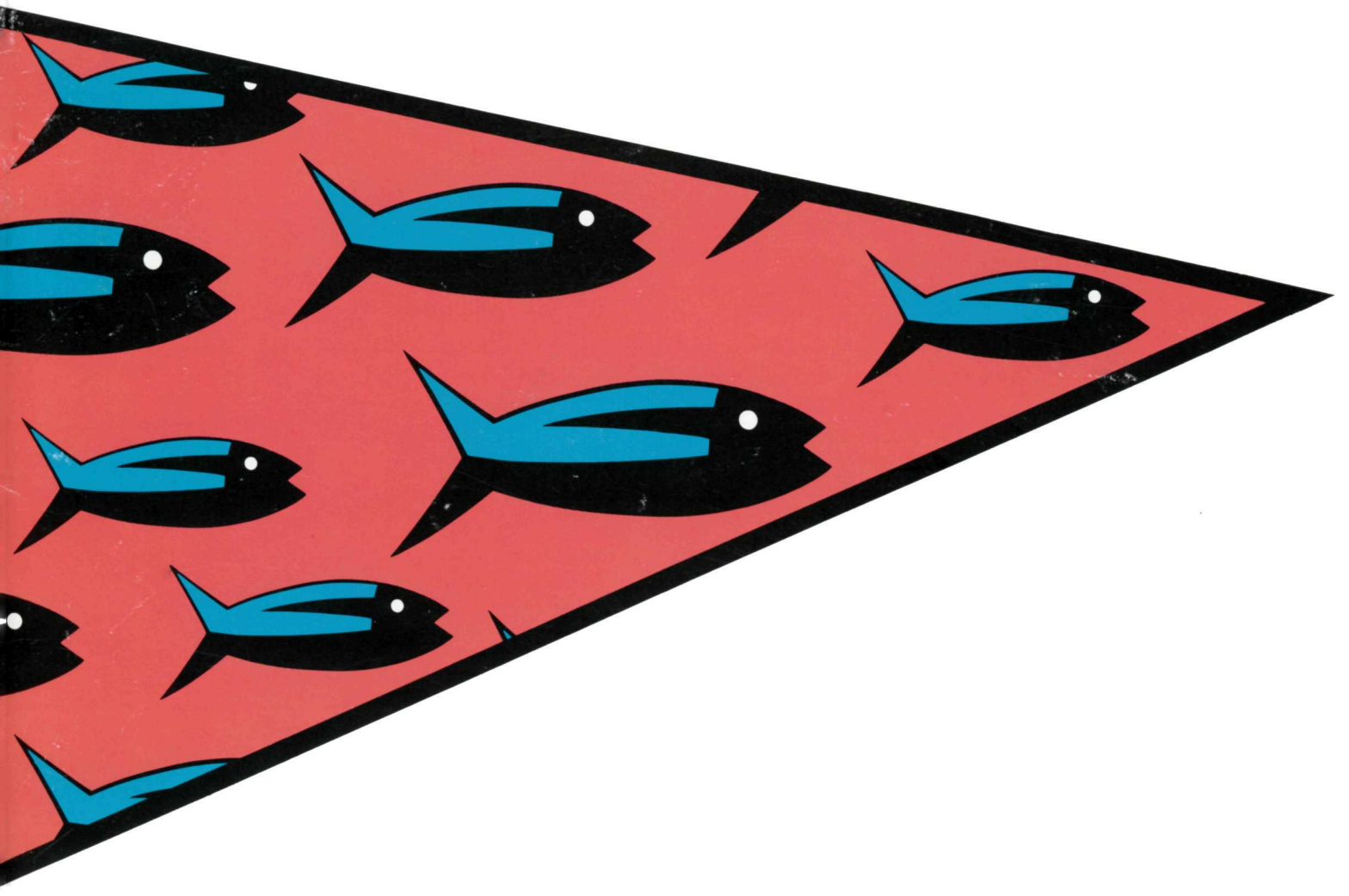


A HERITAGE OF FISHING

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES PROGRAM

In June, 1988, the National Park Service and more than 60 Federal, State, and private organizations signed the National Recreational Fisheries Policy. The purpose of the national policy is to provide long-term common goals for managing the nation's recreational fisheries. It also provides a framework from which the signatories can identify and initiate agency specific actions which support the goals of the national policy within the framework of the agency's mission.

Using this framework, the National Park Service has developed a Recreational Fisheries Program which incorporates the Service's fundamental mandate to preserve and restore its fishery resources. Recreational fishing has been a part of the Park System since its inception, with an emphasis on fishing in natural habitats. The Recreational Fisheries Program describes many of the recreational opportunities involving fishery resources currently available in park units as well as outlining future actions to improve and enhance the Service's fishery resources.

This is an exciting and challenging program. It provides many opportunities for individuals, organizations, and others to work cooperatively with the National Park Service. I enthusiastically endorse this program and its commitment to sound management of the National Park System's fishery resources.

James M. Ridenour

James M. Ridenour
Director

Among the federal land-managing agencies, the National Park Service has a special and unique mandate to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." (NPS Organic Act, 1916) The Recreational Fisheries Program has been developed to guide the Service in fulfilling this mandate in regard to its fisheries resources.

The National Park Service has many excellent examples of various kinds of fishing resources, including marine, estuarine, cold water, warm water, and still and flowing water. The primary goal for recreational fishing in national parks is to provide the recreational angler with a quality fishing experience while preserving the natural aquatic ecosystems. Through the years, the National Park Service fisheries managers have developed a policy of encouraging the enjoyment of fishing in naturally functioning aquatic ecosystems characterized by wild, native species and natural habitats. This focus on recreational fishing in a natural aquatic environment is fundamental to the Service's unique fisheries program.

Recreational fishing occurs in 143 units of the National Park System. The Recreational Fisheries Program will provide for continuation and improvement of Service fisheries management and research activities, serving needs in each of those units. The approach to managing Park Service fisheries varies from park to park. Examples of management activities include:

- the catch and release of native fish;
- reliance on use of artificial lures only;
- preservation of wild fish populations and their genetic stocks of fish;
- opportunities to view native fish in natural settings;
- opportunities to conduct research on fish ecology, behavior, and genetics and on other important aspects of aquatic ecosystem natural processes; and
- protection, preservation, and restoration of aquatic habitat.

