



**Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan
Regional Constituent Workshop #3
Northwest Region – Portland, Oregon
May 26, 2004**

The third in the series of Regional Constituent Workshops supporting the development of the new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan for 2005-2009 was held at the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Portland, Oregon on May 26th for constituents in the Northwest Region. The regional workshops were designed to provide Recreational Fisheries constituents the opportunity to share their vision of an effective and successful Federal Recreational Fisheries Program, describe the characteristics and attributes of this Program, and discuss them in the context of a review of the draft NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan.

Randy Fisher, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission Executive Director, welcomed the attendees. Opening remarks were also provided by Rebecca Lent, NOAA Deputy Asst. Administrator for Regulatory Programs. Following introductory comments by the workshop team, the attendees participated in a facilitated session designed to elicit ideas from each individual, share these ideas and prioritize them through small group interaction, and then jointly develop an affinity diagram representing a collection of the key attributes and characteristics of the group. The following diagram represents the product of this exercise. After a plenary review, the current draft of the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan was introduced and the attendees were given the opportunity to comment on the contrasts and similarities between their group product and the draft Strategic Plan.

Results of Affinity Diagramming Process: Characteristics and Attributes of the Future Federal Recreational Fisheries Program

Coordination and Partnerships	Social Economic Data and Analysis	Catch Data (Timely, Accurate)	Constituent Communications Coordination	Science and Applications and Implementation	Promote Sustainable Fisheries	(other)
Integrated Program with State and/or Federal Licenses	Catch and Effort Data, Total Mortality Data, Economic Data, Stock Assessment Data	Timely and Accurate Data	General Sense of Pride / Ownership and Trust in Recreational Fisheries Program	Decisions to be Made on Credible Science	Promote Sustainable Recreational Fisheries; Tailored Unique Management	Commitment and Follow-Thru of Plan
Recognition of State Roles (Better Integration)	Use Catch Statistics to Build Better Socio / Economic / Cultural Data	Improve Recreational Catch Estimates and Biological Data Collection	Better Outreach and Communication with Angling Community Outside Council System. Build Partnerships	Precautionary Harvest Strategies when Stock Assessment, Catch Accounting or Compliance with Regulations are Poor or Vague	Grow Angler Trips, Under Biological Constraints, to Maximize Public Angling Exposure	
Improved Coordination Between Federal and State Agencies (No Duplication)	Improved Economic Data - Accurate - Used in Management - Compare a Sport vs. Commercial Fish Value	Timely and Accurate Catch Data	Easy Access to Management Events	Develop Regional Approach (As Best Possible) Based on Regional Data and Science	Sport Fishery Targeting Higher Abundance of Fish (Lower Exploitation)	
Integrate Federal Recreational Initiatives with Existing Regional Management and Science Programs (Avoid Duplication)	Use Comparable Economic Criteria for Recreational and Commercial Fisheries	Develop Current, Up-to-date Catch Statistics in Sport Fleet-Real Time (Weekly Ideal)	Improved Outreach (Education)		Year-Round Sport Fishing	
Better Harmonization with Commercial Fisheries	Apply Economic Data in More Regional, Local Scales	Improved Science - Catch Data - Gear Studies - Stock Assessments - Release Mortality	Federal Government to Put Out Good, Color Pamphlet to Distinguish Between Kinds of Rockfish		Reduce By Catch Waste (Non-retention Issue)	
Recognize Indigenous Communities within Federal, State, and Local Management		Ensure Anglers are Involved in Data Collection and Research	Ensure Full Participation of Recreational Constituents			
			Consider Input From All Sectors (Private, Charter) without Requiring Meeting Attendance			
			Simplify Regulations, Common Language			

The subsequent group discussion of the draft Strategic Plan included comments on the need for freshwater fisheries to be included in the plan. The attendees felt that currently the plan focuses on just marine fisheries, but also needs to include anadromous fisheries. The group noted that the West Coast Region depends on anadromous species including numerous salmon species and sturgeon.

The group noted the potential for sponsored data research at universities and other agencies. Public and private research dealing with recreational fishing issues is appropriate data collection and research. The questions of “Where are the opportunities that NOAA should focus on?” and “Is there a Federal role for cooperative research?” were considered the next steps towards developing a process to incorporate more research with recreational fishing. The participants also believed that aquaculture should be evaluated more before it is promoted in the plan. It was felt that the current aquaculture objective is inconsistent with other recreational fishing documents.

The attendees also felt strongly about the use of technologies. Currently, the latest technologies are perceived to be geared more toward commercial fisheries than recreational fisheries. The technology supporting Recreational Fisheries applications needs to be kept simple. Any survey equipment that can be brought to recreational fishermen is a good investment, but having sophisticated electronics onboard private boats is not realistic. The main need is for more data collection equipment and people to support surveys. The suggestion of having more collection people on the docks gathering data was proposed by the group. This could lead to more meaningful economic data. The inclusion of equipment also contributes to a more complete enumeration of the total costs born by the recreational fisherman. The consensus was that there needs to be a shared understanding that these costs are not limited to those reflected in the strategic plan.

Regarding fisheries tools, attendees discussed and agreed that there are many more tools that can be incorporated and utilized to manage fisheries. Evaluation of the use of managed closures, artificial reefs, hatcheries, fish ladders, water quality controls, etc. as tools for conserving and restoring marine species and habitat is considered necessary. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are believed to be too permanent to have the flexibility to respond to changing conditions in fisheries habitats and were considered by the group to be unattractive management tools. The group also felt that NOAA should advocate strongly for both public and private research dealing with recreational fishing issues.

In general, the attendees were pleased to see the increase in interaction between the government and constituents brought about by the workshops. They indicated cautious optimism toward the new NOAA commitment to Recreational Fisheries and the potential for actual implementation of the emerging strategy.