



National Recreational Fishing Summit Update

**December 14 & 15, 2016 -
Hollywood Beach, Florida**

Rich Hughett, Recreational Fishing Primary

April 21st, 2017

National Marine Sanctuaries National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



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2016 NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL RECREATIONAL FISHING SUMMIT Hosted by National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in Partnership with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and National Marine Fisheries Service Hollywood, Florida December 14-15, 2016	
PARTICIPANT	AFFILIATION
National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members	
David Bacon	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Recreational Fishing
Will Benson	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Charter Fishing Flats Guide
Jack Curlett	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Recreational
Ernie Foster	Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Recreational/Commercial Fishing
George Goiger	Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee, Chair
Scott Hickman	Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Recreational Fishing
Dean Hudson	National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Advisory Council, Ocean Recreation
Richard Hughett	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Recreational Fishing
Al Dean J. Moe	Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Michael Pierdinock	Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Recreational Fishing
Tim Tarver	Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Sport Fishing
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, NOAA and National Wildlife Federation Staff	
John Armor	Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Grace Bottitta-Williamson	External Affairs Coordinator, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Russell Dunn	National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries
Ben Haskell	Deputy Superintendent, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Rebecca Holyoke	National Advisory Council and Strategic Planning Coordinator, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Maira Kelly	Greater Atlantic Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries
Tara Losoff	Senior Manager, Advocacy Campaigns, National Wildlife Federation
Sean Meehan	Southeast Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries
Sean Morton	Superintendent, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)
Joseph Paulin	Conservation Ecology and Policy Specialist, National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NOAA)
Kristen Sarri	President and Chief Executive Officer, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
Kate Spidalleri	National Advisory Council and Permitting and Interagency Consultations Specialist, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Andrew Torres	Pacific Islands Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries
Bob Williams	Consultant, NOAA Fisheries
Shannon Yee	Policy and Conservation Director, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

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Prior to the Summit we were asked to answer the following questions:

1) What is the most important step the ONMS can take to improve our relationship with recreational fishermen?



1) What is the most important step the ONMS can take to improve our relationship with recreational fishermen?

Most prevalent response: Enhanced outreach and communications with recreational fishermen.

Better lines of clear, continuous communications.

Improve and expand outreach and education, using printed materials, social media and one-on-one discussions to outline the role of the sanctuary program in relations to recreational fishing activities. Take action to prove that the OMNS will not support a proposal for no-take or restricted-take MPAs within or without sanctuary boundaries. Take notice that they exist, listen to their concerns and improve their fishing experience.



2) What are the top three issues of concern for recreational fishermen in your sanctuary?



2) What are the top three issues of concern for recreational fishermen in your sanctuary?

Most prevalent responses: Fishery access, fear of future restrictions. Role of sanctuaries versus other jurisdictional bodies in managing fisheries. Scientific information on fish community health and population assessments.



3) What is your rating of potential discussion topics in order of preference for inclusion in the Summit agenda?



3) What is your rating of potential discussion topics in order of preference for inclusion in the Summit agenda?

The sanctuary advisory council process and the role of recreational fishing representatives; awareness of sanctuary conservation practices; research collaboration opportunities; perceptions about recreational fishing in sanctuaries; defining high-quality recreational opportunities on a sanctuary; recreational fishing outreach activities.



4) A successful outcome of the Summit would be...a realistic plan for the future, including anticipated actions.



During the two days, six breakout group sessions were held. Summit participants were broken into two groups and they discussed the following topics:



Breakout Sessions:

1. Identifying Common Perceptions
2. Improving Communications and Engagement
3. Learning from your Experience with National Marine Sanctuaries
4. Focusing on Management Approaches
5. Focusing on Tools for Recreational Anglers
6. Identifying Science Collaborations



Summary of Discussion

- Some of the priorities of recreational fishermen and sanctuary management needs can be specific to each region and national marine sanctuary.
- Fishing access and opportunity are priorities for recreational fishermen whether in a national marine sanctuary or elsewhere in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.



Summary of Discussion

- A common, but not universal perception among recreational fishermen is that marine protected areas, including national marine sanctuaries, take away more (i.e., have more restrictions) than they actually give back (i.e., benefits).
- NOAA needs to improve the dissemination of information, communication and receipt of input from recreational fishermen throughout specific processes including management plans, research, and regulatory activities, etc.



Summary of Discussion

- NOAA and recreational fishermen should explore opportunities to collaborate on science and education projects throughout the national marine sanctuary system.
- There is broad interest in working together to enhance the recreational fishing experience in national marine sanctuaries.



Commitments

NOAA and recreational fishermen are committed to improve recreational fishing. Our first steps include:

- ONMS will develop and distribute a draft “action plan” based on input from the Recreational Fishing Summit and continue this discussion with recreational fishing representatives.
- ONMS and NMFS will coordinate on Cooperative Research Program activities in national marine sanctuaries.



Commitments

- Director will contact each site superintendent to ensure there is an ongoing dialogue between recreational fishing representative(s) on all management issues or areas of concern.
- ONMS Director will identify a Point of Contact (POC) at each site for recreational fishing concerns and the POC will establish contact with NMFS regional recreational fishing coordinators.



Commitments

- ONMS and NMFS Recreational Fisheries Initiative will seek additional regional and national level opportunities for intraagency collaboration and with recreational fishermen based on the output from this meeting.

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Next Steps for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Paul Michel, MBNMS Superintendent



Draft ONMS Recreational Fishing Action Plan and MBNMS Implementation

1. Increase Opportunities for Engaging Rec Fishermen on Advisory Council

- Establish regular meetings between rec fish council members and Superintendent (or POC) - ONGOING
- Sanctuary Staff should support rec fish council member outreach efforts regarding site activities and issues - TBD



2. Improve Understanding of Sanctuary Management Plan Regulations

- Create summaries or one-pagers that clearly describe action plans and regulations
 - ONGOING
- Facilitate engagement and increased attendance of rec fishermen at sanctuary meetings and events - TBD



3. Enhance Rec Fishermen Contribution and Understanding of Sanctuary Science

- Involve rec fishermen in development of Condition Report - TBD
- Provide opportunities for rec fishermen to get briefed on the science supporting management decisions - TBD



4. Expand Rec Fishing Programs

- Consider certification programs to partner with rec fish businesses - TBD
- Develop ways for fishermen to report and/or record what they are seeing and experiencing on the water (i.e. marine debris, algal blooms)
- TBD
- Partner on events such as fishing photo contests, kids angling workshops, etc. - TBD
- Help promote trainings and workshops (i.e. fish handling, barotrauma) - TBD
- Promote rec fishing in visitor centers and outreach booths - ONGOING



5. Improve Communications with Rec Fishing Communities

- Support Fishermen in the Classroom Program – ONGOING
- Communicate successes with partnerships and events - TBD
- Sanctuary Staff participate and/or attend fishing shows, seminars, etc. – TBD



6. Increase Resources for Rec Fishing Partnerships

- Partner on grant opportunities to implement programs and projects –
ONGOING



Questions?

Thank you!