The National Park Service manages all park resources with an emphasis on fundamental ecological processes as well as for individual species, communities, and natural areas. Natural processes are allowed to progress without intervention whenever possible. In keeping with this philosophy, the National Park Service Recreational Fisheries Program seeks to preserve and/or restore natural aquatic habitats; the natural abundance, age, and size distribution of native aquatic species; and associated terrestrial species and habitats. The fisheries management policies of the Park Service also strive to preserve or restore the natural behavior, genetic variability and diversity, and ecological integrity of fish populations.

It is recognized that wild fish populations are an integral part of a much larger aquatic and riparian ecosystem. Their role in the natural food chain includes utilization by other aquatic predators, bears, eagles, and other raptors/scavengers. Within the context of national parks, it is a management objective to protect the opportunity of natural systems to operate without significant human interruption.

Sport angling opportunities and uses will be developed and managed to avoid disruption or interference with the use of wild fish populations by natural predators and scavengers. The

National Park Service will carry out research to identify areas and sites of particular sensitivity and will use these data in the management of sport fishing. Sport angling management will include manipulation of human uses to avoid direct competition with and displacement of natural predators/scavengers. The needs of fish and wildlife predators/scavengers will be identified and met prior to determining the appropriate harvest and other uses of wild fish populations by sport anglers.

The Service's fishery management mission and strategies used are complementary to those of other land and fishery resource management agencies in the United States and are developed in coordination with local and state agencies. As a signatory to the National Recreational Fisheries Policy, the National Park Service endorses the guiding principles, goals, and objectives of the national policy while adhering to the Service role and mandate described above.

The Service is dedicated to restoring aquatic ecosystems and to improving recreational fisheries management and, where appropriate, fishing activities and opportunities. The Park Service currently funds over $5 million per year in fisheries and aquatic research and management activities. Over 350 additional research and management fisheries and aquatic projects are approved for implementation and study as funding becomes available.

The National Park Service also encourages fisheries activities outside of the parks. One of the Service's strongest tools for these activities is the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program. This Service program works with state and local governments and private groups to conserve and promote natural, cultural, and recreational resources and opportunities along rivers and trails outside park boundaries, promoting aquatic resources as a natural resource and fishing as a recreational activity.

The National Park Service is responsible for the administration of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. This program provides matching assistance to states and local units of government for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreational facilities. Since 1965, over $521 million has been spent from this program for projects related to recreational fishing at the state, county, and local level. In addition, the Park Service cooperates with state governments in projects funded through the Wallop-Breaux Program.

By implementing this recreational fisheries program, the National Park Service seeks to improve the management of its fishery resources, improve public understanding of aquatic ecology and angler ethics, promote research into the management of quality fisheries as well as into the role and contribution of fish to ecosystem processes, and increase the number and quality of recreational opportunities available to the public, both inside and outside of the National Park System.

GOAL 1

Protect, Restore, and Conserve Fishery Resources.

The diversity of types of areas protected in the National Park System demands an equally diverse approach to resource management issues. The National Park Service has developed a multi-faceted approach to protecting, restoring, and conserving fish populations and their habitats on the 80 million acres of lands and waters under its jurisdiction. Strategies range from restoring only native fish populations by natural processes to protecting water quality, water quantity, and important habitat areas such as riparian zones, wetlands, and intertidal and subtidal areas. The National Park Service will continue to actively promote the conservation of its fisheries resources and will work to improve fisheries management through public involvement and research, monitoring, and management programs.

Objective 1. Promote and effect the conservation, restoration, and, where authorized, enhancement of fish populations and their habitats.

The National Park Service is actively involved in a variety of programs that protect, restore, or conserve native fish populations and aquatic habitats. Many of these projects are conducted in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service and its regional councils, and state and local government. Current projects involve protecting and restoring native fish populations by various means, including reintroducing native species; prohibiting the introduction of nonnative hatchery stocks, allowing natural restoration to occur where feasible; reducing or eliminating competition from exotic species; and/or restoring damaged or altered habitats through improved watershed management practices and through aquatic habitat restoration techniques.

In carefully defined instances, where compatible with an area's management objectives and legislative intent, fish and/or aquatic habitat enhancement activities may be authorized to support recreational purposes. (Legislative intent refers to language specifically found in an act or law, or provided as testimony on the floor of Congress and contained within a Senate or House report accompanying an act.) In these instances, management will focus on developing recreational fisheries while preserving natural ecosystem processes along with remnant species and their habitat. Examples include units or special use zones where dams or other structures have created artificial habitats (e.g., Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Whiskeytown National Recreational Area.) In these areas or zones, fishery management activities such as lake fertilization, artificial stocking of native or nonnative fish, and/or other artificial means of increasing the presence or productivity of fish populations may be permitted in cooperation with other agencies. If such actions are authorized, caution will be exercised in identifying and selecting the most appropriate management alternatives.

In an effort to improve existing conservation efforts, the National Park Service will conduct a Fisheries Needs Assessment identifying fishery research and management needs servicewide. The results of this assessment will be used to plan and develop National Park Service fisheries activities over the next ten years.

Action Items

1. Utilize the Fisheries Needs Assessment to identify endangered, threatened, and extirpated species or stocks and habitat restoration needs. Seek funding to implement these projects.

2. Continue ongoing aquatic habitat restoration projects and, using information obtained from the Fisheries Needs Assessment, identify new projects that will maintain and restore river, lake, and riparian-wetland habitats to naturally functioning conditions.

3. Continue restoration and maintenance of native species in natural environments. Perpetuate and protect wild fish populations by such methods as removal of exotic species; fishing equipment restrictions, bag or size limits, and closures; native species reintroductions; prohibitions on the introduction of hatchery stocks; aquatic habitat restoration; nonconsumptive use; and establishment of angler use carrying capacities.

