



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

National Saltwater
Angler Registry
Program

Rhode Island
Study Group Meeting
November 10, 2008
Gordon C. Colvin





RECREATIONAL
FISHING EFFORT
AND CATCH IS
IMPORTANT

FOR 2007:

- 9.7 MILLION RECREATIONAL TRIPS IN NEW ENGLAND & OVER 1.5 MILLION IN RI
- OVER 1.6 MILLION MARINE ANGLERS IN NEW ENGLAND & OVER
- 400,000 IN RI

% OF TOTAL HARVEST FROM REC FISHING IN 2006

- STRIPED BASS: 82%; BLUEFISH 71%; FLUKE 46%; TAUTOG 92 %; SCUP 24%; BLACK SEA BASS 46%



HOW
RECREATIONAL
CATCH AND
EFFORT DATA
ARE USED

- **STOCK ASSESSMENT:**
 - REMOVALS FROM STOCK
 - SIZE AND AGE COMPOSITION OF POPULATION
 - ABUNDANCE (CPUE)
- **FISHERY MANAGEMENT**
 - ALLOCATION
 - SET AND TRACK QUOTAS/ACL'S
 - SET SIZE LIMITS; SEASONS; CATCH LIMITS
- **ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT**
 - DETERMINE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF REGULATIONS



MARINE RECREA- TIONAL FISHING SURVEYS IN THE NORTHEAST

- **MRFSS**

- COASTAL HOUSEHOLD TELEPHONE SURVEY (EFFORT)
- INTERCEPT SURVEY (CATCH)

- **FHS**

- TELEPHONE SURVEY OF VESSEL CAPTAINS (EFFORT)
- INTERCEPT SURVEY AND HEADBOAT SEA SAMPLING (CATCH)

- **LPS**



CONCERNS ABOUT THE QUALITY OF CURRENT RECREATIONAL DATA

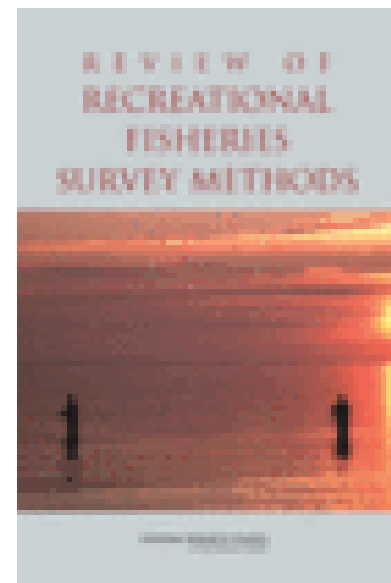
WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM RECREATIONAL STAKE- HOLDERS, STATES, & COUNCILS:

- LACK OF CONFIDENCE, TRUST IN ESTIMATES OF CATCH AND EFFORT
- ESTIMATES ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY PRECISE FOR CURRENT MANAGEMENT NEEDS
- ESTIMATES ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY TIMELY FOR CURENT MANAGEMENT DECISIONS



REVIEW OF
RECREATIONAL
DATA
COLLECTION
SURVEYS BY
THE NATIONAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL –
2006 FINAL
REPORT

“THE MRFSS SHOULD BE COMPLETELY REDESIGNED TO IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF SAMPLING AND ESTIMATION PROCEDURES, ITS ESTIMATION PROCEDURES, ITS APPLICABILITY TO VARIOUS KINDS OF MANAGEMENT DECISIONS, AND ITS USEFULNESS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSES.”





NRC RECOMMEN- DATIONS REGARDING ANGLER REGISTRY

- “A COMPREHENSIVE, UNIVERSAL SAMPLING FRAME WITH NATIONAL COVERAGE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS IS THROUGH A NATIONAL REGISTRATION OF ALL SALTWATER ANGLERS OR THROUGH NEW OR EXISTING STATE SALTWATER LICENSE PROGRAMS.”
- “FUTURE TELEPHONE SURVEYS SHOULD BE BASED ON THE ABOVE UNIVERSAL SAMPLING FRAME.”



