**Draft Workshop Summary**

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**NMFS Recreational Fishing Economic Constituents Meeting**

**Jan 29-30, 2014**

Major findings of the workshop – no order right now, just a list

1) Despite improvements over the past years, economic analysis is still not getting enough consideration in Regional Fisheries council decisions. Reasons it is not considered widely include short analysis timelines which prevent detailed analyses by council or NMFS staff, lack of understanding of economic terminology and results by council members (even when the socio-economic committees of the councils have economists as members), lack of data specific to a given fishery prevents detailed analysis, information overload with other data (i.e. biological) by council members and general public (e.g., during public meetings).

2) NMFS economic information released to the public should come with a “users guide” so that those not directly involved with the study know how to interpret the results and understand its limitations and the original study goals.

3) Outreach before, during, and after economic surveys are conducted is critical to ensuring success in terms of response rates and acceptance of the results by anglers, the for-hire industry, and constituent groups.

4) Bioeconomic models have a lot of promise and are a huge leap forward in being able to inform management decisions. Future work should prioritize where they can be applied (not all fisheries require such models) and how they can be updated on a regular basis.

5) NMFS should establish economic research priorities for recreational fishing, and funding should track with those prioritized needs. Additionally, it constituents should have involvement in the process of setting research priorities.

6) Ensure that funding is available for regular meetings of NMFS recreational economic staff in order to promote collaboration across regions and increase sharing of data and research methods.