

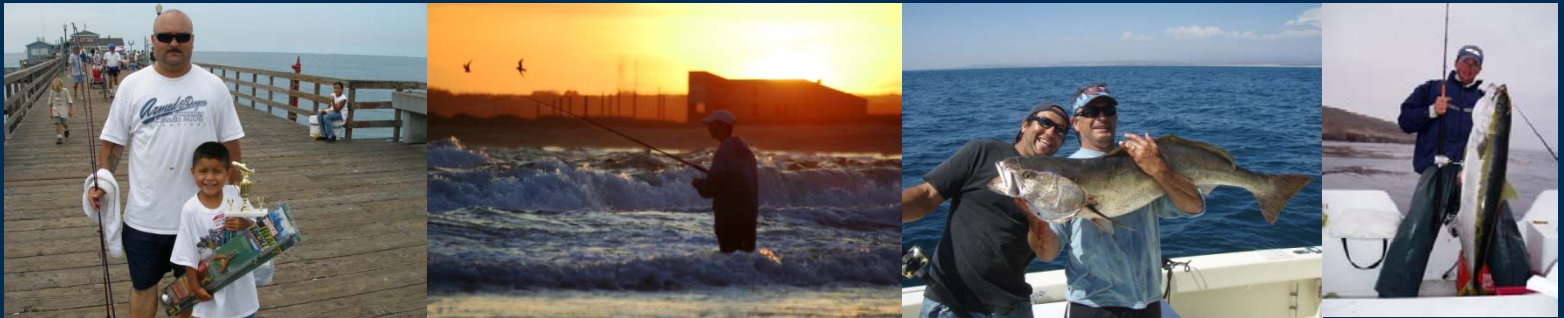


NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

SOUTHWEST REGION Saltwater Recreational Fishing Action Agenda

November 2011

NOAA



A Message from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

I am pleased to share with you the NOAA Fisheries' southwest regional saltwater recreational fishing action agenda for 2012. Prepared by regional NOAA Fisheries staff in consultation with members of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee's Recreational Fisheries Working Group and other members of the public, this plan follows through on commitments made in the National Recreational Fisheries Action Agenda to develop regional plans that focus on actions where you live and fish.

Since September 2009 when NOAA announced its commitment to a *Recreational Fisheries Engagement Initiative*, we have taken concrete actions to strengthen our ties with recreational fishermen across the nation. From appointing a new National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries and nominating regional recreational fishing coordinators to hosting collaborative workshops on key issues and increasing our level of collaboration with our MAFAC advisors and anglers like you, we have worked to fulfill our commitments. These individual actions represent significant steps that build cooperation and create momentum.

These regional action plans are another step forward. The plans are organized around the five priority goals you identified during the 2010 Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit. The objectives, activities, expected deliverables, and timelines reflect our best thinking on how we can make progress on the issues you raised.

Please take a moment to read through the plan, share it with your friends and colleagues, and let us know what you think. We would like to know because these action agendas are not an end in themselves, but rather a means-to-that-end we all seek – healthy fish stocks, vibrant and satisfying recreational fisheries, and a trusting relationship. We know that success will be judged not on the number of our promises, but on the strength of our actions and we encourage you to work with us as we work to implement the plans.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can best move forward together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Schwaab', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric Schwaab
Assistant Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Service

A Message from the NMFS Southwest Regional Administrator and Southwest Fisheries Science Center Director

We are pleased to share with you the 2011-2012 *Southwest Regional Recreational Fisheries Action Plan*. The Plan was developed as a collaborative effort between the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Region, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and key stakeholders from the recreational fishing community.

The April 2010 NOAA Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit provided an opportunity for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to work with the recreational fishing community to assess and develop strategies that foster a stronger partnership. Summit participants highlighted a range of issues, including: improving catch, effort, and economic data for recreationally important species; working to solve pinniped depredation issues; enhancing communications externally with key stakeholders and internally within the Agency regionally and nationally; and increasing awareness and consideration of recreational fishing interests in management and decision making processes. The October 2010 NOAA Fisheries Service National Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Action Agenda was the immediate outcome of that exchange and the report is available on the NMFS website (www.nmfs.noaa.gov).

