

**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

Recreational  
Fisheries  
Initiative

# Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Initiative Update

National Fish Habitat Partnership

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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Office of Sustainable Fisheries

# Recent & Upcoming Activity

- **Regional Rec. Fisheries Roundtables**
- **National Implementation Plan Status Report**
- **National Saltwater Rec. Fisheries Summit**

# Regional Roundtable Discussions 2016-2017

## Purpose

- Continuation of dialogue to strengthen communications and partnership building
- Refresh NMFS' understanding of rec. fish community priorities
- Identify emerging & long-term issues



# Regional Roundtable Discussions

Alaska:	Anchorage, AK	Dec. 7, 2016
West Coast:	Long Beach, CA	March 1
	Newport, OR	March 3
Southeast:	Jacksonville, FL	March 27
	Houston, TX	March 29
Greater Atl. Region:	Howell, NJ	April 3
	Rye, NH	April 5
Pacific Islands:	Honolulu, HI	May 4-5
Atl. Highly Migratory Species:	Silver Spring, MD	May 10

# Key Challenges Raised

## Alaska

- Halibut allocation
- Representation in the management process
- Communication challenges

**Long-term concern:** Habitat destruction/degradation

## West Coast

- Sanctuaries and monuments
- Access and availability
- Communication challenges

**Long-term concern:** Access; fishery demographics



# Key Challenges Raised

## Southeast

- Frustration, process exhaustion
- Data
- Access and species availability

**Long-term concern:** Loss of access/opportunity

## Greater Atlantic

- Data
- Regulatory stability
- Access/opportunity

**Long-term concern:** Regulation & loss of access



# Key Challenges Raised

## Pacific Islands

- Communications
- Inclusion and partnership
- Challenges of geographic scale



**Long-term concern: Lack of young participants**

## Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

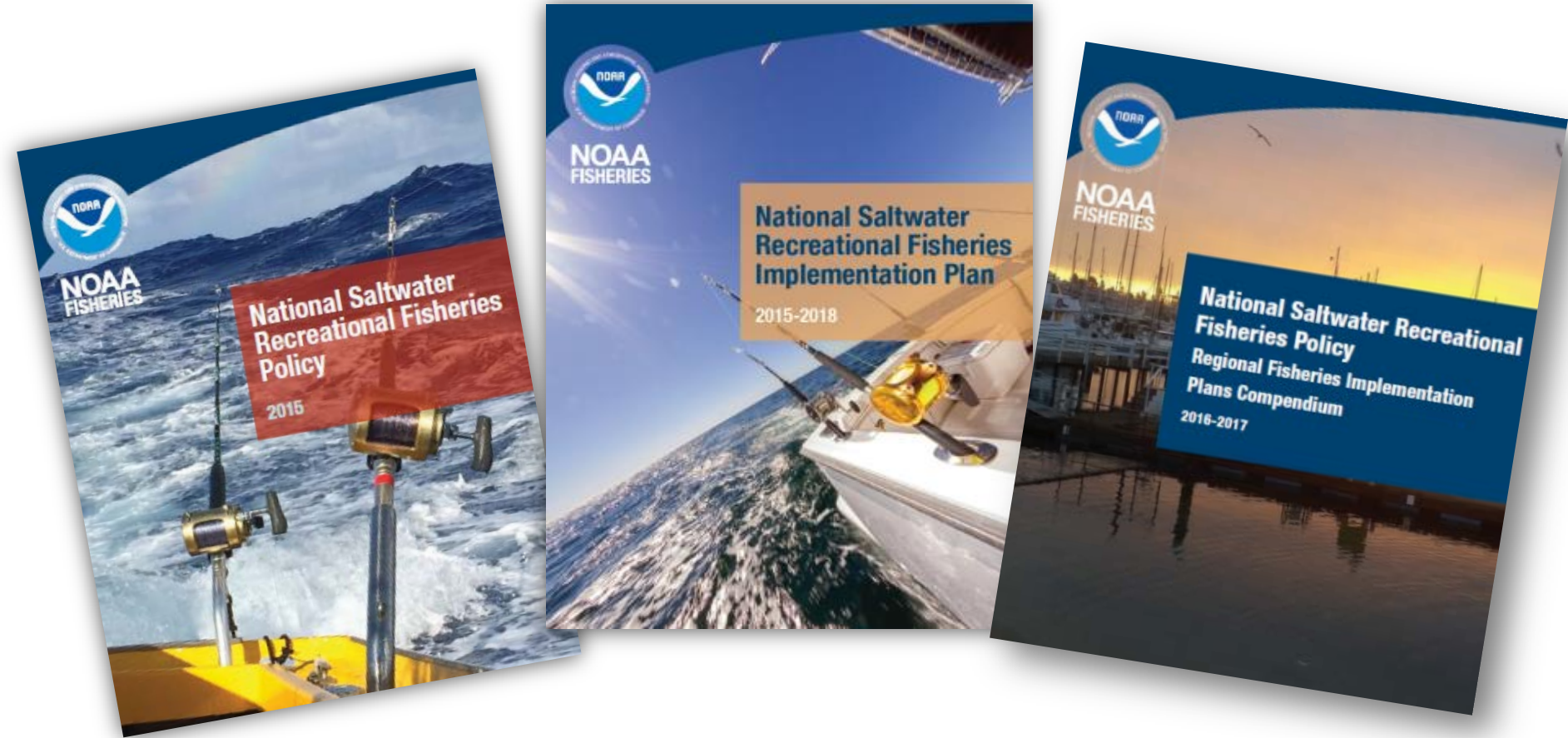
- Charter issues: commercial / non-commercial
- Post-release mortality
- Reporting compliance

