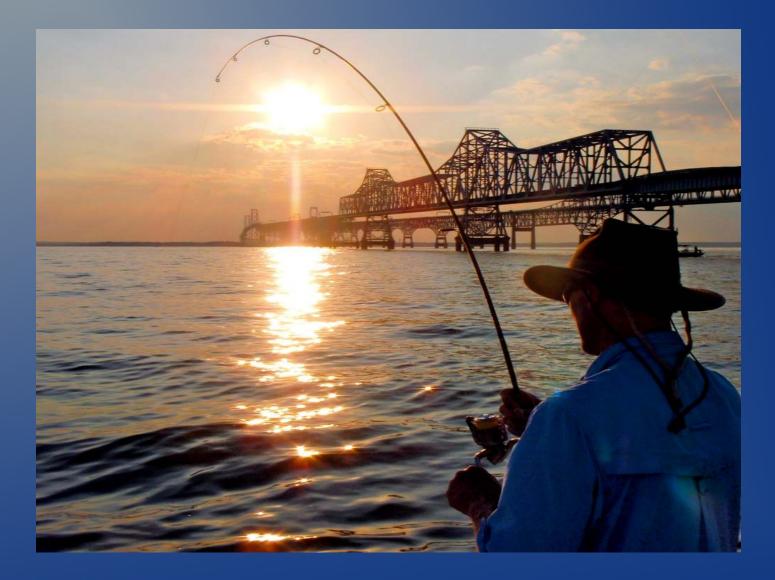
Recreational Angler Accountability Workgroup Report



Background

- Rec. Angler Acct. Letter from David Sikorski(CCA MD) to SFAC.
- At 4/2010 SFAC a workgroup was formed. The participants were:
 - David Sikorski
 - Dave Smith
 - Herb Smith
 - Carol Stevenson
 - James Wommack

Goals

- Discussing the issues raised in "rec angler accountability letter (4/11)" and the topic as understood by rec. anglers and the groups that represent them.
- Presenting findings to SFAC
- Making recommendations to DNR Fisheries Service based on findings.

Presently...

- Phone and dockside surveys are the two best methods used by fisheries managers.
 - NMFS Funding of surveys is 50% of optimal levels
 - State funding has been directed to increase the number of surveys at important times of the season(per FMTF rec.)
 - Survey locations are being reviewed to ensure most accurate data and best use of funds.

Striped Bass fishery is being managed at an acceptable level(per DNR definition)

 Charter Captains maintain "accountability" by reporting their catch.

- Charter clients are occasionally counted in dock surveys as well.

 Private anglers do not always provide accurate information during interviews.

In an accountable fishery....

- Angler impact is understood by managers
- Anglers participate honestly in surveys
- Managers always strive to obtain the best available science
- Rec Anglers behave in an ethical manner
- Anglers carefully handle the catch they intend to release
- Anglers pass on proper practices to friends, family, fellow anglers.

Recommendations to DNR

- DNR maintains the proper level of phone and intercept surveys of rec. anglers, and works to increase the accuracy of the surveys whenever possible.
- DNR should work to educate recreational anglers on ways to promote lower discard mortality for both targeted and non targeted species.