

This presentation will guide the Commissioner Strategic Discussion on innovative approaches to marine fisheries management and address the streamlining of regulations.

Authors: Luiz Barbieri, Jessica McCawley, Gil McRae, and Jim Estes

Report Date: June 9, 2014

Outline

- Why manage marine fisheries
- Complexity of marine fisheries management
- Management strategy
- Success stories
- State versus federal management approaches
- Future challenges
- Where do we want to be and how to get there

- [Jim Martin presentation](#)
- Ideas for innovation



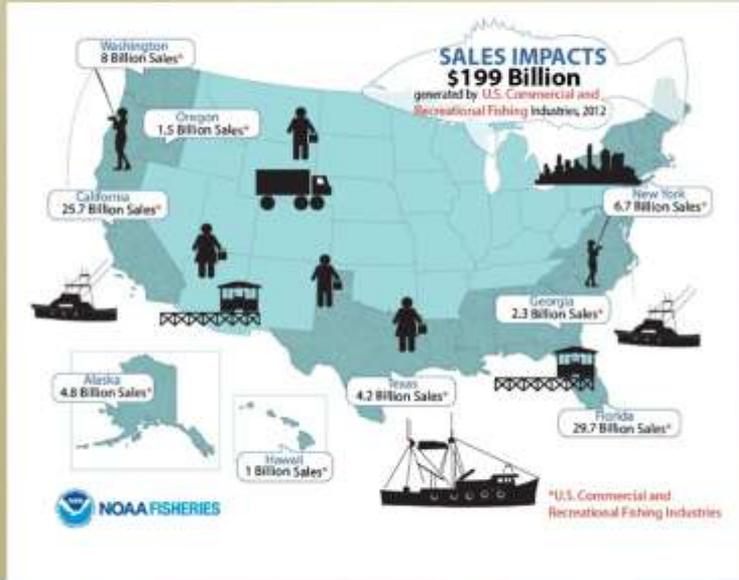
Why Manage Marine Fisheries?

- Marine fisheries represent an important asset to the state
 - Major economic engine
 - Strongly tied to the tourism industry
 - Part of the cultural identity of Florida
 - Linked to a fun and healthy lifestyle
 - Public trust responsibility



Marine fisheries represent a huge asset to the State of Florida.

Fisheries Economics of the US 2012



Marine Fisheries: An Economic Engine

Florida Marine Fisheries economic impact: \$29.7 billion/year

- Florida Citrus: \$9 billion/year
- Florida Cattle Ranching: \$4 billion/year
- Florida Space Industry: \$1.5 billion/year

Florida Commercial Fisheries: \$16.6 billion in sales

25 Million Saltwater Recreational Angling Trips per year statewide

- Disney World: 18.6 million visitors/year
- 16 Smithsonian Museums and the National Zoo: 30 million visitors/year
- Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite National Parks combined: 11.4 million visitors/year



The total impact of citrus in Florida's economy is approximately \$9 billion a year.
<http://flcitrusmutual.com/citrus-101/citrusstatistics.aspx>

Source for cattle: Florida Cattlemen's Association
<http://www.flgov.com/2012/06/18/governor-scott-saddles-up-and-gets-to-work-on-okeechobee-cattle-ranch/>

Source for space: <http://floridaspaceday.com/2014-space-day-advocacy-agenda-2/>

Disney source: Themed Entertainment Association Economic Report 2012
http://www.aecom.com/deployedfiles/Internet/Capabilities/Economics/document/s/2012%20Theme%20Index%20Combined_1-3_online.pdf

Smithsonian source: <http://newsdesk.si.edu/about/stats>

National Parks Source:
[https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20\(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year\)?Park=GRCA](https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park%20Specific%20Reports/Annual%20Park%20Recreation%20Visitation%20(1904%20-%20Last%20Calendar%20Year)?Park=GRCA)

Public Trust Doctrine

- Balance access with stewardship
- Restoration of high-profile wildlife species



Marine Fisheries Challenges

- Perception that ocean is limitless
- Resource not generally visible to the public
- Resources usually managed at very large scales (statewide or by coast)
- User satisfaction derived from catch and release AND harvest
- Open access with multiple modes of participation (shoreline, docks, piers, private boat, charter, etc.)
- Significant recreational AND commercial component for many species



Dozens of Species Managed Over a Wide Latitudinal Range

- Florida has many different “regions” – Panhandle, Big Bend, Keys, etc.
- Stakeholders in different areas of the state may have different desires
 - Regional management of redfish and permit
- The same species might have biological differences that require different assessment and management
 - Snook management: Atlantic vs. Gulf



Scale and Scope: Large Number of Fisheries in Different Habitats



Scale and Scope

- Florida leads the nation in number of
 - Licensed anglers
 - Visiting anglers (national and international)
 - Saltwater fishing trips
 - Boat owners
- High usage of the resource, year-round fishing, no time to recharge
- Only state in the nation that sits on 2 federal Councils and 2 interstate Commissions