ACTION BY CONGRESS:

SECTION 401(G) OF THE MAGNUSON- STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

- **IMPROVEMENT OF THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS SURVEY**
 - “ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF INFORMATION GENERATED BY THE [MRFSS]....”
- **NRC REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - “...TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE [NRC]...”
- **METHODOLOGY**
 - “...THE PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE...USE OF SURVEYS THAT TARGET ANGLERS REGISTERED OR LICENSED AT THE STATE OR FEDERAL LEVEL TO COLLECT PARTICIPATION AND EFFORT DATA.”



MAGNUSON-
STEVENS ACT
REQUIREMENTS
REGARDING
A NATIONAL
ANGLER
REGISTRY

MAIN PROVISIONS OF SECTION 401(G)(1):

- NOAA “SHALL ESTABLISH A REGIONALLY BASED REGISTRY PROGRAM FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN”
- NO FEE BEFORE 2011
- REQUIRES REGISTRATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO FISH IN THE EEZ OR FOR ANADROMOUS SPECIES
- MAY INCLUDE VESSELS
- NOAA “SHALL EXEMPT” PERSONS WHO ARE LICENSED OR REGISTERED BY STATES IF NOAA DETERMINES THE STATE DATA IS SUFFICIENT



NOAA'S
RESPONSE TO
THE NRC
REPORT AND
THE REQUIRE-
MENTS OF
SECTION 401

MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

- REDESIGN AND IMPLEMENT AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF REGIONAL SURVEYS
- ESTABLISH A NATIONAL SALTWATER ANGLER AND STATE EXEMPTION PROGRAM
- IMPROVE ANGLER AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION THROUGH COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION



YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR FISHING DATA



PROPOSED
RULE TO
IMPLEMENT THE
REQUIREMENTS
OF SECTION
401(G)(1) OF
MSA

PROPOSED 50 CFR

§ 600.1400-1417

- PROPOSES THE PROCEDURES AND DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM THAT WOULD IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATUTE
- PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER ON JUNE 12, 2008
- COMMENTS REQUESTED UNTIL AUGUST 11, 2008



WHO WOULD NEED TO REGISTER ?

- PERSONS AND PARTY/CHARTER BOATS WHO ENGAGE IN ANGLING OR SPEARFISHING FOR ANY FISH IN THE EEZ OR FOR ANADROMOUS SPECIES (STRIPED BASS, SHAD, SMELT) IN ANY TIDAL WATERS
- ANGLING OR SPEAR FISHING INCLUDES FISHING FOR, ATTEMPTING TO FISH FOR, CATCHING OR ATTEMPTING TO CATCH FISH USING ANGLING OR SPEAR FISHING EQUIPMENT
- OPERATING A CHARTER OR PARTY BOAT IN THE EEZ
- POSSESSING ANGLING OR SPEAR FISHING EQUIPMENT AND ALSO POSSESSING FISH IN THE EEZ OR ANADROMOUS FISH ON ANY TIDAL WATERS



EXEMPTIONS TO REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

- UNDER AGE 16
- ANGLING ON A LICENSED PARTY OR CHARTER BOAT
- LAWFULLY COMMERCIAL FISHING
- LICENSED OR REGISTERED BY AN EXEMPTED STATE (OR EXEMPT FROM SUCH STATE'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS)
- HOLDS A NMFS-ISSUED FOR-HIRE VESSEL PERMIT



REGISTRATION PROCESS

- REGISTER ON-LINE AT WWW.NMFS.NOAA.GOV
- REGISTER BY CALLING A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER
- SUBMIT NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, REGION(S) OF U.S. IN WHICH YOU WOULD FISH
- NOAA WILL MAIL A REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE. A TEMPORARY PIN WILL BE ISSUED FOR USE UNTIL IT ARRIVES.
- PARTY/CHARTER BOATS WOULD ALSO SUBMIT VESSEL ID AND LOCATION INFO
- REGISTRATION WOULD BE VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE
- FEE TO BE REQUIRED IN 2011. ESTIMATED AT \$15 TO \$25



