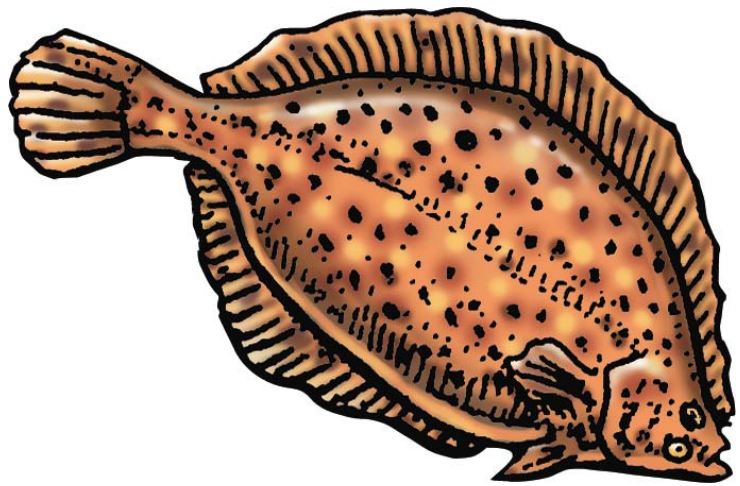
The NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan

Michael Kelly
NOAA Fisheries
Office of Constituent Services

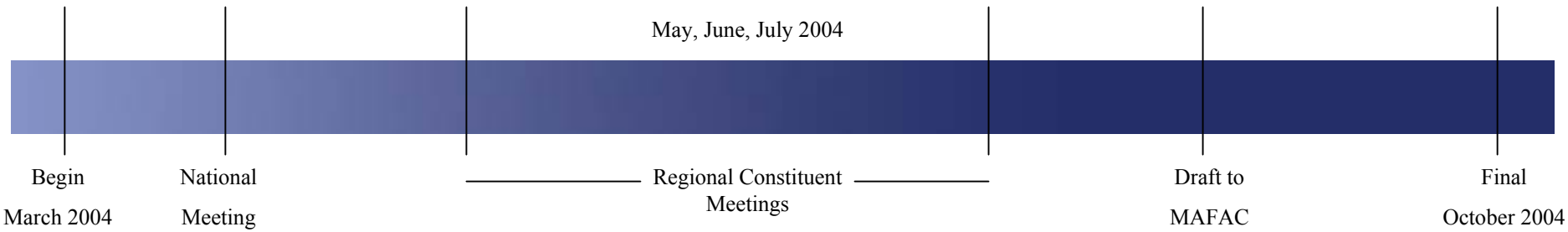
Why?

- Improved service to the recreational community
- Increase recreational participation in NOAA processes
- Promote stewardship of ocean resources
- Improved management of recreational species and their habitats
- Promote recreational fishing opportunities and access



Planning the Plan

- NOAA Working Group Formulation (3/04)
- National Meeting (3/04)
- Regional Constituent Meetings (5/04-7/04)
- Draft to MAFAC (8/04)
- Final Plan (10/04)

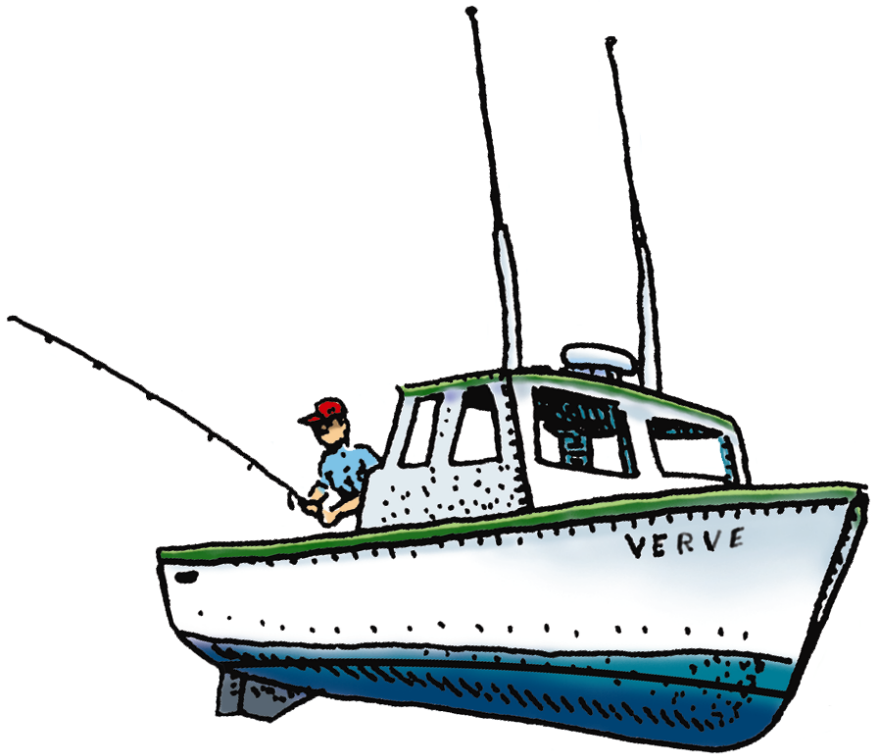


Planning the Plan

- NOAA Strategic Plan Links
- NOAA Programming Links
- Interagency Perspectives
- Community Ownership
- Shared accountability