To continue the momentum established at the Summit, NMFS committed to producing Regional Action Plans encompassing recreational fisheries throughout the nation. The enclosed Southwest Regional Action Plan was thus created encompassing recreational fisheries taking place off the coast of California within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (3-200 miles). As noted, the Plan was developed with input from key recreational fisheries stakeholders in the regions and is intended to serve as a roadmap for regional priorities and objectives. We hope you find the Plan useful and that it serves to foster a stronger partnership between NMFS and the recreational fishing community. We look forward to working with you to implement the goals and objectives highlighted in the Plan.

Rod McInnis
Southwest Regional
Administrator

Francisco Werner
Southwest Fisheries
Science Center Director

Background

The April 2010 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit marked the renewal of a conversation with the recreational fishing community to help forge a stronger partnership through dialogue and follow-up action. Summit participants highlighted a range of issues, including better catch, effort, and economic data; improved and more regular communication regionally and nationally; and more consistent inclusion of recreational interests in management processes. The October 2010 Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Action Agenda (National Action Agenda) was the immediate outcome of that exchange.

In May 2011, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced that it would host seven Regional Action Plans (RAPs): Northeast (Maine-Virginia), Southeast (North Carolina-Texas, including the Caribbean), Southwest (California), Northwest (Oregon and Washington), Alaska, Pacific Islands, and Highly Migratory Species (Northeast and Southeast). These Regional Action Plans are intended to serve as publicly available roadmaps detailing regional priorities and objectives for addressing regional recreational fishing issues.

Southwest Regional Office and Science Center

The NMFS Southwest Regional Office is located in California with offices in Long Beach, Arcata, Santa Rosa, and Sacramento, and is responsible for the management, conservation, and protection of living marine/anadromous resources and their habitats off the coast of California in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), as well as Highly Migratory and Coastal Pelagic species management in the EEZ off the coasts of Oregon and Washington. The Southwest Region also plays a supportive and advisory role in the management of living marine resources in coastal areas under the jurisdiction of the States of California, Oregon, and Washington and provides scientific and policy leadership in the international arena, and implements international conservation and management measures as appropriate.

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center is the research arm of NMFS in the Southwest Region, with laboratories located in La Jolla, Santa Cruz, and Pacific Grove. Center scientists conduct marine biological, socio-economic, and oceanographic research, and conduct observations and monitoring of living marine resources, their environment, and their interrelation with human populations. Center scientists also conduct research on the impacts of environmental, regulatory, and socio-economic factors on the conservation and management of marine resources. The mission of the Science Center is to ensure that the Region's living marine resources and their habitats are sustainably managed using the best available science.

Regional Fisheries Overview

California marine recreational fisheries encompass resident and non-resident anglers fishing from shore, private boats, and a commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) fleet that provides access and guiding services to private anglers.

- ***Economic Importance:*** California recreational fisheries are of economic importance to the State and Nation as measured by both the number of jobs and income supported by trip and durable goods related expenditures, and the economic value placed on fishing and fishery resources by the public. In 2009, an estimated 1.5 million recreational anglers completed roughly 4.7 million fishing trips in saltwater and spent over \$1.6 billion in fishing trip and durable equipment expenditures. Over 61% of these anglers were residents of a California coastal county, 33% were from California non-coastal counties, and roughly 5% were from out of state. Of the total saltwater fishing trips

taken, over 8% of them were taken from CPFVs, 14% were taken from private boats, and another 77% were shore-based.

- **Habitats:** California has a variety of diverse marine and anadromous habitats, including among others, the Channel Islands in Southern California, the Farallon Islands in Northern California and the freshwater and estuarine habitats of several major river systems including the Sacramento/San Joaquin and Klamath Rivers.
- **Species:** Anglers on the West Coast have the ability to target a wide range of species including but not limited to: highly migratory species (tuna, billfish, sharks), groundfish, salmon, and coastal pelagic species, as well as many state managed species.
- **Data Collection:** Data collection efforts include the California Department of Fish and Game CPFV logbook program, the Ocean Salmon Project, and the California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS), which samples about 900 sites statewide to interview anglers and obtain catch and effort data.

