

FishSmart...

...For the future of fishing

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FishSmart Pacific Workshop Steering Team

- Marty Golden, NOAA Fisheries, SWRO
- Liz Hamilton, Northwest Sportfishing Industry Assn.
- Chris Lowe, California State University Long Beach
- Chris Lunsford, NOAA Fisheries Alaska Fisheries Science Ctr.
- Jim Martin, Pure fishing
- Alena Pribyl, NOAA Fisheries/CA Science Policy Fellow
- Tom Raftican, The Sportfishing Conservancy
- Clay Tam, Pacific Islands Fisheries Group, Hawaii
- Dan Wolford, Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Russ Dunn (ex officio), NOAA Fisheries

- Committee Support
- Gil Radonski, Loftus Consulting
- Andy Loftus, Loftus Consulting

FishSmart...

...a program to increase the survival of
angler caught and released fish

What's the Problem?

- Release mortality severely impacts recreational fisheries
 - 211 *million* fish released annually by marine recreational anglers.
 - In some recreational fisheries, dead discards may exceed retained catch
- Science-based guidance is needed to drive actions to reduce release mortality

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Putting science into practice

- Assess our state of knowledge
 - Release mortality...what do we know?
 - Management...how is it applied?
 - Best Practices...what are they?
- Implement practices to reduce or manage for mortality

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Develop Information

- Compile information on best release practices for marine species *from existing sources* – don't reinvent the wheel
- Focusing on barotrauma on key species
 - West Coast Rockfish
 - Gulf/Southeast Red Snapper
 - Other
- Identify gaps in existing knowledge

Communicate Information

- Team with Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation to *interactively* communicate with a wide angler base, enhancing current activist/scientist communication.
- Tap existing regional efforts (e.g., Sea Grant, States, NOAA) to distribute information to anglers.
- Assemble information in a format that motivates anglers and fosters stewardship
- Develop template for materials for partners to use if desired.

Promotion of Best Practices

- Best practices web casts
- National campaign featuring well known fishing identity
- Web presence with dynamic content
- Measure results!!

Engage Industry

- Work with industry to develop the basis for a "*FishSmart Tackle*" program

What's been Done?

FishSmart/Barotrauma Workshop

- Comprehensive review of science and management (www.fishsmart.org)
- General guidelines for the release of saltwater fish
- Specific release guidelines for species caught at greater depths
- Recommendations for improving management of fisheries with high release mortality
- Identify crucial gaps in research impeding ability to improve management

North Pacific Release Mortality Used in Fishery Management Plan or Models

- Demersal shelf rockfish – assumed to be 100%
- Halibut – assumed 3.5% on circle hooks
and 10% "J" hooks

Pacific Rockfish release Mortality Used in Fishery Management Plans

ROCKFISH	0-10 fm	11-20 fm	21-30 fm	>30 fm
Black	11%	20%	29%	63%
Black & Yellow	13%	24%	37%	100%
Blue	18%	30%	43%	100%
Bocaccio	19%	32%	46%	100%
Brown	12%	22%	33%	100%
Calico	24%	43%	60%	100%
Canary	21%	37%	53%	100%
China	13%	24%	37%	100%
Copper	19%	33%	48%	100%
Gopher	19%	34%	49%	100%
Grass	23%	45%	63%	100%
Kelp	11%	19%	29%	100%
Olive	34%	45%	57%	100%
Quillback	21%	35%	52%	100%
Tiger	20%	35%	51%	100%
Treefish	14%	25%	39%	100%
Vermillion	20%	34%	50%	100%
Widow	21%	36%	52%	100%
Yelloweye	22%	39%	56%	100%
Yellowtail	10%	17%	25%	50%

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Pacific Fishery Management Council

Other Species

	0-10 fm	11-20 fm	21-30 fm	>30 fm
Cabezon	7%	7%	7%	7%
California scorpionfish	7%	7%	7%	7%
Kelp Greenling	7%	7%	7%	7%
Lingcod	7%	7%	7%	7%
Pacific Cod	5%	32%	53%	97%
Flatfish	7%	7%	7%	7%
Sharks and Skates	7%	7%	7%	7%
Dogfish	7%	7%	7%	7%

Example of Workshop

Findings:

Management Guidance

- Regional workshops to develop region and species-specific guidance on handling techniques and management strategies
- Conduct exempted fishing permit studies certifying anglers for fishing in closed areas for the purposes of collecting data (e.g., population and research)
- Identify needed changes to the existing legal framework

Example of Workshop

Findings:

Gaps in Knowledge

Effectiveness of recompression techniques for specific areas/fisheries

- How far down to release fish
- Quantify the impact of different release mortalities for fisheries assessments/catch estimation within season
- Species-specific effects of barotrauma, predation, warm water temperatures and hook mortality.

Progress to Date: Communications

- FishSmart website-for program information
- Establish brand identity
- Initiated work with RBFF to integrate into web delivery
- Initiate with *ASA FishSmart* Tackle program
- Develop a basis for “best practices.”

Future: Implementation

- Regional workshops 2012
- Enhanced communications to motivate adoption of Best Practices by anglers
- *FishSmart Tackle Program*

FishSmart Gulf of Mexico/St. Petersburg Workshop April 11-13, 2012

- Begin process to expand regulations allowing for recompression
- Encourage outreach to anglers on release techniques
- Modified FishSmart general release guidelines
- Discussion on modifying recommendations for depth of release in recompression.



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www.FishSmart.org

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