

2013
Southern New England
Recreational Fishing Symposium

The Future of Recreational Fishing

April 2nd, 2013

Radisson Hotel. Warwick, RI

Sponsored by
Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation, Inc.
University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute
Northeast Regional Ocean Council

Prepared by the
Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association

Executive Summary

The 2013 Southern New England Recreational Fishing Symposium held on April 2, 2013 was the first of its kind. It brought together Federal and State regulators, academia, recreational fishing businesses, and participants in both private and for hire recreational fishing. The importance of recreational fishing was illustrated by the fact that, in 2011, recreational fishing contributed \$179 M to the economy of Rhode Island and \$722 M to the economy of Massachusetts. There are many potential threats to the future of recreational fishing including restriction of shore access, changes caused by climate change, and improper or non-representative fisheries regulation. Many things can be done to improve the future of recreational fishing and the participants of the symposium provided ideas of what can be done either by regulators or by RISAA moving forward. As a result of this symposium RISAA has developed an Action Plan to help continue to make progress for recreational fishing in Southern New England.

Purpose of the Symposium:

The recreational fishing industry is an important economic engine for Massachusetts and Rhode Island, yet the value is not widely recognized. We believe that Federal and state governments concentrate political and scientific effort and resources on commercial fishing, even though the impact of recreational fishing is equally important. In addition, fisheries managers have been unable to find methods for reliable recreational fishing data collection that would allow for consistent fishing regulations, thus improving the recreational fishing industry and its positive impacts.

Goals of the Symposium:

The goals of the symposium were to:

1. Characterize the value and economic impact that recreational fishing has and could have;
2. Share what is known about recent research and available information regarding the nature and management of the Southern New England recreational fishery;
3. Present and discuss three elements that, if addressed properly, are key to the recreational fishing industry's future success; and,
4. Begin to build an Action Plan that takes action on these elements, which the RI Saltwater Anglers Association can promote with its membership and partners.

Outline of events:

Welcome and Introductions, Ballroom

Steve

Medeiros, President, RI Saltwater Anglers Association

Robert Ballou on behalf of the Director, RI Department of Environmental Management

Keynote: Understanding the value of recreational fishing industry to Southern New England

Kevin Hively, Ninigret Partners;

Paul Caruso, MA Division of Marine Fisheries

Scott Steinback, NOAA Fisheries Science Center

Keynote speakers set the stage and covered the first goal of the workshop: Characterize the value and economic impact that recreational fishing has and could have.

The future of recreational fishing: Barriers and opportunities.

A series of three presentations and exercises that addressed three different topics –Shoreline access, climate change and management challenges associated with the recreational fishery-- which are believed to be critical to the future of recreational fishing in Southern New England. Each of the speakers also answered the same question the group answered, from their perspective: **What do you believe are the issues or opportunities that should be addressed squarely by participants here that can be facilitated by RISAA.** At the end of each presentation participants were given time to ask questions of the panelists. Once the individual or small panel presentations were complete, the participants were instructed to complete a group activity at their tables.

The group activity instructions where to:

- complete participant list for table (Appendix C)
- Select someone to take notes & someone to report answers to full group
- Answer the same question the panel answered:
What do you believe are the issues or opportunities that should be addressed squarely by participants that can be facilitated by RISAA.
- Capture all of the group's answers on the Answer Sheet. The list will be collected so we don't lose any information. (Appendix D)
- Agree to the table's top two issues/opportunities. Write this on two separate Priority Sheets. (these are captured below)
- Present the top one to the group. If your top one has already been noted, say so and offer your second priority.

Building an Action Plan

This action plan combines the priorities suggested by the participants for each of the elements. The priorities and action suggested herein provide a broad road map which the RI Saltwater Anglers Association can follow along with its membership and partners to make progress on shoreline access, climate change and managing the recreational fisheries.

Topic 1: Accessing the shore. Speaker: **Laura Miguel**, RICRMC

Refer to Laura Miguel's presentation: http://www.risaa.org/recsym/Miguel_AccessingTheShore.pdf

After Laura Miguel's presentation the groups gave the following Priority Responses:

- Clearly define laws and put it on an official "badge" that could be carried by anglers and shown to property owners and law enforcement.
- Creating and maintaining parking near Rights of Ways. We believe that parking is very important. Better parking at access points. Work with the towns and CRMC to increase and designate parking areas. Consider the creation of a state permit for parking, rather than several different parking permits. Improve vehicle parking near the public access site.
- Create an angler specific Shoreline keepers program; create standards (ie., should have to watch a movie) to be put on a shoreline keepers list. The list should include e-mails for information and website. This list should then be given to towns and police departments.

