NOAA Fisheries

National Marine Fisheries Service

Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan Regional Constituent Workshops Summary Report

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MTS™ MitreTek Systems

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This report has been prepared for the Office of Constituent Services (OCS) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) by Mitretek Systems. Mitretek is a nonprofit corporation chartered to work in the public interest and performs under a directed award contract with NOAA to provide objective, conflict-free advice, especially regarding information technology investment decision-making, program management, and budget and strategy formulation. This document is provided in accordance with and in fulfillment of the delivery requirements specified by Task 27 of the Mitretek contract with NOAA. Interpretations of constituent input in this report are those of Mitretek and may not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS and NOAA. Mitretek is solely responsible for this report and its contents.

1 Introduction

During the months of May through July 2004, the OCS sponsored nine regional constituent workshops at locations representing the diverse geographic interests of the marine recreational fishing community. These workshops were conceived and designed to provide constituents from all regions 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.

NOAA is a fisheries conservation and management partner with anglers, recreational fishing associations, state and tribal managers, and other Federal agencies. In its role as the Nation's marine fisheries steward, close collaboration with recreational fishing stakeholders is sought and is carried out through the activities of OCS. These collaborations enhance the management and conservation of recreational species, their associated habitats, and their related ocean ecosystems.

Under the leadership of OCS, development commenced in early 2004 on a new NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan for the years 2005-2009 with a stated emphasis on partnerships and deliverable outcomes. This Strategic Plan will chart a course for NOAA activities and investments in science, management and outreach efforts

that impact marine recreational anglers and support public interest in a viable recreational fisheries program. OCS began the strategic planning effort by creating and convening an intra-NOAA working group that was designed to have unprecedented visibility across the many disciplines within NOAA that impact recreational fisheries. This group created the initial draft version of the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan. Once this initial draft was developed, OCS invited members of the NOAA external Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel to meet in a moderated session in Washington, DC on March 25, 2004 to announce the strategic planning effort and solicit initial feedback. Panel members provided a considerable number of comments and recommendations, some of which impacted plans for conducting the follow-on regional constituent workshops. As a result, the intra-NOAA working group assimilated the material collected in this panel session and developed a revised draft of the Strategic Plan, provided for public review on the 27th of April. This draft served as the foundation for the subsequent series of workshops, which were designed in recognition of the importance of feedback and guidance from anglers, fishing organizations and clubs, charter boat captains, and recreational fisheries managers in order to create a Strategic Plan that would be responsive to the needs of both anglers and regulators.

This report provides an overview of the workshop process, presents information collected from recreational fisheries constituents during the workshops, and provides an initial assessment based on this information. Section 2 describes the design, development, and implementation of the Regional Constituent Workshop process. Section 3 provides short summaries of each of the nine regional workshops. Section 4 provides a consolidated view of constituent inputs from all of the workshops, examining themes of common interest and identifying areas unique to particular workshops. Section 5 provides a summary of observations resulting from constituent contributions as added input to subsequent Strategic Plan development activities. The most recent version of the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan, supplemental constituent comments, raw attribute data, and attendance statistics are included in the appendices.

This volume reflects the comments and recommendations offered by participants of the Regional Constituent Workshops. It is intended to accurately and collectively represent the information provided by these participants. During the course of analysis and quality control of this information, sensitive references to organizations and individuals have been removed and consistency in presenting the information from each of the workshops has been sought. Every attempt has been made to ensure the information is an accurate representation of the results of the workshops. Readers should

recognize that the information contained herein represents the perspectives of the workshop participants, augmented by additional comments received separately from invitees who were unable to attend. Many of the workshop participants represented larger groups of like-minded recreational fisheries stakeholders in their leadership capacity within public and private organizations that advocate for recreational fishing and conservation causes. This fact contributed to appropriate representation in the workshops of the vast numbers of anglers with an interest in proper management of marine fisheries resources. The information included in this report is likely to reinforce existing strategic priorities and stimulate new priorities and objectives as strategic planning continues and the active partnership between NOAA and the recreational fishing community expands and improves.

2 Regional Constituent Workshop Process Overview

This section describes the progression of the workshop process design and development. It also gives details of the conduct of the workshops and adjustments to the process during the course of the workshops based on participant feedback.

2.1 Workshop Design and Development

The intention by NOAA Fisheries to seek the guidance of a broad community of recreational fisheries stakeholders in order to incorporate constituent feedback and ideas in the strategic planning process was initiated in early 2004. OCS sought the independent guidance of Mitretek Systems and directed the development of a process supporting the conduct of a series of regional constituent workshops at appropriate locations around the country. Table 2.1 provides a summary of the regions, dates, locations, and host constituents selected by OCS. The purpose for these workshops was to provide recreational fisheries constituents, in the context of the NOAA corporate strategy for fisheries management, an opportunity to describe from their own independent and collective perspectives the characteristics and attributes of a successful, responsive, and effective Federal Recreational Fisheries Program, and to compare these with the emerging goals and objectives in the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan.

The process developed by Mitretek and approved by OCS in April 2004 was designed to be transportable from region to region and, rather than focus on a rudimentary review of the existing draft Plan, emphasize a free and managed flow of ideas from the workshop attendees. The workshop designers selected the use of affinity diagramming as the key facilitation tool. The use of this tool in the workshop process provided several benefits. First, it encouraged participants to develop a positive vision of the future state of recreational fisheries management instead of dwelling on the shortcomings of the existing program, creating a constructive, cooperative environment. It gave the participants a sense of ownership in the final product of each workshop, since its composition was essentially driven by the attendees through organization of attributes and the identification of common themes as a group process. It also provided a subtle prioritization scheme by allowing participants to share and discuss ideas in small groups and then decide on sets of attributes from the small group that were deemed to be important enough to share with the larger group.

Table 2-1. Recreational Fisheries Regional Constituent Workshops

Region	Date	Location	Host Constituent
Southwest	May 4th	Seal Beach City Council Chambers, Seal Beach, California	Bob Fletcher, Sport Fishing Association of California
Southeast	May 10th	International Game Fish Association Hall of Fame and Museum, Dania Beach, Florida	Rob Kramer, International Game Fish Association
Northwest	May 26th	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission Headquarters, Portland, Oregon	Randy Fisher, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Atlantic States	June 2nd	Jacques Cousteau Coastal Education Center, Tuckerton, New Jersey	Jim Donofrio, Recreational Fishing Alliance
Northeast	June 3rd	Newbury Street Holiday Inn, Peabody, Massachusetts	Frank Blount, Frances Fleet Inc.
Pacific Islands	June 23rd	Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii	Kitty Simonds, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
Gulf of Mexico East	July 6th	Orange Beach Community Center, Orange Beach, Alabama	Bobbie Walker, Gulf of Mexico Regional Fishery Management Council
Gulf of Mexico West	July 8th	Coastal Conservation Association Headquarters, Houston, Texas	Pat Murray, Coastal Conservation Association, Texas Chapter
Mid-Atlantic	July 26th	Oceans East Tackle Shop, Virginia Beach, Virginia	Richard Welton, Coastal Conservation Association, Virginia Chapter

The workshops were designed to be three hours in duration. In accordance with recommendations made by panel members during the March 25th Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel Meeting, each of the workshops was scheduled during local evening hours—from 6:00 to 9:00 pm—to increase the likelihood of attendance by anglers who would otherwise have schedule conflicts due to normal weekday work commitments. The workshop process was optimized for a minimum of six and a maximum of 50 attendees (only the Pacific Islands workshop significantly exceeded this maximum with a total of approximately 140 participants; however, the facilitators were able to adapt the process for this session so that meaningful and comparable results could be obtained). With advance access to the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan available to the public via the OCS website, there was recognition that many of the attendees would take advantage of the opportunity to review this document in advance of the workshops. This review was not a requirement of the workshop process since key elements of the Plan

were posted for reference at each venue and hard copies of the Plan were distributed and reviewed as part of a later session during the conduct of each workshop. In fact, during the affinity diagramming session, participants were encouraged by facilitators to think independently of any advance knowledge of the draft Plan. The purpose was to prevent the participants' self-application of artificial boundary conditions on their creative thinking.

The envisioned deliverable resulting from the series of workshops was a collection of ideas and recommendations from engaged and informed recreational anglers for use in guiding the ongoing strategic planning process. The product of the workshops provides a means for OCS and the intra-NOAA working group to identify constituent interest areas that are coincident with the emerging draft Plan; observe commonalities and differences between the various regions; gain insights into constituent priorities related to recreational fisheries; and discover issues based on constituent perspectives that might have otherwise been overlooked during strategic planning.

2.2 Implementation

The meeting room for each workshop was specifically set up for the collaborative process in advance. Posters were displayed that conveyed the vision statement, mission statement, and each of the three goal statements—Science, Management, and Outreach—along with brief descriptions of the related objectives from the draft Strategic Plan. A large fabric working board, pretreated with adhesive, was positioned at the head of the room. Available tables and chairs were arranged so that they were positioned facing the working board and in close enough proximity that all of the attendees could see and read the working materials posted on the board. A copy of the agenda, a blank sheet of paper, and a pen were made available to each participant.

Introductory comments were provided by local industry and government leaders to illustrate their support of the ongoing strategic planning effort and their confidence in the NOAA process. Following these welcoming remarks, the facilitator described the purpose and expected outcome of the workshop. The process was described in the context of the other completed and planned workshops and other factors that made their contribution different from past involvement. The factors discussed by the facilitator included the unique opportunity for direct constituent involvement in the government's strategic planning process, the role of Mitretek as an unbiased participant communicating constituent input to the government in the best interests of the public, and the growth

opportunities represented in the recent national attention on fisheries issues contained in the *Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy*.[1]

The facilitators introduced the collaborative process by explaining the purpose of affinity diagramming and reviewing ground rules for attendee participation. Specifically, the participants were strongly encouraged to develop their comments using their vision of a future state of Recreational Fisheries rather than past personal experiences to avoid dwelling on former program shortcomings and to generate constructive recommendations for changes and improvements. The participants were also reassured that each person's input would be given equal weight and merit in the process.

The participants were assigned the task of developing independent, personal lists of ten to fifteen concise items based on their own unique perspective of the appropriate strategic direction for NOAA Recreational Fisheries. The lists were developed by each constituent (less the NOAA attendees) based on the following tasking:

"You all have your own vision of what a successful, responsive, and effective Federal Recreational Fisheries Program should be. Make a list of the important characteristics and attributes that describe the successful program in your vision. In other words, what are the things that this program is doing that make it a success from your perspective?"

The facilitators encouraged and stimulated ideas among the participants by sharing a few hypothetical, analogous examples of attributes that might be generated if the tasking were applied to another government agency. The attendees were provided 10 to 12 minutes to develop their personal lists of attributes.

Following this phase of the process, the attendees were divided into small groups. Within each group, a group member shared the most important attribute from their personal list and the reasons why they felt strongly about that item. Other group members identified similar items on their own lists if they existed. The sharing of priority characteristics and attributes continued within each small group, one person at a time. As each attribute was discussed, one member of the group developed a short, descriptive phrase for that item and transferred it on to a sheet of construction paper with a wide-tip marker to support its posting on the fabric working board. The small groups continued this process with the goal of producing a critical mass of six to twelve attributes for posting, depending on the size of the small group. The facilitators posted a sample sheet on the working board as an example of the content and text size desired. They also circulated among the small groups, offering encouragement and guidance as necessary

and monitoring the time. Approximately 15 minutes were allocated to this stage of the process.

The facilitator then collected approximately three attributes from each group (this initial number was adjusted for each workshop depending on the number of small groups). This first collection of attributes represented those that each small group developed first or considered to be among those that were considered the most important. The sheets were read aloud and randomly placed on the working board. Amplifying information was sought if it was necessary to ensure that the intent of the attribute was clear to everyone. The facilitator then encouraged the participants to look for pairs of attributes that had clear associations. As these associations were identified, they were aligned on the working board under a placeholder column heading. The facilitator intentionally avoided any tendency to "pre-label" the column headings at this stage of the process. Subsequent pairs of attributes that could be grouped with a previous association were aligned underneath the first pair. As the facilitator neared completion of these associations, single sheets that could be associated with columns were moved to those columns. Unique attributes and characteristics were not forced into existing columns but were allowed to exist as outliers on the side of the working board. Sheets were moved to new or previously existing columns freely as the participants reevaluated their placement as the process progressed.

The association process described above was repeated with a subsequent set of attributes collected from each small group. The sheets were placed randomly on the working board below the previously sorted attributes. The new set was examined for associations within itself rather than attempting to force attributes into existing columns. New columns were added as necessary. Outliers were examined for possible association with the new set of attributes. The facilitator then asked the participants if there were any remaining attribute sheets not yet collected that an individual or small group felt passionate about. These remaining sheets were collected, placed randomly on the working board, and associated as had been done with the previous attribute sheets. Figure 2-1 provides an example of the affinity diagram at this stage of the process from the Honolulu workshop.

Finally, the facilitator asked the group to observe the attribute sheets placed in each individual column and nominate a title for each column based on the general theme of the associated attributes and characteristics. General group consensus was sought during this process, and the facilitator allowed discussion among the group. As each title

was agreed upon, the facilitator transferred it on to a sheet and placed it at the top of the appropriate column. Columns were combined if the group reached general consensus that it was appropriate. Limited moves of individual attribute sheets were allowed but discouraged in order to honor the original categorization process. Remaining outliers were given their own unique label. The affinity diagram was considered a completed product for the group when all columns were appropriately labeled.

Figure 2-1. The affinity diagramming process from the Honolulu workshop prior to labeling of the attribute columns

The facilitator transitioned the workshop process into a review of the affinity diagramming results in the context of the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan. Copies of the draft Plan were provided to each participant who did not already have one of their own. A set of discussion questions and a feedback solicitation form was also handed out to each participant. The facilitator reviewed the goals and objective statements as they existing in the draft Plan for the benefit of attendees who were not familiar with the document. The attendees were then afforded the opportunity through moderated, open discussion to share their perspectives on the draft Plan given the interests and priorities of the group that had been manifested in their affinity diagram. The facilitator focused the discussion using the following questions:

- *Are you surprised by anything?*
- *Based on your product, are there areas you think need greater emphasis in the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan? Why?*

- *Are there areas you think are over-emphasized in the Plan? Why?*
- *What objectives in the Plan do you feel will be the greatest challenge to implement, and why?*
- *How can you, the Recreational Fisheries constituents, help to implement the objectives that you feel deserve the most emphasis?*

The facilitation team recorded the results of this discussion to ensure that important supplemental information, constituent perspectives, and additional explanatory comments were captured.

Each workshop concluded with a review of the planned disposition of the product of the workshop and upcoming strategic planning milestones, and general comments by the principal government and industry representatives in attendance. Particular emphasis was given to publicizing an email address (recfishplan@mitretek.org) that any interested constituent or angler could use to submit additional comments on the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan throughout the summer months of 2004. This email address was also provided on the discussion questions handout to each workshop participant and was announced as being available on the NOAA Recreational Fisheries website.[2] The Director of OCS also circulated his contact information and made an additional overture to the participants to correspond with him directly if anyone felt called to do so.

Two minor adjustments to the workshop process were made following the initial workshop held in Seal Beach, California based on feedback from the participants. Rather than excluding NOAA attendees from the small group collaboration, a decision was made to allow them to distribute equally among the small groups so that they could observe the ongoing small group discussions and offer appropriate corrective guidance if warranted. Also, the steps used to move from the affinity diagramming process to the discussion of the draft Plan were strengthened to provide a clearer transition, particularly for attendees who had no prior knowledge of the draft. After these modifications were implemented, the process remained virtually unchanged for the remainder of the workshops.

3 Regional Constituent Workshops Summaries

This section provides summary information derived from the results of the nine Regional Constituent Workshops. Similar synopses of each workshop were prepared immediately following each workshop and provided to OCS for delivery to the NOAA Fisheries webmaster and subsequent posting on the NOAA Recreational Fisheries website. These published summaries provided the public, and in particular the recreational anglers participating in the strategic planning process, insight into the workshops and their results as they were completed. Many of the attendees in the latter workshops noted the value of having access to these summaries in order to prepare for their participation in the process. Each summary in this report includes an image of the completed affinity diagram for that workshop and an accompanying table with a fully legible representation of the associated attribute sheets.

3.1 Seal Beach, California

The inaugural Regional Constituent Workshop supporting the development of the new NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan for 2005-2009 was held at the Seal Beach City Council Chambers, Seal Beach, California on May 4th for constituents in the Southwest Region. The attendees were welcomed by Bob Fletcher, Sport Fishing Association of California and by Rod McInnis, NOAA Southwest Regional Administrator. Following the opening remarks the attendees participated in the facilitated affinity diagramming session designed to elicit ideas from each individual, share the ideas and prioritize them through small group interaction, and then develop a product that represented the key attributes and characteristics of the attendees. Figure 3-1 is an image of the Seal Beach workshop product. Table 3-1 is a representation of this product that provides additional insight into its content.

During the group discussion of the draft Strategic Plan in the context of this product, most of the attendees noted the significant number of items listed within the theme of data credibility, but were not surprised that there was an emphasis here. The challenges associated with determining what data are credible and who decides what data are credible were discussed, with the overarching view that the data had to be believable and make sense in the eyes of the angler, particularly given the perception that shortcomings have existed in these data in the past. The group concluded that this area would present the greatest implementation challenge for the government.

The attendees noted the attributes related to Regulations and discussed their application as a means for achieving higher levels of compliance within the Recreational Fisheries community. The importance of regulations that are accessible, easy to understand, and simplified as much as possible—even as the governance becomes more complex—were stressed by the group. Suggestions were made to examine some of the existing applications where either effective enforcement was taking place and the reasons why compliance was not taking place under certain circumstances to develop ideas on strengthening the effectiveness of regulatory guidance.

Considerable time was devoted to discussing the motivations of individual anglers and their potential roles in managing Recreational Fisheries resources. At a fundamental level, these motivations include the desire to fish, to enjoy fishing, to conserve and sustain the fish population, and in some cases to make money. It was felt that the government would be able to gain greater participation by individual anglers in the management process and enjoy a higher level of voluntary compliance if the incentives of individual anglers could be harnessed and used. Anglers would like to feel some sense of ownership of the process. The group also emphasized the importance of open, two-way communications, outreach that pulls anglers into the system, and a physical presence through initiatives such as regular symposia analogous to *RecFish 2000*[3] and holding fisheries council meetings in locations based on the proximity of constituents with a particular interest in ongoing decisions. Several attendees noted the value in having the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service represent the interests of Recreational Fisheries in local venues within the region.

The group discussed the scope of the Strategic Plan and identified some of the "non-traditional" consumptive and non-consumptive constituents such as SCUBA divers and wildlife watching. It was noted that non-consumptive fishing within the "traditional" Recreational Fisheries community—that is, those engaged in regular catch-and-release fishing—is a growing body that needs to be considered. The attendees also discussed the importance of having sufficient resources to support data collection and analysis activities, and working collaboratively across all levels of management.

Figure 3-1. Image of affinity diagram from the Seal Beach, California workshop

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

Ecosystem Based Management	Cooperative Governance	Opportunities	Regulations	Credible Data	Implementation and Execution	Effective Application of MPAs	Outreach
Ecosystem Wide Management (Modeling)	Require Better State-Federal Coordination for (1) Collection of Biological Data; (2) Management; (3) Enforcement	Lots of Fish to Catch	Understandable Regulations	Accuracy of Catch Data (All Anglers)	A Strong Office of Recreational Fishing Within NOAA and Everything in One Place to Manage Fisheries	More Information on Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas	Better Communication Between Researchers, Managers, and the Public
Research for "Ecosystem" Management	States and Feds Working Together	Provide Maximum Access and Opportunity to Anglers Throughout the Year	Regulations are Easy to Access and Understand	Post Release Survivorship and Conditions	Training and Employment Opportunities	Use MPAs as a Management Tool Only When Clear, Peer Reviewed Science Justifies Their Use	Anglers as Active Participants in Science Efforts
Protect Environment for Fish	Require High Level of Cooperative Research between State, Federal Gov't, and Party/Charterboat Industry	Secure Rights to a Share of Quota to Maximize Recreational Fisheries (i.e., greater ownership of management)	Good Enforcement of Regulations	Assess the Value of Fish Caught by Recreational Anglers			Promote Catch and Release Programs
Use Risk Analysis to Set Management Priorities	Encourage Government to Put High Priority on International Management of Highly Migratory Species	Bycatch Reduction	Simpler Regulations	Accurate Fisheries Data			
Mapping Toxins Through Trophic Levels (pred. & prey)		Ocean Parks - Protection of Habitat for Recreational Fishing		Provide Funding for Conducting Frequent, Timely, and Believeable Stock Assessments on Species Important to Recreational Anglers			
Improved Water Quality		Exceptional Angling Opportunities by Using Ocean Parks, Artificial Reefs, Stocking, "Kids Fishing Programs", etc.		Demand Timely and Accurate Catch and Effort Data That is Believeable to the Recreational Fishing Community			
		Improved Habitat (Artificial Reefs)		More Behavioral Information			
				Studies on Catch and Release Mortality and Possibility of Catch and Release Areas			

Table 3-1. Seal Beach workshop affinity diagram data

3.2 Dania Beach, Florida

The second Regional Constituent Workshops was held at the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Hall of Fame and Museum, Dania Beach, Florida on May 10th for constituents in the Southeast Region. Rob Kramer, IGFA President, welcomed the attendees and shared his goals for the planning process. Opening remarks were also provided by Roy Crabtree, NOAA Southeast Regional Administrator. Following introductory comments by the workshop team, the attendees commenced development of their affinity diagram representing the collection of the key attributes and characteristics of the group. Figure 3-2 is an image of the Dania Beach workshop product. Table 3-2 is a representation of this product that provides additional insight into its content.

The subsequent group discussion of the draft Strategic Plan included comments on the need for international involvement in Recreational Fisheries management efforts and the potential NOAA role in those efforts. The attendees felt that the U.S. should be exerting its influence in appropriate international organizations to achieve a greater level of compliance from non-U.S. fisheries and minimize illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. It was observed that this desired international participation was not readily evident in the draft Strategic Plan and perhaps required greater emphasis. The group concluded that this area would present one of the greatest implementation challenges for NOAA.

An observation was made that a large number of the characteristics and attributes emphasized conservation-related initiatives. One constituent described this emphasis as "a concern that there are enough fish for the fish's sake." Several attendees felt that fisheries conservation should be a dominant factor in allocation decisions. Additional related concerns included the need for timely water quality and essential fish habitat (including coral reefs) protection and the mitigation of coastal development impacts, with preventative measures put into service prior to the need for crisis recovery efforts. The group noted the potential for conflict between commercial interests and conservation goals related to fisheries sustainability initiatives due to boundary conditions placed on NOAA by the Department of Commerce, and thought that there was a need for better socioeconomic representation in the government's fisheries management efforts.

The attendees also felt strongly about the "transparency" of Federal management efforts and believed that constituent visibility into the regulatory process would motivate them to become more willing and active participants in Recreational Fisheries

management. This transparency would also give anglers a sense of ownership of the process. Several of the constituents shared personal observations of good angler compliance with regulations in communities with active participation in fisheries management efforts. It was felt that this active participation could also pay dividends in improving and adding credibility to the government's data collection efforts.

Several ideas for improving two-way communications between Recreational Fisheries constituents and the government were offered. The attendees encouraged the government to look for new and innovative ways to reach individual anglers, such as additional advertising through the media and posting notices in locations frequented by anglers (e.g., bait shops, fuel piers, etc.). Most felt that there was good value in efforts to interact directly with anglers engaged in fishing activities, in that these stakeholders could provide their own ideas on how they could best be reached and included in the process. The attendees encouraged the idea of including a NOAA Fisheries booth at local conferences, in association with fishing tournaments, and at other venues popular with large groups of anglers.

In reference to the ongoing development of the draft Strategic Plan, a suggestion was made to identify changes and additions in subsequent drafts of the Plan by color coding or cross-referencing them so that the public could see where and how feedback from the constituent community impacted the Plan. Most agreed that this would give constituents a sense of value and confirmation that their recommendations were actually making a difference.

