



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Recreational Fisheries Summit Discussion

GFMC – SAFMC Joint Working Group  
October 12, 2022

# March 29th & 30th, 2022

Agenda Topics:

- Climate Resilient Fisheries
- Balancing Ocean Uses
- Data Collection & Use
- Management Flexibility & Optimum Yield



Keynote: Whit Fosburgh, President & CEO, TRCP

175 in-person participants & ~90 on-line/day

Steering Committee: Anglers & Interstate Fisheries Commissions

# Summit Discussions – Climate

## Primary Concerns:

- Adverse impacts to natural resources
- Lack of scientific baseline to fully understand climate driven changes
- Loss of access to fishery resources
- Loss of revenue (for-hire and shore-side businesses)
- Pace of change exceeding pace of management & science processes

## Interest In:

- NOAA leadership on inter-council governance issues
- Regulatory and scientific nimbleness
- Additional climate engagement (incl. data collection) & education

# Summit Discussions – Ocean Uses

## Primary Concerns:

- Impacts to target species, forage fish, habitat, access, etc
- Lack of comprehensive understanding of baseline conditions
- Lack of recreational data needed for planning & development

## Interest In:

- Monitoring short and long-term impacts
- Early stakeholder involvement in project siting, design & development
- Identifying secondary/ancillary benefits of new infrastructure
- Maintaining structures long-term after decommissioning

# Summit Discussions – Recreational Data

## Primary concerns:

- Data being used beyond its capability
- Uncertainty is undermining trust among anglers
- Angler concerns over data are not heard / addressed
- Climatic shifts may be adding to uncertainty
- Funding for data collection

## Interest in:

- Better recreational fishery dependent data
- More fishery independent data
- Understanding how to incorporate citizen science and angler data into the federal system
- Greater fed/state public engagement re: data collection and application, and dissemination of results

# Summit Discussions – Recreational Management

## Management Flexibility & Reform

- Highly variable concepts
- Support for management flexibility; concerns over understanding associated risks.
- Increase speed/responsiveness of management; incorporate backstops
- Flexibility vs. stability

## Optimum Yield

- Highly variable concept
- Account for human dimensions aspects
  - Need to understand angler motivations
  - Quantify socio-economic impacts and value of fish left in the water
- Concerns that leaving fish in the water seen as failing to achieve MSY

# Summit Follow-through

- Internal agency feedback discussions (Completed)
- Commission feedback (Completed)
- Final Summit Report (Completed)
- Identify & publish interim agency responses (Completed)
- Initiate review of National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy
  - Solicit input from management partners and fishing public (Qs 3&4 CY 2022)