- Strategically acquire, cleanup and maintain existing additional fishing access sites. The fees from fishing to be used to increase the numbers of ROW, through the purchase or encouraging donations of ROW.
- Establish educational programs for the general public on the ROW's advertise where they are located and that they are available for public use; reduce harassment by adjacent land owners. There should be an outreach and education to effectively communicate fisher's access rights. Educate stakeholders (municipal parking enforcement).
- Creation of liaison between state and federal agencies to balance public access concerns and how they related to endangered species along the coast (i.e. : Piping Plovers).
- Limit the private property owners that have used public structures for own use, because it forces others to gain access over other privately owned land. (i.e.: Quonny Breechway)
- Have RISAA include public access and parking in the new developments.
- Have RISAA bring forward a case to confront and resolve the issue between the state constitution and the Ibbion case. Legally prepare for a "good" ROW test case.
 - Advanced preparation with lawyers
 - Advanced preparation for funding
 - Advanced analysis of what is or is not a good case
- Creation of a public access database for all shore access across the state. There should be an Access Walk to inform people where and how to access the shore. Increase awareness of local ROWs. Signage with a box for fishing guides inside.
- "Adopt a Site" by RISSA signage. Expand "Adopt an Access" Program to include the following:
 - Clearing & maintaining the Access Point
 - Neighborhood education & awareness
 - Mediation with the neighborhoods
 - Outreach & Education to shore fishermen/women who are outside of RISSA membership to include cultural sensitivity and language diversity.
 - Signage in multiple languages, trash cans and line recycling stations.
- Identify prime fishing locations, develop a map/list of these locations for distribution to the public, and create signage at these locations. If there is no access to these locations, RISSA or others could attempt to establish easement or legal access.

Topic 2: Climate change. Speaker: **Mark Gibson**, RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries

Refer to Mark Gibson's presentation: http://www.risaa.org/recsym/Gibson_ClimateChange.pdf

After Mark Gibson's presentation the groups gave the following Priority Responses:

- Anticipate and plan for species composition changes that occur. Such as planning for the arrival and establishment of "new" species as well as trying to protect existing species in Rhode Island waters.
 - Promote awareness of new species; Embrace and promote change with the unstoppable climate change.
 - Work closely with the scientific community to identify species that can't be saved and have RISSA work closely with the ones that can be saved.
 - Education and awareness of the decline of certain species and the emerging opportunity of other species. This will promote a focus on fish that aren't declining.
 - Closely monitor currently abundant fish species to avoid over fishing.
 - Promote targeted fishery in abundant "trash" and "exotic" fish species through special tournaments and other ways to eat and cook them.

- Ensure that lateral access is available with rising sea level. Maintain the involvement to ensure equity in fisheries management with shifting composition.
- Manage real time available fish stocks and new fisheries before they become depleted.
- Manage complete ecosystems not sub-species.
- It is important to be aware of and monitor pH changes and ocean acidification that comes along with climate change, as pH changes this could dramatically affect individual species or whole ecosystems.
- Education on sources of pollution that affect the algae production, which then affects the local fish availability from the shore/bay.
- Request and support funding to the scientific community to continue to research climate change and how it may impact future fisheries.
- Advocate for adjustments to harvest targets commensurate with the increase or decrease in local fisheries abundance.
- Advocate for addressing public access and habitat issues from sea level rise.
- Increased awareness of changes in availability of species due to climate change.
 - Disentangling mortality effects from climate change vs. management changes
 - Effects of ecosystems management in the future.
- Advocate for changes in geographic allocations between states (Northern and Southern) which may also lead to allocation changes between recreational and commercial harvest levels as the fish move.
- Focus on the economic importance of fisheries as the change in geographic distributions of fish populations continues.

