

# **Recreational Fisheries Update**

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting

Kodiak, AK

September 10-12, 2024

## **MRIP**

NOAA Fisheries is working collaboratively with state, council, and commission partners to re-evaluate and develop a new shared vision for the state-federal recreational fisheries data partnership. Internal and external information gathering sessions are underway to inform regional workshops being planned for 2025 that will support development of the new vision. Detailed information will be provided during the MAFAC meeting.

## **Habitat Restoration and Conservation in Partnership with Anglers**

The RecFish Initiative and Office of Habitat Conservation partnered once again in 2024 to restore and conserve habitat important to the recreational community by collaborating with the National Fish Habitat Partnerships and anglers. 2024 projects in South Carolina, Oregon and Hawaii, are engaging students from traditionally underrepresented communities to learn about and restore habitat, collect data, and restore coral in these areas (respectively). The RecFish OHC collaboration has supported more than 25 projects in 11 states since 2014, including 7 in Alaska.

## **National Recreational Fisheries Policy Implementation Plan**

Significant progress was made in implementing the national and regional recreational implementation plans through direct project execution and the provision of technical, fiscal, and programmatic support. The National Implementation Plan, published in Sept. 2023, includes 40 projects; of which 15 have been completed (either fully or the annual component of an ongoing commitment); 22 are in progress; 3 have yet to be started.

## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion**

NOAA's Recreational Fisheries Initiative played a key role in advancing DEI objectives within the recreational fishing community in FY24. Projects included:

- Transportation of ~1,000 Title 1 school students from St. Petersburg, FL to Marine ScienceFest
- Five family fishing and conservation education events serving Title 1 schools and veterans w/ National Parks Trust & ONMS in national marine sanctuaries
- Eight West Coast underserved community school fishing events (fishing and dissection)
- Five Academic Anglers fishing seminars in Florida (African-American youth education & mentoring program)
- Subsidizing participation of 50+ individuals in American Fisheries Society annual meeting from underserved Pacific Islands Communities
- Bristol Bay Fly Fishing and Guide Academy teaching native Alaskan youth stream ecology, fish biology, and providing training to be a fishing guide.

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## **National Fishing and Boating Week**

NOAA Fisheries highlighted and celebrated National Fishing and Boating week (June 1-9) with a combination of in-person activities and virtual content. You can find a series of web stories and podcasts highlighting our work and providing information at our [National Fishing and Boating Week 2024 landing page](#) which contributed to growth in all three of NOAA Fisheries topline metrics in June. Across Instagram, Facebook, X, and LinkedIn, NOAA Fisheries accounts gained 2,700 followers and had a total of 1.3 million impressions and 56,000 engagements.

## **UPCOMING**

### **American Fisheries Society (Sept. 15-19)**

NOAA's RecFish Initiative is partnering with the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Dr. Andy Danylchuk) to co-host a symposium at the American Fisheries Society regarding [Emerging Challenges and Solutions in Marine Recreational and Non-Commercial Fisheries](#). The session includes 15 speakers from academia, state and federal wildlife agencies, eNGOs, and the private sector from the US and other countries on a range of topics. In association with the AFS annual conference, NOAA is supporting [Angler Atlas](#) and the [Invasive Species Round-up](#). A fishing tournament where local anglers remove and document invasive species in and around Hawaii using the Angler's Atlas reporting application.

### **International Billfish Symposium (Oct 8-10)**

NOAA is co-sponsoring the [7th International Billfish Symposium](#) with the *International Game Fish Association* and *Wild Oceans*. The conference will highlight advances across all aspects of billfish science and management while examining evolving climate related impacts. Session topics include Assessment and Management, Habitat Utilization, Movement, Behavior, Basic Biology, Human Dimensions with speakers from around the globe. Symposium proceedings will be published in the ICES Journal of Marine Science.

### **Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Oct 29-30)**

The re-empanelled Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council meet in October and is expected to examine a range of topics including: the Sport Fishing and Wildlife Restoration Fund priorities, excise tax slippage, communications priorities, disposal/prevention of derelict vessels and vessel launch facilities. The Council has also requested an update on work to re-envision the state-federal recreational data partnership.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- [We are Making Progress on Two Major Recreational Fishing Data Collection Initiatives](#)
- [NOAA Shares Plans to Re-envision Recreational Fishing Data Collection](#)