Figure 3-2. Image of affinity diagram from the Dania Beach, Florida workshop

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

Law Enforcement	Management Guidelines	Interagency Coordination	Research	Transparency and Accountability	Management Philosophy	Two-Way Communications	Sustainable Fisheries	International Policy
Better Domestic Law Enforcement	Equitable Budget Allocation to Fisheries Benefit - Incentives for Compliance	Promote Cooperation Between Stakeholders and Coordinate International, State, and Federal Fisheries Management	Solution-Specific Research	Transparency	Management Objectives Based on Science, Not Politics	Two-Way Communication for Outreach, Education, Marketing, Media, and Public Relations	Stop All Overfishing Now	International Sanctions to Promote Fish Conservation
Enforce Magneson-Stevenson Act to Stop Destruction of Habitats	Strong Agency Infrastructure	Coordinate with Other Agencies to Address Coastal Development	Coral Reefs Given Protection	Management Process Needs to be Transparent to Recreational Fishermen	Maintain Balance Between Recreational and Commercial Communities	Better Understand How to Communicate with Recreational Fishermen	Outlaw Longlining	Protect U.S. Fishermen Against IUU Fishing (International)
	Quantitative Management Goals		Water Quality - Critical to Any Ecosystem Analysis	The Management for Recreational Fisheries has an Open Process to Encourage Stakeholder Involvemnt and Communication	Keep Politics Out of Management	Educate Recreational Fishermen on How Fisheries Management Works	Rebuild Overfished Stocks as Soon as Possible	
	Staff Trained in Area of Expertise		Make Use of Latest Technology for Data Collection			Improve Public Outreach	Decrease Bycatch Mortality	
	Recreational Ombudsmen on NOAA Fisheries Staff		Recreational Fisheries Management Authority Utilize Standards such as Maximum Sustainable Yield			Make Regulations Easy to Obtain and Understand	Protect Forage Species	
	Arbitration (Binding) to Resolve Allocation Issues		Continue Cooperative Research Initiatives			K-30 Education and Outreach - Teach Proper Handling and Release Techniques		
			More Cooperative Research and Management with Recreational Community			Strong Internal and External Communications		(other)
			Equitable Research Funding for Recreational and Commercial Species					Elevate Fisheries to Cabinet-Level, i.e., Department of Fisheries

Table 3-2. Dania Beach workshop affinity diagram data

3.3 Portland, Oregon

The third workshop, and the second on the Pacific coast, was held at the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Portland, Oregon on May 26th for constituents in the Northwest Region. Randy Fisher, Executive Director of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, welcomed the attendees. Opening remarks were also provided by Rebecca Lent, NOAA Deputy Asst. Administrator for Regulatory Programs. Figure 3-2 is an image of the Portland workshop affinity diagram product. Table 3-2 provides a clearer representation of this product. As with all workshops, after a plenary review of the affinity diagram the most recent 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.

The subsequent group discussion of the draft Strategic Plan included comments on the need for information in the Plan on freshwater fisheries. The attendees felt that the draft Plan focused exclusively on marine fisheries, but needed to address anadromous fisheries. The group noted that the West Coast constituents are heavily dependent on anadromous species such as the salmon and sturgeon fisheries.

The group noted the potential for sponsored data research at universities and other agencies. Public and private research dealing with recreational fishing issues was considered an appropriate target for government sponsorship. The group felt that NOAA should advocate strongly for both public and private research dealing with recreational fishing issues. 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 emerging technologies. The latest technologies were perceived to be geared more toward commercial fisheries than recreational fisheries. A desire was expressed to keep the technologies supporting Recreational Fisheries applications simple. Any survey equipment that could be brought to recreational fishermen is a good investment, but having sophisticated electronics onboard private boats was deemed unrealistic. The constituents felt that the main need was for more data collection equipment and people to support surveys. The suggestion of

having more collection people on the docks gathering data to support, among other objectives, more meaningful economic data was proposed and supported by the group. The inclusion of investments in equipment was also viewed as a contribution to a more complete enumeration of the total costs born by recreational anglers. The consensus was that there needs to be a shared understanding of the fact that total angler 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 were considered necessary. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were 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.

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.

Figure 3-3. Image of affinity diagram from the Portland, Oregon workshop

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			

Table 3-3. Portland workshop affinity diagram data

3.4 Tuckerton, New Jersey

The fourth in the series of Regional Constituent Workshops was held at the Jacques Cousteau Coastal Education Center, Tuckerton, New Jersey on June 2nd for constituents in the Atlantic States Region. Michael Dobley of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) welcomed the workshop participants and described his views on the potential positive impacts of emerging NOAA initiatives on Recreational Fisheries interests. Welcoming remarks were also provided by Rebecca Lent, NOAA Fisheries Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, who thanked the attendees for their time and discussed the critical value of participation by the constituents in the NOAA strategic planning process. Figure 3-4 provides an image of the affinity diagram product developed by the attendees during their facilitated session. Table 3-4 itemizes the characteristics and attributes contained in the diagram.

During the group's discussion of the draft Strategic Plan in the context of the affinity diagram, comments were shared on the clear emphasis on initiatives related to data collection. The workshop facilitators pointed out that data collection and credibility attributes have been a constantly recurring theme in prior workshops. A related suggestion was made to reduce self-imposed restrictions on collecting data at venues frequented by recreational anglers such as marinas and fuel piers. The attendees agreed that the attributes and characteristics related to management systems, tools, and implementation measures represented the most significant challenges to the government in its desire to transition to a new, more responsive management strategy. The need for sufficient numbers of trained, qualified people within NOAA to implement the proposed strategy was also viewed as a sizeable challenge.

The attendees shared their views on the need for attention to advisory issues such as those related to health, quality of fish for consumption, and dealing with the problems of development and pollution such as algae growth and fertilizer runoff. One of the members noted that proactive planning to mitigate the impacts of coastal commercial development and protect the watershed was necessary. It was believed that this sort of growth was inevitable due to the local need to accommodate a growing population. The group felt that non-fishing factors affecting the recreational fishing experience needed attention; the movement towards an ecosystem-based management approach was viewed as a positive step in this endeavor. Other areas of needed emphasis expressed by the attendees included international cooperative efforts for management of highly migratory

species, standardization of guidelines and reduction of duplication in recreational tagging and observation measures, and appropriate resource allocation.

One observation that was shared within the context of a discussion on education and outreach related to the target audience for education programs. Constituents have concluded that most existing educational initiatives emphasize good conservation practices and target recreational anglers in an effort to increase their knowledge and their willingness to adopt these practices. There is a perceived lack of educational effort focused on the economic benefit and public good of recreational fishing that targets an audience of conservationists in an effort to increase sensitivities to the rights and cooperative best practices of the anglers.

The attendees were supportive of the use of emerging information technology to facilitate good communications between managers and constituents. The Northeast Region website[4] and the *Fish News*[5] were listed as good examples of communications media. The group also encouraged the use of electronic mail as an option for administrative necessities such as license renewals as a cost saving measure over traditional paper mail. Finally, the attendees agreed that their most important role in the process was to get the word out to a broader cross-section of anglers, educate them on the ongoing planning process, and encourage them to get involved and share their views.

Jim Donofrio, Executive Director of the RFA, disclosed a personal observation during closing comments of marked improvements in both the draft Strategic Plan and the NOAA process since his initial participation in the March 25th Advisory Panel meeting at the NOAA headquarters facility. He viewed with satisfaction the growing voice of Recreational Fisheries constituents within NOAA and shared his hope for continued progress by the government in protecting the rights of recreational anglers.

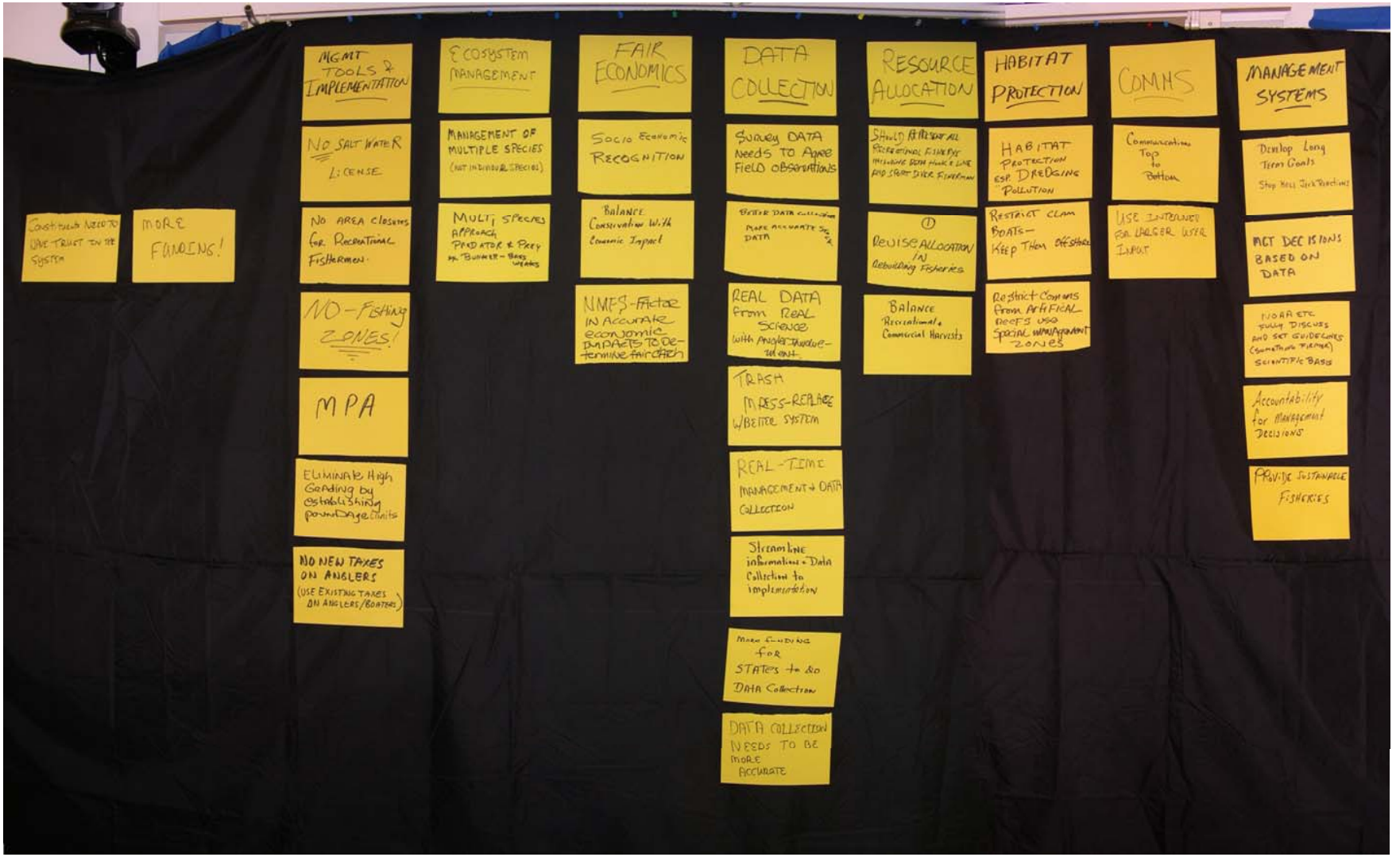

Figure 3-4. Image of affinity diagram from the Tuckerton, New Jersey workshop

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

Management Tools and Implementation	Ecosystem Management	Fair Economics	Data Collection	Resource Allocation	Habitat Protection	Communications	Management Systems
No Salt Water License	Management of Multiple Species (Not Individual Species)	Socio-Economic Recognition	Survey Data Needs to Agree with Field Observations	Represent All Recreational Fisheries Including Both Hook-and-Line and Sport Diver Fishermen	Habitat Protection (esp. Dredging and Pollution Impacts)	Communications from Top to Bottom	Develop Long-Term Goals - Stop Knee-Jerk Reactions
No Area Closures for Recreational Fishermen	Multi-Species Approach - Predator and Prey (e.g., Bunker-Bass; Weaks)	Balance Conservation with Economic Impact	Better Data Collection for More Accurate Stock Assessment	Revise Allocation in Rebuilding Fisheries	Restrict Clam Boats - Keep Them Offshore	Use the Internet for Larger User Input	Management Decisions Based on Data
No-Fishing Zones		NMFS - Factor in Accurate Economic Impacts to Determine Fair Catch	Real Data from Real Science with Angler Involvement	Balance Recreational and Commercial Harvests	Restrict Commercial Fisheries from Artificial Reefs; Use Special Management Zones		NOAA, etc. Fully Discuss and Set Guidelines (Something Firmer); Scientific Basis
Marine Protected Areas			Trash MRFSS - Replace with a Better System				Accountability for Management Decisions
Eliminate High Grading by Establishing Poundage Limits			Real-Time Management and Data Collection				Provide Sustainable Fisheries
No New Taxes on Anglers (Use Existing Taxes on Anglers/Boaters)			Streamline Information and Data Collection to Implementation		Other		
			More Funding for States to do Data Collection		Constituents Need to Have Trust in the System		
			Data Collection Needs to be More Accurate		More Funding		

Table 3-4. Tuckerton workshop affinity diagram data

3.5 Peabody, Massachusetts

The fifth Regional Constituent Workshop was held at the Newbury Street Holiday Inn in Peabody, Massachusetts on June 3rd for Recreational Fisheries constituents in the Northeast Region. Frank Blount, owner of Frances Fleet Incorporated of Galilee, Rhode Island and an active member of the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), welcomed the workshop participants and shared his expectations and hopes for the NOAA strategic planning initiative and for improved representation of recreational anglers in the government's management process. Opening comments were also provided by Kevin Chu of the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Office. These opening remarks evolved into a short discussion on the realism of constituent expectations for positive changes as a result of the information gathered during the workshop and its impact relative to previous inputs provided by the local constituent community. The attendees agreed that this may be a unique opportunity in time to realize improvements due to the ongoing, high-level attention to ocean issues, particularly with the national visibility of the *Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy*. Following this short discussion, the attendees embarked on the development of their affinity diagram product that would represent the collection of key attributes and characteristics from the group. Figure 3-5 provides an image of this product, and Table 3-5 offers a clearer representation of the information contained on the attribute sheets. After this process, the current draft of the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan was distributed and the attendees discussed the contrasts and similarities between their product and the draft Plan.

This subsequent discussion highlighted the emphasis among the constituents on management processes mostly external to NOAA but critical to ensuring appropriate representation of recreational anglers and associated industries in management decisions. Perceptions of outcomes related to historical regulatory actions of the NEFMC stimulated much of this discussion. Many of the attendees felt that NEFMC proceedings related to recreational fishing lacked credibility due to an inequity of representation on the Council, and that past regulatory decisions had been made without due consideration of available Recreational Fisheries data, even if the data were scientifically sound and readily available. The logical extension of this discussion to the draft Strategic Plan led the group to reflect on the potential—or lack thereof—for the new Plan to effect changes in local management processes and help the recreational sector, even if, as one constituent suggested, "the science data were perfectly accurate." In assessing this potential, the

attendees generally agreed that the building of a recreational constituent community with a greater voice and an improved ability to provide indisputable economic information and accurate science data both to the Councils and to the public at large represented two important objectives that could be realized through implementation of the emerging NOAA strategy.

The economic importance and impact of recreational fishing was a major theme in the affinity diagram and in the discussion that followed. Most of the attendees believed that the recreational sector has considerably more value to the economy than the commercial sector but lacks the equal and fair representation that it should be afforded based on this value. There was agreement by the group that quantifying and articulating the economic and social value of recreational fishing should be a high priority for both NOAA and local Recreational Fisheries advocacy groups.

The group endorsed the theme of ecosystem management as a means of protecting habitat and achieving sustainable fisheries. Attention to appropriate management and protection of coastal and highly migratory species were considered priorities among the attendees.

A few of the attendees mentioned the fact of an advisory panel for recreational fisheries for their region that had existed in the past but had atrophied in recent years for unknown reasons. The idea of a regional Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel was discussed and received enthusiastically by the attendees. A commitment was made by the NOAA representatives at the workshop and several participants to follow up on this idea and investigate establishing a panel within the Northeast Region at the earliest opportunity.

The group brought the workshop to a close by reflecting on their perceived role in bringing the new NOAA Recreational Fisheries strategy to fruition. As with previous workshops, the constituents felt their most important role would be to share information and encourage involvement and activism among the larger body of recreational anglers in the region. Improved outreach activities and strong collaboration and coordination between NOAA Fisheries, state, and local agencies were also encouraged.

Figure 3-5. Image of affinity diagram from the Peabody, Massachusetts workshop

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

Scope	Allocation	Management Approaches	Data Collection	Ecosystem Management	Equal Representation	Economic Fairness	Outreach	Credibility
Other Species Than Groundfish Are Important for Recreational Fisheries (e.g., Coastal and Highly Migratory Species)	Recreational Quotas Should be Managed and Allocated Independently [of Commercial Quotas]	Change Dogfish Regulations	Better, More, and Accurate Recreational Catch Data	Forage Fish	Equal Representation on Management Bodies (Recreational/ Commercial)	Manage for Recreational Value First, Ahead of Commercial	More Hands-On Interaction of Government with Recreational Organizations and Clubs	Establish Credibility With Recreational Anglers
	Access Should Not be Closed to Sustainable Methods	Simplify Regulations by Implementing Coastwide Measures	Review MRFSS Large Pelagic Species (LPS) Strategies (For Hire) for Sampling; Utilize ACCSP	Habitat and Quality Issues Need Attention (e.g., Pollution, etc.)	Fair Representation and Greater Involvement of Recreational Fishermen in Management Process	Establish That Recreational Fishing is More Valuable Than Commercial Fishing	Better Access to Data	Common Sense Approach from Government Toward Recreational Fisheries
	Recreational Measures Are Independent of Commercial Measures	Use of Fishing Mortality Rates and Not Numbers of Fish	Better Identification of the Angler Universe		Better Representation of Recreational Anglers on Regional Councils	Recreational Sector Should Not be Treated as Sector That Can Have the Leftovers After Commercial Activity is Done	Public Education	Mangement Measures Based on Fact and Not Perception
	Open Access to Fishing Areas with Reasonable Catch Limits	Consider Management Targets Other Than Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for Recreational Species	Ensure Adequate Sample Size for Catch and Effort Estimates at the State Level		More Partnership Between Recreational and Commercial Interests	Resources Spent Should be Proportional to Economic Benefit Provided to the Economy		
	Make the Punishment Fit the Crime (Quotas/Overfishing)	Work Collaboratively With State Agencies, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and Between States				Recreational Buy-Backs and Subsidies		
		Manage For Maximum Reproduction		(other)				
		Better Management of Gamefish and Control of Longline Fishery (one billion hooks in the ocean per day)		More and Better Enforcement				

Table 3-5. Peabody workshop affinity diagram data

3.6 Honolulu, Hawaii

The sixth Regional Constituent Workshop in the continuing series was held at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii on June 23rd for Recreational Fisheries constituents in the Pacific Islands Region. The workshop was held in conjunction with the week-long 123rd Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC). The opening of the workshop was highlighted by a series of speakers underscoring the importance of the NOAA strategic planning effort on behalf of the local recreational angler community. Formal remarks were offered by Kitty Simonds, Executive Director of the WPRFMC; Roy Morioka, WPRFMC Chairman; Bill Hogarth, Director of NOAA Fisheries, and Michael Kelly, NOAA Fisheries Director of Constituent Affairs. Council members Mark Mitsuyasu and Walter Ikehara provided presentations on WPRFMC-unique data collection initiatives and bottomfish programs, respectively. The constituents were then offered two breakout group sessions, one for participating in the Recreational Fisheries strategic planning workshop process and another to address local bottomfish data collection issues. The majority of the constituents attending the evening's events, numbering approximately 140, chose to participate in the strategic planning breakout group. Despite the fact that the workshop process required slight modifications to accommodate the number of stakeholders, all of the attendees who desired were able to participate directly in the production of the affinity diagram. Figure 3-6 is an image of the affinity diagram resulting from this effort. Table 3-6 illustrates the characteristics and attributes comprising the diagram with more clarity. The current draft of the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan was distributed to all participants and summarized by the facilitator to provide an opportunity for comments on the contrasts and similarities between the group product and the draft Strategic Plan. Time constraints levied by the formal presentations prior to the workshop and the large number of participants limited the amount of time available at the workshop for in-depth discussion of the Plan.

The WPRFMC provided a valuable service to the workshop through its attention to advance notification of the constituents, engagement of the mainstream media, and incentives to attend (e.g., a valuable vacation give-away sponsored by a local radio station). The large number of attendees was a testimony to the effectiveness of their outreach effort; however, advance public announcements by the Council emphasized only limited aspects of the full scope of the workshop, including the issue surrounding consideration of a marine recreational fishing license to facilitate better data collection.

As a result of this promotion and local sensitivity to the issue in one of three remaining states with no licensing requirement, much of the visible pre-workshop press coverage focused almost exclusively on this issue.[6] The by-product was a large percentage of independent anglers and interested observers at the workshop who anticipated a discussion of the licensing issue only. As expected, the attributes developed by the attendees that appear in Table 3-6 reflect the bias towards the licensing issue.

One theme unique in its emphasis at this workshop was the perceived need to recognize the unique Hawaiian culture and the social impacts that Recreational Fisheries management initiatives could have on the indigenous peoples of Hawaii. There was an overwhelming sense of a local "right to fish" and a perception that the native ethnic population is better positioned than Federal regulators to appropriately manage their recreational fisheries resources. Culture-specific solutions for fisheries oversight (e.g., the Konohiki Community[7]) were offered for consideration.

The largest number of attributes provided by the attendees dealt with regulatory philosophies and issues. Within these, there was a common thread of local control of recreational fisheries management under Federal sponsorship. Accountability, cooperation across all levels of management, and effective communications were also emphasized. As with earlier workshops, the constituents recognized the need for improvements in data collection efforts, enforcement of regulations, international cooperation, and education and outreach. The attributes that were characterized by the group as recreational fisheries management tools provided several specific implementation suggestions and were weighted toward control of netting.

Dr. Hogarth concluded the workshop with an extensive, ad-hoc question and answer session with the constituents. Discussion of the marine recreational fishing license issue dominated this session as well but the attendees clearly appreciated the value of fielding their concerns with the NOAA Fisheries Director and hearing his direct responses. This closing session also provided an opportunity for encouraging continued participation in the strategic planning process.

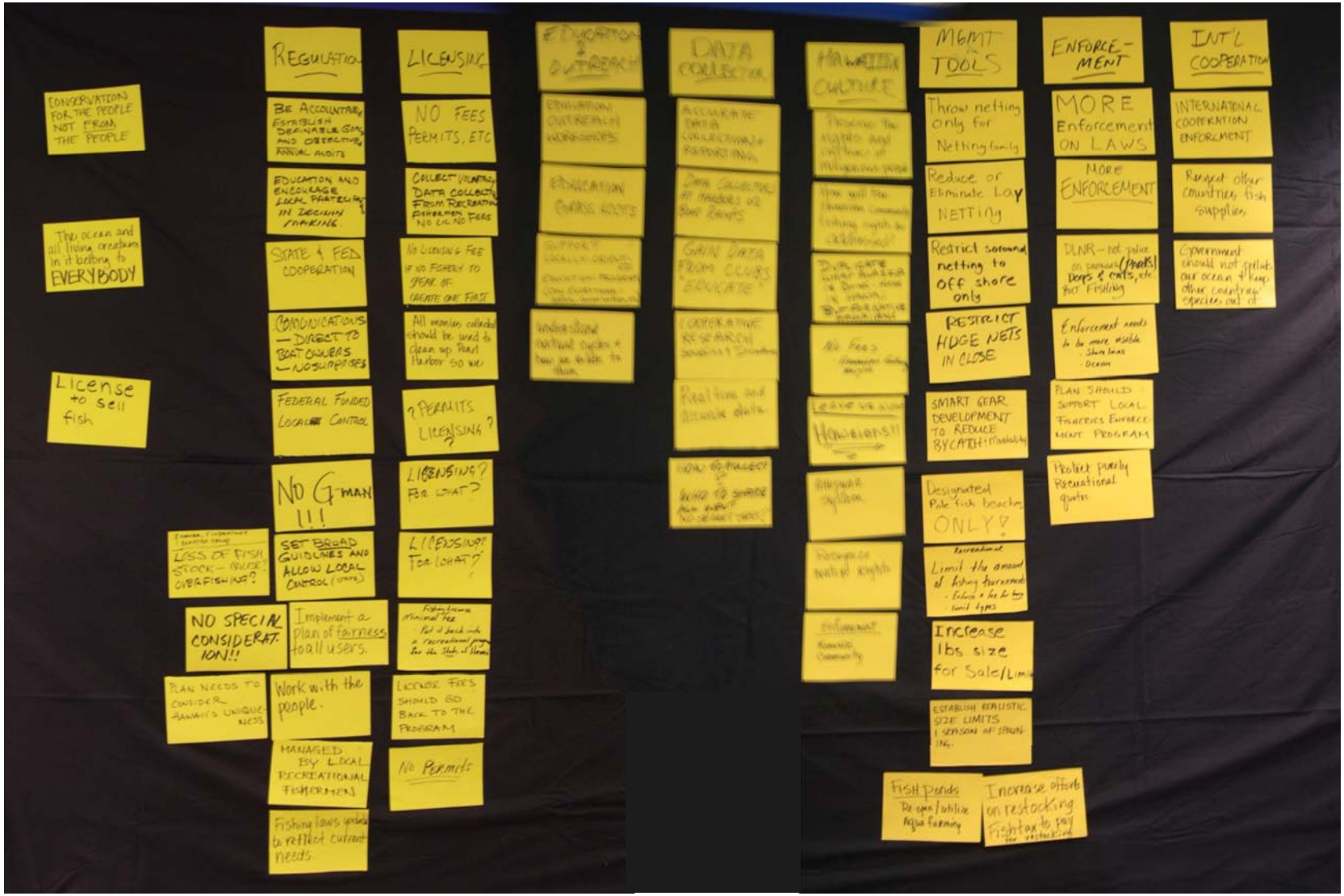

Figure 3-6. Image of affinity diagram from the Honolulu, Hawaii workshop

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

Regulation	Licensing	Education and Outreach	Data Collection	Hawaiian Culture	Management Tools	Enforcement	International Cooperation
Be Accountable; Establish Definable Goals and Objectives; Annual Audits	No Fees, Permits, Etc.	Education and Outreach Workshops	Accurate Data Collection and Reporting	Preserve the Rights and Culture of Indigenous People	Throw Netting Only for Netting Family	More Enforcement of Laws	International Cooperation Enforcement
Educate and Encourage Local Participation in Decision-Making	Voluntary Data Collection From Recreational Fishermen - No License; No Fees	Grass Roots Education	Data Collectors at Harbors and Boat Ramps	Ensure the Fishing Rights of the Hawaiian Community Are Addressed	Reduce or Eliminate Lay Netting	More Enforcement	Respect Other Countries' Fish Supplies
State and Federal Cooperation	No Licensing Fee If No Fishery to Speak Of - Create One First	Support Locally-Oriented Education Program (On Everything - Safety, Conservation, etc.)	Gain Data From Clubs; "Educate"	Duplicate What Alaska is Doing Here in Hawaii But For Native Hawaiians	Restrict Surround Netting to Offshore Only	DLNR (Not Police) On Premises	Government Should Not Pollute Our Ocean and Keep [Invasive] Species Out of Our Waters
Communications - Direct to Boat Owners - No Surprises	All Monies Collected Should Be Used to Clean Up Pearl Harbor So Fish, Crabs, etc. are Consumable	Understand Natural Cycles and How We Relate to Them	Cooperative Research - Benefits and Incentives	Hawaiian Gathering Rights - No Fees	Restrict Huge Nets In-Close	Plan Should Support Local Fisheries Enforcement Program	
Federally Funded; Local Control	[No] Permits; Licensing		Real-Time and Accurate Data	Leave Hawaiians Alone	Smart Gear Development to Reduce Bycatch & Mortality	Protect Purely Recreational Quotas	
No G-Man [No Government Involvement]	Minimal Fee for Fishing License - Put It Back Into a Recreational Program for the State of Hawaii		[Determine] How to Collect and Who to Share Info With (No Secret [Fishing] Spots)	Ahupua'a System	Designated Pole Fish Beaches Only		Other
Set Broad Guidelines and Allow Local (i.e., State) Control	License Fees Should Go Back to the Program			Recognize Native Rights	Limit the Amount of Recreational Fishing Tournaments; Enforce a Fee, Limit Types		Conservation For the People, Not From the People
Determine if Overfishing is Cause of Loss of Fish Stock	No Permits			Enforcement - Konohiki Community	Increase Poundage Size for Sale/Limit		
No Special Consideration					Establish Realistic Size Limits - One Season of Spawning		Other
Implement a Plan of Fairness to All Users					Fish Ponds - Reopen/Utilize Aqua-Farming		The Ocean and All Living Creatures In It Belong to Everybody
Plan Needs to Consider Hawaii's Uniqueness					Increase Efforts On Restocking (Use Fish Tax to Pay)		
Work With the People							
Managed By Local Recreational Fisherman							
Fishing Laws Updated to Reflect Current Needs							

Table 3-6. Honolulu workshop affinity diagram data

3.7 Orange Beach, Alabama

The seventh in the series of Regional Constituent Workshops was held at the Orange Beach Community Center in Orange Beach, Alabama on July 6th for constituents in the Gulf of Mexico Region. Bobbie Walker, Chairman of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, welcomed the attendees. Opening remarks were also provided by Roy Crabtree, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Administrator. Following introductory comments by the workshop team, the attendees participated in the facilitated affinity diagramming session common to the previous workshops. Figure 3-7 is an image of the completed product of this exercise, and Table 3-7 depicts the data resident in the diagram. The results from this collaborative session revealed the need for better data collection, a balance between commercial and recreational fisheries, and a desire to more closely regulate and strengthen the enforcement of commercial fisheries. After a plenary review of the diagram, the most recent draft of the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan was introduced and the attendees provided comments and recommendations for changes and improvements in the context of their group product.

