



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

January 23, 2026

Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

The state of North Carolina re-submits the attached updated EFP to begin work on the long-term task of creating a new state data collection system to be used for state management of red snapper. In this updated EFP, we have made several changes. First, we have removed the limited 100 participants and have changed to allow for more access and participation similar to GA, and SC EFP applications. Discussions with NOAA staff indicated that our proposal compared to the other states “muddies the water”. Secondly, NC has reworked objectives to be short-term in nature for this first year EFP. We will now work to determine a universe of anglers fishing for red snapper, test the use of an on-the-water application by private recreational anglers, and test NC’s ability to collect data on removals of red snapper over MRIP Wave Four. These objectives coincide with SC and GA.

NC will be using the same data program application (VESL) as GA and SC with the same data variables. This should ensure similar design and data collection that will meet requirements of NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology (OST).

Concerning the harvest requirement in 50 CFR 600.745(b)(2)(v). NC is concerned about producing a number of expected harvest for this 2026 EFP. The poor quality of MRIP red snapper catch data over time (as indicated in Table 1 of the EFP) makes it extremely difficult to determine a reasonable harvest amount. Any projected Atlantic red snapper harvest extrapolated from MRIP data would be extremely unreliable. We are also concerned that a number would be used punitively toward the state by either shortening the requested season, defining a regional quota, and/or establishing state allocations. However, we should be able to project a number for the 2027 EFP based on harvest data collected in 2026 if we are allowed to test the data collection application and use Wave four as an accountability measure.

NC would like to request an increase in the presence of NOAA law enforcement officers during the proposed season to help with compliance of anglers participating in the EFP study.



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We look forward to having this EFP approved as quickly as possible, so we may begin our efforts for implementation during the 2026 fishing season.

Thank you for your staff input to improve NC's EFP application, and we look forward to working with you and answering any questions you have.

Sincerely,

Kathy B. Rawls  
NC Division of Marine Fisheries Director



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i. Jan 23, 2026

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iii. **Purpose and Goal:**

This is a request that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) be issued to NC Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) to develop, implement, and test a pilot state recreational data collection program with the long-term intent to implement state management of the recreational red snapper fishery. This EFP may be requested annually for up to three years, beginning with the short-term focus of testing NC's ability to develop a defined recreational red snapper angler universe, and to test an on-the-water data collection application. NC intends to use this first year as a steppingstone to explore the ability to collect in-season recreational red snapper catch in order to meet the long-term goal of managing NC's recreational red snapper fishery. This work will lead to improved coordination with NOAA Fisheries and the Office of Science and Technology and will enhance future data collection of other offshore federally managed South Atlantic Council species. This EFP does NOT include any changes to existing management measures for the commercial fishery and still expects the NOAA fisheries to open the commercial fishing season on the second Monday in July 2026. North Carolina is working in cooperation with South Carolina, Georgia and east coast Florida, in development of EFPs to improve data collection to inform recreational management of red snapper by the south Atlantic states.

#### **Justification for Issuance of an EFP**

Federal management of the recreational red snapper fishery faces several challenges, including rising discard rates, truncated seasons, and a lack of adequate snapper-specific data. The issuance of this EFP will allow NC to begin exploration of monitoring and managing red snapper in federal waters off NC. This first year will entail testing a pilot



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recreational data collection program to collect recreational harvest and discard information of red snapper through mandatory reporting to determine if NC can monitor in-season removals of red snapper.

The SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 73 completed in 2021 indicated the red snapper population was overfished and that overfishing was occurring. However, an update to SEDAR 73 (2024) indicated that the stock is no longer overfished and is progressing toward being rebuilt with higher-than-expected recruitment during 2014-2021. Although not yet fully rebuilt, results of the last four stock assessments have shown a strong rebuilding trajectory. Secretarial Amendment 59 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (2024) reported the red snapper to not be overfished and based on the new proxy, overfishing is no longer occurring.

Despite these positive trends, recreational red snapper fishing seasons have become shorter, with the high numbers of discards identified as the key issue. The current total Annual Catch Limit (ACL) is 509,000 fish, of which 475,000 fish are counted as dead discards. This **allows for only 6.7% of the total ACL to be harvested.** The 2025 recreational fishing season was open for two days (July 11-12) and was based on a recreational ACL of 22,797 fish (4.5% of the total ACL).