OTHER REGISTRATION ISSUES

- **DATA CONFIDENTIALITY:** REGISTRATION DATA WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO NOAA AND ITS CONTRACTOR FOR USE IN SURVEYS. NO OTHER USE OR DISCLOSURE WOULD BE ALLOWED. UNDER THE MSA, IT IS UNLAWFUL TO RELEASE CONFIDENTIAL DATA.
- **ENFORCEMENT:** NOAA, USGC AND STATE OFFICERS OPERATING UNDER STATE-NOAA JEA'S WILL ENFORCE. A PENALTY SCHEDULE WILL BE ADOPTED ONCE A FINAL RULE IS IN PLACE. AT THE OUTSET, EDUCATION WILL BE EMPHASIZED.



STATE EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS

A COMPLETE LICENSE FRAME

- ACCEPTABLE EXEMPTIONS
 - ANGLERS ON FOR-HIRE VESSELS
 - UNDER AGE 16
 - OVER AGE 60 (FOR A LIMITED TIME)
 - ACTIVE MILITARY ON FURLOUGH
 - DISABLED
- UNACCEPTABLE EXEMPTIONS
 - PASSENGERS ON A PRIVATE VESSEL
 - PASSENGERS IN A BEACH BUGGY
 - FISHING FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY
 - FISHING FROM SHORE
 - FISHING FROM A PUBLIC PIER
 - EXCLUSION OF SALTWATER AREAS FROM LICENSE REQUIREMENT



ADDITIONAL STATE EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS

- IDENTIFY EXEMPTED SENIOR ANGLERS
- IDENTIFY SALTWATER ANGLERS AMONG COMBINATION LICENSE HOLDERS
- REFRESH ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LIFETIME LICENSEES
- AGREE TO PROVIDE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF LICENSE HOLDERS TO NOAA AT LEAST ANNUALLY



COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULE: OVERVIEW

- NEARLY 500 PARTIES SUBMITTED COMMENTS, INCLUDING STATES, FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS, INTERSTATE COMMISSIONS, NGOS' INDIVIDUAL ANGLERS AND BUSINESSES
- NEARLY 120 DIFFERENT COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED
- MANY COMMENTS: SUPPORTED PROPOSED RULE AND/OR IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION; OPPOSED FEDERAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT; OPPOSED A REGISTRATION FEE



COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULE: SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTS

- DELAY REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT TO ALLOW STATES MORE TIME TO PURSUE EXEMPTIONS
- EXEMPT HOLDERS OF HMS PERMITS
- DEFINE “TIDAL WATERS” AND CLARIFY REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION FOR FISHING FOR ANADROMOUS SPECIES
- EXEMPT SUBSISTENCE FISHERY PERMIT HOLDERS
- CLARIFY A NUMBER OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR STATES TO MEET TO BE DESIGNATED AS EXEMPTED
- ALLOW FOR A VESSEL REGISTRY

