

Recreational Anglers Attitudes and Preferences: Regional Results



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Survey Overview: Design and Implementation

- * May 2012: Survey development
 - * Input from regional recreational economists and recreational coordinators, constituent groups
 - * June - Aug. 2012:
 - * Instrument feedback from constituent groups, MAFAC, four focus groups in Orlando, Fl. and San Diego, CA.
 - * Aug. - Sept. 2012: Survey finalized
 - * Sept. 2012 - Jan. 2013: PRA Review and approval
 - * Feb. 2013 - May 2013: Implementation
 - * Survey implemented 36,362 mailings, 9,226 completed surveys
- * Six survey sections:
 - * Fishing participation
 - * *Preferences for management strategies*
 - * *Preferences for management objectives*
 - * *Satisfaction with management*
 - * Managing the marine environment
 - * Socio-demographics

Survey Overview: Sampling Design

	Region	No. of Participants (using 2010 estimates)	Proportion of Anglers in Region	Target Number of Completed Observations (Total N = 8,000)	Sample Frame required to meet Target (assuming response rate in next cell)	0.3
2	Alaska	281,000.00	3%	202	673	
3	West Coast	1,400,000.00	13%	1,007	3,355	
4	Washington					
5	Oregon					
6	California					
7	North Atlantic	1,486,015.00	13%	1,068	3,561	
8	Connecticut					
9	Maine					
10	New Hampshire					
11	Rhode Island					
12	Massachusetts					
13	Mid-Atlantic	2,775,926.00	25%	1,996	6,652	
14	Delaware					
15	Maryland					
16	New Jersey					
17	New York					
18	Virginia					
19	South Atlantic	2,469,609.00	22%	1,776	5,918	
20	North Carolina					
21	South Carolina					
22	Georgia					
23	Florida					
24	Gulf of Mexico	2,714,931.00	24%	1,952	6,506	
25	Alabama					
26	Florida					
27	Louisiana					
28	Mississippi					
29		11,127,481.00	100%	8,000	26,667	

* Stratified design within national framework

* Contractor implemented telephone screeners before Segment 2 mailing

* Response rates ranged from 21% (Gulf) - 38% (North Atlantic)

Region	Total Needed	Completed Surveys	
		Segment 1	Segment 2
Alaska	212	75	137
West Coast	1,417	494	923
Gulf of Mexico	2,096	724	1,372
South Atlantic	2,084	991	1,093
Mid-Atlantic	2,118	1,287	831
North Atlantic	1,299	852	447
Total	9,226	4,423	4,803

Survey overview: Differences in Regional Instruments

Fishing Location and Target Species

4. During the past 12 months, which area did you most frequently fish from? (Check one.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern California | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern California |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

5. What species do you frequently target when you fish off the coasts of California, Oregon or Washington? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rockfish, greenling, sculpin, other bottomfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Halibut, other flatfish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonito, barracuda, seabass | <input type="checkbox"/> Sturgeon, striped bass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surfperches | <input type="checkbox"/> Salmon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crabs, clams, lobster, other shellfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuna, yellowtail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herring, smelt, grunion, sardine, mackerel, anchovy, baitfishes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None, I don't typically target any particular species | |

4. During the past 12 months, which area did you most frequently fish from? (Check one.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> West Coast of Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

5. What species do you frequently target when you fish off the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, or the West Coast of Florida? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drums/grunts (red/black drum/Atlantic croaker) | <input type="checkbox"/> Red snapper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black seabass | <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf and southern kingfish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sand, silver or spotted seatrout | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish mackerel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphinfish/Cobia/Wahoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacks (Amberjack, Crevalle jack, pompano, permit, blue runner) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None, I don't typically target any particular species | |

