



Saltwater Recreational Fisheries POLICY

Today's Agenda: National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

- What is it and why do we need it?
- Timeline: Where are we now?
- Scope and draft goals
- Recent input

National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit

Outputs:

1. Finalize and distribute Summit report.
2. Formulation of National Action Agenda.
3. Develop a National Policy.

What is a POLICY

DOES:

Influence how we carry out responsibilities under the law

DOES NOT:

Have the force or effect of law
Create regulations



Why do we need a

POLICY

1. Institutionalizes our commitment.
2. Guides agency decisions over the long-term.
3. Helps ensure recreational fishing will have a seat at the table.



Building the **POLICY**

Public
Comment

MAFAC
White Paper

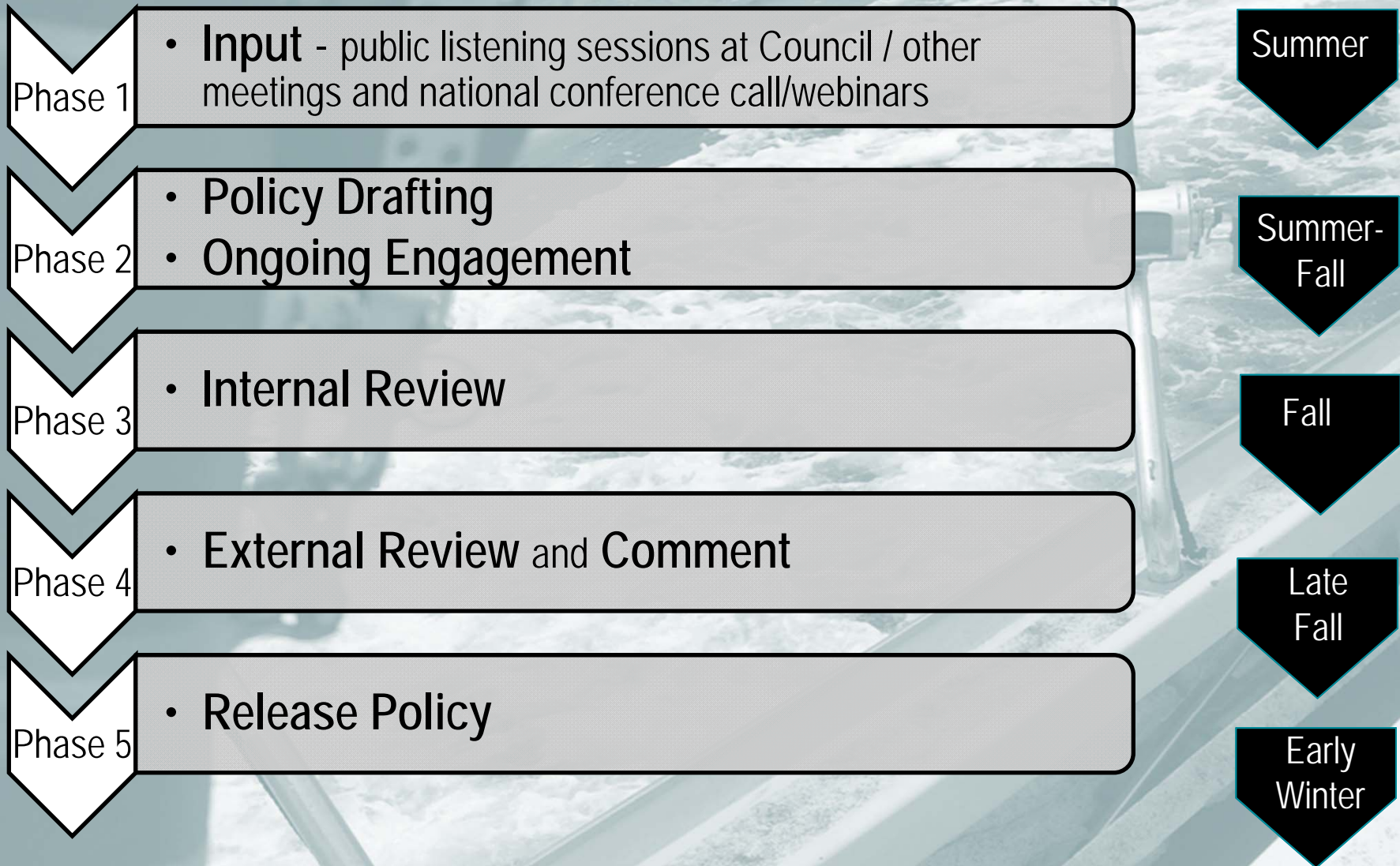
Regional
Roundtables

Town
Halls

Recreational Saltwater
Fishing Summit

Morris-Deal
Commission
Report

Policy Development Process



POLICY

Recent Activity

- South Atlantic Council
- Mid-Atlantic Council
- New England Council
- Pacific Council
- Western Pacific Council
- State Agency Webinar
- National Public Town Hall (webinar and in-person)
- MAFAC RecFish Working Group
- Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

POLICY

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

August	September/October
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gulf States Commission• Pacific States Commission• Atlantic States Commission• Caribbean Council• Gulf Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Director -- NOAA Meeting• Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel• North Pacific Council

Scope of the

POLICY

Who and what constitutes recreational fisheries?

- Shore and private/non-for-hire vessel
- For-hire vessels
- Recreational fishing industries
- Non-commercial fishermen
- Expense fishing
- Subsistence fishing

Scope of the

POLICY

What we have heard

- Sale of fish/expense fishing conflicts with nature of recreational fishing.
- Subsistence fishing is different than recreational.
- Include non-angling activities fish watching/ecotourism.

Possible Goals of the

POLICY

Goal 1: Foster and enhance sustainable, healthy, and diverse recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.

Consider socio-economics as management is being formulated.

Periodically review allocations.

