Marine Recreational Fishing

MPA Advisory Committee Meeting
May 16, 2005
What is Marine Recreational Fishing?

- 13 Million participants – NMFS
- $20,000,000,000 value – US Oceans Commission
- In 2002 over 6,000,000 boats capable of fishing in saltwater were registered
- 61,000 were over 40 feet long
- Next 20 Years 75% of the US Population with 50 miles of the coast
Marine Recreation Fishing:
The Fastest Growing Part of Recreational Fishing

- The Marine Recreational Industry in Florida is worth $5.5 billion to the Florida Economy
- Florida Alone has 980,000 Licensed Anglers fishing in Boats
- From 1989 – 2001 License Sales **Doubled**
- From 1983 – 2001 Trips by Shore Side Anglers **Decreased** from 10 to 4 million
- From 1983 – 2001 Trips in Boats **Increased** from 4 to 8 million
- Angler Participation has doubled since 1996
- Since 1996 Commercial Landings are **Down** Significantly, while Recreational Landings have Increased only **Slightly**
Marine Recreation Fishing:
The Fastest Growing Part of Recreational Fishing

Growth is Due to Population Growth
And a Healthy Resource

Net ban  Gamefish Laws
Trap bans  Snook
Licensing  Redfish
Tarpon
Rebuilding Fish Stocks

We are in the Beginnings of Rebuilding Many Fish Stocks – Particularly the Recreational Ones.

Including:

**Striped Bass**  **Red Drum**

**Speckled Trout**  **Summer Flounder**
Coastal Conservation Association
Conservation Plan

- Fish Come First
- Sound Science
- Regulations that Work – Even if they Hurt
Permitting

- Gear – Net Bans – Fish Traps
- Gamefish
- Right Sizing the Commercial Fishery
Controls: Commercial & Recreational Fisheries

Both Commercial and Recreational Fisheries are Managed by Traditional Methods

Commercials:
- Quotas
- Trip Limits
- Seasons
- Size Limits

Recreational:
- Bag & Size Limits
- Seasons
Why the Difference?

**ECONOMICS**

- Commercial fishers want to harvest the most fish at the fastest possible rate
- Recreational fishers want access to the most fish over the longest period of time
What Does the Recreational Angler Want?

- Access to a Sustainable Resource
  
  This Concept Drives the Conservation Ethic of Anglers

- Most of the Programs Fostered by the Recreational Community Address:
  
  • Sustainable Fishing
  • Access
Access:

Physical Access:
- Boat Ramps
- Fishing Piers
- Charter Boats
- Open Beaches

Regulatory Access:
- Licensing
- Allocations
- Closed Areas
- Marine Reserves
Recreational Position:  
*Marine Reserves & No Fishing Zones*

- Public Process
- Known Management Problem
- Scientifically Supported
- Reserve Must Part of the Solution
- Preserve Public Access if Possible
- Periodic Review