Topic 3: The challenge of managing recreational fishing. Panel:

Kevin Smith, RIDEM DMF - http://www.risaa.org/recsym/Smith_RecFisheries_Challenges.pdf

Paul Perra, NOAA Northeast Marine Fisheries - http://www.risaa.org/recsym/Perra_MgmtDateCollect.pdf

John Weber, Northeast Regional Ocean Council - http://www.risaa.org/recsym/Weber_RecFishin_In_NE.pdf

After the three presentations the groups gave the following Priority Responses:

- Advocate for stable recreational fishery regulations from year-to-year.
- Regional species management should be a priority. There is a challenge of the current state-by-state approach to regulations which cause confusion; it would be helpful to move towards region-based regulations. Look into a more regionalized approach for recreational fisheries with more consistent regulations over longer periods of times. An example would be striped bass- we have seen the same regulations over several years and this has seemed to work. RISAA and other organizations could try to push for these management processes.
- Implement a requirement to fill out catch data when renewing a license, but also to include explanation as to why the data is required and how it is being used. A data log book which would help to improve discard and harvest sizes, which would help promote educated fisherman to report to the state agency via an Ipad or smartphone.
- Better data collection will allow more tools such as slot limits or other “outside the box” approach. MRIP survey should make a more vigilant effort to obtain data from minority groups through cultural leaders. Create pathways to communicate with under-represented groups. (Apps, surveys, & abstracts available). Possibly enhance current MRIP sampling by including email or other modules to increase the response rate.
- We need to find creative ways of increasing enforcement of fisheries’ laws. (Technology & Involvement of Public, etc.) .

- Increased focus on release mortality, and the reduction aimed at increasing catch by reducing release mortality.
- Ensure that there is an adequate representation for RISAA at the various meetings, proceeding, etc, of the different entities involved in issues impacting the recreational fishing industry. Louder voice for recreational anglers on management panels, more decision making not just advising. Equitable representation on fisheries council
 - Recreational fishing is under represented
 - Science and conservation is also under represented
- Management is currently driven by politics; it needs to be based on science for the common good to protect the public's trust.
- Protection in an era of a decreasing budget, recreational financial programs. Commercial programs have a higher level of funding. They are more institutionally organized.
- Migratory path needs to be open in spring and fall of each year.
- Remove gill nets from the first 3 miles from the shoreline.

Key Findings

Based on the presentations and responses from attendees the key findings of the symposium include the following:

- Recreational fishing is a key component of the economy of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. In 2011 recreational fishing contributed \$179 M to the economy of Rhode Island and \$722 M to the economy of Massachusetts.
- Public access to the shore is constantly threatened by land owners who do not want the public “in their front yard”, but both RI and MA allow public access to the coastline.
- Climate change is leading to changes in the fish population in local waters, making the fish community more like that of mid-Atlantic states rather than like New England waters have been in the past.
- There is a need for better information on both what recreational fishers are catching and what areas of the ocean are very important to recreational fishers. Past methods of collecting these data have proven inaccurate and it is not yet certain how the new MRIP program will improve this body of data.
- There is a need for more clear communication of the public's rights relative to shore access. This may be improved through education and “certification” of individuals or through better signage at access points or communication to land owners and communication to access participants in multiple languages.
- Public access would be more useable with better parking near access points.
- With the changes in relative fish abundance caused by climate change we need to advocate for changes in fisheries regulations, such as recognition that species are generally moving more northerly and should be regulated appropriately.

- Recreational fishing is underrepresented on management boards and committees. We need to push for better representation and a better understanding generally of the importance of recreational fishing.
- Innovative approaches to data collection for recreational fishing data need to be pursued such as email surveys, smartphone reporting and the like.
- Generally we need to advocate for very healthy fish stocks for above all else, recreational fishing responds in a positive way to healthy stocks. This is the number one way to promote the advancement of recreational fishing.

Action Plans

Based on this symposium RISAA has drafted an initial Action Plan to continue moving forward with recreational fishing. This action plan is a separate document and is a document that is designed to be fluid in that it will change as some key actions are completed and others are identified.

APPENDIX A: AGENDA

8:00 Registration

9:00 Welcome and Introductions, Ballroom

Steve

Medeiros, President, RI Saltwater Angers Association

Director Janet Coit, Director, RI Department of Environmental Management

9:30 Keynote: Understanding the value of recreational fishing industry to Southern New England

Kevin Hively, Ninigret Partners

Paul Caruso, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Scott Steinback, NOAA Fisheries Science Center

10:45 Break

11:05 The future of recreational fishing: Barriers and opportunities.

Topic 1: Accessing the shore.

Laura Miguel, RI Coastal Resources Management Council

12:15 Lunch & networking, Gaspee Room (first floor)

1:00 The future of recreational fishing: Barriers and opportunities, *continued*

Topic 2: Climate change.