Results: Angler Avidity

	Alaska	West Coast	Gulf Coast	South Atlantic	Mid-Atlantic	North Atlantic
Years fishing	19.4	29.7	25.1	25.0	32.2	30.0
Days fished last year	10.9	18.3	28.6	24.3	29.5	24.4
Fishing trips will decrease next year*	32.1	21.5	20.3	17.1	20.5	16.0
Decrease due to*...						
...fisheries regulations	20.0	46.8	50.3	42.0	44.7	42.9
...fishery conditions	33.3	51.9	25.5	33.1	47.3	46.9
...fishing trip costs	70.3	60.0	59.6	64.3	68.3	63.0
...personal finances	61.5	50.0	51.4	53.3	59.0	55.0
...change of residence	15.2	15.9	12.9	15.2	11.2	10.8
...available leisure time	51.6	50.6	52.0	55.3	55.0	59.0

*Respondents stating “Very likely” or “Somewhat likely”

Results: Fishing location and mode

	Alaska	West Coast	Gulf Coast	South Atlantic	Mid-Atlantic	North Atlantic
During the last year, most fishing trips taken...						
...Within 3 miles from shore	72	75	78	86	86	85
...More than 3 miles from shore	24	23	21	12	12	12
During the last year, most fishing trips taken from...						
...Private boat	43	54	56	46	52	48
...Shore (beach, bridge, pier, jetty)	20	27	31	50	40	47
...For-hire vessel	37	19	5	4	8	4

Preferences for Management Strategies

- A. Establish minimum size limits of the fish you can keep
- B. Establish maximum size limits of the fish you can keep
- C. Limit the total number of fish you can keep
- D. Manage some species as catch-and-release only
- E. Establish longer seasons with more restrictive bag limits
- F. Establish shorter seasons with less restrictive bag limits
- G. Establish shorter seasons with a larger variety of species you can legally catch
- H. Increase the recreational harvest limit by decreasing the commercial harvest limit
- I. Divide the recreational harvest limit among different modes (e.g., private anglers and for-hire/charter boat anglers)
- J. Restrict certain types of fishing gear
- K. Require the use of release techniques that reduce fish mortality
- L. Provide artificial fish habitat (e.g., artificial reef) in some areas of the ocean
- M. Protect and restore fish habitat that has been degraded
- N. Designate some areas of the ocean as marine reserves with catch-and-release only fishing
- O. Close some areas of the ocean for certain seasons