**Long-term concern: Accuracy of stock assessments**

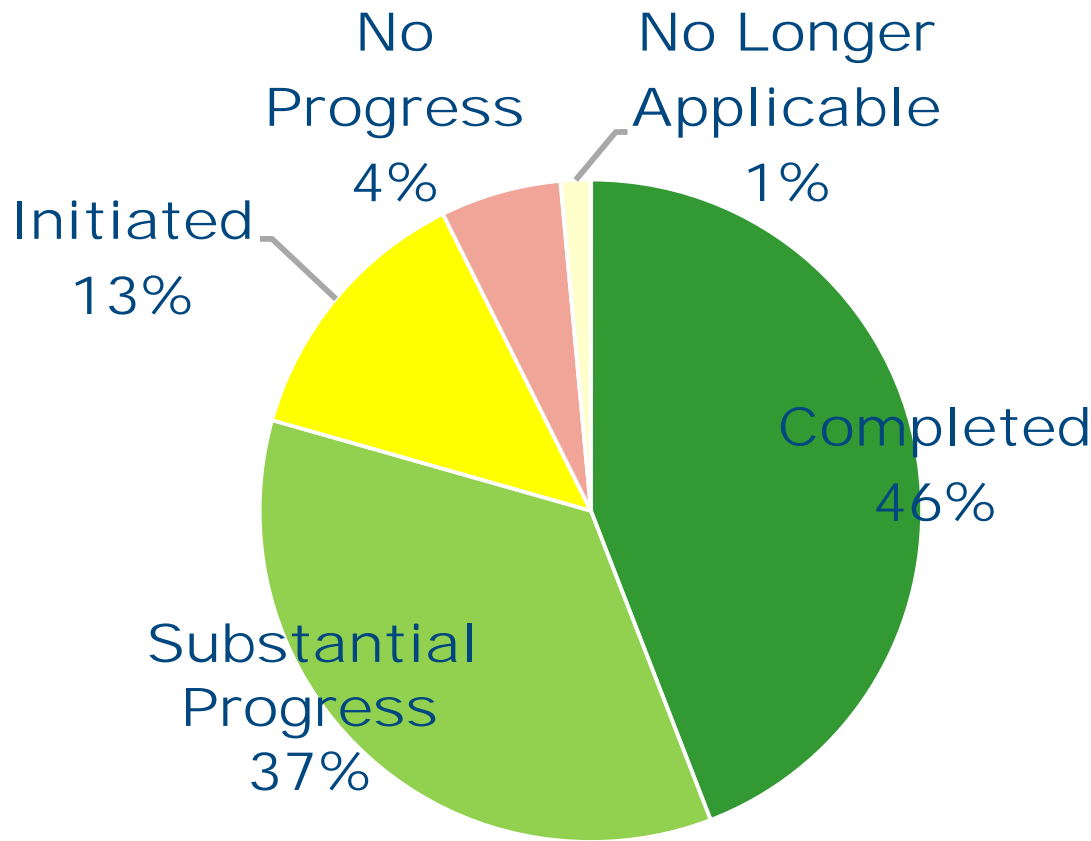




# National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy




# National Implementation Plan Status Update



**PROGRESS UPDATE**  
September 2017

**PROGRESS UPDATE:  
National Saltwater  
Recreational Fisheries  
Implementation Plan**




**NOAA FISHERIES**  
Recreational Fisheries

*It is the policy of NOAA Fisheries to foster, support, and enhance a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation.*

**National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy Goals**

- 1) Support and maintain sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries resources
- 2) Promote saltwater recreational fishing for the benefit of the nation
- 3) Enable enduring participation in, and enjoyment of, saltwater recreational fisheries through science-based conservation and management.



**Commitment and Dedication**

NOAA Fisheries is committed to forging an ever-stronger partnership with the saltwater recreational fishing community. We remain dedicated to fostering, supporting, and enhancing a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater recreational fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation.

Achieving this vision, crafted in collaboration with the recreational fishing community and affirmed in the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy, takes more than words; it takes planning, hard work, and perseverance. The 2015-2018 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy Implementation Plan was NOAA's first step under the Policy to develop recreational fisheries as a key agency focus, and serves as a project roadmap. This document highlights some of NOAA Fisheries' work to fulfill the commitments made in the Implementation Plan. In addition, extensive agency activities are taking place outside of the Implementation Plan that benefit recreational species and anglers.

**Fulfilling Commitments**

In the first 2 years of the 4-year Implementation Plan, NOAA Fisheries has made substantial progress on or completed more than 80 percent of the identified projects, with another 16 percent of projects in early phases. Despite real progress in rebuilding overfished stocks, recreational fishermen and managers still face numerous challenges. The progress documented in this status update demonstrates that we are working hard to deliver on our commitments, and that recreational fisheries are and will remain a priority for NOAA Fisheries.

# Office of Habitat Conservation

- 11 Commitments in National Implementation Plan
  - 10 with substantial progress
    - Funded construction of an artificial reef at the Bill Burton Fishing pier on the Choptank River
    - Carver Cotton Gin Dam Removal and Satucket River Restoration Project in Massachusetts
    - Bloede Dam removal in Maryland
  - 1 completed
    - 2016 National Artificial Reef Workshop

# 2018 National Saltwater Rec. Fish Summit

March 28-29, 2018

Crystal City Westin, Arlington, VA

Co-hosted with Atlantic States Marine Fisheries  
Commission

Improving Opportunity and Stability in Recreational  
Fisheries

Objective: Identify a discrete suite of challenges where  
tangible progress can be made through collaboration

# Summit Topics

- Innovative Management Alternatives and Approaches
- Socio-Economics in Recreational Fisheries Management
- Angler Engagement in Collaborative Data Collection and Reporting
- Expanding Recreational Fishing Opportunity through Conservation

Questions?