4. Permit stocking of native and nonnative fish and/or habitat enhancement projects only in those areas where National Park Service policy and legislative intent authorize the enhancement of fish populations and habitats and/or recreational fishing activities.

5. Work with state and federal agencies to establish cooperative programs involving: fishery management on adjacent lands and, where appropriate, Park Service lands; the development of long-term monitoring programs to assess the status of aquatic ecosystems; the development of large-scale, regional watershed restoration plans; and the development of appropriate regional water quality and quantity management plans to protect and/or restore fish habitats.

6. Minimize adverse impacts of park operations, concessions, and maintenance activities on fish and aquatic resources.

7. Assess the status of biological inventories of fish and aquatic resources (e.g., channel and riparian assessments) for park units involved in recreational fisheries activities.

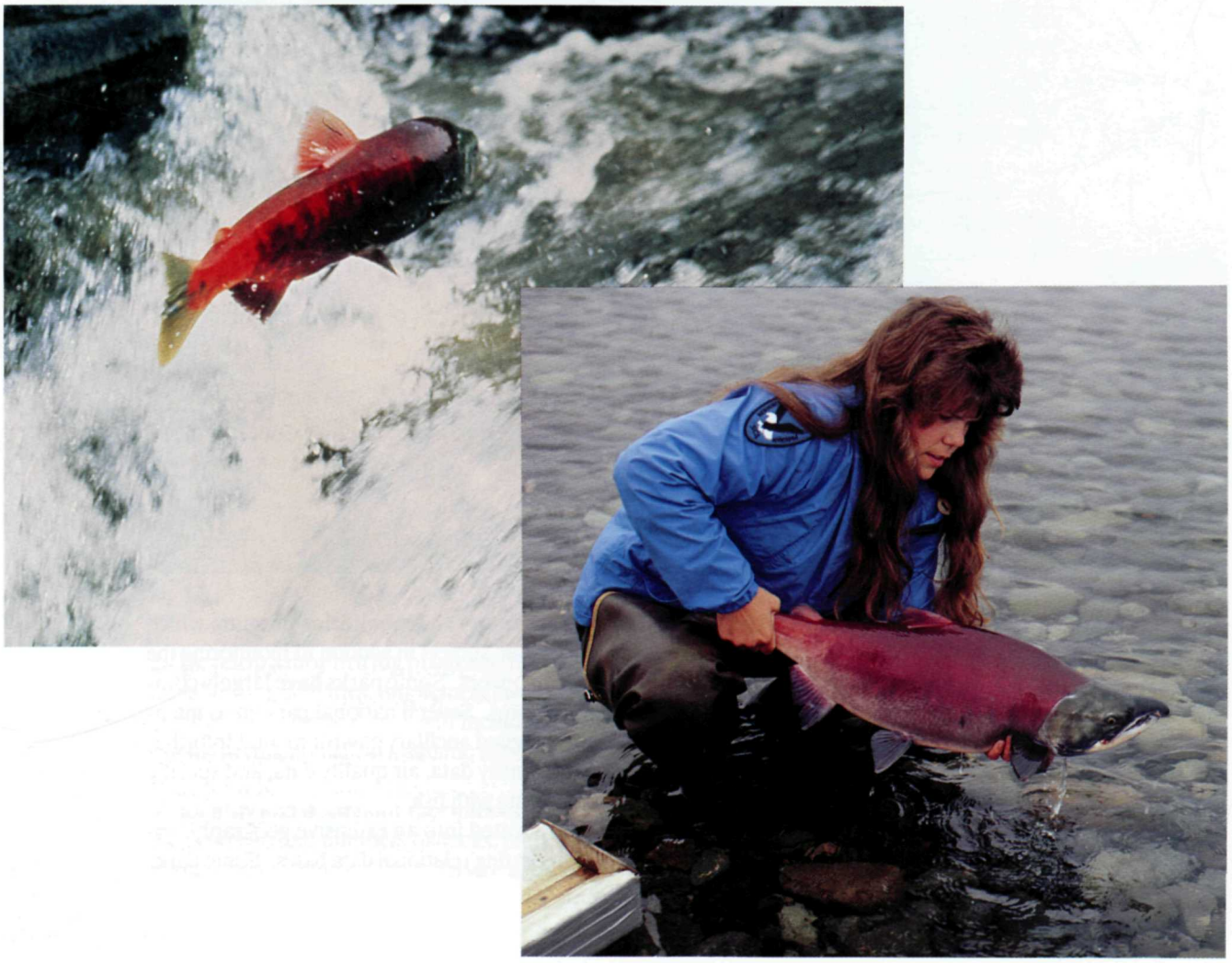
8. Determine the status of fisheries management plans, water resource management plans, and/or aquatic resource management plans in units with recreational fisheries. Develop, implement, and revise, if necessary, these plans in all units of the National Park System having recreational fisheries with active private, public, federal, and, where appropriate, state agency involvement.

Objective 2. Promote, Support, and Conduct Research and Development in Support of Fisheries Management and Ecosystem Processes.

The National Park Service strongly supports and encourages the use of its areas for basic, applied, and interpretive research. Parks can provide large, protected, and often undisturbed natural areas in which to conduct fisheries research. Widely diverse aquatic habitats offer unique opportunities for implementing and evaluating scientifically-based management strategies developed from data accumulated during research activities and from such sources as the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fisheries research is currently taking place in several of the large national parks, including Biscayne, the Virgin Islands, Yellowstone, North Cascades, Olympic, Great Smoky Mountains, Glacier Bay, Katmai, Glacier, and Everglades. Many cooperative fisheries research studies are currently underway with other federal agencies, state agencies, and universities.

The preservation of genetic diversity and integrity in wild fish populations is a key management objective of the Service's Recreational Fisheries Program. A significant problem affecting the mission of many units is prevention of the detrimental effects of genetic introgression. This dilution and loss of wild fish gene pools is a direct result of hatchery fish migrating into park areas and breeding with wild fish populations.

