

Consumptive Use of Fishery Resources Within the National Park System:



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RECREATIONAL FISHING

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- **Is a traditional visitor use and recreational activity within the National Park System.**
- **Is authorized by the Code of Federal Regulations where specifically not prohibited.**
- **Has often been stipulated to be allowed by Congress in individual park's legislation.**

2001 Management Policies Stipulate:

(Section 4.4.3) - Where harvesting is allowed and subject to NPS control,

- **Must monitor and assess impacts as per Management Policy sections 4.4.2 and 4.4.2.1.**

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(Section 4.4.3) - Where harvesting is allowed and subject to NPS control,

- **Must monitor and assess impacts as per 4.4.2 & 4.4.2.1**

(Section 4.4.2) ... “The Service will assess the results of managing.....by conducting follow-up monitoring or other such studies to determine the impacts of the management methods on non-targeted, as well as targeted, components of the ecosystem.”

Management Policies Stipulate:

(Section 4.4.3) - Where harvesting is allowed.....

- **Must monitor and assess impacts as per 4.4.2 & 4.4.2.1**

(Section 4.4.2.1)... “Whenever the Service.....allows others to remove plants or animals for an authorized purpose, the Service will seek to ensure that such removals will not cause unacceptable impacts to native resources, natural processes, or other park resources.”

2001 Management Policies Stipulate:

(Section 4.4.3) - Where harvesting is allowed.....

- **Must monitor and assess impacts as per 4.4.2 & 4.4.2.1**

And:

- **Must determine that the harvesting will not unacceptably impact park resources or natural processes, including the natural distributions, densities, age-class distributions, and behavior of:**
 - **The harvested species;**

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 - **Native species that use the harvested species.**

The 2001 NPS Management Policies place emphasis for fisheries management on providing the park visitor an opportunity to fish for a native species in its natural environment ---- Not on the harvest of fish.



**But, are parks living up to these
Management Policies ?**

**Are we properly managing
this widespread consumptive
use?**

Results of a survey of National Park Units with Recreational, Subsistence, and/or Commercial fishing occurring on park resources:

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Monitor Numbers of Fishermen ?

30 % Of the Parks reported that they monitor numbers of fishermen

69 % Numbers are NOT monitored

1 % Do not know if numbers are monitored

Of those 30 % monitoring:

36 % Depend on State to do this

54 % Park does this monitoring

4 % Another Federal Agency monitors

4 % Local Tribe monitors

Of those 30 % monitoring:

**54 % Feel monitoring sufficient to estimate
total numbers of fishermen
(48% do not)**

Of those 30 % monitoring:

54 % Feel monitoring sufficient to estimate total numbers of fishermen

In addition to those monitoring:

15 % Of the parks indicated that, although they do not monitor, they feel they know about how many fishermen are using the park.

Based on this information:

1. Only 31 % of the parks know how many fishermen they have taking fish (69 % do not)

Monitor Numbers of Fish Taken ?

36 % Of the Parks reported that they monitor numbers of fish taken

63 % Numbers are NOT monitored

1 % Do not know if take is monitored

Of those 36 % monitoring take:

52 % Depend on State to do this

38 % Park does this monitoring

10 % Another Federal Agency monitors

Of those 36 % monitoring take:

**45 % Feel monitoring is sufficient to
estimate total numbers taken
(55 % do not)**

Of those 36 % monitoring take:

45 % Feel monitoring is sufficient to estimate total numbers taken

In addition to those monitoring:

8 % Of the parks reported that, although take is not directly monitored, they feel they know how many fish are taken.

Thus:

1. 31 % of the parks know how many fishermen they have taking fish (68 % do not)
2. 24% of the parks know how many fish are being taken from their park (76% do not)

Conduct Fisheries Independent Monitoring of fished populations ?

63 % Of the Parks reported that they conduct some monitoring of the populations of species taken independent of fishery observations

37 % Do NOT independently monitor

Of those 63% who monitor populations:

39 % Feel monitoring is sufficient to know the status of the populations and understand fishery impacts.

55 % Do not feel monitoring is sufficient to understand fishery impacts.

6 % Are not sure.

Of those 63% who monitor populations:

39 % Feel monitoring is sufficient to know the status of the populations and understand fishery impacts.

In addition to those doing independent monitoring:

9 % of the parks reported that they felt they understood the condition of the fished populations either through the monitoring of take or by some other means.

Thus:

1. **31 % of the parks know how many fishermen they have taking fish (68 % do not)**
2. **24 % of the parks know how many fish are being taken from their park (76% do not)**
3. **33 % of the parks know the condition of the populations fished. (67% do not)**

Monitor non-target species potentially impacted?

41 % Conduct some monitoring of potentially affected populations

59 % Do NOT monitor any such populations

Of those 41 % who monitor potentially affected populations:

24 % Feel monitoring is sufficient to know the status of those populations and understand fishery impacts.

(73 % do not & 3% are not sure)

Of those 42 % who monitor potentially affected populations:

19 % Feel monitoring is sufficient to know the status of those populations and understand fishery impacts.

In addition to those monitoring:

4 % of the parks reported that they felt they understood the impacts even though they did not monitor non-target species.

- 1. 31 % of the parks know how many fishermen they have taking fish (69 % do not)**
- 2. 24 % of the parks know how many fish are being taken from their park (76% do not)**
- 3. 33 % of the parks know the condition of the populations fished. (67% do not)**
- 4. 14 % of the parks feel they know the impacts of fishing on non-target species. (86% do not)**

Thus Only:

1. **31 %** of the parks know how many recreational fishermen they have taking fish (68 % do not)
2. **24 %** of the parks know how many fish are being taken recreationally from their park (76% do not)
3. **33 %** of the parks know the condition of the populations fished. (68% do not)
4. **14 %** of the parks know the impacts of fishing on non-target species. (86% do not)

Commercial Fishing:

- **78 % Have some monitoring of numbers**

67 % Feel they know total fishing effort

- **67% Have some monitoring of take**

44% Feel they know total amount taken

Subsistence Fishing:

- **86% Have some monitoring of numbers**

75% Feel they know total fishing effort

- **75% Have some monitoring of take**

50% Feel they know total amount taken

What does the future hold?



Conclusions based on the results of this survey:

- ***Although our 2001 management policies make some rather strong statements with regards to the management of park fishery resources, the NPS is not fulfilling these stated management policies.***
- ***The impact that fishing may be having on the park aquatic resources is largely unknown.***
- ***Because of a lack of monitoring, the potential for “harm to the integrity” of park aquatic resources from fishing activities seems very large.***
- ***The NPS either needs to institute programs to fulfill the stated management policies, change the stated policies, or prohibit fishing where policies are not being met.***