Regional Issues Overview

- **Pinnipeds (seals and sea lions)** – Since the passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) in 1972, populations of Pacific harbor seals and California sea lions have increased dramatically and are now considered healthy and robust. Their increased abundance has been accompanied by a growing number of interactions with humans, raising concerns by private citizens and government officials who are seeking ways to protect property, fishing gear, and catch from damage by seals and sea lions.
- **U.S. Fishing in Mexico** – California-based boats frequently fish inside the Mexican EEZ. This includes both private boaters and CPFV trips on day trips, as well as the San Diego based long-range CPFV fleet operating 5 to 15 day trips. This portion of the California recreational fishery represents a substantial economic benefit to the United States.
- **Marine Life Protection Act** – A network of new marine protected areas (MPAs) and reserves were designated throughout State waters, pursuant to the California Marine Life Protection Act, that have displaced anglers from historic fishing areas. These new MPAs were not designed fundamentally to complement existing fishing regulations and combined with the restrictions in federal waters (e.g., Rockfish Conservation Areas), the new MPAs resulted in greatly reduced access to and opportunity for fishing off the coast, increased issues of anglers' transit/safety at sea, and have raised concerns about possible economic impacts to local businesses, .
- **Fish Stock Assessments** – The availability of data (i.e., limited in extent or lacking altogether for some stocks) remains an ongoing challenge for supporting science-based management decisions. Not only is there a need for more accurate, complete, and timely data to manage fish stocks on the U.S. West Coast, there is also a need for new, robust assessment models that can make strong inferences from limited information.
- **Salmon** – In 2008 and 2009, salmon fisheries off California were closed due to low returns of Sacramento Fall Run Chinook (SRFC) caused by poor ocean conditions that reduced juvenile survival. As conditions improved and returns increased, recreational fishing and a very limited commercial fishing season occurred in 2010, and both fisheries resumed in 2011. Several salmon stocks are listed under the Endangered Species Act, which constrains fishing opportunity for non-listed stocks. Salmon fisheries issues hinge on balancing urban and agricultural water usage, habitat conservation and restoration, improved hatchery operations, managing around weak stocks, and fair and equitable management of both recreational and commercial fishing interests.

- **Live Bait** – California recreational fisheries depend heavily on the use of live bait, especially when targeting highly migratory species like tuna, billfish, and sharks. Pacific sardine, northern anchovy, and market squid are caught by small coastal purse seiners and held in bait receivers in many California harbors for sale to anglers. These species are also important as bait, both alive and dead, in the salmon, groundfish, and State of California coastal fisheries such as California halibut and white seabass. Maintaining the availability of this bait source is of paramount importance to recreational anglers.
- **Barotrauma** – Rockfish are an economically important group of fish for recreational anglers of California. Seasons and areas have been restricted in recent years due to the depressed population status of a few species, particularly the cowcod, canary, yelloweye and bocaccio rockfish. Rockfish suffer from a high degree of barotrauma while being caught at depths that exceed 100 feet. In order to increase the chance of survival in prohibited species of rockfish (canary, yelloweye, cowcod), it is best to assist the fish in reaching their depth of capture during release. Many recompression tools are available to do this. Effective use of these tools can reduce the mortality associated with barotrauma and have a positive impact in the management of the species in question. Educational programs are needed to inform anglers about these tools and how to properly use them.

Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: Improve Recreational Fishing Opportunities

Objective ▶ Participate in fishing events with a broad spectrum of stakeholders (e.g., youth groups, veterans, disabled anglers, and minority groups) to improve stewardship awareness and adoption of ethical recreational fishing practices.

Project ▶ Ethical Angler Program participation at fishing events

Provide opportunities for stakeholders to learn about the NOAA Ethical Angler Program, fishing techniques, and marine conservation at piers and onboard Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV) trips. Provide Ethical Angler and Best Fishing Practices information through demonstrations and brochures to event participants.

Partners ▶▶

- California Dept. of Fish and Game
- Friends of Rollo
- United Anglers of Southern California
- Pathways to Adventure
- United Pier and Shore Anglers of California
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Purple Heart Foundation
- Wounded Warrior Foundation
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Other groups as possible

Deliverable ▶▶ Participation in fishing trips and events

Timing ▶▶ Ongoing

Objective ▶▶ Conduct research on best fishing practices to reduce post-release mortality in an effort to facilitate more sustainable fishing opportunities through higher survivorship of released fish.

Project ▶▶ Conduct Thresher Shark Post-release Mortality Study

Partner with the southern California recreational fishing clubs and stakeholders to conduct field research to reduce the catch-and-release mortality rates for sport-caught common thresher sharks.

Partners ▶▶

- Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research (PIER)
- Oceanside Anglers Club
- Balboa Anglers Club
- San Diego Anglers
- San Diego Rod and Reel Club
- United Anglers of Southern California
- Other groups as possible

Deliverable ▶▶ Publish research findings on NMFS-PIER post-release mortality studies in peer-reviewed fisheries journals and disseminate best fishing practices and ethical angling information to stakeholders through:

- 1) multimedia outreach products (print, web, audio-visual),
- 2) presentations at fishing club meetings and other speaking venues, and
- 3) guest appearances on local sportfishing radio shows.