Recognizing that the present level of personnel trained in fisheries research and management is insufficient for current and future fisheries management needs, the National Park Service is assessing the training needs of employees to enhance their professional fisheries man-



agement knowledge and skill, and is identifying courses available from federal, state, and private sources that will satisfy those needs. The Fisheries Needs Assessment will be used to determine the optimal number of fishery biologists, managers, and personnel in related aquatic sub-disciplines needed servicewide for fisheries research and management activities.

Action Items

1. Intensify research on the maintenance of genetic diversity and integrity in wild, native fish populations and incorporate research findings into the Service's Fishery Management Program. Such research would include the development of quantitative population genetics data for comparison of fish populations inside and adjacent to the parks.

2. Utilize the Fisheries Needs Assessment to determine the optimal number of fishery/aquatic biologists and managers needed servicewide.

3. Prepare a budget based on the needs assessment to meet the need for fishery/aquatic biologists, managers, and other personnel identified in the assessment.

4. Identify training needs for existing and potential fisheries managers and identify fisheries management and skill courses available to Service personnel.

5. Provide Service personnel with information on professional certification requirements (i.e., needed courses, credit hours, etc.) in the field of fishery biology, such as the program offered by the American Fisheries Society. Certification of fishery biologists and, when appropriate, resource management specialists with major fishery management duties will be encouraged and supported by managers and supervisors.

6. Provide funding for courses in technical fisheries management and research techniques to support inventory and monitoring programs and program management.

7. Develop agreements with federal and state agencies, universities, and the private sector to identify, develop, and initiate cooperative training and education programs in fisheries/aquatic resource management.

8. Develop and fund fisheries/aquatic habitat management courses for park and fisheries program managers.

9. Continue to support cooperative research studies and actively promote the use of Service units for both short and long-term fisheries and aquatic research by outside scientists and user groups.

Objective 3. Develop and Enhance Biological, Social, and Economic Data Bases on Recreational Fisheries.

The National Park Service has already begun an inventory and monitoring program which will require all units to conduct basic habitat and population surveys in addtion to monitoring the status of their natural resources, including fishery resources. Some parks have largely completed their inventories and initiated monitoring programs. Several national park areas maintain research and monitoring programs that provide needed ancillary environmental information, such as climatological data, water quality and quantity data, air quality data, and specific data bases on aquatic and terrestrial species that interrelate with fish.

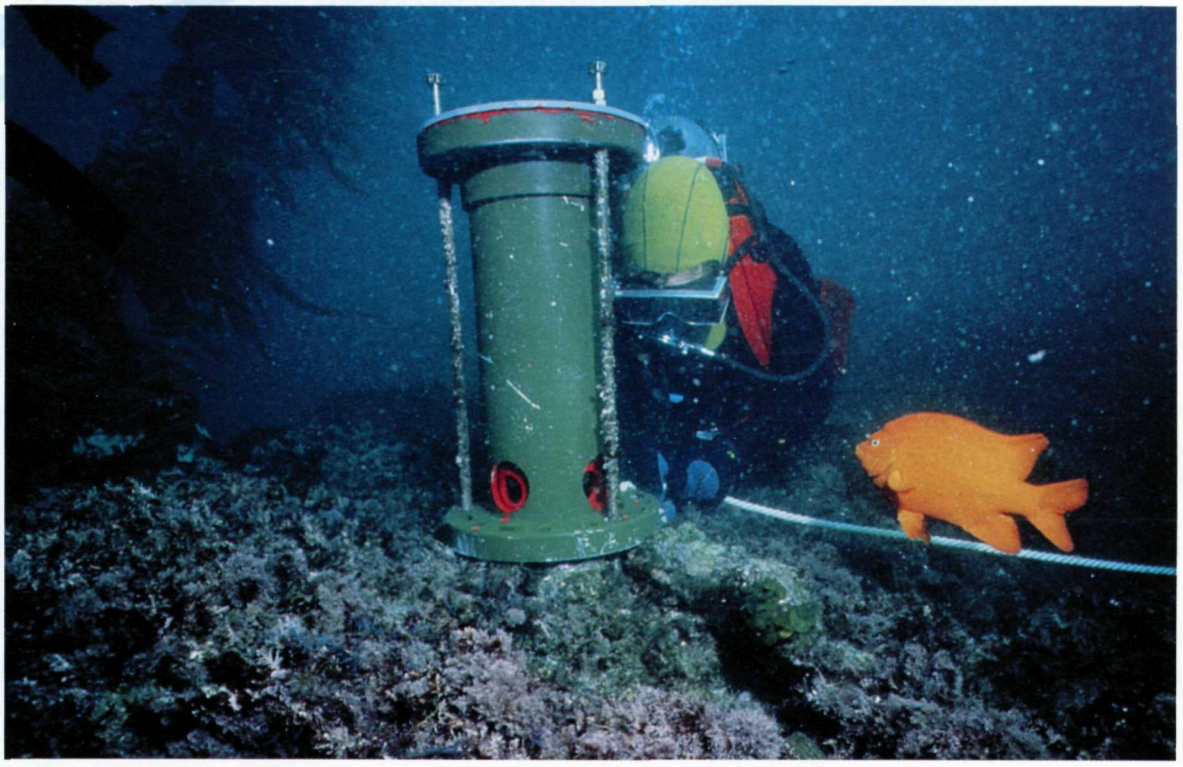
All fishery resource information should be incorporated into an extensive geographic information system (GIS) development program incorporating relational data bases. Some parks

have already created GIS data bases of their natural resources, including stream, lake, and aquatic habitat inventories and maps. These data resources provide an important framework for the storage, retrieval, and evaluation of information related to specific fishery resources.

Although numerous sociological and demographic studies have been conducted at the park level, sociological data specific to anglers are limited. The National Park Service maintains records of visitor use and activities, which are useful in estimating overall fishery impacts and harvest levels. However, detailed angler use studies are needed to understand current public perceptions of quality recreational fishing experiences. Surveys have been conducted to identify the impact of fisheries on the local economy in areas surrounding park units, but economic data specifically relating to park fisheries are generally lacking in most park units and need to be developed.