Better understand and manage for angler satisfaction.

Find ways to empower anglers as resource stewards and incentivize conservation.

Recognize role of forage species.

Support enhancement efforts such as artificial reefs and stock enhancements.

Possible Goals of the POLICY

Goal 2: Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal fisheries management system.

Support equitable balance of Council membership.

Better incorporate rec fishing in Agency planning.

Hire a full-time rec coordinator in each NOAA Fisheries region.

Explore new co-management options with the states.

Possible Goals of the **POLICY**

Goal 3: Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.

Work cooperatively to collect biological, catch, and socio-economic data from anglers.

More listening and conversation.

Encourage cooperation among anglers and scientists on research and data analysis.

Find ways to work together to support conservation and enhancement efforts.

Possible Goals of the

POLICY

Goal 4: Transparency, follow-through, and long-term continuity

Updates on status of NOAA commitments.

Long-term funding for recreational programs.

Better communicate about status of rulemaking and science.

Possible Goals of the

POLICY

What we have heard:

1. Add a science and data theme.
2. Consistency and stability.
3. Opportunity and access (inclusive of allocation).
4. Abundance drives recreational fisheries.
5. Federal – state partnership.
6. Singular recreational community with diverse needs.
7. Fishing culture and communities.

Possible goals of the

POLICY

1. Foster and enhance sustainable, healthy, and diverse recreational/non-commercial fisheries and public access to them.
2. Integrate saltwater recreational/non-commercial considerations throughout NOAA and the federal fisheries management system.
3. Encourage partnership, engagement, and innovation.
4. Enhance transparency, follow-through, and long-term continuity of action.

POLICY

Recap

1. We're delivering on our promise.
2. The policy is a set of high-level principles to guide Agency decisions over the long-term.
3. Input and suggestions should be submitted up until September 12.
4. A draft policy will be available for review this fall.

Thank you for your comments.

Tell your friends and colleagues.

Submit comments and
follow our progress online at
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/

And on Twitter @ *#ifishsaltwater*