Timing ▶▶ Ongoing

Project ▶▶ Promote methods to reduce rockfish barotrauma mortality

Work to reduce fishing mortality of rockfish through promoting use and development of fish descending devices to recompress fish and release them at the depth of capture. The reduction of post-release mortality, particularly of overfished species caught incidentally, will contribute to the overall sustainability of the rockfish fishery and has the potential to expand fishing opportunity through longer fishing seasons and to reduce the size of closed areas.

Partners ▶▶

- Fishing Clubs

Deliverable ▶▶ Presentations to fishing clubs and distribution of best fishing practices outreach materials

Timing ▶▶ Ongoing

GOAL 2: Improve Recreational Catch, Effort, and Status Data

Objective ▶▶ Improve recreational fisheries monitoring data for use in management.

Project ▶▶ Support the California Recreational Fisheries Survey

Work with the RecFIN technical team and the State of California to maintain a robust and accurate sampling program for recreational fishing in both shore- and boat-based modes. In particular, onboard sampling of recreational anglers has the potential to greatly improve our estimates of recreational catch, bycatch, catch rates, and stock status. Catch, effort, and location information at this level of resolution is important to stock assessment efforts. Direct

observation of species composition and discard rates would improve estimates of recreational discard, and allow for apportionment of unidentified catch to species.

Partners ▶▶

- California Department of Fish and Game

Deliverable ▶▶ Catch and effort estimates

Timing ▶▶ Ongoing

Objective ▶▶ **Conduct research on methods for reducing depredation and marine mammal interactions with anglers.**

Project ▶▶ **Research and Test Sea Lion Depredation Methods**

Project in progress partnering with commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) operators to evaluate effectiveness of several devices designed to reduce sea lion depredation during fishing operations.

Partners ▶▶

- CPFV Operators

Deliverable ▶▶ Technical report

Timing ▶▶ August 2012.

Objective ▶▶ **Conduct cooperative research projects with local anglers to improve understanding of recreational fishery effects and the importance of data collection, and monitoring.**

Project ▶▶ **Encourage HMS Biological Sample Donation**

Anglers will continue to be encouraged to donate the heads and stomachs of tunas and other highly migratory species to the SWFSC. These samples will be used to estimate parameters used in stock assessments as well as to characterize foraging ecology and stock structure. These are important elements for effective management.

Partners ▶▶

- Sportfishing Association of California

Deliverable ▶▶ Provide research results to the management agencies. Disseminate results through scientific meetings and publications, and by presenting at fishing club meetings and other pertinent presentation venues.

Timing ▶▶ Ongoing

Project ▶▶ **Encourage and support sighting reports – basking sharks**

Anglers will continue to be encouraged to report sightings of basking sharks to the SWFSC. Basking sharks were listed in 2010 as a NOAA Species of Concern. All sightings data are helpful to SWFSC scientists studying this rare species.

Partners ▶▶

- Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, Mexico
- The Pacific Shark Research Center (PSRC) at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Canadian Pacific Shark Research Lab

Deliverable ▶▶ Information on the abundance and distribution of basking sharks off the U.S. West Coast. This information will help us understand the environmental drivers behind distribution and abundance patterns.

Timing ▶▶ Ongoing

Project ▶▶ Continue rockfish surveys

To access rocky habitat-associated stocks not effectively captured by trawl survey techniques, continue surveys of rockfish species abundance and distribution using combined information from multiple-frequency echo-sounder and high-resolution underwater camera observations. The Collaborative Optical-Acoustic Survey Technique (COAST) and the results of two comprehensive surveys of rockfishes in the Southern California Bight will be evaluated by a panel representing the Center for Independent Experts and the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Partners ▶▶

- Sportfishing Association of California

Deliverable ▶▶ Review of the survey method**Timing ▶▶** Review of survey method in February 2012. Survey is ongoing.**Project ▶▶ Encourage and support HMS billfish tagging**

Anglers will continue to be encouraged to participate in the SWFSC Billfish Tagging Program including both filling out an annual survey and deploying conventional tags. This program has now been in place for over 40 years and provides the only estimate of recreational billfish fishing activity in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The information collected is used to estimate catch per unit effort, stock structure, movement patterns, and growth rates. More information is available at the SWFSC website and tags are available for deployment.