Action Items

1. Encourage the completion of fish and aquatic resource inventories in all units. Seek funding to assist parks in accomplishing their inventories, with a target date of 1999 established for all units to complete basic inventories of natural resources, including fish and aquatic habitats.



2. Develop a monitoring program that can be implemented by any park involved in recreational fishing activities. Implement two pilot park monitoring programs annually for a total of eight parks. The programs will include monitoring of the park's fish resources, their use (i.e., catch, harvest, and effort), aquatic habitats, and related socio-economic trends.

3. Identify and document the miles of stream, lakeshore, seashore; the acres of surface water; the positions and numbers of docks, piers, marinas, and boat ramps; and other fisheries related information in National Park Service units, employing current state of the art GIS systems.

4. Encourage park units to obtain information through angler use surveys which document catch, harvest, effort, behavior and preferences, demographics, etc., and to incorporate this information into their fisheries management and interpretive programs. Develop a pool of approved survey questions from which park units may select to meet their particular survey needs. Information from these surveys will be included in a computer data base.

5. Encourage park units to work with their local tourism entities to develop comprehensive economic surveys of the impact of park fisheries on local economies.

Objective 4. Improve Fisheries Education, Outreach, and Angler Ethics Programs to Increase Public Awareness.

The interpretation and education program in the National Park Service is well established and is an important tool in building support for resource conservation, preservation, and management activities. The Service will continue to rely on the interpretive staff's expertise in disseminating information and providing educational opportunities that will assist in development of an effective recreational fisheries and aquatic resources program. Information on aquatic resources, fisheries management, and related research programs will be integrated into the total resource management and interpretation program.

Action Items

1. Recognize aquatic resource and fishery programs as interpretive "themes," and include them as a program area in Annual Statements for Interpretation developed by park units.

2. Encourage park interpretive staffs to be well informed about all aspects of fishing, fishery management, and related research in order to give accurate information to the public about the Service's Recreational Fisheries Program and applicable laws and regulations.

3. Incorporate aquatic resource education into park interpretive programs, particularly as it deals with healthy ecosystems, minimum impact, litter, etc.

4. Develop programs to introduce children to fishing ethics through activities such as the Junior Ranger Program. Include aquatic resources as a component in environmental education programs.

5. Promote recreational fisheries as renewable resources by encouraging nonconsumptive methods such as catch and release and/or providing fish viewing opportunities where appropriate.

6. Develop contacts with local fishing groups and offer to provide informational programs explaining the Service's fishery management and research programs and policies. Solicit these groups' assistance in promoting improved outdoor ethical behavior among recreational anglers.

7. Sponsor clinics for local communities in cooperation with state agencies and local interest groups to provide information about park aquatic resource programs and policies, conservation ethics, and values to be gained from conservation activities.

8. Develop a servicewide fishing brochure to explain the Service's recreational fisheries program, including such terms as "nonconsumptive use" and "angler ethics."

9. Update and develop park specific handouts that include information on recreational fishing ethics, opportunities, and local regulations.

10. Update, revise, and distribute the 1983 "Areas with Sport Fishing Opportunities" brochure.

11. Develop contacts with the media (i.e., newspapers, radio, and television) and initiate programs that share information about the Service's fisheries program, management concerns, ethics, and associated values. Information would include how activities seemingly unrelated to fishing such as waste disposal, land use, and water quality impact fisheries conservation and management.

12. Integrate and use data and results of aquatic research in programs and articles when appropriate.

13. Encourage public participation in the marine debris monitoring program, stream restoration, water quality monitoring, Mussel Watch, and other related programs.

GOAL 2

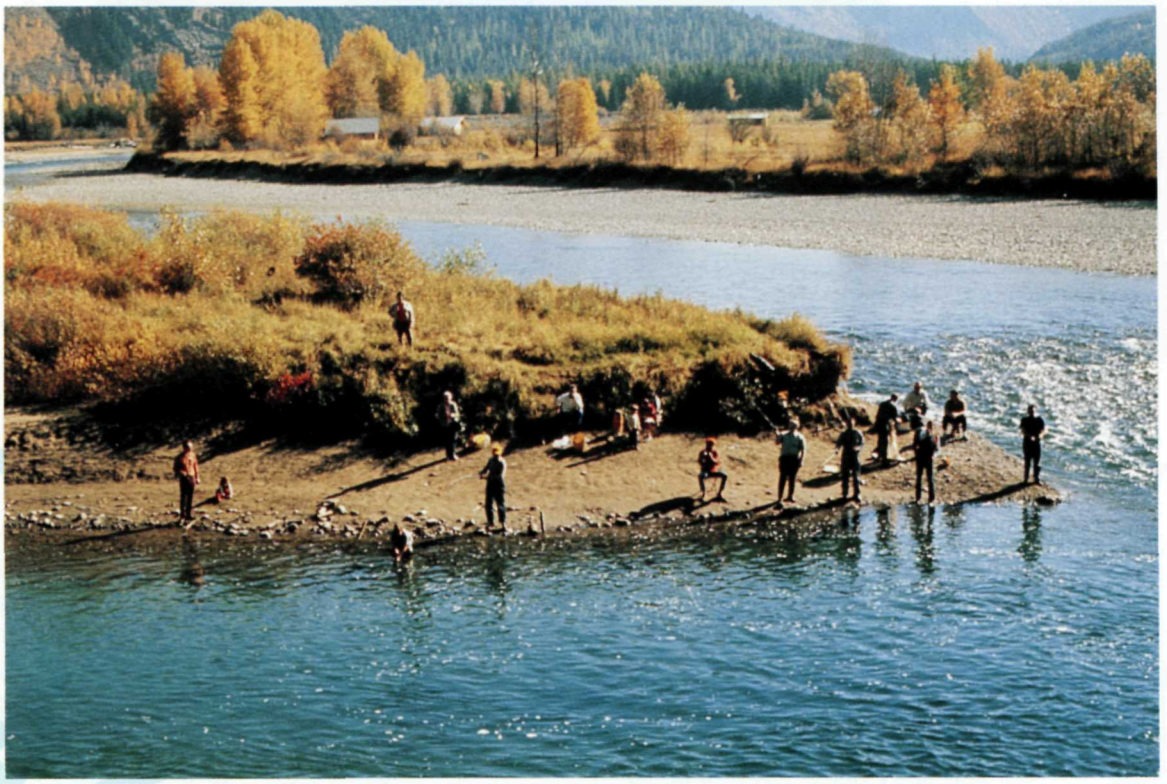
Increase the Quality, Quantity, and Diversity of Recreational Fishing Opportunities.