Mark Gibson, RIDEM Div. of Marine Fisheries

2:00 Break

2:15 **Topic 3: The challenge of managing recreational fishing.**

Kevin Smith, RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries

Paul Perra, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Northeast Region

John Weber, Northeast Regional Ocean Council

4:00 Review and wrap-up

4:15 Adjourn

APPENDIX B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Albert, Chris; Senator Jack Reed's office
Allen, George; R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Amaral, Mark; Lighthouse Consulting Group
Ballou, Robert; RIDEM, Assistant to the Director
Blount, Frank; Frances Fleet
Bucko, Michael; Bucko's Tackle Service
Campbell, Bradly; Rhode Island Public Radio
Carey, Sean; Vice President, Pioneer Valley Boat & Surf Club
Carlisle, Bruce; Director, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Management
Caruso, Paul; Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Chew, Robert; R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Coit, Janet, Dir; RI Dept of Environmental Management
Conti, Albert; Snug Harbor Marina, RI Marine Trades Association
Cook, J. Edwin; R.I. Saltwater Anglers Assoc.
Creighton, Jack; President, Cape Cod Salties
Custodio, Martin; Rhody Fly Rodders, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Dow, James; President, Massachusetts Striped Bass Association
Dulude, Bill; Treasurer, Cape Cod Salties
Fillman, Donald; Past President, Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association
Frigate, Grover; Director, RI Coastal Resources Mgmt Council
Garlisly, Bruce; Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
Gibson, Mark; Deputy Chief, RIDEM Division of Fish & Wildlife
Hall, Ben; Massachusetts Striped Bass Assoc
Hellier, Dawn; Northeast Regional Planning Body
Henry, Jared; R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Hittinger, Richard; 1st Vice President, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Hively, Kevin; Ninigret Partners LLC
James, Steve; Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association
Kardys, Robert; R.I. Mobile Sportfishermen
Kearney, Edward; Director, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Kennedy, Paul, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Kessler, Ross; Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Krawiec, Robert; Vice President, Buzzards Bay Anglers Club
Kutchner, Tom; Save The Bay, Narragansett Baykeeper
Lapinsky, Toby; New England Editor, The Fisherman Magazine
Lynch, Tim; Newport Striper Club, RIDEM Marine Fisheries (retired)
Lyons, Robert; Ocean House Marina
Mackie, Wendy; Executive Director, R.I. Marine Trades Association
Madden, Stephen; President, Buzzards Bay Anglers Club
Maiorano, Sean; Roger Williams University
Mardo, Edward; R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Medeiros, Stephen; President, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Miguel, Laura; RI Coastal Resources Management Council, Enforcement Division
Milardo, James; Exec. Vice President, R.I. Mobile Sportfishermen
Monti, David; RI Party & Charter Boat Assoc/RISAA

Mouradjian, Larry; Associate Director, RI Dept. of Environmental Management
Napoli, Nick; N.E. Regional Ocean Council
O'Biso, Peter; Treasurer, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Paul, John; R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Paquette, Patrick; Government Affairs, Massachusetts Striped Bass Association
Perra, Paul; NOAA Fisheries Northeast
Raso, Rod; R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Robshaw, Kevin; Director, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Rogde, Erik; R.I. Mobile Sportfishermen
Ruszala, Robert; President, Pioneer Valley Boat & Surf Club
Sanford, David; recreational angler
Sinclair, Scott; Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association
Smith, Donald; R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Smith, Kevin; Recreational Fishing Staff, RIDEM Div. of Marine Fisheries
Spratt, Kevin; Secretary, Buzzards Bay Anglers Club
Steinback, Scott; NOAA Fisheries Northeast Science Center
Stevens, Jay; Weekapaug Surfcasters
Swift, Judith; URI Coastal Institute
Taylor, David; Professor of Maine Biology, Roger Williams University
Taylor, Rich; President, R.I. Mobile Sportfishermen
Tellier, Roger; Secretary, R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Vella, Prassede; Massachusetts Office of Coastal Management
Vespe, Greg; R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association
Vincelette, Nick; Staff, Office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Weber, John; N.E. Regional Ocean Council
Yoffa, Joseph; President, Jamestown Striper Club
Young, Chip; URI Coastal Institute
Zambrotta, Dennis; President, Newport County Saltwater Fishing Club

APPENDIX C: COMPLETE LIST OF RESPONSES

Topic 1 - Accessing the Shore

Table 1

- A main issue is parking at the access points.
- We would like clearly defined laws.
- Have a badge that clearly identifies that Angler is a shoreline keeper that can be available at Narragansett Bay tackle shops.