Partners ▶▶

- Billfish anglers

Deliverable ▶▶ An annual index of catch per unit effort for a range of species from various locations throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans. These results are captured in the *Billfish News Letter* published by NOAA. Results are also shared through scientific publications, meetings and by presentations at fishing club meetings.**Timing ▶▶** Ongoing

GOAL 3: Improve Social and Economic Data on Recreational Fisheries

Objective ▶▶ Conduct socio-economic research to determine how recreational fishing activities contribute to the California economy and jobs.**Project ▶▶ Conduct 2011 Angler Expenditure Survey**

The 2011 survey is an opportunity for marine anglers in California to help NMFS produce an updated, accurate picture of how recreational fishing contributes to supporting jobs and the economy of California.

Partners ▶▶

- NOAA Fisheries Headquarters

Deliverable ▶▶ Technical report**Timing ▶▶** Data collection concludes in May 2012. Publication of results in June 2013.**Project ▶▶ Pilot Cost & Revenue Southern California CPFV Study**

A pilot study of Southern California party and charter boat operating costs and revenues will provide the groundwork for future studies to produce an updated, accurate picture of how the party and charter boat industry contributes to supporting jobs and the economy of California.

Partners ▶▶

- Sportfishing Association of California

Deliverable ▶▶ Report

Timing ▶▶ Data collection concludes in May 2012. Publication of results in June 2013.

Objective ▶▶ **Conduct socio-economic research and develop tools that can better inform management decisions and other factors affecting the recreational fishing sector.**

Project ▶▶ **Develop Decision-Making model of CPFV Operators & Anglers**

The development of a temporal-spatial model of party and charter boat operator and marine angler fishing decisions will provide the groundwork to model the expected impact on recreational fishing of changes in environmental, economic, and regulatory factors.

Deliverable ▶▶ Manuscript for submission to journal.

Timing ▶▶ June 2013

Project ▶▶ **Conduct assessment of dam removal on salmon and steelhead in Klamath River**

Conduct an analysis of economic effects of removal of four Klamath River dams on the ocean recreational salmon fishery and on Klamath River recreational fisheries for salmon, steelhead, and redband trout.

Partners ▶▶

- Department of the Interior
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Deliverable ▶▶ Two technical reports

Timing ▶▶ September 2011.

Project ▶▶ **Develop Valuation Model: Ocean Salmon Recreational Fisheries**

Develop a valuation model for the ocean recreational salmon fishery in California and Oregon

Deliverable ▶▶ Manuscript for submission to journal.

Timing ▶▶ June 2012.

Project ▶▶ **Develop Valuation Model: In-River Salmon and Steelhead**

Develop a multiple site valuation model for the in-river salmon and steelhead fishery in California.

Deliverable ▶▶ Manuscript for submission to journal.

Timing ▶▶ June 2012.

Goal 4: Improve Communication

Objective ▶ Engage with sportfishing and outdoor media to improve communications on recreational fisheries issues; discuss issues with and provide information to constituents.

Project ▶ Participate in sportfishing radio shows

SWR Recreational Fisheries Coordinators and the SF-HQ Pacific Coast Recreational Fisheries Coordinator will participate in sportfishing radio shows to disseminate the latest NMFS science and management information and answer constituent call-in questions.

Partners ▶

- Southern California's Let's Talk Hookup
- Other radio shows throughout California

Deliverable ▶ Radio appearances

Timing ▶ Ongoing / quarterly, and as invited

Project ▶ Develop and Distribute Fact Sheets

Work with California-based sportfishing periodicals, local newspapers, and angling club newsletters to promote NMFS Fact Sheets highlighting topics such as economic surveys species of interest, and pinniped depredation, as well as activities such as the Fred Hall Fishing and Boating Show exhibit and MRIP.

Partners ▶

- Western Outdoor News
- Pacific Coast Sportfishing
- Fishing club newsletters
- Local Newspapers

Deliverable ▶ Articles in periodicals

Timing ▶ Ongoing

Objective ▶ Engage with stakeholders to hear concerns, share information, and collaborate on efforts, as appropriate.

Project ▶ Engage with Recreational Fishing Advisory Bodies

Engage with and maintain regular communications with the California-based members of the MAFAC Recreational working group and PFMC advisory panel and Council members.

