

Marine Recreational Fishing

***MPA Advisory
Committee Meeting***

May 16, 2005

What is Marine Recreational Fishing?

- 13 Million participants – NMFS
- \$20,000,000,000 value – US Oceans Commission
- In 2002 over 6,000,000 boats capable of fishing in saltwater were registered
- 61,000 were over 40 feet long
- Next 20 Years 75% of the US Population with 50 miles of the coast

Marine Recreation Fishing:

The Fastest Growing Part of Recreational Fishing

- The Marine Recreational Industry in Florida is worth \$5.5 billion to the Florida Economy
- Florida Alone has 980,000 Licensed Anglers fishing in Boats
- From 1989 – 2001 License Sales **Doubled**
- From 1983 – 2001 Trips by Shore Side Anglers **Decreased** from 10 to 4 million
- From 1983 – 2001 Trips in Boats **Increased** from 4 to 8 million
- Angler Participation has doubled since 1996
- Since 1996 Commercial Landings are **Down** Significantly, while Recreational Landings have Increased only **Slightly**

Marine Recreation Fishing: **The Fastest Growing Part of Recreational Fishing**

**Growth is Due to Population Growth
And a Healthy Resource**

Net ban

Gamefish Laws

Trap bans

Snook

Licensing

Redfish

Tarpon

Rebuilding Fish Stocks

We are in the Beginnings of Rebuilding Many Fish Stocks – Particularly the Recreational Ones.

Including:

Striped Bass

Red Drum

Speckled Trout

Summer Flounder

Coastal Conservation Association

Conservation Plan

- Fish Come First
- Sound Science
- Regulations that Work – Even if they Hurt

Permitting

- Gear – Net Bans – Fish Traps
- Gamefish
- Right Sizing the Commercial Fishery

Controls:

Commercial & Recreational Fisheries

Both **Commercial** and **Recreational** Fisheries are Managed by Traditional Methods

Commercials:

Quotas

Trip Limits

Seasons

Size Limits

Recreational:

Bag & Size Limits

Seasons

Why the Difference?

ECONOMICS

- Commercial fishers want to harvest the most fish at the fastest possible rate
- Recreational fishers want access to the most fish over the longest period of time

What Does the Recreational Angler Want?

- Access to a Sustainable Resource
This Concept Drives the Conservation Ethic of Anglers
- Most of the Programs Fostered by the Recreational Community Address:
 - **Sustainable Fishing**
 - **Access**

Access:

Physical Access:

Boat Ramps

Fishing Piers

Charter Boats

Open Beaches

Regulatory Access:

Licensing

Allocations

Closed Areas

Marine Reserves

Recreational Position:

Marine Reserves & No Fishing Zones

- Public Process
- Known Management Problem
- Scientifically Supported
- Reserve Must Part of the Solution
- Preserve Public Access if Possible
- Periodic Review