



# Saltwater Recreational Fisheries **POLICY**

# AGENDA

## National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

- What, Why, and How?
- Who have we been talking with?
- Timeline: Where are we now?
- Scope and draft goals
- Recent input
- Discussion

# 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



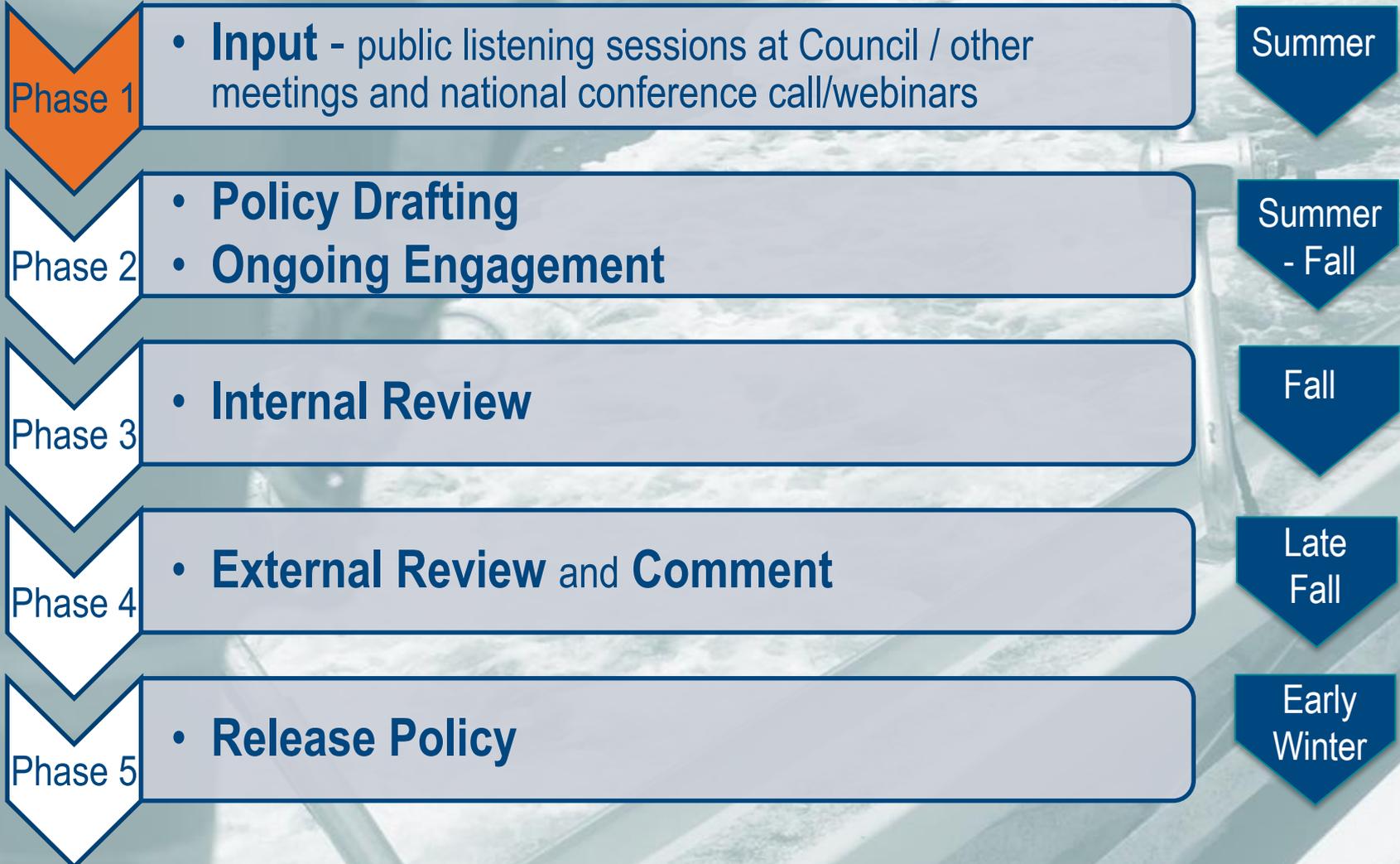
Why do we need a

# POLICY

1. Institutionalizes our commitment.
2. Guides agency actions over the long-term.
3. Helps ensure we remain accountable to our recreational stakeholders.



# Policy Development Process & Timeline



Building the

# POLICY

Public  
Comment

MAFAC  
White Paper

Regional  
Roundtables

Town  
Halls

Recreational Saltwater  
Fishing Summit

Morris-Deal  
Commission  
Report

# POLICY

## We've been talking with lots of people

- All Council meetings (*North Pacific next month*) and *Atlantic HMS AP*
- All three Commissions
- State Agency webinar
- National Public Town Halls (webinars and in-person)
- MAFAC RecFish Working Group webinar
- Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council meeting
- National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils

**We've presented to more than two dozen meetings and webinars in total.**

Scope of the

# **POLICY**

**Who and what activities should be considered under the policy?**

- **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

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.

# Possible Goals of the **POLICY**

## What we have heard

1. Include 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.

What are your thoughts about the

# **POLICY**

**We've outlined some draft goals and heard some additional suggestions. Now it's your turn...**

- 1. Do these goals sound reasonable?**
- 2. What ideas are missing?**
- 3. Any red flags?**
- 4. Are there any potential impacts which concern you?**

Possible goals of the

# POLICY

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# POLICY

## Recap

1. The policy is a set of high-level principles to guide Agency action over the long-term.
2. Policy helps ensure Agency accountability.
3. 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/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/)*

And on Twitter @ *#ifishsaltwater*