

Promoting Best Angling Practices within FKNMS



David Ruck/NOAA

Current NOAA Voluntary Education and Recognition Programs



FKNMS Blue Star for Diving

- Mission: The mission of the Blue Star program is to promote responsible diving and snorkeling practices within the Florida Keys.



ONMS Dolphin SMART

- Mission: To promote responsible stewardship of wild dolphins in coastal waterways.

Recreational and Charter Fishing in the Florida Keys

- Recreational and charter fishing accounted for 20% of all person-days (over 2 million/year)
- Visitors account for most of these person-days
 - 44% of charter flats trips
 - 93% of charter sports trips

~ 416,000 people/year

Concept: “Blue Angler”

Draft Mission

The mission of “Blue Angler” is to promote responsible angling in South Florida through education, communication, and partnership.

Draft Goal

The goal of the program is to develop a voluntary education and recognition program for charter fishing operators to expand on their awareness and knowledge, and ultimately that of their customers, about responsible angling practices, the South Florida ecosystem, and the FKNMS.

Who Would Participate?

Charter fishing guides and captains who conduct for hire fishing operations originating within the FKNMS

Eventually: businesses who directly support fishing operations (i.e. marinas, tackle shops) can participate as “Supporters”



What Would They Do?

That's where we want your input!

This program will be driven by the charter and recreational fishing community.

- Develop a set of best practices for recreational fishing.
- Identify additional partners.



Why Participate?

Educate the Public

Resource Protection

Promotional Opportunities

Eco-Tourism Marketing

Professional Development



Next Steps

An Advisory Council working group could....

- Create a set of best practices for recreational fishing
- Develop a program framework
- Identify and develop partnerships

Questions?

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