

RECREATIONAL FISHING SYMPOSIUM (from page 1)

The 2013 and 2015 Southern New England Recreational Fishing Symposia brought together federal and state regulators, academia, recreational fishing businesses and anglers. The importance of recreational fishing was illustrated by the fact that, in 2011, recreational fishing contributed \$179 million to the economy of Rhode Island and \$722 million to the economy of Massachusetts.

Many significant issues facing recreational fishing were discussed, including how to encourage management using Ecological Reference Points, the effects of climate change, and the importance of enforcement of regulations.

This 2018 Symposium will follow-up on some of the discussions from the 2013 and 2015 Symposia in an effort to inform the current debate regarding how best to modify MSA during the current reauthorization so that recreational fishing is considered.

Purpose

As primary organizers of the 2018 Southern New England Recreational Fishing Symposium, the R.I. Saltwater Anglers Foundation is providing this forum to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the MSA for regulating recreational fishing and generate a discussion of ways that MSA can be modified during the current reauthorization process to improve how MSA considers recreational fishing.

The end goal is to obtain feedback from stakeholders in Southern New England regarding specific concepts that these stakeholders think are important during this reauthorization.

Who

This symposium will bring together scientists, fishery managers, businesses that depend on recreational fishing, and the recreational fishers to evaluate various ideas that have been brought forward in the last few years by groups such as the Morris Deal Commission and proponents of the variety of congressional bills that have been developed that aim to ensure recreational fishing is better served by MSA reauthorization.

The leaders of all RISAA-affiliated clubs have been invited, as well as political leaders who may be in a position to help shape legislation.

Goals

The goals of the symposium are to:

- Examine how NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service plans to implement their National Recreational Fishing Policy recommendations;
- Discuss the recreational fishing concepts that have worked and those that are not working with the current approach to regulating recreational fishing activities, e.g. pounds of fish vs an anglers experience;
- Evaluate how MSA reauthorization options can provide greater angler access, growing fish to abundance for all;
- Evaluate key concepts that have been put forward by interest groups that aim to enhance MSA for recreational fishing;
- Collect feedback from attendees on specific issues that stakeholders in Southern New England believe are important to

consider during MSA reauthorization; and

- Continue to build an Action Plan that works toward a secure future for recreational fishing, which the RI Saltwater Anglers Association can promote with its membership and partners, government officials and politicians.

Continental breakfast and lunch is bring provided.

Draft Agenda

7:30 Registration

8:00 Welcome and Introductions

8:30 Agenda review

8:40 Review of 2013 and 2015 Symposiums

- 2013 Financial impact of recreational fishing
- 2015 An Abundant Future for Recreational Fishing
 - Electronic recording of catch and effort
 - Ecosystem-based management
 - Climate change and its impact on the fish and fishing (MA DEP)

9:15 Magnuson-Stevens Act (NOAA presentation)

- History/background
- Strengths today
- Weak areas today
- National Recreational Fishing plan

10:00 Break

10:15 Panel presentations and discussion

- Overview and introduction of panelists
- Each of six panelists presents
- Audience questions

1:00 Working lunch and group work

2:25 Group reports and wrap-up

3:00 Symposium closes

Following the symposium, all participants will receive the formal summary, which will then be posted on the RISAA web site.

You are invited

Seating at the Symposium is limited to 100 persons. As of this writing there were still a few openings. If you are interested in attending, you can register online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/95WDXPY>

Questions? Call the RISAA office at 401-826-2121