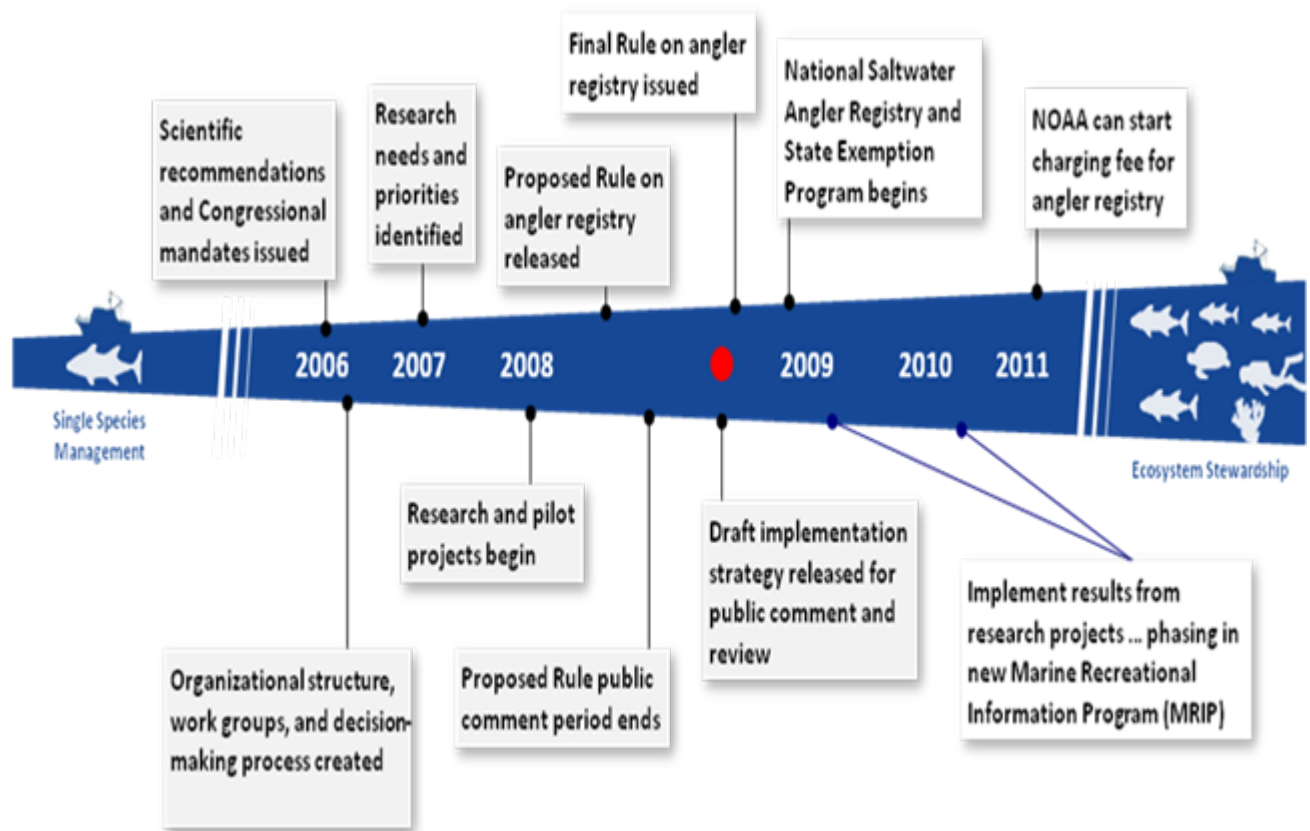


COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULE: SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTS (CONT.)

- DO NOT REQUIRE ANNUAL REGISTRATION RENEWALS
- ADD DOB TO DATA COLLECTED
- TREAT SALMON THE SAME AS OTHER ANADROMOUS SPECIES
- IF A REGISTRATION FEE IS CHARGED, IT SHOULD BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM; REGISTRATION FEE REVENUE SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO FISHERY CONSERVATION
- THERE SHOULD BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT
- NUMEROUS COMMENTS REGARDING: STATE LICENSE ISSUES; SURVEY DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT; FISHERY MANAGEMENT



Key MRIP Milestones



MRIP IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE



MRIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

Implementation Plan
October 2008



YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR FISHING DATA

To help ensure the long-term sustainability of U.S. fisheries through enhanced estimates of marine recreational catch and effort, a partnership of public and private organizations is developing the Marine Recreational Information Program, an improved national system of regional surveys. This Implementation Plan outlines the history of the program, its current status, and future course.

www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov



PLEASE STAY CONNECTED

For more info,
visit us online at:

www.COUNTMYFISH.

NOAA.GOV/