In previous communications to the government, the Gulf Coast Conservation Association (GCCA) and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission have both indicated that good data are key to improving management of both commercial and recreational fisheries. This same idea was repeated by the recreational anglers attending this workshop. The attendees felt that the government could facilitate greater access to more data by using more technology in data management, such as more accurate locations using the Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) displays such as those provided on websites for commercial boaters. GIS data and satellite imagery showing currents and sea surface temperature, when superimposed on fish catches (long line and release data), provide valuable information on fish catch patterns (Hilton's Offshore[8] and Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service[9] were examples offered by the participants). It was believed that this type of information would be easy for the government to obtain and would allow a better overall picture of the Gulf of Mexico fisheries. The constituents encouraged the use of the Internet to support recreational fisheries surveys and emphasized the collection of cost and earnings information as a necessary component of data collection. The constituents emphasized appropriate enforcement of long line (commercial) fleets in additional to recreational fishermen, particularly to collect data.

With regard to communications with constituents, the attendees sought more regular, periodic meetings. There was general agreement that not enough are held and that better opportunities existed during off-season times of the year. A recommendation was made to approach fishing clubs, organizations, and tournaments to interact, collect information, and publicize constituent meetings. A centralized notification process through a local organization was offered as better process, as well as local postings of these meetings.

Simplification of regulations was discussed; accompanying the collective view that too many complicated regulations exist. The attendees envisioned one "playbook" for an angler, unique to each state, to obtain all needed information rather than rely on finding licensing information from regional, state, and Federal sources. It was recognized that Highly Migratory Species (HMS) regulations would add a complication to this approach. It was also noted that the average fisherman wants laws and rules that are simple, and that the government should provide guidance to ensure that all fishermen are informed and understand laws, regulations, and formulas.

The attendees believed that commercial fishermen should have better incentives towards optimizing fisheries management, and that there is no equitable split between recreational and commercial fish allowances. With regard to the Spanish Mackerel fishery, commercial fishermen can catch all the fish at once at the artificial reef areas before the recreational fishermen can catch their quota over a longer time frame. A need was perceived for equal opportunity to fish the reef areas by limiting "bandit" rigs and other commercial gear.

One item that received repeated mention was that fact that no coordination or consideration is given to recreational fishermen for tropical storm and hurricane impacts to loss of time to fish. The recreational anglers felt that their available fishing time and the end of the fishing season should not be impacted by something that they had no control over, such as the weather. A suggestion was made to either extend the season, either by adding days or allowing fishing on weekends.

Figure 3-7. Image of affinity diagram from the Orange Beach, Alabama workshop

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

Artificial Reefs / More Habitats	Regulate & Strengthen Enforcement of Commercial Fisheries	Enforcement Funding	Promoting Catch & Release	Better Data Collection	Balance Commercial & Recreational Fisheries (Include Year-Round Seasons)	Better & Simpler Regulations	Recreational Fish Management & Accountability	(Other)
Tax Incentive for Artificial Reef Development (Individuals NOT Only Organizations)	Keep Commerical Boats Out of Public Reef Area	More Enforcement	Tag & Release (Reward Tourneys that Tag & Release)	Develop Sound Data Collection Activities With Compatability & Comparability Among Regions	Fair & Equitable Split by the Number of Boats That Reef Fish in Gulf Of Mexico Recreational & Commercial	Consistant Regulations on Seasons, Limits, Etc. that Do Not Change from Month to Month	Better Explanation of Formulas Used to Formulate Fisheries Management	Acquire Increased Funding for Stock Status to Generate Realistic Stock Assessments
Encourage Creation of Fish Habitat (i.e. Artificial Reefs)	Stop Commercial Fishery in Permitted Zone	Must Have Enforcement Off Shore! Not Harrassing, But Enforcement	Promote Catch & Release Internationally	Fish Management; Based on Accurate Reliable Science, Not on Large Degree of Uncertainties	4-6 Fish Limit; No Release on Red Snapper	Provide the Decision Makers with Valid Data to Evaluate the Rec Plan Based on "What's Best for the Fishery" Not "What's Best for a Particular User Group"	Better Communication Regarding Regulation & Explaining the Need for Management Decisions	Meetings that are Accessible to the Recreational Fishermen (i.e. Not During Peak Season)
	Keep Commercial Boats Out of Public Reefs That Put Out "No" - "O" Reefs	Keep Oil Rigs Accessible to Recreational Fishing	Reduce Release Mortality	Improve or Replace Angler Survey	Be Able to Fish Sat & Sun for Red Snapper After Regular Season & Let Weather Partake in Trips	Coordinate Efforts Between Local, State (AL, FL), & Federal Gov'ts in Regulations & Data Collection	Better Research, Monitoring and Management of Impacts of Coastal Development on Fisheries Resources (Non-Point Pollution Control)	Maintain Desoto Canyon Closure
	Protect Access to Fisheries Resouces for ALL User Groups (i.e. No MPA's)	Make Commercial Boats Report Leaving & Entering Pass to State Authority by Phone or VHF for Tracking Purposes on Market Catches	Promote Stewardship of Fisheries Resource	Get Data from ALL Users: Charter, Commercial & Other Recreational (Private Boat & Pier)	Reduce Size Limit in Season (Snapper) 12"-14" (4 per person) Ass 1 Fish per Person Off Season	Develop Accurate Socio-economic Impact Studies that Consider ALL Stakeholders		Try to Keep Good Stock of Mature Fish to Keep the Species Productive
	Hold Commercial to Fair Standards (Season & Limits)	More Enforcement Resources (Rec & Comm)		Apply a Large % of $ Available to Gathering Credible & Accurate Science	Avoid Season Closures			Allow More Satellite Tags for Interested Persons
	Buy Out Commercial Permits for Reef Fishing			Have Better Data! Have Real People Collecting Information! Not Guess Work!	Evaluate Need for Size Limits in Regard to Release Mortality			
	Stop Longlining if it Kills 99% of Billfish			Stat. Validity: Proper Sample Size; Internet Surveys for Recreational Anglers; Concern Oberserver Program; Data Shared	Let Recreational Fishing Start at Same Time as Commercial; 1st 10 Days of Each Month in Addition to Regular Season			
	Try to Keep Commercial Fishermen in Check to Leave Enough for Sports Fishermen			Re-evaluate Effectiveness of Current Data Collection Programs w/in NMFS for Relevence & Redundency	Sustainable Stocks with Year Round Seasons			
	Keep Commercial Boats Out of Artificial Reef Zones			Include Inches & Pounds in All Technical Documents as Well as Metic System	Stop Gill Netting in Alabama			

Table 3-7. Orange Beach workshop affinity diagram data

3.8 Houston, Texas

The eighth Regional Constituent Workshop was conducted at the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Headquarters, Houston, Texas on July 8th for constituents in the Gulf of Mexico Region. Pat Murray, President of the Texas CCA Chapter, welcomed the attendees. Pam Basco of the International Game Fish Association also provided remarks, introduced the newly formed Houston Big Game Fishing Club, and described her support for increased communication between local anglers and NOAA. Michael Kelly, Division Chief of NMFS Constituent Affairs Division, welcomed the group on behalf of NOAA. The attendees participated in the facilitated, collaborative session common to the prior workshops following the opening remarks. Figure 3-8 and Table 3-8 provide an image of the affinity diagram product and a representation of the data included in the product, respectively. Following the plenary review of the diagram there was considerable discussion on the latest version of the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan, along with several recommendations for improvements.

The group noted a general similarity between their product and interests and the draft Plan. As this was the eighth workshop and the plan was continually evolving the group assumed that this relative match showed that the process of constituent input was working. Pam Basco made a pointed comment that the plan had evolved dramatically since its introduction at the March Advisory Panel meeting and that this represented an important step in building good constituent relations.

The subsequent group discussion of the draft Plan included comments on the need for commercial fisheries to be included. The attendees felt that the current draft version of the Plan focuses too exclusively on recreational fisheries. It was felt that it should include those aspects of commercial fishing that impact the quality and sustainability of recreational fishing.

A key concept of importance to the attendees was the idea of clarity and good communications. Participants felt that government products needed to have fine print and bureaucratic wording removed from documents intended for the constituent community. The idea of all products being written at a tenth grade level was suggested. This need for clarity was seen in both general products, such as reports, and especially in rules and regulations. An example of tournament rules that appeared to conflict with government regulations was offered as an example of the negative impacts of unclear communications and language.

An additional discussion point was the challenge of implementation once the Strategic Plan is finalized. Constituent groups and government representatives agreed that the collaborative relationship and process developed thus far would be critical to successfully implementing the plan in the future.

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.

Figure 3-8. Image of affinity diagram from the Houston, Texas workshop

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

Commercial Fisheries	International	Management	Clear Communications	Data	Education	Coordination
Information on Commercial Boats	Researching Commercial Fisheries Internationally	Ecosystem Based Management	Easy to Understand Data and Documents; Public Needs to Understand	Data Collection: Expand Techniques and Technology	Youth Education	Local Input on Regular Basis Integrating Into Local, State and Federal Regulatory Decisions
Consistent RE; Economic Impact, Recreational vs. Commercial	Develop Smaller Conservation Programs in 3rd World Countries	Maximize Wise Use of Resources	More Clarity in Regulations and Laws	More Data Collection, More Research	The Value of Family Time on the Water - The Education and Self-Esteem of Being on the Water	Collaborative Management and Data Collection
Better Obsevation Programs for Monitoring Commercial Catch/Bycatch Efforts and True Scientific Data		Ecosystems Management		Accurately Collect Species Population and Harvest Data		Coordination Among Jurisdictions
Bycatch Kill: Longliners, Shrimpers; Throwback Kill, Circle Hooks		Proactive Management		Target Correct User Groups		Allow States More Jurisdiction for Species That Are State-Specific
		Impact of Circle Hooks		Statistically Valid Data		
		Recognize Recreational Angling Role in Conservation		Expand Tagging Technology		
		Raising Billfish Size Limits		More Emphasis on the Scientific Contributions of Fishing		
				Identification of Users		Other
				More and Better Science, Collaborative Research		Effective Enforcement

Table 3-8. Houston workshop affinity diagram data

3.9 Virginia Beach, Virginia

The ninth and concluding workshop in the series of Recreational Fisheries Regional Constituent Workshops supporting the development of the new Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan was held in conference facilities at the Oceans East Tackle Shop, Virginia Beach, Virginia on July 26th for angler representatives in the mid-Atlantic Region. Jim Hayden of the Coastal Conservation Association of Virginia (CCA-VA) welcomed the workshop participants. He introduced Michael Kelly of the NOAA Office of Constituent Affairs, who shared his views on the positive impacts of the strong emerging partnership between NOAA and the recreational fishing community and described the progress made thus far in developing the new Strategic Plan. Following introductory comments by the workshop team, the attendees participated in the facilitated affinity diagramming session and conducted a short plenary review of the product of the exercise. The image of this product is provided in Figure 3-9. Table 3-9 itemizes the data included in the diagram. A review of the latest draft Strategic Plan was followed by general participant discussion of the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the draft Plan from the perspectives of the participants.

During the discussion of the draft Plan, several comments were shared concerning the theme of enforcement and the NOAA role in enforcing regulations. There was general agreement that good regulatory guidance currently exists but that additional efforts were needed to enforce them on a consistent basis. It was pointed out that related objectives in the draft Strategic Plan emphasize best practices and self-regulation, and that there may be a need to include additional objectives that focus on deterrence. Recommendations by participants included ensuring sufficient numbers of trained personnel in the field, updating fines so that they are as punitive today as they were when first established, and widely publicizing arrests and convictions. Most of the attendees believed that State and local enforcement actions did not provide the level of deterrence provided by Federal enforcement due to the typically smaller penalty with less economic consequence to violators and the increased likelihood of cronyism between resident anglers and local authorities involved in adjudicating violations. The participants saw value in federally sponsored teams circulating between the coastal states conducting periodic, concentrated, high-volume boardings and inspections.

A specifically stated recommendation during the discussion for improving the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan was to establish specific measures of success (i.e., metrics) for each of the objectives and include them as part of the Plan. It was felt that

this would give constituents and the public in general a way to monitor the government's progress in satisfying its stated goals and objectives. The participants also believed that these metrics would assist NOAA Fisheries in defining appropriate levels of resources for specific objectives. During this discussion, a related recommendation was made for NOAA to consider establishing and maintaining a web-based, public Recreational Fisheries forum that would provide anglers the opportunity and a mechanism for continual feedback based on their perception of progress being made by NOAA toward its strategic goals. Most of the participants endorsed the idea of this web-based forum. Another comment was offered that some level of prioritization of objectives by NOAA is warranted, given the expectation that a finite level of funding will have to be spread across all of the fisheries implementation initiatives.

There was recognition by the group that several of the attributes developed by the attendees were specific implementation recommendations rather than strategic priorities. A commitment was made by the facilitators to the participants that they would ensure this information was also provided to NOAA for follow-on consideration during implementation planning. The concept of regional implementation teams was introduced to and positively received by the group, with the caveat that recreational fisheries constituents could participate in identifying the composition of the regional teams. The attendees felt that their greatest continuing assistance would be to communicate with local anglers, educating them on ongoing planning process and encouraging their involvement.

Richard Welton of CCA-VA provided closing observations and shared his opinion that the ongoing effort by NOAA Fisheries to engage recreational anglers and create a close partnership was unprecedented among his experiences. He expressed optimism that, through this new partnership, considerable progress could be made towards meeting the needs of the recreational fishing community. He praised OCS for the passion being brought to bear for improving the recreational fishing experience for all citizens through enthusiastic and proper management of fisheries resources.

Figure 3-9. Image of affinity diagram from the Virginia Beach, Virginia workshop

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

Organizational Structure	Allocation	Resources	Enforcement	Communications	Management Recommendations	Conservation	Data	Education
Fully Staffed Division for Recreational Fisheries; Staffed with Knowledgeable & Geographical Interests	Recreational and Commercial Interests Limited for the Best Effect on the Resource and Public Value (in that order)	Clearly Identify Funding Needs and Limits So That Local Organizations Can Lobby Legislators	Effective Law Enforcement -- Stiiffer Penalties, Sufficient Funding Support, and Enforcement Organization	Improved Communications -- Angler to Government; Agency to Agency	Improved and Effective Management of Inshore Fisheries (Menhaden)	Illegal to Posses Billfish	Reliable Collection of Catch Data (Inspire Public Confidence)	More Effective Use of Non-Governmental Organizations, Public Aquariums, etc. for Education of Recreational Fishermen
	Make Fishery Management Process Work in a Timely and Balanced Manner	Long Term Research and Funding For All Bluewater/Ocean Species	Increase Penalties on Commercial Violators (Repeat Offenders) -- Revoke Licenses	National VHF Channel for Fisheries Information (Or Future Communications)	Better Management of Latent Methods (Nets, Pots, etc.); Minimize Bycatch	Moratorium on New Kill Tournaments	Collect Data That Are Designed and Capable of Effective Fishery Mangement	Public (Youth) Education
	Remove Commercial Bias		Enforce International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Limits	Collect Public Input Regularly, Not Once in a While	Open EEZ for Stripers (If Stocks Support It) But Control Take of "Cows" (No Netters)	Prohibit Long-Liners	Provide Mechanism to Quantify and Identify Recreational Fishing Industry and Measure its Economic Impact -- Use In Management Allocation Process	
	More Responsive to Science/Technology Updates and Advances		Stricter Limits on Pelagics (Dolphin, Tuna, Marlin, etc.)	Better Information Flow Between Government and Users	A Plan for Highly Migratory Species That Sets Clear Recovery Times and Quotas; The Plan Must Also Manage International Catch	Prohibit Snag-Hooking	Reliable Fish Population Data	
					Work Toward Multi-Ecosystem Management and Include Habitat Protection	Mortality Reduction Research & Fishing Practices (Circle Hooks)	Standard National Recreational Fisheries Database	
					Eliminate or Exempt Recreational Angling From EEZ	Prohibit Culling		
					Equal Bluefin Quotas Along Entire U.S. Coast	Eliminate Wasteful and Ecologically Harmful Harvest Practices		
					NOAA Should Control All Menhaden Catches	Prohibit Import of Fish Not Allowed to be Caught in U.S. Waters		
						Eat More Chicken		

Table 3-9. Virginia Beach workshop affinity diagram data

4 Consolidated Regional Constituent Workshops Data

This section contains a compilation of the attributes and characteristics gathered in all facilitated sessions during the Recreational Fisheries Regional Workshops. To facilitate follow-on analysis, the information has been reviewed and organized within the three strategic goal areas—Science, Management, and Outreach—identified in the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan. Generic thematic categories have been created to allow attributes with analogous themes from different workshops to be combined and contrasted. The original constituent-defined theme assigned by the attendees during the workshops is also provided for reference purposes and to serve as a cross reference to other associated themes. The generic categories for the collective attributes and characteristics have been selected to allow consolidation of the variety of constituent-defined themes. They are listed below in alphabetical order:

- Allocation Issues
- Communications
- Conservation Approaches
- Constituent Participation
- Cultural Considerations
- Data Acquisition
- Data Application
- Data Application – Socio-Economics
- Education
- Enforcement
- Management Infrastructure
- Management Strategies
- Promotion
- Research Priorities

The generic category considered to be most representative of a particular attribute was used to categorize that attribute. In some cases these assignments represent departures from the reasoning applied during discussions that took place in the source workshop, but are considered appropriate in this Section in the context of the combined set of attributes. Many of the attributes include content that could easily reside in multiple generic categories; however, they only appear once in the most applicable category.

As a result of the emphasis by workshop facilitators on eliciting Recreational Fisheries strategies (as opposed to specific implementation activities) the generic category of Management Strategies, as expected, represents the largest collection of attributes in the following tables. The category of Conservation Approaches includes the

largest number of attributes that could be considered recommendations for program actions appropriate for follow-on implementation planning, in addition to envisioned program strategies. Note that data application attributes with specific social or economic implications have been afforded a separate category. As might be expected given the locations of the workshops, the Cultural Considerations category is heavily populated with attributes resulting from the Honolulu workshop.

As with the affinity diagrams in Section 3, the attributes are presented with equal emphasis and no attempt has been made to combine duplicative attributes or cull particular constituent attributes that might be considered superfluous or inappropriate.

Table 4-1. Consolidated Attributes Within the Science Goal

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Research Priorities	Water Quality - Critical to Any Ecosystem Analysis	Research
	Understand Natural Cycles and How We Relate to Them	Education and Outreach
	Studies on Catch and Release Mortality and Possibility of Catch and Release Areas	Credible Data
	Solution-Specific Research	Research
	Researching Commercial Fisheries Internationally	International
	Research for "Ecosystem" Management	Ecosystem Based Management
	Provide Funding for Conducting Frequent, Timely, and Believable Stock Assessments on Species Important to Recreational Anglers	Credible Data
	More Emphasis on the Scientific Contributions of Fishing	Data
	More Cooperative Research and Management with Recreational Community	Research
	More and Better Science, Collaborative Research	Data
	Long Term Research and Funding For All Blue Water/Ocean Species	Resources
	Impact of Circle Hooks	Management
	Equitable Research Funding for Recreational and Commercial Species	Research
	Ensure Adequate Sample Size for Catch and Effort Estimates at the State Level	Data Collection
	Determine if Over-Fishing is Cause of Loss	Regulation

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Research Priorities (cont.)	of Fish Stock	
	Coral Reefs Given Protection	Research
	Cooperative Research - Benefits and Incentives	Data Collection
	Continue Cooperative Research Initiatives	Research
	Better Research, Monitoring and Management of Impacts of Coastal Development on Fisheries Resources (Non-Point Pollution Control)	Management and Accountability
	Assess the Value of Fish Caught by Recreational Anglers	Credible Data
	Apply a Large % of $ Available to Gathering Credible & Accurate Science	Better Data Collection
	Acquire Increased Funding for Stock Status to Generate Realistic Stock Assessments	Other
Data Application - Socio-Economics	Use Comparable Economic Criteria for Recreational and Commercial Fisheries	Socio-Economic Data and Analysis
	Use Catch Statistics to Build Better Socio / Economic / Cultural Data	Socio-Economic Data and Analysis
	Provide Mechanism to Quantify and Identify Recreational Fishing Industry and Measure its Economic Impact -- Use In Management Allocation Process	Data Collection
	Improved Economic Data - Accurate - Used in Management - Compare a Sport vs. Commercial Fish Value	Socio-Economic Data and Analysis
	Develop Accurate Socio-economic Impact Studies that Consider ALL Stakeholders	Better & Simpler Regulations
	NMFS - Factor in Accurate Economic Impacts to Determine Fair Catch	Fair Economics
	Apply Economic Data in More Regional, Local Scales	Socio-Economic Data and Analysis
Data Application	Streamline Information and Data Collection to Implementation	Data Collection
	Statistically Valid Data	Data
	Standard National Recreational Fisheries Database	Data Collection
	Reliable Fish Population Data	Data Collection
	Include Inches & Pounds in All Technical Documents as Well as Metric System	Better Data Collection

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Data Application (cont.)	Improved Science - Catch Data - Gear Studies - Stock Assessments - Release Mortality	Catch Data
	Develop Current, Up-to-date Catch Statistics in Sport Fleet-Real Time (Weekly Ideal)	Catch Data
	Consistent RE; Economic Impact, Recreational vs. Commercial	Commercial Fisheries
	Catch and Effort Data, Total Mortality Data, Economic Data, Stock Assessment Data	Socio-Economic Data and Analysis
Data Acquisition	Trash MRFSS - Replace with a Better System	Data Collection
	Timely and Accurate Data	Catch Data
	Timely and Accurate Catch Data	Catch Data
	Target Correct User Groups	Data
	Survey Data Needs to Agree with Field Obs	Data Collection
	Stat. Validity: Proper Sample Size; Internet Surveys for Recreational Anglers; Concern Observer Program; Data Shared	Better Data Collection
	Review MRFSS Large Pelagic Species (LPS) Strategies (For Hire) for Sampling; Utilize ACCSP	Data Collection
	Reliable Collection of Catch Data (Inspire Public Confidence)	Data Collection
	Re-evaluate Effectiveness of Current Data Collection Programs w/in NMFS for Relevance & Redundancy	Better Data Collection
	Real-Time Management and Data Collection	Data Collection
	Real-Time and Accurate Data	Data Collection
	Real Data from Real Science with Angler Involvement	Data Collection
	Post Release Survivorship and Conditions	Credible Data
	More Funding for States to do Data Collection	Data Collection
	More Data Collection, More Research	Data
	More Behavioral Information	Credible Data
	Make Use of Latest Technology for Data Collection	Research
	Information on Commercial Boats	Commercial Fisheries
	Improve Recreational Catch Estimates and	Catch Data