Meeting Locations

- Long Beach, CA
- Dania Beach, FL
- Portland, OR
- Tuckerton, NJ
- Peabody, MA
- Honolulu, HI
- Orange Beach, AL
- Houston, TX
- Virginia Beach, VA



The Plan: Goals

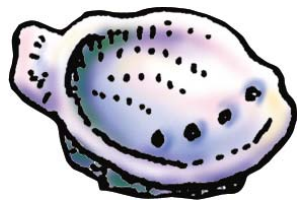
- Science: Exceptional marine angling opportunities supported by cooperative, timely, credible, and accurate science.
- Management: Improved marine recreational fishing through better management.
- Outreach: Promote recreational fishing opportunities, heighten awareness of marine recreational fishing issues, and advance marine conservation principles.

The Plan: Science

- Support data collection and research that matches management needs.
- Promote the use of advancing technologies in fisheries science and data management.
- Ensure that data is comparable.
- Maintain and expand the collection of economic and social data and the development of policy relevant models.
- Improve understanding of habitat influence on marine life and population health.

The Plan: Management

- Evaluate the status of recreational fisheries management and identify opportunities for improvement.
- Promote the effective application of fishery management tools
- Make the fisheries management process more open and accessible to the public
- Promote measures that reduce bycatch/discard mortality.
- Promote conservation of healthy populations and recovery of overfished stocks by improving compliance with regulations.
- Improve intra-agency marine recreational cooperation.



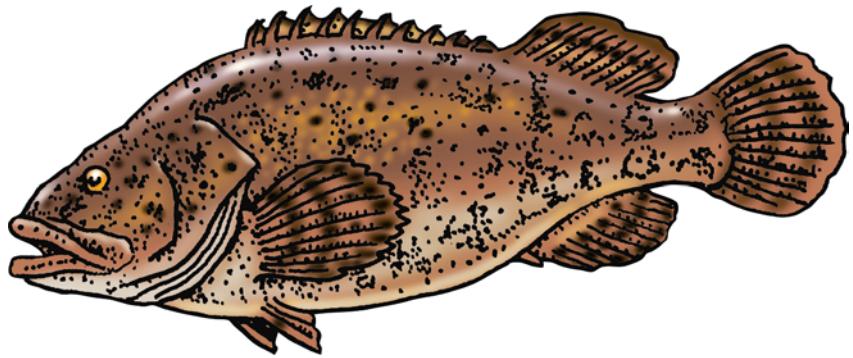
The Plan: Outreach

- Increase the awareness of NOAA's conservation partnership with individual anglers by promoting environmental stewardship practices and educating anglers on NOAA's role in supporting healthy and viable marine recreational fisheries.
- Ensure that marine anglers and appropriate agencies are informed in a timely manner regarding information and issues relevant to marine anglers.
- Improved interagency function and collaboration with Tribal, State, and Federal partners on issues related to recreational fisheries.
- Expand the use of technology to streamline the consultation and education process, improve the efficiency of information exchange, and increase the timely distribution of recreational fisheries information.

NOAA Comments

- Remove/amend discards outcome
- Remove/amend PSE value outcome
- Be careful of promising too much
- Implementation will be key

Regional Comments



- Lack of trust
- Data collection
- MPA/MMA - access
- More and better outreach
- Willingness to play a role
- Implementation will be key

Next Steps

- MAFAC review
- NOAA working group meetings
- Complete review and analysis of comments
- Revision of draft (August 20)
- Final comments back (September 1)
- Final Plan (early October)

Implementation

- National Implementation Team
  - Many working group members
  - Tracking outcomes to program annual operating plans
  - Reporting consistent with current quarterlies
  - Programming recreational issues
  - Coordinating national outreach

Implementation

- Regional Implementation Teams
  - Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinators
  - Integration with Fishery Management Councils
  - Cooperation with Interstate Commissions
  - Inclusion of Industry representatives
  - Sea Grant, NMS, University Partnerships
  - State cooperation

NOAA Fisheries