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Marine Recreational Fisheries and Fishing

A Special Issue of
the *Marine Fisheries Review*

W. L. HOBART, *Editor*

Introduction

Marine angling is an important form of recreation for millions of U.S. citizens and provides many thousands of enjoyable hours and thousands of pounds of high quality food items. Specific data on some of those aspects of the sport are provided in several NMFS publications reviewed or referenced in the "Developments" or news section of this issue.

Marine angling is also a very broad-based activity: The target species and fishing techniques are many, the anglers

cut across all levels of society, and the areas fished range from urban settings to the high seas. The research on marine recreational fishes and fisheries is equally diverse, and much of this diversity can be found in the articles in this special issue of the *Marine Fisheries Review* on marine recreational fisheries—*MFR* on *MRF*.

In the past the *MFR* has occasionally published individual articles on various aspects of *MRF*. This time a particular issue was set aside for NMFS authors to present reviews or reports on their

research activities. In some cases, time constraints did not permit participation, but to those who were able to contribute I extend my thanks. A few related papers from nonagency authors are also included. I am grateful to all the authors and reviewers for their diligence in preparing and critiquing the articles. The task was great, for this issue is about double the normal size of the *Review*. I hope that it will be a useful reference.

W.L.H.