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Data Acquisition (cont.)	Biological Data Collection	
	Improve or Replace Angler Survey	Better Data Collection
	Identification of Users	Data
	Have Better Data! Have Real People Collecting Information! Not Guess Work!	Better Data Collection
	Get Data from ALL Users: Charter, Commercial & Other Recreational (Private Boat & Pier)	Better Data Collection
	Gain Data From Clubs; "Educate"	Data Collection
	Expand Tagging Technology	Data
	Develop Sound Data Collection Activities With Compatibility & Comparability Among Regions	Better Data Collection
	Demand Timely and Accurate Catch and Effort Data That is Believable to the Recreational Fishing Community	Credible Data
	Data Collectors at Harbors and Boat Ramps	Data Collection
	Data Collection: Expand Techniques and Technology	Data
	Data Collection Needs to be More Accurate	Data Collection
	Collect Data That Are Designed and Capable of Effective Fishery Management	Data Collection
	Better, More, and Accurate Recreational Catch Data	Data Collection
	Better Observation Programs for Monitoring Commercial Catch/Bycatch Efforts and True Scientific Data	Commercial Fisheries
	Better Identification of the Angler Universe	Data Collection
	Better Data Collection for More Accurate Stock Assessment	Data Collection
	Accurately Collect Species Population and Harvest Data	Data
	Accurate Fisheries Data	Credible Data
	Accurate Data Collection and Reporting	Data Collection
	Accuracy of Catch Data (All Anglers)	Credible Data
	[Determine] How to Collect and Who to Share Info With (No Secret [Fishing] Spots)	Data Collection
	Voluntary Data Collection From Rec. Fishermen - No License; No Fees	Licensing
Constituent Participation	Ensure Anglers are Involved in Data Collection and Research	Catch Data

Table 4-2. Consolidated Attributes Within the Management Goal

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Management Strategies	Work Toward Multi-Ecosystem Management and Include Habitat Protection	Management Recommendations
	Work Collaboratively With State Agencies, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and Between States	Management Approaches
	Use Risk Analysis to Set Management Priorities	Ecosystem Based Management
	Use of Fishing Mortality Rates and Not Numbers of Fish	Management Approaches
	Understandable Regulations	Regulations
	Sustainable Stocks with Year Round Seasons	Balance Commercial & Recreational
	States and Feds Working Together	Cooperative Governance
	State and Federal Cooperation	Regulation
	Socio-Economic Recognition	Fair Economics
	Simplify Regulations, Common Language	Science Applications
	Simplify Regulations by Implementing Coast-wide Measures	Management Approaches
	Simpler Regulations	Regulations
	Set Broad Guidelines and Allow Local (i.e., State) Control	Regulation
	Respect Other Countries' Fish Supplies	International Cooperation
	Resources Spent Should be Proportional to Economic Benefit Provided to the Economy	Economic Fairness
	Require High Level of Cooperative Research between State, Federal Government, and Party/Charterboat Industry	Cooperative Governance
	Require Better State-Federal Coordination for (1) Collection of Biological Data; (2) Management; (3) Enforcement	Cooperative Governance
	Represent All Recreational Fisheries Including Both Hook-and-Line and Sport Diver Fishermen	Resource Allocation
	Reduce Release Mortality	Promote Catch and Release
	Recreational Fisheries Management Authority Utilize Standards such as Maximum Sustainable Yield	Research
	Recreational Buy-Backs and Subsidies	Economic Fairness
	Recognition of State Roles (Better Integration)	Coordination and Partnerships

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Management Strategies (cont.)	Quantitative Management Goals	Management Guidelines
	Protect U.S. Fishermen Against IUU Fishing (International)	International Policy
	Promote Sustainable Recreational Fisheries; Tailored Unique Management	Sustainable Fisheries
	Promote Cooperation Between Stakeholders and Coordinate International, State, and Federal Fisheries Management	Interagency Coordination
	Prohibit Import of Fish Not Allowed to be Caught in U.S. Waters	Conservation
	Proactive Management	Management
	Other Species Than Groundfish Are Important for Recreational Fisheries (e.g., Coastal and Highly Migratory Species)	Scope
	Open EEZ for Stripers (If Stocks Support It) But Control Take of "Cows" (No Netters)	Management Recommendations
	NOAA, etc. Fully Discuss and Set Guidelines (Something Firmer); Scientific Basis	Management Systems
	NOAA Should Control All Menhaden Catches	Management Recommendations
	No Special Consideration	Regulation
	No Salt Water License	Management Tools and Implementation
	No Permits	Licensing
	No New Taxes on Anglers (Use Existing Taxes on Anglers/Boaters)	Management Tools and Implementation
	No Licensing Fee If No Fishery to Speak Of - Create One First	Licensing
	No G-Man [No Government Involvement]	Regulation
	No Fees, Permits, Etc.	Licensing
	No Area Closures for Recreational Fishermen	Management Tools and Implementation
	Multi-Species Approach - Predator and Prey (e.g., Bunker-Bass; Weakfish)	Ecosystem Management
	More Responsive to Science/Technology Updates and Advances	Allocation
	More Partnership Between Recreational and Commercial Interests	Equal Representation
	Minimal Fee for Fishing License - Put It Back Into a Recreational Program for the State of Hawaii	Licensing

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Management Strategies (cont.)	Maximize Wise Use of Resources	Management
	Management Measures Based on Fact and Not Perception	Credibility
	Management of Multiple Species (Not Individual Species)	Ecosystem Management
	Managed By Local Recreational Fisherman	Regulation
	Manage for Recreational Value First, Ahead of Commercial	Economic Fairness
	Manage For Maximum Reproduction	Management Approaches
	Make Fishery Management Process Work in a Timely and Balanced Manner	Allocation
	Lots of Fish to Catch	Opportunities
	Limit the Amount of Recreational Fishing Tournaments; Enforce a Fee, Limit Types	Management Tools
	License Fees Should Go Back to the Program	Licensing
	Let Recreational Fishing Start at Same Time as Commercial; 1st 10 Days of Each Month in Addition to Regular Season	Balance Commercial & Recreational
	Keep Politics Out of Management	Management Philosophy
	Keep Oil Rigs Accessible to Recreational Fishing	Enforcement
	International Cooperation Enforcement	International Cooperation
	Integrate Federal Recreational Initiatives with Existing Regional Management and Science Programs (Avoid Duplication)	Coordination and Partnerships
	Increase Efforts On Restocking (Use Fish Tax to Pay)	Management Tools
	Improved Coordination Between Federal and State Agencies (No Duplication)	Coordination and Partnerships
	Improved and Effective Management of Inshore Fisheries (Menhaden)	Management Recommendations
	Implement a Plan of Fairness to All Users	Regulation
	Habitat and Quality Issues Need Attention (e.g., Pollution, etc.)	Ecosystem Management
	Government Should Not Pollute Our Ocean and Keep [Invasive] Species Out of Our Waters	International Cooperation
	Fishing Laws Updated to Reflect Current Needs	Regulation
	Fish Ponds - Reopen/Utilize Aqua-Farming	Management Tools
	Fish Management; Based on Accurate,	Better Data Collection

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Management Strategies (cont.)	Reliable Science, Not on Large Degree of Uncertainties	
	Federally Funded; Local Control	Regulation
	Fair Representation and Greater Involvement of Recreational Fishermen in Management Process	Equal Representation
	Evaluate Need for Size Limits in Regard to Release Mortality	Balance Commercial & Recreational
	Establish That Recreational Fishing is More Valuable Than Commercial Fishing	Economic Fairness
	Equitable Budget Allocation to Fisheries Benefit - Incentives for Compliance	Management Guidelines
	Equal Representation on Management Bodies (Recreational/ Commercial)	Equal Representation
	Equal Bluefin Quotas Along Entire U.S. Coast	Management Recommendations
	Encourage Government to Put High Priority on International Management of Highly Migratory Species	Cooperative Governance
	Eliminate or Exempt Recreational Angling From EEZ	Management Recommendations
	Ecosystems Management	Management
	Ecosystem Wide Management (Modeling)	Ecosystem Based Management
	Ecosystem Based Management	Management
	Develop Long-Term Goals - Stop Knee-Jerk Reactions	Management Systems
	Coordination Among Jurisdictions	Coordination
	Coordinate with Other Agencies to Address Coastal Development	Interagency Coordination
	Coordinate Efforts Between Local, State (AL, FL), & Federal Governments in Regulations & Data Collection	Better & Simpler Regulations
	Consistent Regulations on Seasons, Limits, Etc. that Do Not Change from Month to Month	Better & Simpler Regulations
	Consider Management Targets Other Than Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for Recreational Species	Management Approaches
	Conservation For the People, Not From the People	Other
	Commitment and Follow-Thru of Plan	Other
	Collaborative Management and Data	Coordination

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Management Strategies (cont.)	Collection	
	Clearly Identify Funding Needs and Limits So That Local Organizations Can Lobby Legislators	Resources
	Change Dogfish Regulations	Management Approaches
	Better Representation of Recreational Anglers on Regional Councils	Equal Representation
	Better Management of Latent Methods (Nets, Pots, etc.); Minimize Bycatch	Management Recommendations
	Better Management of Game Fish and Control of Longline Fishery (one billion hooks in the ocean per day)	Management Approaches
	Better Harmonization with Commercial Fisheries	Coordination and Partnerships
	Be Accountable; Establish Definable Goals and Objectives; Annual Audits	Regulation
	Be Able to Fish Sat & Sun for Red Snapper After Regular Season & Let Weather Partake in Trips	Balance Commercial & Recreational
	Balance Conservation with Economic Impact	Fair Economics
	Avoid Season Closures	Balance Commercial & Recreational
	Allow States More Jurisdiction for Species That Are State-Specific	Coordination
	All Monies Collected Should Be Used to Clean Up Pearl Harbor So Fish, Crabs, etc. are Consumable	Licensing
	Accountability for Management Decisions	Management Systems
	A Plan for Highly Migratory Species That Sets Clear Recovery Times and Quotas; The Plan Must Also Manage International Catch	Management Recommendations
	[Protect] Forage Fish	Ecosystem Management
	[No] Permits; Licensing	Licensing
Management Infrastructure	Training and Employment Opportunities	Implementation and Execution
	Strong Agency Infrastructure	Management Guidelines
	Staff Trained in Area of Expertise	Management Guidelines
	More Funding	Other
	Integrated Program with State and/or Federal Licenses	Coordination and Partnerships
	Fully Staffed Division for Recreational Fisheries; Staffed with Knowledgeable &	Organizational Structure

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Management Infrastructure (cont.)	Geographical Interests	
	Elevate Fisheries to Cabinet-Level, i.e., Department of Fisheries	Other
	A Strong Office of Recreational Fishing Within NOAA and Everything in One Place to Manage Fisheries	Implementation and Execution
Enforcement	Plan Should Support Local Fisheries Enforcement Program	Enforcement
	Must Have Enforcement Off Shore! Not Harassing, But Enforcement	Enforcement
	More Enforcement Resources (Recreation & Commercial)	Enforcement
	More Enforcement of Laws	Enforcement
	More Enforcement	Enforcement
	More Enforcement	Enforcement
	More and Better Enforcement	Other
	Make the Punishment Fit the Crime (Quotas/Over-fishing)	Allocation
	Make Commercial Boats Report Leaving & Entering Pass to State Authority by Phone or VHF for Tracking Purposes on Market Catches	Enforcement
	Increase Penalties on Commercial Violators (Repeat Offenders) -- Revoke Licenses	Enforcement
	Good Enforcement of Regulations	Regulations
	Enforce Magneson-Stevenson Act to Stop Destruction of Habitats	Law Enforcement
	Enforce International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Limits	Enforcement
	Effective Law Enforcement -- Stiffer Penalties, Sufficient Funding Support, and Enforcement Organization	Enforcement
	Effective Enforcement	Other
	DLNR (Not Police) On Premises	Enforcement
	Better Domestic Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement
Data Application	Provide the Decision Makers with Valid Data to Evaluate the Rec Plan Based on "What's Best for the Fishery" Not "What's Best for a Particular User Group"	Better & Simpler Regulations
	Management Objectives Based on Science,	Management Philosophy

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Data Application (cont.)	Not Politics	
	Management Decisions Based on Data	Management Systems
	Develop Regional Approach (As Best Possible) Based on Regional Data and Science	Science Applications
	Better Explanation of Formulas Used to Formulate Fisheries Management	Management and Accountability
Cultural Considerations	Recognize Native Rights	Hawaiian Culture
	Recognize Indigenous Communities within Federal, State, and Local Management	Coordination and Partnerships
	Preserve the Rights and Culture of Indigenous People	Hawaiian Culture
	Plan Needs to Consider Hawaii's Uniqueness	Regulation
	Leave Hawaiians Alone	Hawaiian Culture
	Hawaiian Gathering Rights - No Fees	Hawaiian Culture
	Ensure the Fishing Rights of the Hawaiian Community Are Addressed	Hawaiian Culture
	Enforcement - Konohiki Community	Hawaiian Culture
	Duplicate What Alaska is Doing Here in Hawaii But For Native Hawaiians	Hawaiian Culture
	Ahupua'a System	Hawaiian Culture
Constituent Participation	Local Input on Regular Basis Integrating Into Local, State and Federal Regulatory Decisions	Coordination
Conservation Approaches	Use MPAs as a Management Tool Only When Clear, Peer Reviewed Science Justifies Their Use	Effective Application of MPAs
	Try to Keep Good Stock of Mature Fish to Keep the Species Productive	Other
	Throw Netting Only for Netting Family	Management Tools
	Tax Incentive for Artificial Reef Development (Individuals NOT Only Organizations)	Artificial Reefs/Habitat
	Stricter Limits on Pelagics (Dolphin, Tuna, Marlin, etc.)	Enforcement
	Stop Gill Netting in Alabama	Balance Commercial & Recreational
	Stop Commercial Fishery in Permitted Zone	Enforcement of Commercial Fisheries
	Stop All Over-Fishing Now	Sustainable Fisheries
	Sport Fishery Targeting Higher Abundance	Sustainable Fisheries

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Conservation Approaches (cont.)	of Fish (Lower Exploitation)	
	Smart Gear Development to Reduce Bycatch & Mortality	Management Tools
	Restrict Surround Netting to Offshore Only	Management Tools
	Restrict Huge Nets In-Close	Management Tools
	Restrict Commercial Fisheries from Artificial Reefs; Use Special Management Zones	Habitat Protection
	Restrict Clam Boats - Keep Them Offshore	Habitat Protection
	Reduce or Eliminate Lay Netting	Management Tools
	Reduce By Catch Waste (Non-retention Issue)	Sustainable Fisheries
	Recognize Recreational Angling Role in Conservation	Management
	Rebuild Over Fished Stocks as Soon as Possible	Sustainable Fisheries
	Raising Billfish Size Limits	Management
	Provide Sustainable Fisheries	Management Systems
	Protect Forage Species	Sustainable Fisheries
	Protect Environment for Fish	Ecosystem Based Management
	Prohibit Snag-Hooking	Conservation
	Prohibit Long-Liners	Conservation
	Prohibit Culling	Conservation
	Outlaw Longlining	Sustainable Fisheries
	Ocean Parks - Protection of Habitat for Recreational Fishing	Opportunities
	No-Fishing Zones	Management Tools and Implementation
	Mortality Reduction Research & Fishing Practices (Circle Hooks)	Conservation
	More Information on Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas	Effective Application of MPAs
	Moratorium on New Kill Tournaments	Conservation
	Marine Protected Areas	Management Tools and Implementation
	Mapping Toxins Through Trophic Levels (predator & prey)	Ecosystem Based Management
	Maintain Desoto Canyon Closure	Other
	Keep Commercial Boats Out of Public Reef Area	Enforcement of Commercial Fisheries

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Conservation Approaches (cont.)	Keep Commercial Boats Out of Public Reefs That Put Out "No" - "O" Reefs	Enforcement of Commercial Fisheries
	International Sanctions to Promote Fish Conservation	International Policy
	Increase Poundage Size for Sale/Limit	Management Tools
	Improved Water Quality	Ecosystem Based Management
	Improved Habitat (Artificial Reefs)	Opportunities
	Illegal to Posses Billfish	Conservation
	Habitat Protection (esp. Dredging and Pollution Impacts)	Habitat Protection
	Exceptional Angling Opportunities by Using Ocean Parks, Artificial Reefs, Stocking, "Kids Fishing Programs", etc.	Opportunities
	Establish Realistic Size Limits - One Season of Spawning	Management Tools
	Encourage Creation of Fish Habitat (i.e. Artificial Reefs)	Artificial Reefs/Habitat
	Eliminate Wasteful and Ecologically Harmful Harvest Practices	Conservation
	Eliminate High Grading by Establishing Poundage Limits	Management Tools and Implementation
	Develop Smaller Conservation Programs in Third World Countries	International
	Designated Pole Fish Beaches Only	Management Tools
	Decrease Bycatch Mortality	Sustainable Fisheries
	Bycatch Reduction	Opportunities
	Bycatch Kill: Longliners, Shrimpers; Throwback Kill, Circle Hooks	Commercial Fisheries
Communications	Regulations that are Easy to Access and Understand	Regulations
	Better Communication Regarding Regulation & Explaining the Need for Management Decisions	Management and Accountability
Allocation Issues	Year-Round Sport Fishing	Sustainable Fisheries
	Secure Rights to a Share of Quota to Maximize Recreational Fisheries (i.e., greater ownership of management)	Opportunities
	Revise Allocation in Rebuilding Fisheries	Resource Allocation
	Remove Commercial Bias	Allocation
	Reduce Size Limit in Season (Snapper) 12"-14" (4 per person) Ass 1 Fish per Person Off	Balance Commercial & Recreational

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Allocation Issues (cont.)	Season	
	Recreational Sector Should Not be Treated as Sector That Can Have the Leftovers After Commercial Activity is Done	Economic Fairness
	Recreational Quotas Should be Managed and Allocated Independently [of Commercial Quotas]	Allocation
	Recreational Measures Are Independent of Commercial Measures	Allocation
	Recreational and Commercial Interests Limited for the Best Effect on the Resource and Public Value (in that order)	Allocation
	Provide Maximum Access and Opportunity to Anglers Throughout the Year	Opportunities
	Protect Purely Recreational Quotas	Enforcement
	Protect Access to Fisheries Resources for ALL User Groups (i.e. No MPA's)	Enforcement of Commercial Fisheries
	Precautionary Harvest Strategies when Stock Assessment, Catch Accounting or Compliance with Regulations are Poor or Vague	Science Applications
	Open Access to Fishing Areas with Reasonable Catch Limits	Allocation
	Maintain Balance Between Recreational and Commercial Communities	Management Philosophy
	Hold Commercial to Fair Standards (Season & Limits)	Enforcement of Commercial Fisheries
	Fair & Equitable Split by the Number of Boats That Reef Fish in Gulf Of Mexico Recreational & Commercial	Balance Commercial & Recreational
	Buy Out Commercial Permits for Reef Fishing	Enforcement of Commercial Fisheries
	Balance Recreational and Commercial Harvests	Resource Allocation
	Arbitration (Binding) to Resolve Allocation Issues	Management Guidelines
	Access Should Not be Closed to Sustainable Methods	Allocation
	4-6 Fish Limit; No Release on Red Snapper	Balance Commercial & Recreational

Table 4-3. Consolidated Attributes Within the Outreach Goal

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Promotion	The Value of Family Time on the Water - The Education and Self-Esteem of Being on the Water	Education
	Tag & Release (Reward Tourneys that Tag & Release)	Promote Catch and Release
	Promote Stewardship of Fisheries Resource	Promote Catch and Release
	Promote Catch and Release Programs	Outreach
	Promote Catch & Release Internationally	Promote Catch and Release
	Improve Public Outreach	Two-Way Communications
	General Sense of Pride / Ownership and Trust in Recreational Fisheries Program	Communications & Coordination
	Federal Government to Put Out Good, Color Pamphlet to Distinguish Between Kinds of Rockfish	Communications & Coordination
	Establish Credibility With Recreational Anglers	Credibility
	Common Sense Approach from Government Toward Recreational Fisheries	Credibility
Education	Youth Education	Education
	Support Locally-Oriented Education Program (On Everything - Safety, Conservation, etc.)	Education and Outreach
	Public Education	Outreach
	Public (Youth) Education	Education
	More Effective Use of Non-Governmental Organizations, Public Aquariums, etc. for Education of Recreational Fishermen	Education
	K-30 Education and Outreach - Teach Proper Handling and Release Techniques	Two-Way Communications
	Improved Outreach (Education)	Communications & Coordination
	Grass Roots Education	Education and Outreach
	Educate Recreational Fishermen on How Fisheries Management Works	Two-Way Communications

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Constituent Participation	Work With the People	Regulation
	Use the Internet for Larger User Input	Communications
	Meetings that are Accessible to the Recreational Fishermen (i.e. Not During Peak Season)	Other
	Grow Angler Trips, Under Biological Constraints, to Maximize Public Angling Exposure	Sustainable Fisheries
	Ensure Full Participation of Recreational Constituents	Communications & Coordination
	Education and Outreach Workshops	Education and Outreach
	Educate and Encourage Local Participation in Decision-Making	Regulation
	Easy Access to Management Events	Communications & Coordination
	Constituents Need to Have Trust in the System	Other
	Consider Input From All Sectors (Private, Charter) without Requiring Meeting Attendance	Communications & Coordination
	Collect Public Input Regularly, Not Once in a While	Communications
	Better Access to Data	Outreach
	Anglers as Active Participants in Science Efforts	Outreach
	Allow More Satellite Tags for Interested Persons	Other
Conservation Approaches	Eat More Chicken	Conservation
Communications	Two-Way Communication for Outreach, Education, Marketing, Media, and Public Relations	Two-Way Communications
	Transparency	Transparency and Accountability
	The Management for Recreational Fisheries has an Open Process to Encourage Stakeholder Involvement and Communication	Transparency and Accountability
	Strong Internal and External Communications	Two-Way Communications
	Recreational Ombudsmen on NOAA Fisheries Staff	Management Guidelines
	National VHF Channel for Fisheries	Communications

Generic Category	Attributes and Characteristics	Constituent-Defined Theme
Communications (cont.)	Information (Or Future Communications)	
	More Hands-On Interaction of Government with Recreational Organizations and Clubs	Outreach
	More Clarity in Regulations and Laws	Clear Communications
	Management Process Needs to be Transparent to Recreational Fishermen	Transparency and Accountability
	Make Regulations Easy to Obtain and Understand	Two-Way Communications
	Improved Communications -- Angler to Government; Agency to Agency	Communications
	Easy to Understand Data and Documents; Public Needs to Understand	Clear Communications
	Communications from Top to Bottom	Communications
	Communications - Direct to Boat Owners - No Surprises	Regulation
	Better Understand How to Communicate with Recreational Fishermen	Two-Way Communications
	Better Outreach and Communication with Angling Community Outside Council System. Build Partnerships	Communications & Coordination
	Better Information Flow Between Government and Users	Communications
	Better Communication Between Researchers, Managers, and the Public	Outreach

5 Workshop Observations Summary

Throughout the nine Recreational Fisheries Regional Constituent Workshops, a number of recurring themes were observed. These consistent themes became evident through the active participation of the constituents in attendance and the benefit of their comments and recommendations on the NOAA Recreational Fisheries strategic planning process. This section provides a set of observations made by workshop facilitators that are appropriate for consideration in subsequent refinement of the draft Strategic Plan. The observations are based on the attributes and characteristics generated by the constituents at each workshop, personal conversations with recreational anglers and their advocates who participated in the workshops, and supplemental comments that were received by other means (these supplemental comments are provided in Appendix B). The observations represent an independent compilation by Mitretek and may not necessarily represent the views of NMFS and NOAA.

- Trust in NOAA and the Federal Government. The constituents generally held limited expectations that NOAA and its partner federal agencies would be able to implement positive improvements on behalf of the recreational fishing community. Many participants had actively participated in past information gathering initiatives by NOAA and felt that the views and recommendations they had offered resulted in little or no change in the management process. There was a widely shared perception that recreational fisheries managers suffer from a lack of adequate staff and funding support. The constituents also felt that the management process favored commercial fisheries interests and that Department of Commerce oversight of NOAA contributed to the emphasis on commercial fisheries at the expense of recreational anglers. Most of the participants felt that local regulatory bodies, including their state and local governments, had better insight into the issues facing local recreational anglers and that these entities should be able to preserve a maximum level of local control over fisheries resources. Despite the general lack of trust, the constituents positively noted the renewed emphasis by OCS in engaging anglers in the planning process and shared cautious optimism about the potential for positive changes brought about by the new Strategic Plan and its implementation. They stressed their perceived need to be involved in the implementation planning to help ensure success.