Most Preferred Management Strategies



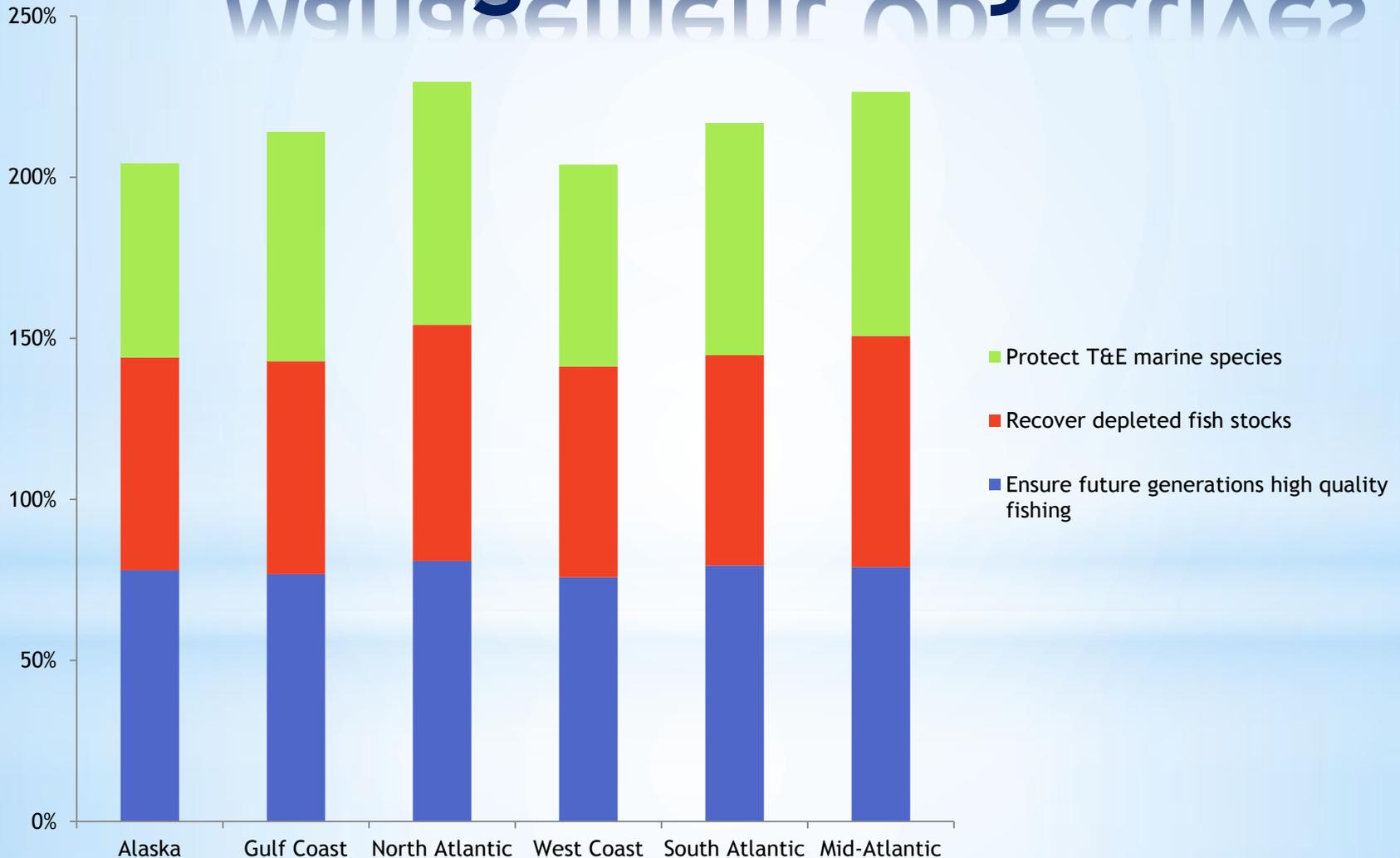
Least Preferred Management Strategies



Preferences for Management Objectives

- A. Ensure that large quantities of fish are available to catch
- B. Ensure that many different fish species are available to catch
- C. Ensure that adequate numbers of trophy-sized fish are available to catch
- D. Reduce the mortality associated with releasing fish that are not legal to keep
- E. Ensure that future generations will have high quality fishing opportunities
- F. Allocate some quota from commercial fisheries to recreational fisheries
- G. Recover fish stocks that have been depleted
- H. Protect marine biodiversity
- I. Protect threatened or endangered marine species
- J. Achieve consistency between state and federal fishing regulations
- K. Simplify recreational fishing regulations
- L. Monitor and enforce recreational fishing regulations
- M. Ensure that the opinions of all recreational fisheries stakeholders are considered in policy-making
- N. Ensure opportunities to fish in high quality fishing areas
- O. Ensure that fishing sites are not heavily congested

Most Important Management Objectives



Least Important Management Objectives



Satisfaction with Management

- A. Managing fish stocks to provide high quality fishing opportunities
- B. Restoring fish stocks that have been depleted
- C. Adjust regulations in a timely manner to address changing conditions of the fishery
- D. Using management strategies that minimize costs to anglers
- E. Ensure that the annual harvest limit provides enough fish for recreational fisheries
- F. Ensure that state and federal regulations are consistent
- G. Monitoring and enforcing recreational fishing regulations
- H. Using high quality data and assessments in policy-making
- I. Incorporating stakeholder interests in policy-making
- J. Protecting fish or shellfish species that are declining
- K. Protecting marine habitats
- L. Addressing conflicts between anglers and marine mammals

Most Satisfied with Management



Least Satisfied with Management



Next steps

- * National report done
- * http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/human_dimensions/social-indicators/index

**Attitudes and Preferences of
Saltwater Recreational Anglers:
Report from the 2013 National
Saltwater Angler Survey, Volume I**

- * Regional reports in development
- * Need input from regional coordinators on recent policy actions