Recreational fishing has traditionally been an accepted use of natural resources in the national parks, occurring in 143 units of the National Park System. These units represent a wide variety of recreational fishing opportunities. From pristine wild areas to marine fishing to urban park ponds, the choices for recreational fishing are abundant. The National Park Service will continue to provide quality recreational fisheries opportunities and, where appropriate, strive to increase those opportunities on its lands and waters for all people.

Objective 1. Increase and Diversify Recreational Experiences.

National park units offer a wide variety of recreational fisheries activities. In addition to parks, the National Park System contains National Preserves, National Rivers, National Lakeshores, National Seashores, National Recreation Areas, and National Historical Sites, many of which offer numerous recreational fishing opportunities. National Seashores offer some of the finest recreational surf fishing in the country. National Recreation Areas were established to recognize significant national resources and to provide expanded opportunities for outdoor recreation: They provide urban, coastal, riverine, and artificially created water bodies where native and nonnative sport fish populations and habitats may be perpetuated and in some areas enhanced to improve recreational fishing.

The National Park Service can offer quality fishing experiences not readily available in other areas. The parks allow anglers to fish for native species in natural surroundings. Park interpretive programs can also make anglers aware of opportunities to view fish as they contribute to natural processes in the ecosystem. National parks and preserves often provide



sanctuaries for unique native fish species and strains. As a result of research and subsequent management actions, the populations of some native species in parks have been restored to such levels that additional areas have been opened to fishing for these species.

The National Park Service will work to increase recreational fishing opportunities whenever possible while conserving and protecting fisheries resources and related aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Wild fish populations are an integral part of a much larger aquatic and riparian ecosystem and often play a key role in the natural food web. The Service is investigating various types of activities which will increase the diversity of recreational fishing experiences, but at the same time prevent overfishing, extirpation of species or strains, accelerated streambank erosion, and\or displacement of predators and scavengers which compete with man for access to fish resources.

Action Items

1. Identify units in urban or inner city areas with existing and potential recreational fishing opportunities, soliciting input from local communities. Some units may offer potential for reintroduction of extirpated species and/or restoration of aquatic habitats. Implement an urban fisheries program in at least 15 units of the National Park System.

2. Encourage units in the system with recreational fisheries to become more actively involved in the Watchable Wildlife program and identify areas where this activity can be focused on fish, fish activities, and aquatic systems.

3. Encourage coastal units to participate in the marine debris monitoring program.

4. Participate in National Fishing Week activities where appropriate.

Objective 2. Increase Access to Recreational Fisheries.

The National Park Service is committed to providing access to its recreational fisheries for all segments of the public. However, access must be planned and balanced with other resource management needs. In many park areas containing recreational fisheries resources, the Service provides facilities that include courtesy docks, boat ramps, floating sewage pump-out stations, marinas, fishing piers, and fish cleaning stations. The Service has also publicized opportunities for recreational fishing in numerous publications, and the topic is addressed in individual park brochures.

Improving access to park resources for special populations that include the disabled, the elderly, and children is continuing. Special facilities to enable these groups to participate more fully in recreational fisheries activities are or will be provided.

Access also includes roads and trails to fishing locations. The National Park Service is presently inventorying its existing facilities to identify repair and construction needs. Ensuring that facilities are available for special populations and participating in programs designed to increase fishing opportunities for special populations will help the Service meet this objective.

In analysis of needs for fisheries related roads, trails, and facility developments, managers will consider the potential effects of accelerated streambank erosion or lake eutrophication, impaired fish passage, and/or water quality deterioration. These and related concerns should be adequately met or mitigated in the facility planning and design stage.

Action Items

1. Identify and evaluate the number and condition of existing piers, docks, boat ramps, fish cleaning stations, sanitary facilities, roads/trails, and other facilities that provide access for recreational fishing. Prepare the necessary documentation to acquire funding for repair of existing structures and new construction of needed fisheries infrastructures.

2. Develop and implement recreational fisheries programs for special populations (e.g., disabled, visual and hearing impaired, physically and mentally handicapped, elderly, and children).

3. Include provisions for accessibility by special populations to recreational fisheries facilities and activities in planning documents and management activities, where appropriate.

4. Determine through the planning process, research, and other methods that planned access facilities will not increase usage beyond the resources' ability to recover.

5. Increase support and involvement in programs such as Fishing Has No Boundaries, a multi-agency program designed to improve fishery-oriented activities for disabled persons, and National Fishing Week, a multi-agency program that encourages children and families to fish.