- Confidence in the Fishery Management Council Process. The constituents generally believed that the Fishery Management Councils are too heavily influenced by

political motivations and are not doing a good job serving the interests of the recreational fisheries community. This belief was even shared by a few participants who had served, or are serving, in Council positions. The constituents noted that allocation decisions have been made in the absence of supporting scientific conclusions that would have guided these decisions. A few participants shared observations of allocation decisions made in the face of supporting data that would have resulted in a vastly different outcome. Good, adequately supported science initiatives and equal representation of recreational fisheries on the membership of the Councils were offered as corrective measures. There was hope that applicable recommendations in the *Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy* would be implemented so that adequate science data to support Council decisions would be institutionalized. Without this change in procedures, the constituents had little faith that their situation would improve. As one participant stated, "Even if there was an unlimited budget and the data available to the Councils were *perfect*, would there be any change for the better in their decision-making process?"

- Catch Data. The constituents were in almost universal agreement that the collection and application of recreational fisheries catch data needs improvement, and that this initiative deserves a high priority for the application of available and new resources. This issue represents a unique challenge to NOAA in the context of the perception—real or imagined—among recreational anglers of past shortcomings in data collection programs such as the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS). At several of the workshops, the participants offered that the *credibility* of these data was more important to them than the *accuracy* of the data—that the most important attribute of recreational catch data was its believability. The constituents sought to avoid duplicative data collection efforts among federal, regional, state, and local entities and encouraged maximum collaboration among these groups to improve the quality of the data, reduce the burden on individual anglers, and promote participation and compliance within the recreational fisheries community. They encouraged NOAA to reduce its self-imposed restrictions on the times and locations for data collection. There was also wide support for the introduction of existing and emerging technologies, both in the process of collecting data and in making these data accessible to the public.

- Regulatory Guidance. The workshop participants made a recurring plea for regulations that are simple and easy to understand. Conflicting guidance from different levels of management oversight were viewed as a problem, and the constituents encouraged coordination across all levels of governance and a strengthening of

collaborative efforts. The introduction of state-of-the-art information technologies and web-based portals was recommended to make recreational fisheries regulations easier to access and understand. It was felt that the use of these technologies would also help anglers remain abreast of the latest regulatory changes and allow access to clear explanations of allocation formulas. The attendees expressed the desire for a "playbook" approach that would include a compilation of all needed information, rather than forcing anglers to seek it from multiple sources.

- Right to Fish. The constituents attending the workshops did not share a common perception on their individual rights to catch and consume fisheries resources. Most of the participants affiliated with recreational fisheries advocacy organizations and regulatory entities shared the government's position that marine fisheries resources are common to all peoples of the U.S. and must be managed as a public resource by allowing anglers the privilege (not the right) to gain access to these resources. Many individual anglers, particularly those who associated themselves with a specific cultural identity, considered their traditional investment in local management and control of fisheries resources to outweigh the U.S. public interest as a whole. This resistance to government involvement in managing specific local recreational fisheries resources manifested itself in an inflexible resistance by these constituents to considering initiatives such as a marine fisheries license to improve the quality of catch data. Marine fisheries license advocates and opponents were clearly divided into polar opposite camps. One item more widely shared among these two camps was a concern that license fees, if collected, might be cost prohibitive and might not get redirected back into supporting local recreational fisheries management efforts.

- Engagement of Individual Anglers. The workshop participants were appreciative of the reinvigorated NOAA emphasis on recreational fishing and the effort being made to gather information to support the strategic planning process. Initiatives to strengthen the participation by recreational anglers and advocates in the NOAA process were afforded a high priority in all of the workshops. The participants envisioned a strong recreational constituent community with a greater voice in the process and a sense of ownership among anglers. Frequent communications using appropriate information technologies was encouraged. Transparency of the NOAA management process was desired so that anglers could stay engaged and informed. Suggestions included the development of a dedicated information strategy for recreational fisheries; creation of a public, web-based forum for participation in the management process; conducting regular public surveys,

holding constituent meetings on a more regular basis and during local "off-season" months; and incorporating regular government representation (e.g., a NOAA booth) at recreational fisheries events such as conferences, symposia, and boat shows. The constituents also encouraged the formation of regional Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panels that would represent the interests in that region and serve as a conduit for regular communications between NOAA and local anglers.

- International Cooperation. The constituents recognized the impact of international activities on U.S. fisheries resources and sought a greater national influence on establishing, maintaining, and enforcing international agreements. Many felt that the U.S. did not place enough emphasis on minimizing international violations within the Exclusive Economic Zone and that this was having a negative impact on recreational fisheries and in particular on highly migratory species. The constituents promoted the concept of a NOAA leadership role in interfacing with the international community through partnerships with appropriate federal agencies and participation in applicable regulatory organizations such as the United Nations.

- Conservation. The appropriate balance between conservation of resources and access to fish was addressed in every workshop. There was awareness that the recreational fishing and hunting communities were at one time recognized as being the leaders in conservation efforts targeting their respective natural resources, but that this recognition by the public at large had waned in recent history. Specifically from the recreational fisheries perspective, there was an expressed desired to reclaim public ownership of this leadership role. The constituents emphasized the necessity for the government to be proactive in taking preventative and corrective measures to protect fisheries resources. A stated example was the need to plan for coastal population growth and the associated development, rather than reacting after-the-fact to endangered and declining fisheries resources. There was broad support for the NOAA strategy of ecosystems management and a belief that this approach would serve the best interests of recreational anglers. A variety of recommendations for exploiting conservation tools were offered, including use of managed closures, artificial reefs, water quality controls, enhanced enforcement measures, circle hooks, control of netting, and appropriate, science-based allocation decisions where appropriate. There was wide diversity of opinion on the recreational fisheries value of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and marine sanctuaries, with many constituents considering this designation as being too permanent for the sole purpose of managing recreational fisheries resources.

- Enforcement. While the goals and objectives in the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan emphasize best practices and the personal motivation and commitment of individual anglers, the workshop participants recognized the importance of federal enforcement activities as a deterrent to regulatory violations. In several workshops the attendees stressed the importance of the federal government in having a regular, on-the-water enforcement presence due to the typically stricter penalties, greater deterrence value, and increased potential for effective prosecution of offenders. Publicizing convicted violators and their associated fines was felt to be an effective deterrent. The constituents were aware that the level of enforcement available was a function of available resources, and they recommended that NOAA provide sufficient funding and staffing to maintain a local presence, even if this presence was limited to deployable teams that rotated between the coastal states conducting periodic, high-volume, and highly visible enforcement operations. As with the management process, collaboration with state and local law enforcement agencies was encouraged.

- Research. Good science was recognized as key to good management and allocations decisions. The constituents sought an expansion of applied research initiatives outside of the government and increased participation by subject matter experts in academia, non-governmental organizations, and industry. They suggested that NOAA seek additional ways for allowing recreational fisheries constituents to participate in research activities on a regular basis.

- State-of-the-Art Technologies. As stated earlier, most constituents supported an emphasis by NOAA in adopting existing and emerging technologies to support recreational fisheries initiatives. There was broad appeal in the use of information technologies for improving communications between the government and recreational anglers; providing access to regulatory guidance, management actions, and the repository of science data; educating the public; soliciting input and feedback from the constituent community; providing outreach services; and promoting recreational fisheries in general. Specific examples of websites with particular value were shared in several workshops. The constituents recommended adoption of new technologies for data collection, including information technologies for collecting, analyzing, and providing access to these data and marine technologies applicable to field activities.

- Socio-Economic Impacts. The economic importance and benefit of recreational fishing was a major theme in several of the workshops. Most of the constituents felt that the total economic and social value of recreational fisheries has not been adequately

assessed and is not well know either by the public or by critical decision-makers in the government and on the Fishery Management Councils. There was a general consensus that more equal and fair representation of recreational fisheries would be the likely outcome of this recognition of the total value of recreational fishing to the U.S. economy.

- Education. The constituents encouraged an emphasis by NOAA on educational activities, with several target audiences identified. For the recreational anglers, subject matter recommendations included knowledge of conservation best practices, regulatory guidelines, and the role of the angler in helping to protect and manage fisheries resources. For the public, envisioned educational themes included the leadership role of anglers in conserving fisheries resources, the economic benefit and public good of recreational fisheries, and the social value of "family time on the water." For conservation advocates, education efforts would illustrate the important role of recreational anglers to increase sensitivities to the perspectives and practices of the anglers.

- Role of Recreational Fisheries Advocates. A significant strength of the series of workshops was the prominent representation of recreational fisheries advocacy groups, such as the International Game Fish Association, the Recreational Fishing Alliance, the Coastal Conservation Association, and other organizations who regularly represent and come into contact with large numbers of individual anglers. At every workshop, these advocacy group representatives acknowledged that the most beneficial role they could provide in promoting the NOAA planning process and a strong, visible recreational fisheries community would be to communicate and engage with their constituency to share information on the ongoing process and encourage their regular involvement. The cooperation and dedication of these public servants on behalf of NOAA is likely to be the greatest single factor in the government's ability to make positive changes in the management of recreational fisheries.

- Implementation Planning. The participants in the Regional Constituent Workshops expressed a desire to continue their involvement with NOAA beyond strategic planning and into the implementation planning phase. Emerging OCS plans to establish regional implementation teams with local angler representation to partner with the government during this phase were shared during closing comments in several of the workshops. The concept of these regional implementation teams was enthusiastically received by the constituents in attendance.

- Recommendations Specific to the Draft Strategic Plan. In addition to the recommendations relating to goals and objectives in the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan contained in Appendix B (noting that these recommendations were provided by individuals and were not vetted in a group setting), there were two general recommendations related to the draft Plan that were made by workshop attendees in multiple workshops and deserve consideration by NOAA in the ongoing strategic planning process:

1. Establish Measures of Success. There was general consensus among the constituents in several of the workshops that the individual items listed within the objectives in the draft Plan should have quantifiable measures of success—sometimes known as measures of effectiveness—associated with them in the Plan. These measures of success are common to many strategic plans, provide the foundation for establishing program metrics, and serve as a means to quantifiably measure progress from year to year and thus provide a means for analyzing return on investment.

2. Prioritize Objectives. The constituents in several of the workshops recognized the probability that the level of resources available to NOAA Fisheries may fall short of the level required to satisfy all of the objectives in the Strategic Plan to the level sought by Recreational Fisheries. There was general agreement that some sort of priority should be assigned to the objectives in the Strategic Plan so that appropriate cost versus benefit trade-offs could be made during implementation activities if necessary.

Appendix A: Draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan

This appendix includes the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan (Version dated 4/27/2004) that was used as the principal reference during the conduct of the Regional Constituent Workshops. This version of the draft Plan was also the stimulus for the supplemental comments and recommendations that were received independently and appear in Appendix B. The version in this appendix is provided as a reference and for use in assessing changes in subsequent versions of the Plan as they are released by the government. Personal contact information for NOAA Recreational Fisheries Working Group members is not reproduced in this appendix.

The NOAA DRAFT Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan 2004-2009

4/27/2004

Introduction

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a conservation and management partner with anglers, recreational fishing associations, state and tribal managers, and other federal agencies. Our role as the Nation's Marine Fisheries Steward requires collaboration with all recreational fishing stakeholders for the sustainable use of ocean resources. These collaborations enhance the management and conservation of recreational species, their habitat, and ocean ecosystems.

The development of this Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan 2004-2009, draws on the expertise of national sportfishing leaders, resource managers, private recreational fishing industry representatives and anglers from around the United States. Through a series of national and regional meetings, a dedicated website to disseminate information and collect input, and an aggressive campaign to announce this plan, NOAA will be able to collect comments from stakeholders around the country.

With an emphasis on partnerships and deliverable outcomes, this plan charts a course for NOAA efforts that provides for major agency activities in science, management and outreach categories. These categories were developed by representatives of the various NOAA programs whose activities include some aspect of recreational fisheries. These programs came from around NOAA and included participants from the NOAA Fisheries, NOAA's Ocean Service, and NOAA Research line offices. A full list of these programs and their representatives can be found on page 14 of this document [not included in this reproduction of the draft].

Linking to the NOAA Strategic Plan

The NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan provides a critical contribution to the NOAA and the NOAA Fisheries Strategic Plans. Our efforts contribute to the NOAA and NOAA Fisheries Mission Goal 1.

NOAA Mission Goal 1: Protect, Restore, and Manage the use of Coastal and Oceanic Resources through Ecosystem-Based Management

Our efforts also contribute to the following NOAA and NOAA Fisheries cross-cutting priorities:

- Environmental Literacy, Outreach and Education
- Sound, State-of-the-Art Research

This plan intends to reflect the NOAA Strategic Plan's Strategies, particularly the Understand and Describe, Monitor and Access, Manage, and Engage, Advise and Inform Strategies. These strategies work well to describe the agency's efforts in recreational fisheries. The Science Goal in the Recreational Fisheries Plan incorporates the NOAA Understand and Describe and Monitor and Access Strategies. The Management Goal in this Plan incorporates the Manage Strategy and the Outreach Goal reflects the Engage, Advise and Inform Strategy.

Vision Statement

That the American people enjoy the riches and benefits of healthy and diverse marine ecosystems and have opportunities for a diverse array of recreational fishing experiences.

Mission Statement

NOAA is America's trustee for marine recreational fisheries resources. Through science-based fisheries management and service to all of our Nation's recreational users, NOAA is building healthy ocean ecosystems for the benefit and enjoyment of all Americans.

Science Goal Statement: Exceptional marine angling opportunities supported by cooperative, timely, credible, and accurate science.

Objective #1: Support data collection and research that matches management needs.

NOAA Fisheries is committed to obtaining Agency and stakeholder cooperation in planning relevant science initiatives, and ensuring that our science matches the needs of fisheries managers. The Agency is devoting resources for improved data collection that address management needs, including improved recreational harvest data, and creating new procedures to promote coordination and participation by our stakeholders.

- Collect more accurate landings data through sample size increases and survey improvements to achieve a 25 percent reduction in percent standard error (PSE).
- Make survey improvements by developing testing methodologies and conducting pilot studies on alternate data collection methods, harvest mortality and the effect of catch and effort on fish stocks. Make results available to the public.
- Facilitate angler participation in the science development process through advisory committees, annual constituent data reviews and outreach meetings.
- Determine the most useful data for management process by consulting biannually with Councils and stakeholders.
- Respond to management needs for better discard data by doubling the amount of recreational at-sea sampling.
- Provide ongoing evaluation of data collection activities to ensure that the highest quality data product possible is being provided to resource managers.

Objective #2: Promote the use of advancing technologies in fisheries science and data management.

NOAA Fisheries remains committed to researching and implementing advances in data collection, management and dissemination. At the forefront of this commitment is development of a Fisheries Information System (FIS), a portal that identifies the existing federal and state fisheries information systems or databases (data collections) and provides integrated business solutions for effective information sharing. The Agency plans continued collaboration with NOAA research programs, other agencies and constituent user groups.

- Fully implement the Fisheries Information System (FIS).
- Build national fisheries information expert teams to share ideas, successes and experiences in the management of fisheries information.
- Explore data collection methodologies using the latest technology (e.g. electronic reporting, verifiable self-reported data, better area fished data through GPS technology, etc.) for improved geo-spatial data collection.

- Facilitate cooperative research with anglers (e.g. Billfish Tagging Program, circle hook research).
- Conduct joint research projects with US Fish & Wildlife and NOAA Sea Grant.

Objective #3: Ensure that data is comparable.

NOAA Fisheries coordinates with partners to collect landings, harvest, catch, effort, participation, economic, sociocultural, and biological data on commercial and recreational fisheries through surveys, registration and reporting systems, and observation. Those data are the foundation of information upon which fishery policy and management decisions are made. The Agency plans to enhance coordination of these data collections through FIS. A key component of the FIS initiative is defining a core data set and ensuring that data definitions and information about the data are well documented in an e-Catalog, making data analysis user-friendly. Meeting this objective requires the continuation of many essential tasks, as well as the integration of angler-suggested improvements and renewed commitments from our state and federal partners.

- Establish national standards and mechanisms for ensuring consistent methodologies and data structure (e.g. units of measurement, coding systems) by integrating and harmonizing all state and federal cooperative data collection programs.
- Implement data element consistency (formats, types and labels) across all appropriate data collection programs.
- Facilitate angler participation in data review and quality assurance through annual data review meetings.

Objective #4: Maintain and expand the collection of economic and social data and the development of policy relevant models.

Economic and social data collection is critical to the development of models that will accurately capture the impact of changes in management policies that impact recreational fisheries. The Agency is committed to maintaining the existing database of information, while researching new methods to improve upon existing data. The Agency will also work to enhance access to data, which is critical to our constituency and to policymakers alike.

- Collect angler expenditure data, nationwide, every four years. Next collection of angler expenditures slated for 2005.
- Incorporate the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fishery in future expenditure surveys.
- Update the NOAA Fisheries economic impact model for recreational fisheries when expenditure data is updated (every four years).
- Develop improved behavior based policy models to cover the top ten most important species nationwide and the five most important in each region that are currently covered by a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) or are being considered

for coverage.
- Improve valuation models of marine resources to include consumptive and non-consumptive users
- Collect cost and earnings data from industries that support recreational fisheries such as charter and head boats, tackle manufacturers and retailers, and boat makers.
- Share data with constituents through Agency website and publications. Develop a web query engine for economic estimates within two years.
- Meet regularly with council staff to insure the incorporation of economic information in the policy process. As new models are developed, brief and train council staff on their implementation.

Objective #5: Improve understanding of habitat influence on marine life and population health.

Improved research on all living marine resources is the best way to serve our constituencies. The Agency will continue to explore mechanisms to enhance fisheries while maintaining the health of wild stocks. This requires cooperation between our data collection and habitat teams, as well as constituent user groups.

- Facilitate research to evaluate the value and appropriate use of artificial reefs and marine managed areas.
- Understand the impact of consumptive and non-consumptive recreational use of reef species.
- Hold periodic meetings with recreational community to solicit input and encourage dialogue.

Management Goal Statement: Improved Marine Recreational Fishing Through Better Management

Objective #1: Evaluate the status of recreational fisheries management and identify opportunities for improvement

NOAA Fisheries is committed to doing a better job in managing our marine recreational fisheries. The first step is to determine how the agency currently manages and identify opportunities for improvement.

- Evaluate existing recreational data collection methods (i.e., LPS, For-Hire) to determine how best to calculate the impact of the recreational sector on stock abundance.
- Identify the ten most important recreational species nationwide and the 5 most important by region, using input from anglers and industry, and develop annual facts sheets for these species.
- Work cooperatively with US Fish & Wildlife, and anglers, to identify management techniques currently applied to terrestrial recreational activities (i.e., hunting) that might be appropriate for marine anglers.
- Work with NOAA economists to utilize existing data, and identify areas where additional socio-economic data is required to make fair allocation decisions.

Objective #2: Promote the effective application of fishery management tools

NOAA Fisheries is committed to using the most effective management tool available to manage our marine recreational fisheries; this includes the development and use of new and innovative management techniques.

- Assist States in establishing a computerized system for tracking/licensing/ registering marine anglers.
- Ensure that fishery management plans and other fishery management related documents and reports provide comprehensive assessments of historical information for both recreational and commercial fisheries as appropriate.
- Provide managers with socio-economic information to make recreational management decisions.
- Develop comparable economic values for recreational and commercial fishing to assist in developing fair and equitable allocation schemes.
- Make ecosystem-based management a reality by adapting management techniques to include new data as it becomes available.
- Promote the use of marine managed and protected areas, artificial reefs, and aquaculture, where appropriate, as tools for conserving and restoring marine species and habitat.
- Incorporate interests of marine recreational users including non-consumptive activities (i.e., recreational diving and marine eco-touring) through a biennial consultation process.

Objective #3: Make the fisheries management process more open and accessible to the public

NOAA Fisheries believes that a more open and accessible decision-making process will lead to better management. The Agency needs to strengthen its partnership with recreational users by involving them earlier in the process, and making sure they are fairly represented on the various decision-making bodies.

- Facilitate angler participation in management through fair and appropriate marine angler representation on councils, commissions, committees, subcommittees, and working groups involved in fishery management. Representation should be balanced for geographic areas, fishery types, and between private marine anglers and commercial passenger fishing vessel operators.
- Inform marine anglers and their organizations of opportunities to participate in the management and regulatory process, and provide a way to exchange dialogue on all relevant recreational fisheries issues by developing a NMFS angler website.
- Schedule meetings to better fit times when marine anglers are available to attend.
- Promote early consultation and participation by anglers on key issues such as artificial reefs, marine managed and protected areas, and tournament observer programs through the NMFS angler website.

Objective #4: Promote measures that reduce bycatch/discard mortality

NOAA Fisheries has a Congressional mandate under National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act to minimize the mortality of bycatch. To achieve this mandate, the agency will work closely with the Councils and various NOAA Fisheries Offices to select measures that will minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality.

- Reduce bycatch by working with Councils and various NOAA Fisheries Offices (i.e., Highly Migratory Species Bycatch Reduction Program) on designated recreational species in each region.
- Ensure that bycatch reduction programs that impact recreational fisheries are effectively implemented.
- Investigate gear alternatives and procedures (e.g., circle hooks) to reduce marine angler discard mortality.
- Support voluntary catch-and release programs and the proper handling of fish through partnerships with marine recreational angling groups.
- Support and enhance voluntary seabird/shorebirds protection programs.

Objective #5: Promote conservation of healthy populations and recovery of overfished stocks by improving compliance with regulations

NOAA Fisheries believes that an important part of managing recreational fisheries is to provide an incentive for marine recreational anglers to comply with regulations being developed. The incentive is better recreational fishing opportunities.

- Develop regulations that are simple to understand and provide an incentive for compliance by including the marine recreational angling community.
- Establish priorities that will place more emphasis on recreational species where compliance is low.
- Assist marine anglers to become better conservationist by ensuring that law enforcement officers are trained and educated in the rationale behind regulations to allow the fostering of community compliance.
- Enhance cooperation between local, state, and Federal agencies to improved compliance with recreational regulations.

Objective 6: Improve intra-agency marine recreational cooperation

NOAA Fisheries believes that improving cooperation among intra-agency marine recreational science offices will lead to better management. A more coordinated effort will lead to earlier detection of marine recreational problem areas, and with participation from the public and advisory groups, a cooperative solution to these problems.

- Facilitate intra-agency cooperation by establishing a formal NOAA Recreational Fisheries Team. This interdisciplinary team should include representatives appointed from each of the NOAA Fisheries Program Offices, Regional and Science Centers, the NOS Sanctuaries and MPA programs, and the National Sea Grant College Program. This team will be led by the Office of Recreational Fishing Services (RFS) in Constituent Services.
- Appoint a Recreational Fisheries representative for the NOAA Ecosystems and Fisheries Management Goal teams, for better representation of recreational fishing issues in NOAA's planning processes.
- Involve the Marine Recreational Advisory Subcommittee of the MAFAC more, and earlier on, in providing advice on marine recreational issues.

Outreach Goal Statement: Promote recreational fishing opportunities, heighten awareness of marine recreational fishing issues, and advance marine conservation principles.

Objective #1: 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.

The success of NOAA's efforts to improve science, recreational fisheries management and conservation depends upon the strength of NOAA's partnerships with recreational anglers. Our work is intricately tied to a matrix of efforts that range from huge government initiatives to the work of individual anglers. Therefore, our outreach must address this diverse audience and engage them in NOAA's mission to improve recreational fishing.

- Engage our youth by continuing to promote, develop, and budget for youth fishing programs and increase the number of youth participating in fishing programs.
- Provide easy to understand information on the status of stocks for fisheries of interest to anglers in brochures and on web sites, starting with regional publications (print and web) on top species in 2005.
- Promote public education and outreach through hands-on angler involvement in living marine resource and fisheries habitat conservation and restoration projects through ongoing support and expansion of "Take a child fishing", "NOAA Restoration Day", and other efforts to engage and involve anglers to improve public awareness.
- Develop new multi-lingual educational materials on recreational fisheries stewardship with the annual publication of multi-lingual materials.
- Educate anglers on the benefits of the Essential Fish Habitat program, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Endangered Species Act on recreational fisheries through increased numbers of publications for anglers.
- Coordinate with industry and fishing groups an annual recreational fishing symposium starting in 2005 as a forum for the most current science and policy related to recreational fishing to include feedback from anglers.
- Enhance working relationships with outdoor media, Fishery Management Councils and State Marine Resource Commissions regarding marine angling to articulate science, management and conservation themes and establish quarterly outreach activities starting in 2004.
- Create educational materials for anglers on NOAA's role in improving the collection of economic and scientific information for important recreational fisheries.

Objective #2: Ensure that marine anglers and appropriate agencies are informed in a timely manner regarding information and issues relevant to marine anglers.

The family of federal, tribal and state agencies with a role in the management of recreational fisheries will benefit from improved communication with recreational fishing groups. Our information must be delivered to this vast constituency quickly, and must provide access for dialog, organized input, and evaluation.

- Enhance working relationships with marine angling groups for better coordination of policy and regulatory issues that impact anglers through regular attendance at recreational fishing group meetings.
- Ensure that NOAA recreational fisheries reports, management actions, presentations and websites are designed for easy access by the general public/anglers.
- Establish partnership programs with angling organizations and related groups to enhance all aspects of the implementation of the NOAA Fisheries Strategic Plan for Recreational Fisheries.

Objective #3: Improved interagency function and collaboration with Tribal, State, and Federal partners on issues related to recreational fisheries.

NOAA's past recreational efforts have been characterized by many individual program efforts without central coordination. By coordinating our internal efforts and combining them with the complex network of other recreational fisheries management and science authorities and jurisdictions, NOAA will enhance the work of recreational fisheries management and conservation. Our individual work will be enhanced by the experience and advice of our partners.