Table 2

- There is a need for parking at the access points along with bike locks
- Access for people who do not have any.
- Education on access point locations.
- Increase pier facilities (Jamestown Bridge)
- Educate and distribute license at point of fishing
- Large signage for the RISSA Adopt a Spot
- New fishing guides will help with access.
- Include a policy that would allow a car to travel on the beach
- Pass one access law for all access points in the Rhode Island area.
- Private developments that have it as a requirement that needs to be published.

Table 3

- We fear there is a decline in the maintenance of public access, there are concerns about beach erosion and climate change that will affect liability issues.
- We also feel that there is a need for more laws that will have an effect on the community regulations for recreational fishing.
- There should also be a courtesy use that maintains the aesthetic value of area for shoreline keepers.

- Another issue is limited parking.

Table 4

- Improve parking near public access points in a strategic way, along with improving the existing boat ramp access.
- Acquire and develop additional fishing access sites which include improvements such as bathroom facilities.
- It would helpful to address the potential of climate change to impact the public access site.

Table 5

- How ROW's are physically defined and designated in the real world?
- Public education programs on ROW, allowing the public to understand how they can benefit.
- There are hidden ROW's with removed signs that need to be fixed.
- Parking at ROW's is another concern.
- A need for the Piping Plovers cohabitation plans
- A concern is the federal endangered species
- Create a liaison between state and federal laws to balance the public access concerns.
- Show the communities that the opportunities for shore access can help benefit the local economy.

Table 6

- Weekapaug Breechway access, is this a public structure?
- Parking issues related to ROW access.
- Lists of state designated and local access to the shore.
- The lateral access is separated by rock points that are underwater and high tide but exposed at low tide. Taxpayers funded piers, to having fishing access.
- New developments such as the need to protect property and access the issues include in the deed.

Table 7

- The town's awareness of fisherman's access & parking permits including local restrictions is a main concern.

- There is a lack of public education about access point's website.
- Is it possible to have state permits rather than different town permits?
- Is it possible to educate the local DEM Police on the legal access points?
- Could the fees from fishing permits be used to gain ROW?

Table 8

- RISAA should have input on the new development of the access points.
- Parking at the access points are a continuous problem.

Table 9

- Seek clarification of Ibbison vs. RI Constitution
- Improved awareness and signage of the access points would be good.
- What should someone do who wants to legally exercise their rights to do to protect those rights? (avoid harassment)

Table 10

- We would like public access to the data base.
- Legally prepared for winning at setting up a case law.
- Identify and formalize access points for all to know.
- Participate in a badge process for funding.
- We would like to see more than 2 spots for access point parking; it should be set back from the access point but not so far that you could walk to without distress.
- Pass out a card to RISSA members that state your rights to access the points. This card could be kept in your wallet if you are ever stopped and questioned.

Table 11

- RISAA should be able to work with the town and CRMC to find a parking solution.
- Clearing and maintenance managing over 200 right of ways, the town municipalities should work together to clear and maintain the areas.
- There could be conflict resolution by providing trash cans, line recycling at each location.

- We would like to see outreach sessions with neighborhoods.
- Have a mediator to help to find a happy medium with issues like parking and limited liability.
- Create outreach programs to shore fishers that are outside RISSA membership for issues such as cultural diversity and language diversity.
- Adopt an Access point to improve and expand to include maintenance education and parking mediation.

Table 12

- Identify prime fishing locations by doing the following:
 - Develop a map or list of these locations and make the lists publicly accessible.
 - Create clear signage for these locations.
- If there is no access to certain locations then RISAA or other organizations could establish easements or legal access.
- Have RISSA bring forward a case to confront and resolve the issues between the state constitution and IBSEN case.

Topic 2 - Climate Change

Table 1

- Create better reef structures and habitat.
- Reduce the water intake in the power plants.
- A need for more education on effects of fertilization.

Table 2

- The allocation and geographic area should be common data to help improve the recreational and commercial fishing.
- We would like to see a flexible policy between state and federal regulations.
- Education on fishing changes within the ecosystem.

Table 3

- The changing species composition needs to be discussed and the anglers need to be flexible.
- Disentangling mortality effects and looking at the climate change verses the management effects in managing foreign species.
- A lot of uncertainly and unknowns associated with the climate change, a good idea is to move to an ecosystem approach to help change the situation for the better.

