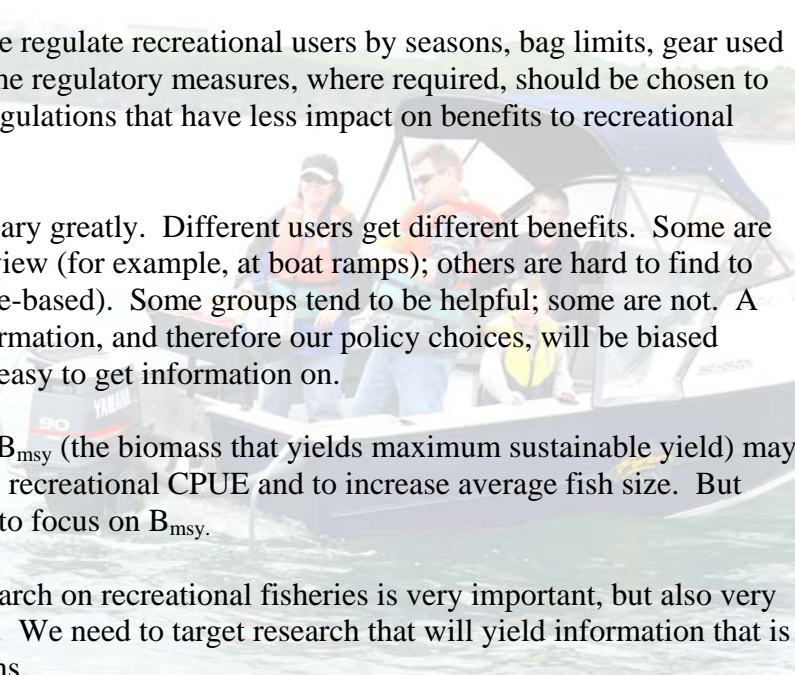


NATIONAL MEETING OF RECREATIONAL FISHING FORUMS

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH ON RECREATIONAL FISHING

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1. The great economic benefit of recreational fishing is that people enjoy and get benefits from going fishing. With high participation rates in NZ, these benefits are very large, although not easy to measure.
 2. Fisheries management affects those benefits. How management affects those benefits is not simple. It is not simply the number of fish taken home by recreational users. Typically, catch-per-unit-time and average size both matter.
 3. In some fisheries, we regulate recreational users by seasons, bag limits, gear used and minimum sizes. The regulatory measures, where required, should be chosen to rely more heavily on regulations that have less impact on benefits to recreational users.
 4. Recreational users vary greatly. Different users get different benefits. Some are relatively easy to interview (for example, at boat ramps); others are hard to find to interview (such as shore-based). Some groups tend to be helpful; some are not. A risk exists that our information, and therefore our policy choices, will be biased towards those who are easy to get information on.
 5. Management about B_{msy} (the biomass that yields maximum sustainable yield) may be desirable to increase recreational CPUE and to increase average fish size. But statute and policy tend to focus on B_{msy} .
 6. Socioeconomic research on recreational fisheries is very important, but also very difficult and expensive. We need to target research that will yield information that is really useful to decisions.
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- A background image showing a group of people on a boat fishing on a lake. The boat is a motorboat with a canopy, and several people are visible on board, some wearing life jackets. The water is calm, and the background shows a shoreline with trees.