- Provide a focused in-reach initiative to NOAA Fisheries and other appropriate components of NOAA to ensure that staff are aware of the NOAA Fisheries Strategic Plan for Recreational Fisheries and are fully engaged in its implementation where appropriate.
- Participate in recreational fisheries related programs set up under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Develop annual communications plans for information exchange with State, Tribal and Federal natural resource managers.
- Establish a NOAA role representative to inter-agency recreational fishing groups.

Objective #4: 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.

Advances in technology are allowing more streamlined, immediate, and efficient communications with recreational anglers and groups. To take full advantage of emerging technologies, NOAA proposes to improve its service to anglers via the web, to

create a new constituent database for recreational fishing, and to provide email subscription-services to announce important recreational fisheries issues.

- Create a one-stop NOAA website for the recreational angler community.
- Develop a real time web site based reporting system for the Atlantic recreational fishery billfish reporting system.
- Develop a recreational fisheries constituent database for subscription based information exchange.
- Provide breaking recreational fisheries regulation information via email/listserver

Appendix B: Supplemental Constituent Comments

Throughout the period encompassing the nine Regional Constituent Workshops, supplemental comments on the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan and the associated planning process were solicited. A dedicated email address (recfishplan@mitretek.org) and repository was established and advertised on the OCS Recreational Fisheries website.[10] Attendees at the workshops were encouraged by the facilitators to offer additional comments and recommendations subsequent to the workshops through this email address, both verbally and by distributing hard copy references to the email address. Comments were also received via regular mail and facsimile.

This appendix provides a summary of all supplemental comments received by Mitretek. The comments have been organized and are presented in two groups. The first group includes comments and recommendations that specifically address the goals and objectives in the draft Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan. A reference to the specific goal or objective being addressed is included as applicable. The second group of comments includes those that generally address the strategic planning process and the Federal government role in managing recreational fisheries resources.

With the exception of obvious corrections to spelling and grammar, the comments in this appendix appear exactly as received. Care has been taken to preserve the original intent of the provider for each comment. For the purposes of this publication, the contributors of these comments remain anonymous. No attempt has been made to prioritize comments based on their content or the perceived credibility of the provider. The order of presentation generally corresponds to the chronological order in which the comments were received.

B.1. Supplemental Comments on Draft Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

- [Addressing the Mission Statement] It is not politically correct to have a mission to protect and enhance sportfishing. It is assumed this attitude exists because federal bureaucrats in NOAA believe the uninformed public might confuse promoting sportfishing as counter to the mission of being "ecological minded" and the NOAA mission of "SOUNDING ecological minded." However, fishermen don't have any trouble at all identifying the confusion and faint-heartedness in this kind of wording. What the heck is wrong with being in favor of sportfishing? That doesn't mean that anyone is intent on destroying the "ecology" of the oceans, or the health of fisheries

resources, or any other low and vile goal, except to activist environmentalists who wish to exclude fishermen from as much as possible of the ocean. Who is running this show, anyway? PROMOTING AND ENHANCING SPORTFISHING IS NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH ANY OTHER EXPLICIT, EXPRESSED MISSION OF NOAA. You could do well for sportfishermen by making that clear in your mission statement.

- [Addressing the Mission Statement] If you leave out some of the words, we have "[t]hrough… fisheries management and service… to… users, NOAA is building… ecosystems for… Americans." Is that a mission statement for a recreational fishing office? Well, let's see who is writing this stuff. We seem to have two habitat gentlemen, two ladies from the ESA office, two from an MPA office, one from a sanctuaries office, which totals 7, and only five gentlemen from an office of "Constituent Services." Is it possible people, even disguised people (disguised in an office of Constituent Services but concerned about ocean recreational fishing, one hopes), were outgunned on this planning committee by environmentalists with NO mission to protect and enhance sportfishing? With quite a different agenda? Is it possible that there are extremely few employees in the Office of Constituent Services, so that in order to have a large group we had to pull people from offices where there are actually employees? This was no doubt part of the planning process, but I'm not sure that it led to a good result for fishermen.
- Not being a strategic plan expert, I'm not sure what goal and objective this might appear under (there is no doubt something in the plan about communicating), but it might be useful to consider renaming the "Office of Constituent Services." I am guessing that this might be considered some "action item" under some objective, or might not even appear in a "strategic plan" but it is a good idea, nonetheless, which we commend to Dr. Hogarth.
- [Addressing Science Goal, Objectives #1 and #3] Absolutely the most important data move that strategists for sportfishing could initiate would be improved economic data on the value of sportfishing. We are tremendously dissatisfied with the USF&WS "survey" paid for with sport fishermen's money. The report done by NMFS itself, published in 2000, was an improvement, and covered marine sportfishing much better. But it evidently was a one-time thing. Also, we find that economists quickly reject some inclusions in both the USF&WS report and the Gentner report as unrealistic and unsupportable. And neither gives us any information that we can apply to specific species and fisheries. We need much better trip information, out of which we could develop better economic value data for specific fisheries. Two suggestions:
  - Get a grant from USF&WS to repeat the Gentner study, using private-sector statisticians if necessary (in fact, preferably in order to improve value and efficiency), in step with and accompanying the USF&WS Census Bureau study.
  - Develop new, finer-grained indices of recreational marine fishing impact, leaning more heavily on annual expenses apportioned out across yearly days of fishing.
- [Addressing Science Goal, Objectives #1 and #3] The second most important data need for fishermen is a way to let the federal government know what they want that does NOT include attending a meeting. Meetings seem to be an integral part of this strategic plan, but they are a poor way to get input from sport fishermen. Commercial fishermen go to state and federal meetings because they can park their boats and do

so, and they must. This doesn't work for the recreational fisherman. As a result, most of these so-called "getting input from the public" meetings are attended only by hired lobbyists of the environmental community, and hired lobbyists of commercial interests (the processors, the long liners, charterboat associations, etc.) This leaves your average Joe fisherman unrepresented and out in the cold, because he doesn't have any paid lobbyists. He thought his license money was buying some protection, but in truth state departments of fish and game very much consider themselves (somewhat similar to NOAA) not to be in the business of promoting sportfishing--truly much more "ecology-minded" than that. The "hooks and bullets" outlook for fish and game departments is so "retro" that it is embarrassing to consider "how we used to think of it," etc., etc. Well guess what? With few exceptions, ordinary fishermen are totally unrepresented in the process. Public meetings are sparsely attended because the public is busy working, scrambling to rear their families, and going fishing, and because the public does not generally understand the stakes. So agencies such as NOAA should finally recognize this to be the case, and should seek other ways to receive valid input from a reasonable cross-section of the fishing public. Three suggestions:

- Fund various public surveys in a broad and continuing effort to characterize the fishing public and its attitudes.
- When issues can be easily framed, consider polls through random-interview and/or telephone poll techniques.
- Choose some specific action items to build into your strategic plan to begin implementing a better "information" strategy, so that fishermen can see that you have recognized the problem.

- [Addressing Bullet #5 of Science Goal Objective #2] We have been waiting for some time for NOAA to access SFRA funds from the USF&WS for cooperative research with sportfishing organizations. We don't see any reason why this couldn't happen. When NOAA had cooperative research funds, they were expended by commercial fishermen, at least so far as I know. But sport fishermen have immense needs for studying their impacts and gear differences. We pay millions and millions of dollars annually to states and to the Interior Department, and we get NO research that would extend knowledge of our fishing activities. This is exactly why we have no protection when environmentalists start accusing sportfishing of wiping out the bottomfish, or being responsible for billfish declines. We have no data to show how light our touch has been on the ecological surround, and how little our impact on ocean resources can be under good management. Our suggestion: It isn't too late. Start now.
- [Addressing the Outreach Goal Statement] This section of the draft has more pith than some others, commendably so. Objective #4 is particularly specific and welcome.
- [Addressing the Management Goal Statement] We find this section to be full of worthy statements, but somewhat lacking in specifics. Looking at bullet 7 under Objective #2, for instance, one is hard put to imagine what action item would occur here. Maybe there is one. If so, it should be stated. And in fact, every one of these items which has no clear "action" available should either be restated to be more specific or should be deleted. The first bullet under object #3, for instance: It's a

worthy thought, but is there an action item? The same for the fourth bullet under Objective #5, and so forth.

- Before I list my comments and questions about the draft plan I want to applaud NOAA for their positive approach in recognizing the recreational sector as a vital entity that contributes significantly not only to the economy, but also to the social and family interests of our population. Outlined below are my specific comments and questions related to the Plan:
  - In the document you speak of partnerships, yet in the listing on pages 14/15, there [is] only NOAA staff involved. Why?
  - Is there a reason why the eight Councils were not involved?
  - Is there a reason for not involving some of the leading recreational groups? e.g. RFA,CCA,ASA.
  - On page 5, Objective 1, NOAA needs to develop a system that encourages research on recreational fishing through the Research Set Aside program for the country.
  - On page 5, Objective 1, NOAA needs to define stakeholders.
  - On page 6, Objective 3 is right on target.
  - On page 6, Objective 4, much of that data is readily available.
  - On pages 9/10, trust in the data collected in the [MRFSS] needs to be established with the recreational community.
  - The average recreational angler believes that the fishery resource playing field is tilted in favor of the Commercial sector. Objective 3 on page 9 will help in this regard.

  Once again I would like to offer my thanks for a good start in recognizing the value of the recreational fishing community.
- At the May 26 meeting in Portland, comments on the Draft Strategic Plan were invited. Enclosed are comments from the Coastside Fishing Club. Generally I thought the document, and the meetings are a good start. We hope that NOAA follows through and begins to recognize the importance of the recreational fishing community.
  - Page 5 - Objective 1: What is the role of the States, and other data collection agencies? Need to clarify.
  - Page 5 - 1st bullet: A 25% reduction in PSE is not anywhere near sufficient. Need to state what PSE is actually needed to achieve credible catch statistics - and make that the objective, not some minor reduction to an unacceptable existing condition.
  - Page 5 - Objective 2, 3rd bullet: The technology being advocated may be beyond the capability of the average recreational angler. Do not plan on having sophisticated electronics on board private boats - that just isn't realistic. Do not get too enamored with advanced technology - that can be very distracting - the real need is lots more data collection people, more frequently on the docks, taking more data. They should use advanced technology to record their observations, but again do not be distracted by the glitz of technology.
  - Page 7 - 1st bullet: The enumerated set of recreational fishing costs is too limited. That is a common problem with enumerated lists; something is always inadvertently left off. That being said, the enumeration is probably necessary, but

needs to be expanded to more fully represent the costs expended by recreational fishermen in pursuit of his fish. Continue the enumeration with at least.... bait and fuel, travel and overnight accommodation expenses, boat and trailer maintenance, fishing licenses, boat trailers, ancillary equipment (including but not limited to life jackets, depth finders, GPS, VHF radios, Radar...). In short, the existing list is so limited, that it would appear that NOAA doesn't really understand the direct costs spent by the recreational community.

  - Page 8 - Objective 2, next to last bullet: We are very leery as to the utility of Marine Protected Areas as a management tool. As they are currently defined by the PFMC, their essential feature is that they are permanent, and as such MPAs do not belong in a management tool kit. There are existing tools available to the PFMC that essentially create no fishing zones for specific purposes and once those purposes are achieved the closure can be re-assessed. The permanence of an MPA makes it unsuitable as a management tool - management needs the flexibility to respond to ever changing conditions. All implications that MPAs are suitable management tools should be removed from the document. In addition, the promotion of aquaculture is inconsistent with a recreational document, and all references to aquaculture should be deleted from the plan. Furthermore, there are many more fishery related tools that should be mentioned. Revise this bullet to read: "Evaluate the use of managed closures, artificial reefs, hatcheries, fish ladders, water quality controls, etc as tools for conserving and restoring marine species and habitat."
  - Page 9 - Objective 4: Add a bullet to indicate that NOAA will sponsor and advocate for both public and private research dealing with recreational fishing issues.

- On page five, the objective to reduce the percentage standard error by 25%, I suggest noting in parenthesis the actual target PSE you intend to reach. I do not know what the current PSE is, and us fisherman would enjoy seeing a trend of better accuracy in future years.
- [Comment on Science Goal] I support this goal but would add the following:
  - Objective #2: Should consider adding more emphasis on collection of more regular fisheries stock assessments, as recommended by the Ocean Policy Commission Report.
  - Under cooperative research, should support more CPFV boat time as a way to overcome the distrust that many scientists have for skippers and crews, and especially vice versa!
- [Comment on Management Goal] I support the Ocean Policy Commission Report recommendation that all coastal states be required to have an ocean fishing license to help fund recreational data collection programs.
- Objective #2 RE: Marine managed and protected areas. I only support the use of marine managed and protected areas when clear scientific evidence exists that proposed closure is necessary to protect rare and/or unique marine ecosystems and/or habitats. At all other times, managers should use traditional management tools which offer more ongoing opportunity for recreational anglers.
- [Comment on Science Goal, Objective #1] This is missing a stated capacity to create age-structured analysis. Coastal states have been involved in the reading of marine

fish age structures to supply this information to the Council, multi-state and individual state stock assessment efforts. Continuing funding reductions have resulted in a state loss to continue contributing age info in this collaborative process and this loss of capability should be recognized/addressed in the policy. In the effort to collect more accurate landing data through sample size increases and improved survey methods to achieve a 25% reduction in % standard error, will an examination of existing state methods, where they occur, be part of the analysis to best determine a course of action and investment? We believe a comprehensive examination will help invest limited resources in a wise manner.

- [Comment on Science Goal, Objective #2] How will current fisheries information networks such as RecFIN and PacFIN relate to FIS and will needs be in direct competition?
- [Comment on Science Goal, Objective #3] On data sets where proprietary information may be included, how will individual anglers/fisheries/charter operations be protected?
- [Comment on Science Goal, Objective #4] Encourage the development of collaborative projects with those coastal states that have infrastructure organizations with complimentary functions such as Washington State's CTED (Community Trade and Economic Development)
- [Comment on Science Goal, Objective #5] We are hopeful that the broader context of Marine Aquaculture is not a "tool" for this objective; see U.S. Ocean Commission Report in Ocean Policy. The context of marine aquaculture needs a significant amount of policy and rule development between coastal states and federal entities before implementation (see Management Goal Statement #2)
- [Comment on Management Goal, Objective #1] There appears to be no linkage with any coastal states which implement many of the management regions/stock assessments in support of Council activities.
- [Comment on Management Goal, Objective #2] The use of marine aquaculture, where appropriate, leaves a lot unsaid. Disease, genetic pollutions, ecosystem effect, environmental pollution, effects on state resources, etc. are all issues that remain vague with this "tool."
- [Comment on Management Goal, Objective #3] We strongly support the concept.
- [Comment on Management Goal, Objective #4] This needs to link with coastal states to ensure management/regulatory compatibility and conformity.
- [Comment on Management Goal, Objective #5] Add "coordination and collaboration" to the last bullet in this section.
- [Comment on Management Goal, Objective #6] Add "representation from the affected coastal states."
- [Comment on Outreach Goal, Objective #1] Some coastal states have outreach programs in place that could engender a higher level of success through cooperation and collaboration.
- [Comment on Outreach Goal, Objective #2] We concur.
- [Comment on Outreach Goal, Objective #3] We concur – more collaborative processes will enhance the outcome.

- [Comment on Outreach Goal, Objective #4] Updates on changing regulations for recreational fisheries [are] a public service tool. How will this complement/integrate with current systems managed by coastal states?

B.2. General Supplemental Comments

- It is wrong for you to have a moratorium on Charter boats in Texas to Alabama...there are not enough to make a difference...the weather usually keeps people in port anyway...I can't believe commercial Snapper season opens before recreational season...the recreational and charter fleet impact on an economy is greater than that of a few commercial fisherman who don't even hail from this state!
- I am writing to you today as a common recreational fisherman. We as a whole may be able to help get the data that you need and it be more accurate than the way you all have been doing it in the past. I know from going to a few of the red snapper meetings in my area that the state doesn't seem to have a good way of collecting data. My opinion is that their way is actually hurting us instead of being accurate for all the fishermen. I am all for a log book or a permit as long as the permit is per vessel. We have a lot of ways here in our state to get the data and funds we need if we just look at the way other states do things for their marine resources. I also think that we should charge every one 16 and older to fish. Where I came from if you were in water, out of water, or had a fishing pole in your hand, if you were 16 or older you better have a $10.00 fishing license in your possession. That was more money for our state or counties for ramps, parking, etc. My family and I have been logging our catches and turning them into our marine resource officer at the end of every month. Only the fishermen themselves can tell you what they are catching. If your group goes out and dives an oil rig that has been fished for 2 or 3 days straight that rig is going to be cleaned, so of course there isn't going to be any fish sitting there. Go back in a couple days and it will be loaded again. There is a big body of water sitting out there and it is truly IMPOSSIBLE for any one to say how over or under fished the waters are. One thing that our state doesn't take into consideration is the fact that every county in the state of Florida has different fishing. For instance we don't catch many snook in Escambia. However they maybe over fished in Citrus and under in Lake. How can we base our data for the whole state instead of by county? We also have to sacrifice our waters to the shrimpers from Alabama when their bay closes for the season. We can't go over there and shrimp, because it is closed to every one, but they can come over here and take from our area. If we slowed some of the season to all shrimpers in the bays we would probably start producing much bigger fish in our bays and not have to fish out in the Gulf as much. We the fishermen and women in our areas are your best bet for accurate data on what the people are catching, but if you keep taking away from us we will all be fishing from the piers. The state will be loosing as well as our selves. We won't need all the bait & tackle stores, we won't need our boats, we won't need marinas, we won't be buying licenses. If we don't try to help each other we will be hurting our own economy. We have a lot of folks that depend on fishing for their livelihood. They need this to pay their bills, put their kids in college, etc. We have got to find away as a whole to make this better for all fishermen in FL and in all counties.

Please take a minute to consider some of the thing's we might be able to do state wide to be able to afford better monitoring of the species instead of making a bunch of guesses from some lame phone surveys. I for one belong to and organization and am willing to get with the rest to see if they also would be willing to do log books for our area so that you can get a more real count for our area of the Gulf. The Pensacola Recreational Fishermen's Association is a great group that does what we can to help out with all issues of fishing in our area and educating the public on their waters and fishing rights. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help and possibly not loose all our bag limits. Also for the blue fish, we don't catch too many around our area so why take that away? We in Escambia County would have to have a mighty big boat to out far enough to catch those types of fish. We are all pretty much common folk with tight pockets. It is very expensive to go out for those types of fish. See what I mean now about by the county itself instead of the whole state. Someday my dream is to come up on a blue and bring him home to show off. If that's not possible because of size than at least [I would] get a picture. Most people like I said don't even go out that far. Please reconsider all the bag limits until we look at a way to get the right data.

- I read the draft; it is general and vague. Specifically, I strongly oppose any form of saltwater license or tax. I urge representation for recreational scuba divers, especially regarding the American lobster fishery and spearfishing.
- I am one of thousands of recreational fisherman who have spent their entire life fishing in the coastal New Jersey waters. I have seen the heyday of the fluke, but missed the heydays of the striped bass and bluefin tuna. In the seventies and eighties, I was a guilty as the next guy of taking more than my fair share of fluke. My father and I typically cut small fish for bait and I continue to cut gut hooked undersized fluke. If I know a fish is going to die, it is pointless to throw it over and feed it to the crabs, but they still get the carcass. One question I have pertaining the current fluke regulations is that if recreational anglers continue to exceed the weight quota, which is a guestimate at best with no real reporting requirements, why does the minimum size (and weight) limit continue to be increased. If I could catch 8 fish at 16.5 inches and 2 pounds (16 pounds total), would the fishery weight quotas be better served if the minimum size was lowered (say 8 fish at 15 inches and 1.75 pounds for a total of 14 pounds) and the average weight of fish dropped so that the weight quotas were not exceeded. Quotas are set in weight not number of fish. More anglers would be able to take fish home for dinner and less total poundage of fish would be harvested. Why does the commercial fisherman get to keep a fish that the recreational fisherman, who is investing magnitudes of money more than the commercial fisherman to catch each fish, have to release? If the Regulator's want to make a real difference, lower the minimum size and cut the creel limit by 1 or 2 fish. I have motored in from very productive fishing days on the ocean and have given many flounder to families in rental boats fishing the bay, who have spent over $100 to take the family fishing for the day, but were unable to catch any flounder that exceeded the minimum 16.5" size limit.
- I just finished reading the draft NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan. My comment: it reads to me as a "lot of pie in the sky" and a make work project for a lot of people.

- I fish off Florida's east coast and I love to catch and eat fish. The rules tell you what you can catch and that's just fine. Sometimes fishing is tough after you catch your limits of some species. If maps were available for fishing the other species during he time of year you were out fishing you would help us while we help the fish. In other words if I caught my limit of silver snapper (which is one) I could go on to catch grouper or triggerfish if I knew approximately where they were at the time I was fishing. Ledges produce good fishing and over fished areas are hard to find. If we all knew all the ledges rocks and the like it would spread out the fishing instead of everyone fishing the same old spots. Most of the time when you catch a fish it dies no matter what you try. I know maps of the ocean bottom exist for this area in great details but are not available to the average sportsman.
- I have been a fisherman, both commercial and recreational, in many regions of the U.S., including Alaska, Wash, Oregon, and California and for the past 5 years in Hawaii. For there to be a Recreational Fishing Plan there must be a consistent definition of just what constitutes Recreational fishing. In Hawaii most Charter boats and what one would normally consider sport boats actively engage in the sale of fish. I am not aware of any place else in the U.S. that such activity is allowed. It should not be permitted in Hawaii either by those who chose to be classified as "Sports Fisherman" or Recreational fisherman. I hope that a result of the efforts behind the Strategic Plan will be a definition of "Recreational Fisheries" that must include a uniform prohibition against the sale of fish in all locations in the U.S.
- Maybe just the people who sell fish need to be licensed. A 14 [year] old kid on a pier shouldn't need to.
- The need for salt water fishing licenses in Hawaii is long overdue. Given the deteriorating and long-neglected condition of Hawaii's recreational fishing and marine resources, I am in favor of legislation requiring a salt water fishing license, PROVIDED that the proceeds from the sale of salt water fishing licenses be used solely for the preservation, re-stocking and protection of our Hawaiian salt water recreational fisheries. I am NOT in favor of a salt water licensing requirement if the proceeds from the sale of licenses is to go into a State or Federal general revenue fund which could be used for other purposes. As a recreational fisherman of over 60 years, I am also against federally mandated MPA's.
- I quit fishing (trolling) three years ago; because I got tired of spending $25.00 in gas to a catch a couple of 1 pound Aku. Up until that point I had been fishing in Hawaii for the previous 10 to 11 years and slowly watched the quantity and quality of the fish caught decline. Realistically you should license and place catch limits on the "long-liners". I used to bring my 5-7 pound Ono to the Fish Auction only to have to compete with 70 or more pieces of Ono brought in by one "long-liner", not to mention by-catch such as Marlin, Spearfish, and Ahi. Supposedly the "long-liners" target Swordfish, however I don't see them giving the by-catch away. If there is any way for you to calculate the catches brought in by local fishermen to auction and compare them to fish brought in by "long-liners", you would find that forcing local fisherman to obtain licenses while doing nothing about "long-liners" will do absolutely nothing to promote or manage Hawaii's fisheries. No one here in Hawaii considers "long-liners" local fishermen. That's like licensing and taxing bicycles for use on the roads and letting the truckers go for free. Get Real!!! "Long-liners" are

supposed to fish beyond the 200 mile EEZ, but the Coast Guard doesn't have the resources to enforce the law. The same applies to foreign vessels fishing in our EEZ. Needless to say I would in no way, shape, or form support any type of license for Hawaii fishermen, unless the problem of the "long-liners" is satisfactorily resolved. PS: I also sold my boat, motor, and trailer.