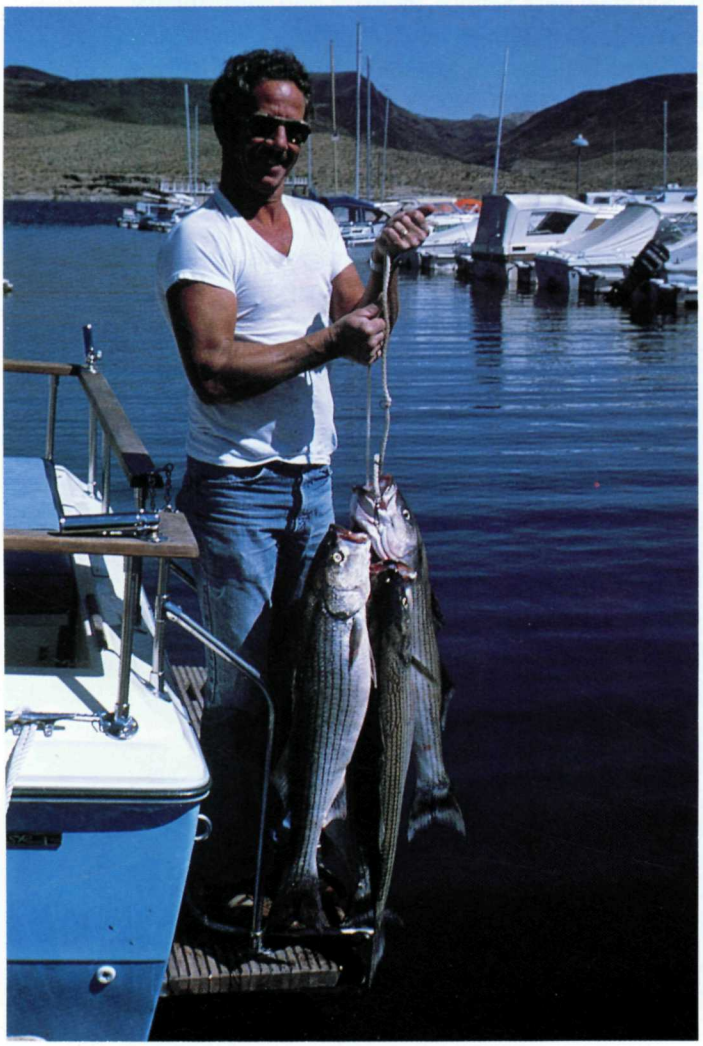
GOAL 3

Improve Partnerships Between Governments and the Private Sector for Conserving and Managing Recreational Fisheries.

The National Park Service is presently entering the arena of partnerships and private sector involvement in a variety of disciplines. Resource related problems are growing in national park areas as a result of increasing visitation, urbanization, and development near park boundaries. Each of these factors can cause degraded environmental conditions in parks. To solve these problems, the Service must seek out the assistance of outside agencies and the private sector.

Objective 1. Develop Forums for the Exchange of Information and Program Coordination Between Government Agencies and Private Groups.

Historically, the National Park Service has been actively involved in developing and implementing forums, workshops, and symposia for the communication of information on fisheries resources and management. The Service has co-sponsored symposia such as the Wild Trout meetings at Yellowstone National Park and the Olympic Wild Fish Conference at Olympic National Park.



The restoration and protection of fisheries resources in Yellowstone National Park is an example of the longstanding cooperative efforts between the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Park Service also actively cooperates with numerous state fishery management agencies, interagency councils, commissions, and private constituency groups that affect recreational fishing, including the National Marine Fisheries Service and its regional fisheries management councils, the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission, the Columbia River Fishery Council, the Desert Fishes Council, and others. Agency personnel are involved both locally and nationally with professional organizations such as the American Fisheries Society. There is significant room, however, for the National Park Service to expand involvement of these types with other groups in order to develop support for the accomplishment of the goals of the National Park Service Recreational Fisheries Program.

Action Items

1. Work closely with federal and state agencies and tribal groups to define roles and identify opportunities for cooperative fishery research and management programs. Involve these and other agencies in planning these programs.

2. Increase the National Park Service's role in interagency councils, commissions, and other planning groups dealing with fishery resources by encouraging personnel with appropriate training to participate.

3. Encourage more creative use of park resources by outside scientists for studies concerning fishery resources. Support scientific efforts with adequate physical facilities such as lodging, lab space, transportation, and general field support.

4. Expand involvement of National Park Service personnel with professional meetings and symposia. In these meetings, continue to promote the protection of wild fish populations and the restoration of aquatic ecosystems, species, and communities. Continue professional involvement with fresh water and marine fisheries and expand that involvement, as appropriate.

5. Expand communication between the National Park Service, industry, and constituency groups such as the American Fisheries Society, the Sport Fishing Institute, Trout Unlimited, the Izaak Walton League, the Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society, and the Chesapeake Bay Program. Develop memoranda of understanding with constituency groups as needed at the national level. Special emphasis will be placed on ensuring that these groups are familiar with Service policies and programs, and on working with these groups to develop the concept of minimal impact fishing programs.

6. Encourage park personnel to actively participate with local constituency groups to provide a better understanding of park goals and objectives in regard to fishery management.

7. Coordinate with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to expand the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation to include National Park System units.

8. Develop a structured forum for the exchange of information and program coordination between government agencies and private groups.

9. Work cooperatively with the National American Fisheries Society and local state chapters in the formulation and review of fisheries resource management plans.

Objective 2. Develop and Promote Mechanisms for the Public to Participate in Fisheries Programs and Projects.

The National Park Service strongly supports cooperation with citizens to develop a sense of stewardship and to share the responsibility for managing fishery related resources in National Park System units. The Service has a number of programs which allow the public to take an active role in resources management. Lake Mead National Recreation Area developed the Adopt-A-Cove program, which involves more than 50 groups in litter removal and, when feasible, restoration of native riparian vegetation. The public also participated in creating artificial protective habitat for fish in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Trout

Unlimited supported the restoration of native brook trout in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the Sport Fishing Institute funded and supported fisheries research at Yellowstone National Park and youth fishing programs at Anacostia Park in Washington, D.C. Channel Islands National Park is working with university scientists, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the California Department of Fish and Game, and others in research and monitoring projects dealing with marine and intertidal resources. The Friends of Channel Islands financially supports interpretive and educational programs at the park by providing diver-held underwater cameras and live video displays. Several parks include articles in their park newspapers about fisheries that stimulate visitor involvement in fishing and other recreational activities in freshwater and marine environments.

Action Items

1. Design and implement additional fisheries projects incorporating public assistance and support. Such projects could include the restoration of aquatic habitats, native species, and ecosystems, and the improvement of access for recreational fishing.

2. Identify and increase contacts with support groups and constituencies that should be involved in the fisheries planning process. Strive to involve these groups early in the public review phase and work with them whenever a policy or program change is being considered.

3. Encourage parks with significant fishery resources to expand and develop new and creative strategies for planning and carrying out projects with public participation, particularly through the National Park Service's active Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Program.

4. Develop partnerships with other user groups such as the National Outdoor Leadership School, Outward Bound, Boy Scouts of America, etc. to increase involvement in fisheries and aquatic projects at the local level.

