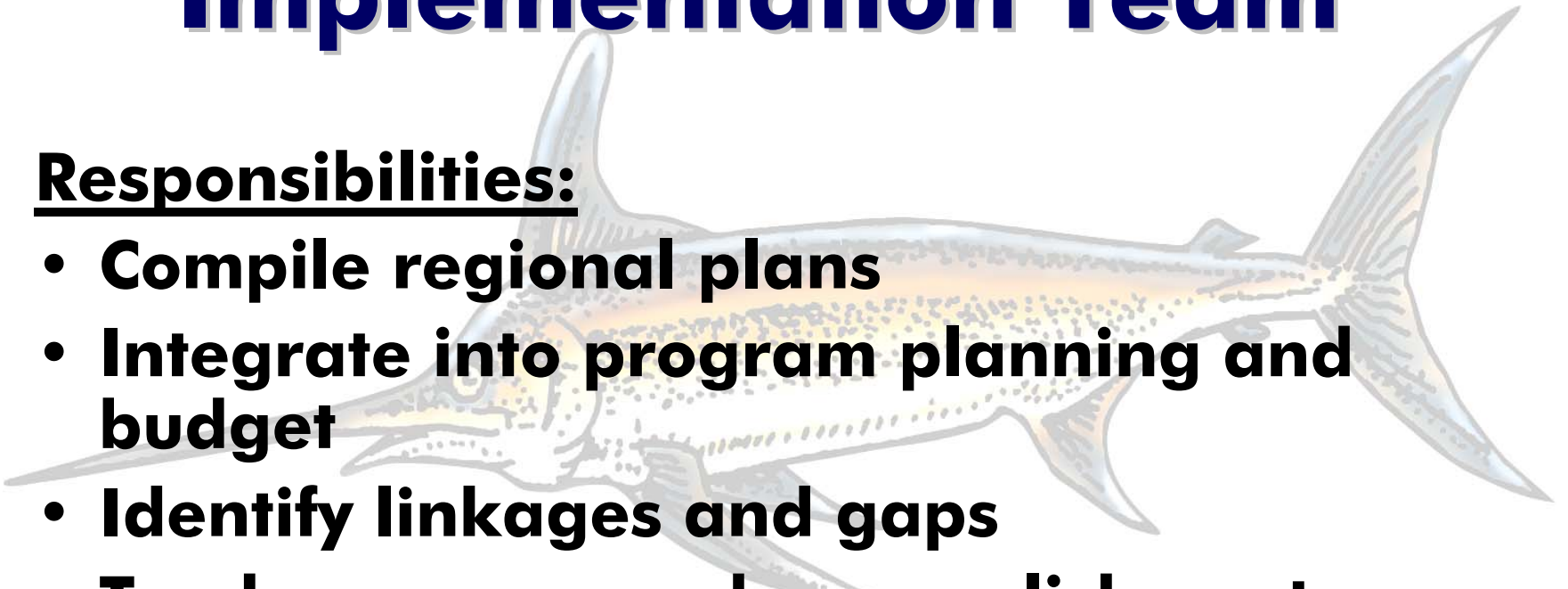
- Priority Issue Breakdown(s)
 - Outputs
 - Strategies
 - Budget/Costs
 - Timeline
 - Responsibility
- Identify existing resources already devoted to these priorities
- Revise priority rankings based on feasibility



National Implementation Team

Responsibilities:

- **Compile regional plans**
- **Integrate into program planning and budget**
- **Identify linkages and gaps**
- **Track progress and accomplishments**



The Time is Now

- **U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy**
- **President's Ocean Action Plan**
- **Administration that cares about sportfishing**
- **Congressional focus**
- **NOAA Strategic Plan**



Thank You!

