National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
June 25, 2014
Tab 4

Title: NOAA National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

Desired Outcome(s): Board familiarity with the planned approach for development of the Recreational Fisheries Policy

Background:

At the 2014 National Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit, NOAA Fisheries committed to developing an Agency-wide saltwater recreational fisheries policy. They are creating this policy to institutionalize, within NOAA, the key tenets of recreational fishing. The policy will be a thoughtful set of principles to guide agency actions and decisions over the long-term. Feedback from the recreational community has already highlighted the importance of habitat conservation and restoration and the need to strengthen partnerships. NOAA Fisheries recognizes the NFHP board is uniquely positioned to provide national level guidance on the policy. There are several ways by which NFHP can share its thoughts on what should be in NOAA Fisheries' saltwater recreational fisheries policy.

Public town halls will be held around the country where individuals will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on what should be in this Agency-wide saltwater recreational fisheries policy. There will also be national information webinars and an online comment interface. Additional information about the policy development and updated information about the listening sessions dates and times is listed on the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy website:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/policy/index.html

Staff Recommendation/Proposal:

Board members commit to participating in scheduled Town Hall meetings that are near them and/or a conference call, and encourage FHPs to do the same.

Board commits to providing written comments on draft Policy (developed by subcommittee, on behalf of Kelly).

Reference Material: Dates of Town Hall meetings; Policy Fact Sheet (Tab 4)