Partners ▶

- PFMC Council Members
- PFMC Advisory Panel Members
- MAFAC Recreational Working Group

Timing ▶ Ongoing

Project ▶ Attend Recreational Fishing Focused Conventions

Organize a NMFS outreach and education booth at several California recreational fishing shows.

Partners ▶

- SWR and SWFSC Recreational Fisheries Coordinators
- SF-HQ Pacific Coast Recreational Fisheries Coordinator
- Other SWR and SWFSC staff

Deliverable ▶ Participation in annual:

- Fred Hall Fishing and Boating Show
- San Diego Day at the Docks
- other relevant shows

Timing ▶▶ Ongoing

Project ▶▶ **Demonstrate / Present Ethical Angling and Best Fishing Practices**

Proactively seek opportunities to hold listening sessions and present information on current activities and research to smaller groups, particularly to sportfishing clubs and on charter sportfishing trips.

Partners ▶▶

- Turners Rod and Reel Club
- Los Angeles Rod and Reel Club
- Oceanside Anglers Club
- Balboa Anglers Club
- San Diego Anglers
- San Diego Rod and Reel Club
- Cambria Fishing Club
- Other groups as possible

Deliverable ▶▶ Presentations to fishing clubs

Timing ▶▶ Ongoing

Objective ▶▶ **Develop and maintain an informative website on recreational fisheries with current information and tools to inform and assist anglers about management, stewardship practices, and opportunities/events.**

Project ▶▶ **Enhance Current Recreational Fishing Websites – SWRO, SWFSC**

Redesign and improve the recreational fishing websites of the Southwest Regional Office and Southwest Fisheries Science Center. This will include coordinating with the national NMFS website.

Deliverable ▶▶ Redesigned websites

Timing ▶▶ 2012.

Goal 5: Institutional Orientation

Objective ▶▶ **Demonstrate Agency commitment to collaborating with recreational fishing constituents on strategies for improved management, stewardship, and research.**

Project ▶▶ **Meet with constituents annually to discuss issues and opportunities**

Meet with constituents the week of the Long Beach Fred Hall Fishing and Boating Show to present current NMFS research, projects, and news to the California recreational fishing community.

Deliverable ▶▶ Meeting

Timing ▶▶ March 2012 and annually thereafter

Project ▶▶ **Acknowledge constituents for exemplary Ethical Angling and Marine Resource Stewardship practices**

Annually recognize groups or individuals who have contributed to ethical angling and marine research stewardship in the Southwest Region. These contributions could be through cooperative research, habitat restoration, promotion of ethical angling practices, or development of innovative fishing gear and techniques to improve catch-and-release survivability.

Partners ▶▶

- Group and individual recreational fisheries constituents

Deliverable ▶▶ Presentation of one or more plaques/certificates per year based on available funding.

Timing ▶▶ Ongoing

Objective ▶▶ Ensure that recreational fisheries issues are communicated and considered in research and management decisions.

Project ▶▶ Maintain effective internal communications

Improve incorporation of recreational fishing community considerations into management and research decisions through ongoing communication and collaboration with other staff and leadership in the Southwest Regional Office and Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

Partners ▶▶

- SWRO
- SWFSC

Deliverable ▶▶ Coordinators provide briefing update to Deputy Regional Administrator and Deputy Science Center Director at least once per quarter

Timing ▶▶ Ongoing / monthly coordinators call, and Regional Office/Science Center leadership meetings.

Summary

The 2012 SWR Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Action Plan lays out the strategy that the SWR will follow over the next year to enhance its understanding and management of recreational fisheries and working relationship with the California saltwater recreational fishing community. Developed in coordination with recreational constituents, the Plan identifies actions that will be undertaken to achieve the five overarching goals and twelve associated objectives of this effort. The Plan should be viewed as a component of broader Agency efforts to create and maintain a productive relationship between NMFS and the recreational fishing community. The SWR will also be looking to the recreational community to help ensure the success of the Plan by providing feedback, participation, and commitment to collaborative efforts identified. The Plan should be considered a "living document" with the 2012 version as one chapter of many that will be updated annually. As identified in the Plan, one such opportunity to check in on the status of the Plan's implementation is during the spring of 2012 in conjunction with the Fred Hall Boating and Fishing Show. In these challenging economic times it is imperative to maximize and leverage available funds and resources to achieve success. The SWR looks forward to working with the California recreational fishing community to form strong and active partnerships to carry out this Plan and ensure its success.

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
Eric C. Schwaab

www.nmfs.noaa.gov

National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

U. S. Government – 2011