- I was born and raised in Hawaii and have fished and spear-fished for most of my life. I fully support a Hawaii State Fishing License - in fact I believe it is long overdue. Hawaii's hunters currently pay $20 a year or more to hunt - why not fishermen? The Hawaii Hunting license fee goes into a special fund (Wildlife Revolving Fund) that is then used to benefit wildlife species, both game and non-game, throughout the state. Federal surveys show that there are approximately 150,000 fishermen in the state. Charging each $10 would raise $1,500,000. Give half ($750,000) to law enforcement and match the other half 3:1 against federal grants and you have $3M for management. Or charge $20 and double those numbers. Law enforcement is a critical part of the mix. One problem with federal wildlife grants is that they do not allow federal matching funds to be used for law enforcement. This is a serious flaw. Law enforcement is the foundation of wildlife and fisheries management in this country and effective law enforcement is essential. I would support an annual fee of $20 to fish. I have discussed this issue with most of my fisherman friends and I think they would all support the same, perhaps with some perfunctory grumbling. I have heard reference to native gathering rights. The Hawaiians had a much more sophisticated fisheries management system than we have now, with more restrictions and a keen sense of when species should be opened and closed. I say yes, lets go back to a Hawaiian-based system, where every inch of coastline is divided into Fisheries Management Areas, the boundaries based on the old ahupuaa, moku and ili system. Where local councils meet and report their recommendations to a Division of Aquatics official who makes season determinations. I have been to the NWHI and I have seen what a healthy Hawaiian fishery looks like, and what we have today is a sad and tired remnant of what it once was. Fortunately, these systems are incredibly resilient, and could regenerate rapidly with proper management. Please institute a Hawaii State Fishing License. I will gladly buy one.
- The government is bowing to the commercial lobby by not issuing any new charter licenses, for charter boats with 6 or less people fishing for red snapper and grouper in federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico. The commercial harvest is so much more and so unregulated; it is a recipe for disaster. Where is the enforcement for commercial fisherman? The recreational fisherman, of which I consider myself to be, even with a charter license for 6 or less people does so little to the fish stock and so much to the economy in terms of money spent catching the 4 fish per person. The commercial guys are killing the industry. And yes, we need to establish some aquatic reserve areas where known red snapper habitat and breeding areas are, keep them off limits to commercial fisherman, and open to the less damaging recreational fisherman.
- [Comment on marine fisheries license requirement] No, I'm against it!
- I may not be residing in Hawaii any longer, but many of my family and friends still do. If you understand the cultural and Island life you will realize the importance the ocean and its resources play in the survival of many of the island residents. Unfortunately that is more than I can say for transients and commercial fishing. To

take the livelihood a source of food away from the island residence is compatible to when the lands and rights was taken away from our Queen and the people, funny how history repeats itself. Many of our residence are low-income or barely surviving and depend on the ocean for food. If you're thinking of protecting our resources I commend you, but asking for people to pay for the use of God's natural creation or evaluation however way you want to think of it is absurd. We tend to take what's free, claim it and make a profit off it...tell me how much did the bureau pay for the ocean resources to have to charge the island residents to maintain it. It's not the island people that are destructive, we are taught from an early age to respect the land and ocean, not to take more than what we need, to give back and nurture so that these resources will continue to take care of us and our generations to come. Cruise ships and other ocean vessels that dump waste and garbage play an equal part in the survival of our ocean. What exactly can you do to maintain our resources?? I come from a family of fishermen, opihi pickers and ocean lovers and someday I will be back to the islands. Until then I will continue to support the island and voice my concerns.

- In no case should there be a requirement to license recreational marine anglers in the state of Hawaii. There is little to be gained at significant cost for this management. Will you license the scuba-divers, snorkelers, spear-fishermen and opihi-pickers too? Utter nonsense. We are not talking about managing small-mouth bass in Lake Wilson, and there are other methods to garner data. You should track boat registration or commercial fishermen--not recreational anglers. A commercial fisherman's catch will far exceed a large group of recreational anglers--the cost of tracking these anglers far outweighs any useful benefit of the data. Let's spend your limited budget in better initiatives. NOAA will not benefit from the ensuing outrage and negative publicity that will accompany such a grievous decision to license recreational anglers.
- First choice--If you can afford a boat, just tax that in place of an individual fishing license. Second choice--just require license for people in boats, not shore fishing.
- I have been fishing since I was about 3 or 4 and I am now 29. This plan is a good idea and I support the plan, however I do not know how the Fish and Natural Wildlife Resources plan to enforce this when they can't even enforce current size limits. Let's face it that the only reason why this is coming about is due to the size limit not being enforced. Also let me point the fact out that if you fail to meet the size limit law the penalties are not exactly light, so what makes you think that this plan will work any different then the current plan?
- Inshore species:
  - All seasonal fisheries, i.e. no types of fishing during spawning seasons.
  - No protection, none at all presently during egg time.
  - Limit netting until reasonable recovery.
- Offshore migratory:
  - You are kidding....
  - Highly migratory species are just that, all nations bordering the ocean areas will have to submit to similar regulations.
  - Thank you all for any efforts in stopping the open ocean drift nets.
- So, who is included in this plan? In a plan like this, there are those who will be excluded, due to traditional values, a way of life, many fishermen are against the idea

and you already, know this! Now you have one meeting in town, and you are ready to take a voting consensus based on that one meeting. I truly and firmly believe that you need an informed group conscience, bringing your ideas to all there should more information -put on the table, like round tabling the 15 pages of the draft! So, that all would be informed on what you are trying to do, then the feedback will be valuable to research or not. What's the big hurry? My fishing grounds are Kaena Point and Kahuku where Turtle Bay Kuuilima sits. Right where the swimming pool sits there used sit a one man range shack, the place used to be a cow pasture. As a kid my dad I used to go there to catch moi, there was this old man who stayed in the shack, over coco (chocolate) and coffee, he would tell stories of how that place would someday become a resort golf, tennis, etc. We would fish Kahuku during the winter, or when the seaweed was out at Kaena Point. I grew up shoreline fishing, diving, throw netting, casting, and I remember when the shoreline was so plentiful, swimming in schools of fish that was so tame and you could take your pick of Kumu, Uhu, Aholehloe, Weke, Palani, Kala, and Nenui. Those days will never come back, the reefs are dead because of our own doing, I have observed to much chlorine or bleach used by all fishermen to make that fast buck, not to mention industrial waste.

- I have been an avid fisherman for over 50 years. Growing up in the northeast, NY and CT have been my home states for this whole time period (currently I also have a home in south Florida). I have gone through the striper wars and I now reap the benefits of catch and release and somewhat tighter regulations. I presently and have been a tagger with the American Littoral Society since 1987. My question on the stripper issue is, are the states that allow commercial catches upped their quota and lowered there size regulation as I suspect, and as I know the recreational fisherman is still with the same regulations as in past years? Question #2 is about the tuna regulations, of which the commercial guys seem to skate through every year with a total disregard for bycatch and kill. As long as they don't have any regulations on Yellow Fin tuna why should we be stuck holding the bag with a paltry 3 fish per day limit? Especially since we, the recreational fisher, account for 2 to 3% of the catch? And another thing about current regulations. The law reads that a person is allowed three yellows per day, what is the skinny one a boat that is out for two or three days, we should be allowed 6 for a two day trip, 9 for a three day trip, right? But as I see it the NMFS has altered this to read per trip? What's the catch, the commercial guys are not penalized for overages, when and if they fish by the rules, and when they report their catch and its over limit, NMFS just roles it over to next year's quota, but we, the recreational fishermen, still stay the same and gets [expletive deleted] upon as usual! Question #3 is about the way NMFS tried to sneak in the longliners in Florida under the guise of an experiment and to use tax dollars to do so, with the line, we wanted to see if a Sword fishery could be sustained, now that with all the conservation on the recreational fisherman and the terminating of the longliners who put the fishery in dire straights in the first place, it was a nice try though. Will there be any slip shod maneuvering again this year or will NMFS learn by its mistakes? Please answer these three questions if you can, because there are more to come, oh yeah, question #3A, what are the current Blue Fin regulations, and when is the season to be opened up here? Thank you for your time and effort.

- As a recreational fisherman, voter and taxpaying citizen of this country I would like to voice my opinion on the recent "hijinks" [sic] of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). First, I would like to say I am against the following options being considered for the proposed regulations:
  - Mandatory circle hooks for billfishing when using natural baits, dead or alive. (Most recreational fisherman already do this.)
  - No landing of white marlin. (All white marlin are already released by recreational fisherman.)
  - No landing of white marlin or blue marlin outside of established tournaments. (Most recreational fishermen practice "tag and release"; the Recreational Fishermen rarely keep blue marlin. The ones that are kept are usually dead or will not survive. This is a very small number compared in comparison to commercial longliners who put out up to 50 miles of line out with thousands of hooks. They are not selective on the type of fish that they catch like recreational fishermen.)
  - Modifying zones closed to longlining -- this could result in opening closed areas or enlarging them. (Fish stocks such as swordfish in Florida have been on the rise but have NOT recovered. The NMFS wants to re-open these zones with commercial fishing interest in mind and fish stocks will fall--again thanks to the poor management of the NMFS.)
  - Establishing new closed zones. (Ban commercial longlining in all zones.)
  - Requiring all tournaments to be fully catch and release for billfish. (Most already are.)
  - Body tags. (Recreational fisherman practice "tag and release" already.)
  - Log books. (Ridiculous.)
  - Observers. (Another great idea from NMFS. What a waste of taxpayers' money. Look at the number of people that would require. Put the observers on commercial fishing boats, [since] they are the ones doing the damage to fish stocks, not the recreational fishermen.)
  - The problem of the poor fish stocks of billfish does not fall on the recreational fisherman. I selectively target the species of fish I catch and release all of my billfish. As does almost every recreational fisherman today. The problem with the poor fish stocks of billfish falls on commercial longlining and the poor management plans of the NMFS. The NMFS clearly has commercial longliners interest over recreational fisherman. The recreational fishermen are a vital part of this nation's economy. We provide jobs and generate revenue for countless businesses in this country. We are the ones who spend the most money on tackle, boats, hotels, fuel, insurance, taxes, etc. Yet we are the ones who are constantly being punished by the NMFS for the over fishing of the commercial industry.

  Second, I find it quite disturbing but not surprising that the NMFS planned public hearings at such short notice. Many recreational fishermen were not aware of these meetings because the NMFS waited until the last minute to make them known. This was blatantly done to keep the recreational fisherman's input at a minimum. I don't know of any successful business or government entity that would do business that way. It is unethical and unprofessional. As a taxpayer and voter I have a right to give my input within a timely manner. Once again the NMFS tries to put the screws to the "good ol taxpaying recreational fisherman". Well I'm sick of it! I have absolutely no

faith or confidence in the NMFS or any of their fisheries management plans. This is not how our government should be run and our elected officials should make changes with the NMFS and their leaders.

Appendix C: Raw Workshop Attributes and Characteristics

As discussed in Section 2, each of the participants of the nine Regional Constituent Workshops was asked to develop individual lists of attributes and characteristics of a successful Federal Recreational Fisheries Program. During the small group portion of each facilitated session, the members of each group shared their highest priority items for representation by the group in the collective affinity diagram. As a result, the potential existed for items considered by the applicable small group as a lower priority than other items to not be represented on the community affinity diagram product due to this "built-in" prioritization process.

In recognition of this potential, the facilitators at each workshop invited the attendees to leave behind their individual attribute sheets for further consideration if they desired to do so. This appendix represents the total product of these raw attributes that were voluntarily provided by attendees from all nine workshops. In transcribing the attributes for reporting in the list below, obvious spelling errors and grammatical corrections have been made where appropriate but care has been taken to avoid changing the intent of the provider. Approximately five percent of the handwritten attributes were illegible to the point that they could not be represented in this list. No priority should be inferred in the order of presentation. No attempt has been made to filter these raw attributes for applicability or realism.

Raw Workshop Participant-Provided Attributes and Characteristics

- Ensure accountability of managers.
- Provide adequate near shore structures.
- Restrict claming/dredging of near shore bottoms near jetties.
- No area closures.
- No salt water licenses.
- Manage all species from clams to tuna.
- Maintain clean waters and protect habitat.
- Set long term goals based on data which can vary based on input data from local sources.
- Maximize fishing opportunities.
- Minimize burdens on fishermen.
- Decisions based on good data/real science.
- Need quick response when prior management bases/assumptions change/are proven or disproved.
- Minimize conflict between/among users-groups.
- Consistent application across all user-groups.

- Distinguish bycatch/discard from catch & release.
- Better data collection - multiple agencies collecting same data.
- Accurate data collection.
- Need to improve economical impact meetings.
- Have major meetings during off season (March & April) so more people can attend the meetings that will impact their livelihood.
- Provide a longer fall season for red snapper while water is still warm.
- Consider an extension to compensate for time lost due to weather related problems.
- Create tighter restrictions on sewer discharge.
- Determine if pollution could be the reason for low fish counts in certain areas.
- Need to replenish stock before it runs out.
- Limit amount of catch.
- Release undersized fish.
- Determine if catch is environmentally safe for consumption.
- Need to clean up areas.
- Replace more fish in the ocean than we remove. Imitating old traditional efforts and methods combined with modern technologies.
- Reopening and utilizing traditional fish ponds to spawn/hatch new fish.
- Ahupua'a system - for healthy fishery management (consult with State coastal zone management).
- Konohiki management - grass roots/community enforcement.
- Inclusive of near-shore fishery practices and subsistence fishery/gathering practices.
- Identification of ecosystem that protects fish species.
- In-depth consultation with NH fishermen who know the areas and species.
- Incorporation of NH environmental values into Federal/state fishing management rules.
- NOAA - Consult with Hawaiian organizations representing fishermen; for example, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Alu Like, Inc., West Hawaii Fishery Council.
- Protect confidentiality, especially specificity of fishing spots.
- Recognize subsistence (it's real).
- Recognize Native/Indigenous rights.
- Protect purely recreational share of any imposed quota under international agreements.
- Ensure program will be inexpensive for participants.
- Use education more than penalty for compliance.
- Include basic socioeconomic info on participants so cultural needs are considered.
- Duplicate what Alaska is doing [in terms of recognizing claims by native peoples].
- License outsiders, not Hawaiians.
- Support Federal marine fishing license.
- Provide more government grants [for local programs].
- Native Americans should be in charge of licensing [using Federal funds].
- Collect voluntary catch data from regular recreational fisherman.
- Provide tax incentive for registering.

- State run education drive to motivate catch data collection.
- Collect mandatory data from all non-resident recreational fishing.
- Leave the Recreational fishing alone - not over fished.
- Locals should be allowed to fish to eat, not catch and release.
- Incorporate direct intercept surveys to determine catch.
- Be completely and fully funded.
- Be consistent.
- Have low error values.
- Target species of fishery interest as well as ecologically important species.
- Provide direct population estimates and population change measurements.
- Create effective Federal recreational program. What is important and what makes it a success.
- Enforce regulations on a State level.
- Incorporate dock side data and scientific information in a timely manner that can be understood by fisherman.
- When there is a charge for permits, allocate that money to recreational fishing (i.e., stock enhancements, game wardens).
- Ensure all agencies are in cooperation.
- Place value on public input.
- Employ people who care about the resource.
- Restrict International fisherman.
- Make all netting illegal.
- Improve method for counting fish.
- Educate the public on regulations governing fishing.
- Enforce current laws and regulations addressing all netting.
- Restrict netting in certain areas.
- Combine State and Federal data in one database.
- Federal should know what State is doing and vice versa.
- Better enforcement.
- All monies should stay in fisheries fund.
- Have a single government agency deal with fisherman.
- Define recreational fishing.
- Education (why, what and how data) is important to management of fisheries.
- Make community involvement a large part of the plan.
- Provide the state with more funding to collect better data.
- Create an outreach and education program on fishing and conservation of resources for general public, with emphasis on school aged children.
- Provide incentive for the states who collect the best data such as a lump sum "gift".
- Regulate fish stock to avoid over-harvesting.
- Develop the National Plan, but allow the state agencies to have input during the development stages.
- Provide the state with resources, funds, technology, and partially funded positions.
- Assist with technology [development].
- Assist in developing central information repository.

- Provide resources for outreach - not only printed material, also TV, resources for discussion groups.
- Because Hawaii is unique, Federal government should be more flexible and willing to accommodate recreational fishing as it is practiced in Hawaii, not regulated by the same laws of the continental U.S.
- Consider funding and managing recreational fishing piers - coordinate with state agency.
- Education should start in elementary school and in the general public.
- If a license implemented, funds should only benefit the recreational program.
- Enforcement needed to implement these changes.
- Federal should defer powers to individual states that have different species.
- Vision for National Recreational Fisheries - Protect the marine environment so as to sustain recreational fishing.
- Strategic Plan should: 1) preserve the marine environment, 2) educate the public on preserving and wise use, 3) protect, preserve and enforce, 4) afford the public opportunities for recreational fishing.
- Provide an education program for "license" to ensure good fishing practices, preventing over fishing/unsafe fishing practices/un-eco-friendly.
- Institute a permanent license for fishers above age 18, not a seasonal license.
- Determine degree of local control/management of the program in terms of the local environment.
- Federal regulation of the rule enforcement/punishment.
- Local control important.
- Permits make it harder for native Hawaiians to gather food.
- Permits make it more difficult for recreational fisherman and costly for licenses just to take their family out to fish.
- Lay netters, commercial boaters, tournaments that discard fish, and diving tournaments should have a license.
- Allow permits for people who actually eat what they catch.
- Federal Government should be responsible for restocking the waters to compensate for over fishing by non-native gathering like longline boats and other foreign boat companies.
- Monitor more of the fishing boats in/out of Hawaiian waters.
- Limit the amount of nets allowed.
- Limit the alien/foreign boats fishing in the Hawaiian waters.
- Regulate a timely cleanup of wastes in Hawaiian waters.
- Eliminate the permit system for native Hawaiian gathers on boats or land.
- Limit fishing tournaments.
- Limit the amount of specific species caught at tournaments.
- Provide educational programs (commercials TV and Radio, schools, etc.) teaching respect for land, ocean, and marine life.
- Provide strict enforcement - fines and confiscation of fishing supplies, possible jail term for non-compliance.
- Create a board or advisory group made up of State, Federal, and local fisherman.
- License of fess should be kept minimal.

- Create programs that will raise fish and release to increase marine population.
- Eliminate lay net fishing.
- Increase education on state and local levels.
- Provide enforcement when needed.
- Restrictions on amount of equipment used. (i.e., amount of poles, net sizes, etc.).
- Usage permit or license for salt water should not be required regardless of recreational or commercial.
- Initiate comprehensive data collection on fishery stock.
- Account for all users of the ocean - not only recreational fisherman.
- Establish a working network of marine protected areas.
- Education of the population, and fishing community in particular, should be the highest priority.
- Establish a licensing system, where fishing is not a right but a privilege.
- Establish testing to demonstrate an understanding of basic marine ecology, fish anatomy, etc. before a fishing license is issued.
- At the state level, allow cultural practices as they relate to ocean resources, for instance, set aside areas where only traditional fishing methods are allowed ("traditional" meaning pre-contract Hawaii).
- No restrictions for subsistence fisherman.
- No restrictions for recreational fisherman.
- No license or permit required for subsistence or recreational fishing.
- Federal and/or State should provide hatcheries for native species and introduced species.
- The program needs to address preservation by educating our users. There is a need to preserve our resources for future generations. The answer is not necessarily by controlling, for it is impossible to do this. Each of us needs to be aware; not be so much into the "now" that we forget to leave some for the future. Regulating fishing is a good start and doesn't necessarily have to carry such a bad taste. For without any regulations and rules, some tend to take always and not consider the consequences. Evidence shows it now. If there is going to be a fee scale, I would like to see the funds go specifically to education and conservation for our children.
- Ban gill nets.
- Create a network of fully protected marine areas.
- License all fishermen.
- Need better funding for Dept. of Aquatic Resources.
- Need more fisheries enforcement and stronger penalties.
- Funds from licenses should go directly to fishery management issues.
- Keep fishermen informed of latest research and population survey.
- Have government scientists/management people meet regularly with fishermen.
- Education program for entire public from school students to community groups and fishermen.
- If stocks look healthy - loosen restrictions and open MPAs in carefully observed utilization.
- Research with fisherman the best ways to avoid bycatch.

- Educate younger fisherman and new immigrants about fishery sustainability and regulations.
- Institute better data collection.
- Maintain current levels on measuring numbers of existing fisheries.
- Must share emerging concepts to improve existing systems with the people affected by the policies.
- Promote conservation of endangered species to ensure diversity.
- Reverse public concept of the ocean as a dumping ground.
- Maintain unbiased flows of funding, information resulting success/failure of all funded projects.
- Provide means to make long term decision on protected areas.
- Tax the users/participants to provide the funding for those responsible.
- Funds used to maintain current levels or increasing volume of individual in each specific fishery.
- Promote conservation of all species to maintain existing species diversity.
- Reverse public concept that the ocean is a rubbish dump.
- Tax the consumers of the fisheries—restaurants, sushi, supermarkets—tax or raise funding.
- Implement regulations to aid in re-stocking depleted species.
- Improve enforcement of current laws.
- Eliminate unregulated and unlicensed commercial fishing.
- Eliminate or place stricter regulations on gill netting.
- Establish research to better understand spawning seasons, reproductive size, etc. so as to provide accurate and efficient management.
- Establish a permit system allocating revenue to a specific fund to finance research and enforcement.
- Set realistic minimum sizes. Don't take immature fish out before one year of spawning.
- End the program because in my experience as a diver I see more turtles than fish in the ocean. I think there is something wrong with our data.
- Eliminate all taxes, fees and licenses.
- Use the current funds for the program, do not allow them to be put into the general fund.
- Avoid taking the resource away from the people.
- Where will the funding come from to enforce the program?
- Data can be taken from tackle shops.
- Why is this even an issue when recreational fishing only accounts for a fraction of a percent? Why not target the commercial and foreign fleets?
- Avoid wasting money on stupid public service announcements like "stay 300 feet away from the dolphins." The dolphins come to the boat.
- Make sure there is public input before rules [are implemented].
- Keep commercial interests out of a buffer zone.
- Audit that the state uses recreational generated funds to service recreational fishermen.

- Start a "police" force within recreational boaters to monitor commercial fishermen.
- Use boater registration as a means to keep track of catch data, e.g., turn in data when you register. Check hours on boats, assume each trip is 10 hours (average for Hawaii).
- Keep in mind indigenous rights.
- Make sure only trolling gear on "PO" long line gear is "CO".
- A new system should consist of rules and regulations created by local fisherman in Hawaii and not of any state/federal governments because it seems to me they want to stick their hands in the recreational fisherman pockets.
- No permits or license.
- Program should not cost the fishermen anything.
- Program should set very broad guidelines but keep out of local issues.
- Funding should be provided to the local level to support the program.
- Establish very defined goals and objectives that are quantifiable and reasonable. Provide annual evaluations of the program to show that goals are being met.
- No salt water fishing license - The creator supplied the resource. Do not let the commercial fishery deplete species and force all of us to eat down the food chain.
- Control fisheries that destroy large quantities of young fish over the year, so that larger fish can be sold for a higher profit at the market.
- Allow bait to travel down the coast so that normal migration can take place in the spring and the fall.
- Work with other countries in the control of Bluefin tuna so that all fall under the same rules and regulations. No $28 permit -- Didn't do any good.
- Control bureaucrats - at this time they are not very effective. Do something about the "Belford Pirates" working at night eliminating species, running over a marine policeman who was attempting to stop the illegal operation.
- [Eliminate] running gun battles between lobster boats.
- Educate the commercial fisherman so that interests include less greed, profit, and disregard of the natural resource and settling vendettas and area disputes.
- Meet with the public for input on complaints and problems with fishing.
- Have "fishing seasons" - Control unlimited fishing.
- Set aside more areas for "no fishing reefs" in and around islands.
- Have other areas for "fishing/no fishing" -- Move every 5 years -- allowing fish to make a comeback in new areas.
- Limit the number of fish caught per day per person.
- Impose a tax on all fish sold to public that pays for protecting areas and studies for restocking ocean areas for fish number reductions.
- Set up working restocking sport fish to fished areas -- paid for by tax on all fish sold. All public needs to pay for fish restocked.
- Require fishing license with a movie which talks about the numbers of fish now and 40 years ago. People need to be heard. They want more input before the final decisions are made.
- Reduce the catch.
- Educate and implement outreach.
- Require permits.

- Establish incentives and benefits.
- Enforce penalties/fines.
- [Use] marine protected areas.
- Smart gear technology. Catch and release.
- Monitor compliance.
- Conduct outreach workshops.
- Prepare accurate data collection for real-time stock assessment
- Establish cooperative research between Federal and recreational fisheries.
- Bycatch mitigation measuring i.e., catch and release.
- Conduct workshops -- outreach and educational programs to keep the general recreational fishing public information in a timely manner.
- Comply with proposed rules and objectives - size and bag limits.
- MPAs - time area closures.
- Establish tools and practices for reducing bycatch mortality.
- Educate and outreach through workshops.
- Establish catch & release guidelines.
- Establish cooperative research.
- Collect better data.
- Create practical bycatch reduction measures.
- MPAs (reasonable).
- Subcontract more to those specific in their field.
- Create incentives for fisheries.
- Implement permit, license and registration system.
- Start with children: Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Youth Angler Programs.
- Advertise for sources of funding. Make application process better known.
- Establish and implement permit, license and registration system.
- Collect better catch & effort data.
- Initiate cooperative research.
- Set up education through outreach workshops.
- Develop benefits and incentives.
- Enforce penalties/fines.
- Bycatch reduction.
- Youth catch and release.
- Establish more MPA (Marine Protected Areas)
- Develop compliance guidelines.
- Develop smart gear.
- Gather funding sources.
- Coordinate State and Federal programs.
- Encourage stockholders' participation from inception of programs.
- Encourage international compliance with U.S. norms and policies.
- Protect U.S. fisherman and anglers from foreign exploitation.
- Coordinate efforts of all recreational constituents.
- Establish realistic size limits.
- Set realistic bycatch reduction measures.