Table 4

- Advocate for adjustments to target quotas, commensurate with the increase or decrease in local populations.
- Address public access & habitat issues relative to sea level rise. An example is the create access through permitting and considering habitat planning initiatives.
- Promote realignment of federal and state council systems through the redesign of MSA.

Table 5

- Create interest in so called “trashed” fish which are more abundant in these areas.
- Promote interest through tournament targets with the abundant “trash fish”.
- Keep watch on newly populous fish to avoid overfishing.
- Create an interest in so called “exotic” southern fish like Spot, Kyno fish ect...

Table 6

- Concerning climate change, take into account the new species.
- Require spawning conditions to then be taken into consideration for management decisions.
- Request the scientific community to continue to look into climate change and how it could impact future fisheries.

Table 7

- Getting the facts out of why these changes are coming about regarding availability of species.
- The agley bloom is caused by over fertilization and we need to educate the public about the bloom.
- There needs to be a general awareness of what species are now available.
- There should be a possibility of restock for species that may decline over a certain period of time.

Table 8

- They should work closely with the scientific community to identify species that can be saved.

Table 9

- Different is not bad, we should embrace and promote the climate change to come up with new findings.
- Promote awareness of the benefits of new species.

Table 10

- Manage new fisheries from the beginning and manage all fish stocks in real time.
- Should also manage the complete ecosystems not just specific species.

Table 11

- Nothing can be done about the impending change itself, we must keep getting involved with ensuring lateral access.
- Maintain involvement to ensure equity in fisheries management with shifting species composition.
- We need to be aware of scientific information on how climate change affects species.

Table 12

- As climate changes it is important to protect vulnerable species and reduce pressure such as a reduction in quota.
- Be aware of and monitor the PH changes and ocean acidification that comes along with climate change, as increasing PH could drastically affect individual species or even whole ecosystems.
- Anticipate and plan for species composition changes that are expected to occur.

Topic 3- The challenge of managing recreational fishing

Table 1

- Improve habitats and breed estuaries, while also improving pollution controls and sewer systems.
- Remove fish traps for fish travel during the breeding season, along with gill nets from the shore line.
- Improve fish ways for herrings, shad & eels.

- Thin out the amount of geese in the area.

Table 2

- Protection of the decreasing budget, commercial may take bigger level of funding than recreation. We need to protect recreational management from commercial programs.
- Accountability measures needs to be based on the uncertainly in the data.

Table 3 – did not report/participate

Table 4

- Advocate for stable regulations year to year.
- Advocate for regionally or similar regulations throughout.
- Advocate for council representation in line with stock distributions.
- Educate the fishing public on reasons for management changes and reasons for manage options selections.
- Determine ways to obtain a non-biased opinion from the anglers on preferred management options.

Table 5

- Move towards catch data from all license holders required to renew license with reason as to why data in being collected.
- RISAA could be a gathering point for the fishermen who catch data from members and affiliated clubs.
- Combat ignorance of certain anglers pertaining to fishing regulations.
- The state by state regulations switch to the standard regional regulations.

Table 6

- Increase enforcement!
- More equitable consideration for shore bound anglers in local marine fisheries regulations.

Table 7

- Be sure that there is adequate representation for RISAA at various meetings and proceedings, of the different entities involved in issues impacting the recreational fishing industry.

Table 8

- Better data collection is needed.
- There needs to be more salt water recreational fishing managed like it is with fresh water.
- There is a need for more tools for fishery managers. (ex: slot limits)

Table 9

- Create pathways to communication with under –represented groups. (i.e. apps, surveys and abstracts available in various languages)
- We need to find creative ways of increasing enforcement of fisheries laws.

Table 10

- The representation on management needs to be fair.
- We need to increase the focus on release mortality improvement.
- Larger stock on management panels.

Table 11

- Why is recreational fishery underrepresented in the council?
- Get politics out of fishing, science- based and management for common ground.
- Need better enforcement on regulations.
- More reporting needed and more research needed to act on research because there is no data that is definitive.

Table 12

- Possibly enhance current MRIP sampling by including email or other modules to increase responses to send emails throughout the year.
- Look into a more regulations over longer periods of time. Such as striped bass – 28” at 2 fish per person. RISAA and other organizations could try to push for this with management
- Look into other sampling methods other than MRIP, currently has too much data delay.