GOAL 4

Identify and Incorporate Economic Values and Opportunities in Developing Recreational Fisheries Programs.

As the National Park Service works toward its goal of protecting and restoring native fish populations and, where appropriate, developing recreational fishing programs, economic opportunities are created which may benefit surrounding communities. The Service should identify these potential benefits during planning processes and disseminate the information to the public in order to create an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual benefit between private and public concerns.

Objective 1. Involve the Recreational Fisheries Goods and Services Industry in Implementation of the National Park Service Recreational Fisheries Program.

Both the National Park Service and the recreational fisheries goods and services industry can benefit through cooperation and information sharing. The Service can include industry representatives in planning processes, providing them with a forum to discuss their needs and providing the Service with an educational opportunity. An informed and understanding industry can help the Service meet its objectives of preserving and restoring native fish populations, protecting air and water quality, and preventing litter problems.

Action Items

1. Share information about park fisheries resources, fisheries management, and the results of fishery and aquatic research with industry representatives.

2. Encourage and assist the recreational fisheries goods and services industry to produce brochures describing aquatic resources in park units and including aquatic conservation information. Work with other agencies to encourage industry representatives to develop advertising campaigns that reflect recreational fishing ethics, nonconsumptive use, anti-littering, the importance of clean air and water, etc.

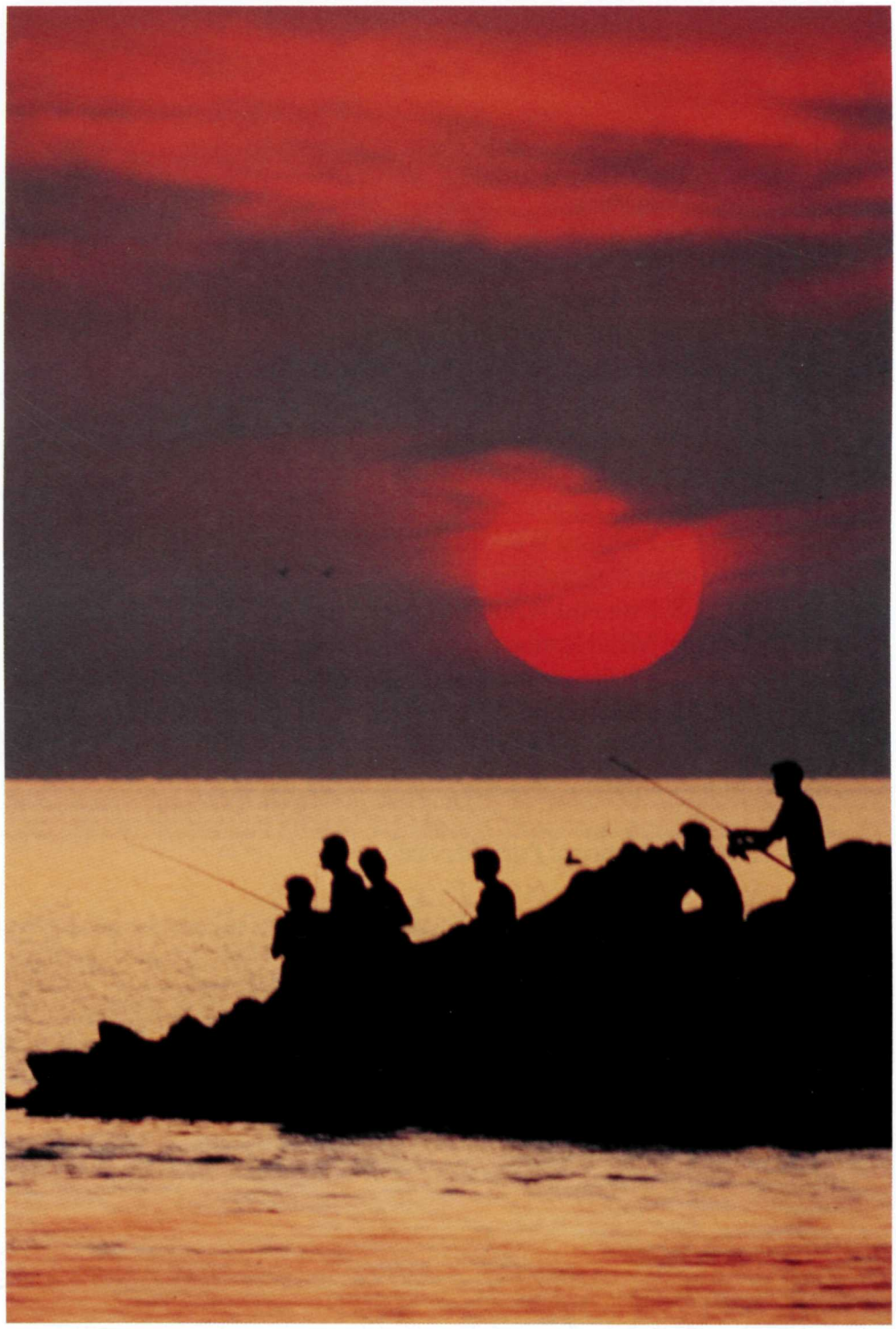
3. Work with concessionaires and local tourism groups to identify and share information concerning the different types of recreational fishing activities available in Service units.

6. Work with industry representatives and park concessionaires to develop and encourage the use of environmentally safe packaging materials and maintenance practices to reduce aquatic pollution and damage to fisheries resources.

7. Review visitor use surveys, creel censuses, and other studies, and modify if necessary to improve collection and utilization of economic data related to fisheries. Analyze surveys to identify visitor activities related to fisheries activities and provide those data to local communities, local industry representatives, and other interested groups.

8. Develop strategies for park managers to work with local communities to factor economic activities on National Park Service lands into development and planning programs.

9. Work with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies to include information related to economic values and angler preferences in the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation , and include this information in reports derived from the survey.



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Graphics by Mark Stephen Hall, Department of the Interior

Edited by Lissa Fox, National Park Service

For additional copies, contact:

Wildlife and Vegetation Division
P. O. Box 37127 MS 490
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127