Florida
**FISHING
CAPITAL**
of the **WORLD**

Licensed anglers: 2.4 million

Visiting anglers (national and international): 716,000

Saltwater fishing trips: 25 million

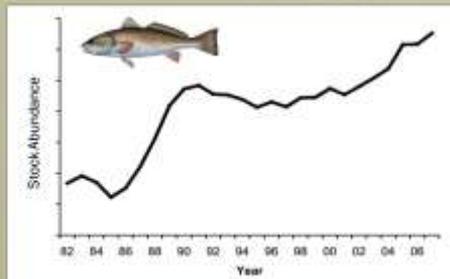
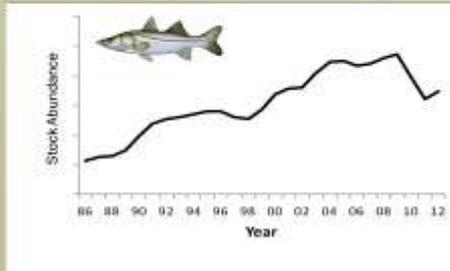
Boat owners: 914,535 registered boats

Florida Marine Fisheries Management Strategy

- Focused on maintaining access and plenty of fishing opportunities while adjusting regulations to ensure sustainability
- Demonstrated record of success
 - Nearly all stocks managed by FWC are meeting or exceeding management goals
 - High degree of stakeholder satisfaction
 - A history of collaborative management of commercial fisheries



Florida Success Stories



Thirty years ago we never thought that snook and redfish would ever recover to the levels we see today.

Main Reasons for Success

- FWC has been proactive and progressive in balancing access and stewardship
- Significant investment in research and monitoring capabilities
- Application of innovative management approaches
 - Tarpon Tag Program: encourage catch and release
 - Marine Life Tiered Endorsement: responsive to stakeholders
 - Lobster Stamp: recreational harvest survey
- Nimble and responsive to real-time concerns
 - Closure of snook post 2010 cold-kill event
- Listen to stakeholders
 - Simplify and streamline state marine fisheries regulations
 - Blue crab rolling closures for derelict trap retrieval
 - Regional management of permit



Biggest Current Challenges

- Stakeholders have a high degree of dissatisfaction with federal management system implemented through the regional Councils
- They feel constraints imposed by federal laws are inflexible and unfair
- Federal data system considered inadequate to keep up with demands of the management system
- Stakeholders lack confidence in federal management



Magnuson- Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

- Principal fisheries management and conservation law for federal waters
 - Originally enacted in 1976 to limit foreign fishing and define US waters
 - Provides framework for federal Fishery Management Councils
 - Includes timelines for ending overfishing and rebuilding fisheries
 - Mandates that federal Councils set specific harvest limits
 - Outlines framework for federal limited access privilege programs like individual fishing quotas (IFQs)
- Magnuson periodically reauthorized and updated
 - Reauthorization is currently underway by Congress
 - Best opportunity for addressing current challenges



The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Act) was passed in 1976. It is the principal law governing marine fisheries in the United States and directs the conservation and management of federal fisheries that we see today. The Act created a 200 nautical mile limit (Exclusive Economic Zone) of U.S. control over waters that were once heavily fished by foreign vessels.

Congress directs U.S. fisheries management and policy by amendments to the Act. The first amendment (reauthorization) occurred in 1996 when Congress incorporated provisions to stop overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks and minimize bycatch. The most recent reauthorization in 2006 included a number of new deadlines and mandates to end overfishing, improve data collection and establish specific harvest limits for all federally managed species.

Ultimately the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, through NMFS, must implement regulations and the supporting programs needed to carry out congressional directives as provided in the Act.

Reauthorization is currently underway by Congress. This reauthorization is the best opportunity for addressing current federal management challenges.

State vs. Federal Management Approaches

- State waters – size limits, bag limits, fishing seasons, spawning seasons closures
 - Data are highly sophisticated and more complete
 - FWC management system is more flexible
 - Easier to be nimble and responsive
- Federal waters – quota management system (ACLs), IFQs, spawning area closures, deepwater closed areas
 - Data are inadequate to keep up with the management needs
 - Constrained by federal law: inflexible, slow to respond



Challenges for the Future

- State population will increase and so will the number of recreational anglers
- Overall potential ecosystem impacts
 - Habitat loss, water quality
 - Bahamas and Bermuda facing problems due to high visitation, stress on ecosystems, fishing down food web
- Integrate the needs of traditional fisheries with other high-value industries such as recreational diving and tourism
- Adapt and respond to potential impacts to coastal shorelines and systems, sea level rise, etc



Where Do We Want to be in the Next 15 to 20 Years?

State waters

- Challenge will be to maintain the status quo given expected population growth and increased tourism
- Maintain fishing opportunities
- Balance stakeholder desires

Federal waters

- Reliable data
- Stable fisheries
- Increased public confidence
- Regulatory flexibility



What Can We Do to Get There?

State waters

- Continue investing in high quality data and assessments
- Greater consideration of marine habitat
- Continue exploring ecosystem-based management
- Maintain close collaboration with stakeholders



Federal waters

- Provide input on reauthorization of Magnuson-Stevens Act
- Continue to take bold steps and consider innovative ideas to manage within Magnuson structure
- Continue to work with other states to consider challenges as they arise
- Continue to act as an advocate for Florida fishermen



Jim Martin's Presentation



Ideas for Innovation

- Simplify and streamline regulations
- Enhance sustainability of invertebrate fisheries through industry-involved management
- Incorporate new forms of angler participation in recreational data collection
- Provide comments on Magnuson Act reauthorization
 - Flexibility
 - Timely and accurate stock assessments
 - Recreational fisheries management system
- Staggered seasons for stock recovery
- Community-based management – tailor management to meet regional needs
- Coupling harvest management with habitat management
- Consider species interactions when making management decisions



Staff is providing some ideas to get the discussion started for the Commissioners relative to ideas for innovation in the future.