- Set realistic, universal regulations and enforcement.
- Create educational and outreach workshops.
- Collect accurate data.
- Initiate cooperative research.
- Develop credibility of accurate reporting of facts.
- Protect resources for the people.
- Establish benefits and provide incentives.
- Create permit, license, and registration system.
- Initiate cooperation.
- Encourage Feds to get involved in international relationships with fish catches, with species monitoring and limits, if necessary.
- Establish an international council to manage fisheries for sustainability.
- Develop permits.
- Develop size and seasonal regulations that correlate with breeding capabilities.
- Initiate helpful fish information, such as safety, rules, i.e., pamphlets, maps, guides, classes, etc.
- Hire additional field personnel to conduct surveys and enforce regulations.
- Develop a website with retail and regulating information links.
- Have annual hearings/public meetings.
- Program should reflect concerns of all fishing types.
- Make sure funds generated from permits and fines stay in fisheries (use for enforcement and outreach).
- Establish near-shore fishing for seniors and children.
- Initiate a fishing licensing program with funds placed back into recreational fishing.
- Maintain fishing piers and platforms offshore.
- Restore waters in streams and brackish nursery areas for salt and fresh water organisms.
- Interaction of Recreational Fishery with Ocean Recreation, Cruise Ships, Harbor & Port Activities (Shipping -- going and coming), Jet skis, parasailing, kite surfing, free divers, aqua tank divers -- getting larger than the present facilities can handle. Conduct future planning and assess potential costs (beyond monetary).
- Sustainable fisheries -- enough fish for future generations for sustenance, recreation, science and other non-consumptive uses.
- Place lightest burden on public for monitoring, record-keeping, etc.
- No additional taxes/assessments on fisheries.
- Collection of good quality data to establish health and status of stocks.
- Integration with other information -- climate, oceanographic conditions, etc., to be able to see where current stock status is in historic perspective, i.e., the "existing situation" at any given time is a "snapshot", but in reality is a "movie." We are always at a point on a cycle, we must understand the natural ranges of variability and where we are within the range at any given time. This implies that static limits are not appropriate. Output controls such as catch limitations should have flexibility to adjust to where stocks are within their natural ranges.
- Reliable data collection methods.

- Conservation education from early age to include such things as: breeding stock, size/age identification, and value of sustainability in large ecosystems.
- Goal dissemination of information to the public (i.e., I didn't know there were no over fished areas in Hawaii).
- Identification of unlicensed vessels (fisherman) while at sea and appropriate, punitive measures against them.
- Guarantee of nondisclosure (except for data evaluation purposes) of sensitive fishing sites.
- [Emphasis on] MPAs and enforcement.
- Hatchery stock enhancement programs -- either State run or Federal funded, etc.
- Education and awareness for children especially since the islands are our home.
- Better DLNR coordination with fisherman and funding for control of fisheries and law enforcement.
- Expand tagging program to encourage catch and release and for data collection.
- Improve on-going public education about the fisheries resources.
- Encourage State to manage the "consumptive" users at the recreational level, i.e., enforcement, education.
- Improve enforcement of "all" (not just deep sea) fishery resources.
- Help/partner with the State to do more research and management of habitat.
- Place greater pressure for all involvement in activities such as National Hunting & Fishing Day. Needs more promotion of this national event on all islands.
- Support both sides and/or mediate aboriginal fishing issues when it comes to greater regulation of recreational "consumptive" use, i.e., fishing licenses, enforcement, etc.
- Encourage more and on-going dialog with recreational public and managers of resources. Something has got to give. No pay, no play.
- Establish accurate, real-time data.
- Establish understanding of fisherman's needs, including non-consumptive group.
- Develop agile program - ability to respond quickly to changing situations.
- Understand ecosystem-wide effects.
- Improve effective communications with fisherman
- Puts fisheries resources before fisherman's needs/desires.
- Understand regional differences and seriously consider them.
- Involve State or region in the decision-making.
- Establish a clear line of decision-making [to ensure accountability].
- Support the substance of a recreational fishery by: providing enforcement of current and future rules; designating pole fishing areas only; and closing areas around [spawning grounds] to all forms of fishing to allow for [sustainable] stocks.
- Require classes prior to obtaining a fishing license.
- Have the proceeds from the license go for the enforcement of current and future regulations.
- Federal agency should determine and assess the many forms of recreational fishing methods that most impact the fisheries in a negative way.
- Completely eliminate lay-net fishing.
- Require fishing licenses for all forms of fishing.

- Educate the courts on fine and penalty structure for fishing violations.
- Advertise for sources of funding. Make application process better known.
- Support the fisheries with all funds generated from licenses. Do not place the funds in a general fund.
- Encourage Federal government to fund local level efforts but not to influence the efforts. Leave local-level efforts alone.
- Hawaiian Island fisheries are not like fisheries in other places in the U.S. So, do not try to impose programs that have worked in other places.
- If registration/fee for license or permit becomes the final solution to force the recreational fishermen to comply with a recording "catch" program, the funds should stay in the local [program] so the monies can support the region.
- It is hard for me as a [native] Hawaiian to be charged a fee for fishing to feed my family when I am not selling my catch, while you have fishermen breaking local fishing rules already and no enforcement being done.
- Enforce local laws we have already have. Make a "hot line" [available] 24 hours per day so the public can report law breakers.
- If permits are necessary they should be free to recreational users -- we already pay too much in taxes, i.e., free registration for permits in exchange for data.
- Enforce regulations well.
- Establish a cost-efficient operation.
- Dramatically increase public education.
- Organize to enable more volunteering help -- especially from retired persons.
- Adequately fund research.
- Restock dangerously low populations of Araga & Ehu within restricted "no-fishing" areas.
- Take the politics out of the science decisions.
- Utilize the Internet to collect and process data faster from recreational fishermen.
- Give away lottery tickets to reward data submitters.
- Educate all users in practicing fishing conservation.
- Enforce fishing restrictions.
- Play an interactive role between [anglers] and [NOAA] to get maximum input in solving problems.
- Select a designated sport fish that would be illegal to catch to sell (such as bonefish) and start a sport fishery here that is protected and perpetuated.
- Instigate catch & release "incentives" with rewards.
- Cooperate with and help resolve State sport fisheries problems.
- Project and predict long-term problems and benefits of specific sports fishing activities.
- Relate solutions of other states' fisheries problems to each specific State.
- Be ready to provide a task force on specific recreational fishing problems.
- Contrast the economic value of the recreational fishery with the commercial fishery.
- Coordinate effort between city, State (AL/FL), and Federal laws.
- Clarify the definition of recreational and commercial fishermen.
- Re-evaluate bag and size limit for year-round fishing for red snapper.

- Continuation of the charter boat moratorium.
- Improve data collection to support more catch for recreational sector.
- Keep commercial boats out of public reef areas.
- Size limits, catch limits, etc. should have the same regulations for both recreational boats and commercial boats.
- Enforce more offshore regulation on commercial and recreational boats.
- Increase budget for better data before laws are made and fisheries are closed.
- Propose a moratorium on reef fish permits for all boats including private, commercial, recreational, and for hire.
- Use people on boats to provide accurate data collection.
- Limit one snapper per person in winter, four snapper person in season.
- Protect public reefs from commercial boats that strip mine and kill public reefs.
- Reduce red snapper size limit back to 14".
- Enforce the use of bycatch reduction devices to reduce fish kill.
- Create a real economic impact study on fishing in Gulf coast.
- Reopen shark killing to reduce shark population.
- Protect our public reefs.
- Protect areas where fishing is permitted.
- Establish "no fish" zones.
- Limit sport catch.
- Enforce rules with knowledge and common sense.
- Educate how to release fish with the least amount of harm.
- Recreational year round fisheries should maintain sustainable stocks.
- Stock assessments are needed for the recreational fishery.
- Accurate recreational landing data that reflects reality is important.
- Better communication regarding needs for management, regulations, and species identification.
- Inches and pounds should be included in all documents maintained by recreational fisheries.
- Recreational fisheries should have clean water.
- Maintain active artificial reef programs across the United States.
- Maintain consistent firm regulations, seasons, limits, etc. that do not change from month to month.
- Coordination between all governing bodies is desired.
- Authorities should enforce control of regulations.
- Restrict gill nets from inshore areas.
- Solicit input from all areas.
- Encourage hatcheries for needed species.
- Develop sound data collection activities with compatibility or comparability among regions.
- Increase angler participation in management process; data collection methodologies, data review, etc.
- Increase data collection through increased angler-provided data.

- Acquire increased funding to support research and coordination with agencies/councils by identifying economic value/impact of fishing.
- Provide timely feedback of data collection through reports and posting of data on Internet.
- Increase public awareness of resource through education and outreach.
- Re-evaluate effectiveness of current data collection programs within NMFS for relevancy and possible redundancy.
- Fisheries should be reasonably priced with no runaway license fees.
- Access roads and fishing spots should be kept open after dark for people who work during the day.
- Limit incidental catch by commercial fishermen.
- Make commercial fishing size limits the same as recreational size limits.
- Stop commercial fishing in permit dump zones because they don't build reefs.
- Reduce bycatch.
- Commercial fishermen need to be kept outside our legal dumping grounds.
- Satellite tags should be available to responsible taggers.
- Improve data collection by captain and crew.
- Improve policing of commercial creel limits.
- Maintain 4 to 6 fish limit with no release on red snapper.
- Tag and release all marlin.
- Recognize that throwbacks tend to "train" Dolphins.
- Stop commercial fishery in permitted zone.
- Limit captain and crew to two fish per person.
- Look at creel limits and size limits.
- Because fish attract fish, allow more reefs to be built in more places.
- Regulate fishing spots or areas for commercial/recreational fishing.
- Minimize the amount of small snapper being killed by deep hooks, flipper, and other predators.
- All States should work together for the same ultimate goal.
- Highly migratory species have stricter size limits; tag and release all billfish as well as Bluefin tuna.
- Improve enforcement resources along Alabama coast (balancing commercial and recreational impacts on the fishing populations).
- Ensure the statistical validity of the research designed to quantify the artificial reef program impact on reef fish.
- Provide accessible education programs to all ages.
- Improve tools for collecting data to include combination observers, intercept data, phone surveys.
- Validate sample size concerns with observers (boats being observed will influence catch).
- Improve use of resources intercept data.
- Lobby to increase quotas for recreational fishing; lobby to lower quotas for commercial fishing.

- More commercial enforcement needed because they are responsible for 90% of harvest.
- Create a sister program for commercial data collection.
- Manage billfish and big game species as tuna, dolphin, and Wahoo so that fishing tournaments can continue to exist all over the Gulf of Mexico. This includes giving anglers the right to harvest large blue marlin in addition to releasing game fish.
- Work with foreign countries such as the Bahamas, teaching them the importance of releasing marlin rather than weighing in everything they can.
- Stronger regulations on the fishermen who are depleting the populations of fish the most. If the recreational fishermen are killing the most fish, then they should have tougher regulations, and if commercial fishermen are depleting the populations more, they should have tougher regulations.
- More emphasis should be on tag and release of billfish in tournaments instead of on kill.
- Commercial fishermen should also be held to new limits as they are placed on the recreational fisherman.
- Regulations should be enforced fairly.
- Collect more data from tournaments.
- Collect data via the internet from recreational fishermen (e.g., number of billfish tag and release, swordfish, etc.).
- Collect data from charter boats on catch, number of people, etc.
- Require federal permits for billfish.
- Allow more satellite tags by individuals who are interested.
- Use the Internet more for information to provide and collect.
- Need more education for data collectors.
- Limit international fishing vessels in U.S. waters.
- Curb the amount of indiscriminant fisheries.
- Assure access to fishing and fisheries resources for commercial boats, charter boats, private boats, and surf or pier fishermen.
- Apply as much money as possible to gather credible and accurate science. The councils are guessing without reliable data.
- Evaluate plans on "what's best for the fishery." Forbid economic impact on individual constituencies, as the primary selection criteria.
- Keep a balance between different types of fishermen.
- Try to keep a good stock of mature fish to keep their species productive.
- Try to keep commercial fishermen in check to leave enough for sports fishermen.
- Everybody should be aware of the environment while fishing.
- Improve angler survey to more accurately reflect real catch.
- Add more samples to computer database for development of models.
- Limit or avoid season closures.
- Encourage creation of fish habitats.
- Reduce release mortality.
- Take into consideration the economic impact.
- Evaluate the important attributes of marine fisheries.

- Federal and state management should be fully coordinated.
- Use all available accurate information to base decisions on, not "junk science."
- Obtain good data from all users - recreational, charter, and commercial.
- Build on existing state programs.
- More studies on hook and release are needed.
- Salaries of NMFS staff should be doubled.
- Tell headquarters that we need in-season recreational data and techniques.
- Each council should have a recreational staff person.
- Recognize the need to expand recreational data to inland areas.
- Obtain better socio-economic data from an industry point of view.
- Integrate federal recreational initiatives with existing regional management and science programs.
- Determine NMFS's role in managing recreational fisheries.
- Improve recreational catch accounting.
- Stock assessments for near shore ground fish species.
- Increase biological data collection.
- Management and healthy fisheries must have sufficient data collection for recreational fisheries.
- Commit to sufficient funding for the recreational fishery monitoring programs and research.
- Funding needs to be decided and promulgated in a timely manner for sufficient planning and implementation.
- Recreational issues need to be tailored to local differences and needs on the various coasts.
- Strategic plans need to be carried out, not just put on paper.
- NMFS, the states, councils, and commissions need to work together on recreational issues.
- Using biological parameters, a program is needed that maximizes public angling exposure to resource, i.e., a growing constituent base, growing angler trips.
- Improve economic data associated with sport angling.
- Improve outreach and communication with angling community, especially outside the council family (more outreach staff and offices, improve infrastructure).
- More assistance is needed with research into gear types and impacts.
- Continue mortality studies.
- Improve integration/understanding of NOAA fisheries role in species protection/recovery and where does harvest fit into the bigger picture.
- There should be internal reconciliation between harvest/protection restoration roles.
- Establish customer service with email communications, face-to-face meeting opportunities, constituent meetings, etc.
- Communicate information in layman's terms.
- Need effective Federal and state coordination.
- Establish individual fishing quota's (IFQ) for commercial [fisheries].
- Economic impacts should be reflected in quotas.
- Scientific data collection for populations is crucial.

- Continue ongoing public outreach.
- Avoid MPA's at all costs - regulate, not close!
- Establish meaningful penalties for violations to strengthen enforcement.
- Clearly define a role and establish clear boundaries with other Federal and state fishery agencies.
- If unbiased science is the current role, then significantly improve the quality of the science with direct agency work, sponsored projects and research for a funding source for private and public research, and accredited data collection and other private initiatives.
- Recognize the recreational sector is a diverse and loosely coordinated sector.
- Make efforts to reach out to all sectors to create an understanding of the recreational constituency.
- Do not impose unrealistic technological expectations on the recreational sector.
- Facilitate and encourage communication within the recreational sector.
- Recognize the economic engine driven by the recreational fishery sector.
- Refrain from advocating solutions in search of a problem.
- Use science to understand the issues, identify and test solutions and proceed to implement when the science supports action.
- Sports fisheries are protected to be more abundant, i.e., lower level of exploitation.
- Fisheries resources are matched to sectors which extract the maximum economic value from each (e.g., commercial take is not allowed when recreational take of a species is limited).
- Decisions are made with adequate public input, including gauges of sentiments of the fishing public that does not attend meetings.
- Research is constantly applied to better our methods and choices.
- The economic value of sport fishing is known and meaningfully weighed in decisions.
- Timely and accurate catch data including discard is available on the RecFIN web site.
- Establish realistic and accurate economic value of sport fishing (i.e., compare value of a sport vs. commercial caught fish).
- Establish regulations that reduce bycatch mortality (i.e., other than non-retention) and are simple to understand and follow by the angler.
- Improve outreach for public involvement with brochures to explain management process/regulations and how to get involved.
- Create improved and timely stock assessments.
- Improved allocation is needed to reflect value in sport fishing, coastal community needs, and overall social value.
- New gear and release research to improve angler opportunity.
- Support ecosystem-based management.
- Ensure adequate data collection and processing.
- Utilize precautionary approach in face of uncertainty.
- Establish multi-jurisdictional coordination.
- Be responsive to community and local area needs.
- Complementary to commercial activity in each area.

- Adaptive to new information, yet predictable as to when and how new data will be used.
- Involve stakeholders in research.
- Have a robust educational component.
- Enforcement is adequate to regulations.
- Puts conservation of marine ecosystem first.
- Involve restoration of habitat, especially involving fishermen.
- Have free and easy sharing of non-confidential data with the public.
- Establish timely and accurate data collection.
- Need current, up-to-date catch statistics.
- Need regional management that includes states and catch areas within states.
- Federal government and States should establish over-fished species bycatch solutions.
- Start drafting allocation/principles for sport/commercial management if species encountered by both groups.
- Create general principles that might guide decision makers.
- Establish local (ports) communication points for keeping anglers up-to-date on critical issues (seasons/closed areas, bycatch quota, attainment progress).
- Species identification manuals for distribution to charter vessels, marine stores, etc. (charts, booklets of recreation species, particularly critical species).
- Explore economic value of recreation fisheries on a port by port basis.
- Recreational catch data refinement is a priority.
- Need a common Federal/state vehicle for anglers to record catch.
- Use current technology to collate and record catch.
- Require all marine anglers to use technology to record catch.
- Need timely (in season) analysis of catch data.
- Use commercial passenger vessels to verify CPUE (where and when applicable) data as verification for private boat angler data.
- Use above as framework for socio-economic database.
- Emphasis importance of collaborative research between NOAA scientists/ community/commercial passenger vessels.
- Integrate regulations on state and national level with emphasis on local fisheries being the driving force.
- Consistently regard economic importance/law and verbiage of recreational vs. commercial fisheries.
- Use validated scientific data to determine catch/usage model for recreational and commercial limits and quotas.
- Improve observation programs for monitoring commercial catch/bycatch efforts and true scientific data recorded by observers without pressure from company, crew, or vessel.
- Use fishing clubs/organizations as monitoring models and data banks for catch information around the U.S. (validation already exists on data because of programs used within clubs to validate catch records).
- Have informed local/regional representation with access by the angling community.
- Have efficient flow of information regarding management plans in their formative stages in layman language.

- Communicate with angling community in plain English.
- Recognize recreation angling role in constituents.
- Provide better representation [of recreational anglers].
- Improve and continue closer coordination with state management agencies.
- Need to increase outreach opportunities.
- Need to simplify regulations where possible.
- Promote a proactive management philosophy vs. reactive.
- Develop better process to receive comment/input from constituents on regional issues.
- Prohibit "kill" bluefish tournaments.
- Open the EEZ for striper fishing only if science related to fish stocks supports it.
- Prohibit snag-hooking (casting/dragging a treble hook to foul-hook fish).
- Do more to encourage catch and release of billfish.
- Ensure that fair shares of fish are reserved for recreational anglers.
- Prohibit "culling" (returning smaller fish to water when a larger one is caught).
- Explain how the quotas for commercial and recreational fishermen are determined.
- Do more to prohibit import of fish which are not allowed to be caught or are endangered in U.S. waters.
- Allocation HMS northern vs. southern areas needs to have better communication process.
- Northern quotas should not be considered as same as southern areas due to time of migration patterns of pelagic fish.
- Individual states should manage striped bass; open up EEZ management process.
- States should follow ASMFC's lead in management.
- ASMFC should have expanded authority in planning - extreme geography.
- Realize that marine protected areas are more a political issue.
- Let fisheries people manage fisheries issues (i.e., white marlin ESA).
- Another example in VA is management of menhaden by VA General Assembly vs. VMRC.
- Set up workshops between user groups commercial/recreational and charter people.
- Open up communications and try to educate each group.
- A continuation of workshop environment similar to [the Regional Constituent Workshops] to consider management plan agenda.
- Compliment, modify or change current situations such as the white marlin problem.
- Consider using MPAs in a situation like the endangered white marlin species.
- Develop and implement plan to streamline and speed up council management process.
- Move fishery management to [Department of the] Interior.
- Work toward use of multi-species and ecosystem management.
- Remove bias toward commercial interests in councils and NMFS.
- Work for improved coordination between enforcement agencies.
- Identify economic and social importance of recreational fishery to develop allocation of resources between user groups.
- Establish regulations that remain the same throughout a fisheries season.

- Improve all data collection information.
- Address inequity of using past historic data for allocation that does not use timeframes of high recreational landings.
- Realize that the future is now.
- Open EEZ limit for stripers.
- Limit the number of cows commercial fishermen are able to harvest to save breeding stock.
- Acquire angling club input.
- Maintain accurate assessment of stocks with regular open workshops to review current statistics.
- Be more responsive to scientific/technological updates.
- Work closely with environmental agencies to educate recreational anglers.
- Effectively communicate across Federal, state and local lines policy and regulation modifications.
- Maintain effective and sufficient financial support of local law/regulation enforcement at both Federal and state level.
- Be responsive to socio-economic factors unique to each region.
- Establish effective use of private industry to support education programs supporting conservation-minded fishing practices.
- Establish recreational fishing regulations/guidelines that ensure a sustainable fishery while preserving the challenge, fun and spirit of recreational fishing.
- Effectively enforce regulations to insure sustainable fisheries with the purpose of conservation as opposed to preservation.
- Open the EEZ [to all recreational fishing].
- Make it illegal to kill any billfish.
- Need more dock enforcement nationally.
- Use more common sense when making laws and when looking at data.
- Remove the politics from the process.
- Establish penalties for both recreational and commercial law breakers.
- Bluefin quotas need to be looked at so the whole East Coast has a season for recreational fishing.
- Stop long line fishing.
- Identify which user group is putting the most money into the local economy.
- Use effective scientific management of fish stocks (not political) to sustain and improve fish stocks for recreational use.
- Establish conservation measures apportioned to both recreational and commercial interests as science dictates.
- Determine the value to the economy of recreational fishing vs. commercial interests and how that value is affected by conservation measures such as limits, seasonal closures.
- Create ample opportunity for all anglers to harvest fish by apportioning limits over geographic areas.
- Protect species in winter staging areas from recreational/commercial over harvest.
- Implement long term research plan for all bluewater species.
- Establish long term funding.

- Establish mortality reduction research.
- Create educational workshops to promote conservation practices.
- Enforce ICCAT limits for foreign fishing industries by holding back U.S. support and loans from the World Bank.
- Promote awareness of the pollution problems in the oceans.
- Employ successful management of EEZ/state boundaries.
- Use local state/academic resources to establish flexible management plans that account for local/regional conditions.
- Implement effective communication plans such that constituents are informed regarding plan objectives, progress toward objectives, basis for objectives, and parity between commercial and recreational users.
- Manage factors that influence fisheries but are not necessarily direct fishery interests (i.e., water/ocean quality, other environmental issues and the effect of international fishery issues).
- Establish an education plan to ensure public knowledge of fishery issues.
- Clearly identify funding requirements and available resources (red, yellow, green status) so the public is aware of opportunities to help.
- Enlist on a regular basis local/regional user input.
- Limit commercial fishing active during seasons.
- Let all states involved know, in advance, of new or changed regulations.
- Hold more public input meetings concerning anticipated changes to regulations.
- Publicize all regulations/changes through local newspaper and media facilities, marinas, tackle shops, fishing clubs, etc.
- Establish reliable survey methods in determining number of anglers and total catches.
- Establish improved coordination between Federal, state and recreational/commercial fishermen.
- Make more information available to the fishing public.
- Improve regulation and law enforcement of long line fisheries.
- All pots should be brought ashore when sea bass are not in season.
- Flounder regulations should be equal for size with recreation sizes.
- Notify news media of law and regulation changes.
- Restrict taking fish before they are fully grown.
- Cite and fine fishers on craft who net undersize fish and fish with eggs.
- Have the Coast Guard check on foreign fishing vessels who deplete our oceans near our international waters and who use illegal means of fishing.
- Limit certain fish that are low in population during certain times of the year and during breeding season.
- Maintain timely and accurate data collection.
- Develop socio-economic data on recreational fishing.
- Account for and reduce bycatch and discards.
- Integrate recreational section into ecosystem-based management of fisheries.

Appendix D: Workshop Attendance Statistics

The following attendance statistics are provided for the complete series of Regional Constituent Workshops. Note that affiliation data were not collected by the host of the Pacific Islands workshop and is unknown for the bulk of the attendees.

Geographic Region	Attendees	Location
Southwest	24	Seal Beach, CA
Southeast	31	Dania Beach, FL
Northwest	29	Portland, OR
Atlantic States	25	Tuckerton, NJ
Northeast	18	Peabody, MA
Pacific Islands	140	Honolulu, HI
Gulf of Mexico East	39	Orange Beach, AL
Gulf of Mexico West	19	Houston, TX
Mid-Atlantic	25	Virginia Beach, VA
Total	**350**	

All Attendees Breakout	Seal Beach	Dania Beach	Portland	Tuckerton	Peabody	Honolulu	Orange Beach	Houston	Virginia Beach	Totals
Academia	8	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	15
Federal Government	4	3	10	4	5	4	2	1	2	35
State & Local Government	0	4	6	0	2	4	2	1	0	19
Business	3	5	4	3	2	0	14	7	3	41
Non-Gov't Organization / Club	7	12	9	14	8	5	9	8	15	87
Private Citizen	0	4	0	3	0	23	11	0	3	44
Media	2	2	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	10
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	99	0	0	0	99
Totals	**24**	**31**	**29**	**25**	**18**	**140**	**39**	**19**	**25**	350

Endnotes

[1] http://www.oceancommission.gov

[2] http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/recfish

[3] RecFish 2000 National Symposium: Managing Marine Recreational Fisheries in the 21st Century. Symposium report, California Sea Grant College Program, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 25-28 June 2000, San Diego, California

[4] http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero

[5] http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishnews.htm

[6] Leone, D., Gone fishin' for licenses. Honolulu Star-Bulletin, June 23, 2003, p. 1

[7] Poepoe et al., The Use of Traditional Hawaiian Knowledge in the Contemporary Management of Marine Resources. Proceedings of the Putting Fishers' Knowledge to Work Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, 27-31 August 2001, pp. 328-339

[8] http://www.hiltonsoffshore.com

[9] http://www.roffs.com

[10] http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/recfish

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