

2013 SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND  
RECREATIONAL FISHING SYMPOSIUM

# CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE



RISAA ACTION PLAN, APRIL , 2013



# OVERVIEW

RECREATIONAL FISHING SYMPOSIUM  
KEY FINDINGS

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF  
RECREATIONAL FISHING

THREE RISAA FOCUS AREAS... THREE  
ACTION PLANS

Shoreline Access

Climate Change

Recreational Fishery Management



# KEY FINDINGS

- Recreational fishing key component to economy...  
\$179-million in RI; \$722-million in MA
- Public access to coastline in conflict with landowners
- Climate changes fish population, now NE more like mid-Atlantic states
- Need for better data to measure fishing effort & catch
- Better access communication needed... education, “certification” of individuals, better signage/languages

# KEY FINDINGS (CONT.)

- Public access better with ample parking at access
- New abundant fish populations due to climate change need to be recognized and regulated more quickly
- Recreational fishing underrepresented, better understanding of rec. fishing importance needed
- Innovative approaches to data collection needed... e-mail surveys, smart phone reporting, etc.
- Advance recreational fishing through healthy fish stocks

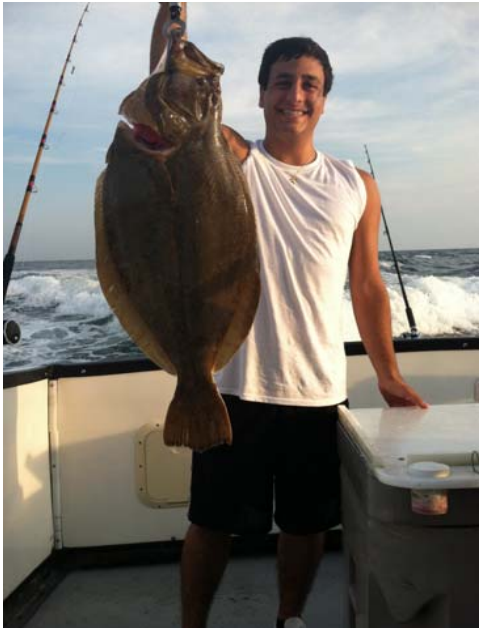
# ECONOMIC IMPACT THREATENED

Positive impact that recreational fishing has on the economy is threatened by restrictions on shore access, changes caused by climate change, and inappropriate or non-representative fisheries regulation.



# ACTION PLAN FOCUS

## THREE ACTION PLANS



- Shore access
- Climate change
- Fisheries regulation

# SHORE ACCESS

## PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN

- Shore access symposium
  - ✓ Explore partners (Save the Bay, RICRMA, etc.)
  - ✓ Focus attention on access issues
  - ✓ Mitigate shore access in light of climate change
- Activate RISAA ‘Access Committee’ to facilitate
- Explore partnering with land grant & environmental groups to raise funds for access acquisitions
- Explore establishing a “Shore Keeper” program
  - ✓ Education... where access is, access law/rights
  - ✓ “Certification” of shore keepers
  - ✓ Better signage
  - ✓ Better communication... multiple languages, brochures, etc.



# CLIMATECHANGE

## PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN



- Immediately develop a “Climate Change” task force to address global warming recreational fisheries issues
- Partner with local, state and federal governments, environmental groups and academic institutions
- Address changes necessitated by the water warming i.e. new and depleted fish species, beach erosion/access, etc.
- Advocate for emergency regulation and programs that facilitate the catching and consumption of abundant species, and address those declining
- Initiate fisheries regulations (local or regional) that adapt quicker/better to changing fish populations



# FISHERIES REGULATION

## PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN

- Broaden the recreational fisheries public policy advocacy coalition securing partners with like minded goals and objectives
- Explore a regular symposia and a recreational fisheries advocacy day in RI to bring attention to industry's importance
- Advocate for better recreational data, better data recording effort and catch
- Explore innovative approaches such as e-mail surveys, Smartphone reporting, etc.
- Advocate for better recreational industry representation on local, state and federal fisheries management boards, panels, councils, etc.