Recreational anglers are frustrated with MRIP data collection and have voiced their frustrations at council meetings, advisory panel meetings, and through news and social media. For example, North Carolina red snapper MRIP estimates are poor quality with percent standard errors (PSE) ranging from 127.5 (1984) to 39.2 (2011) with only one year, 2021 (27.4) meeting the <30 threshold for a precise estimate (Table 1.). Also, MRIP is not designed for in-season monitoring because the base sampling interval is in two-month waves. This is especially problematic for mini seasons like recreational red snapper. Thus, a recreational data collection program capable of collecting more real time data is needed for effective in-season monitoring of the recreational harvest and discards in the red snapper fishery off NC.

In 2024, recreational angler groups reached out to the south Atlantic states to consider state based recreational data collection programs for red snapper, similar to the Gulf states. The states met with these groups throughout the year and reviewed other data programs from the Gulf and the Pacific coast. State directors and proxies met internally to discuss how to go forward and by consensus, it was decided to apply for EFPs that would allow each state to test other data collection approaches.



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Table 1. NC Red Snapper Catch Estimates with PSEs and Standards from MRIP.

<b>Year (Annual)</b>	<b>Total Catch (A+B1+B2) (Numbers of Fish)</b>	<b>PSE Total Catch (A+B1+B2)</b>	<b>Does Total Catch (A+B1+B2) Meet MRIP Standard</b>
1984	11,475	127.5	NO
1985	78,489	95.6	NO
1986	759	103.6	NO
1987	32,695	41.9	CAUTION
1988	8,592	56.7	NO
1989	3,681	39.7	CAUTION
1990	2,828	54.4	NO
1991	8,082	53.1	NO
1992	1,902	62.5	NO
1993	3,364	78	NO
1994	4,309	48.4	CAUTION
1995	9,685	61.1	NO
1996	1,312	50.5	NO
1998	1,816	97.7	NO
1999	2,288	48.7	CAUTION
2000	3,185	67.8	NO
2001	4,484	43.6	CAUTION
2002	5,022	44.5	CAUTION
2003	2,733	66.2	NO
2004	2,947	98.4	NO
2005	7,492	66.3	NO
2006	4,770	82.2	NO
2007	227	100.8	NO
2008	1,575	60.1	NO
2009	2,552	50.6	NO
2010	3,702	60.1	NO
2011	2,118	39.2	CAUTION
2012	14,656	69	NO
2013	956	65.5	NO
2014	9,279	80.7	NO
2015	4,295	52.2	NO
2016	20,467	55.1	NO
2017	3,270	52	NO
2018	840	43.3	CAUTION



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Year (Annual)	Total Catch (A+B1+B2)	PSE Total Catch (A+B1+B2)	Does Total Catch (A+B1+B2) Meet MRIP Standard
2019	7,827	81.6	NO
2020	22,269	46.2	CAUTION
2021	256,55	27.4	YES
2022	56,176	49.4	CAUTION
2023	62,776	41.2	CAUTION
2024	73,904	61.2	NO

Data Source MRIP Query Tool (1/20/2026)

North Carolina is closely collaborating with South Carolina and Georgia to test the same recreational data collection program and mandatory reporting and is coordinating with the state of Florida to explore the states’ ability to manage the federal red snapper recreational fishery. Florida already has a data collection program that has been used successfully in the Gulf and has been approved by MRIP. Because Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina do not have a similar data collection program or the current capacity to develop one, the three states collectively recognized the need to have a similar approach for collection of recreational information and initially attempted to submit a single EFP.

The South Atlantic state agencies will continue to coordinate and collaborate throughout the EFP process. State agency staff from the four states will meet at least bi-weekly to discuss any challenges as the EFPs are occurring and how each state is working to resolve those challenges. States will try and have as similar a response as possible to any challenges that occur during the EFPs and continually learn from the experiences of the other states. At the end of year 1 of the EFPs, the state agency staff will meet at least once for an all-day, in-person meeting to discuss lessons learned and changes for year 2. These discussions will ensure the data collected are as similar as possible, enabling a direct comparison of effort, landings, and angler behavior across the region. Any differences will be discussed and changes made (if possible) within each state’s authority to ensure similarity across experiments and useable data for the future. Following the state agency meeting, a meeting will also be held at the end of year 1 with NOAA Fisheries and the states about how year 1 went, including what challenges were encountered, and how the states propose to modify their EFPs for year 2. These meetings serve as an accountability measure to fix any problems encountered before year 2 begins. Any modifications to EFPs will be submitted by all states for subsequent years as changes are made to the methodology.



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## Methodology:

This EFP will allow NCDMF to:

1. Pilot test VESL, a state-based recreational data collection application to collect near-real-time harvest and discards of red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) in North Carolina's adjacent federal waters.
2. Pilot test the ability for North Carolina to implement in-season monitoring of removals of red snapper over a 62-day season.
3. Determine an offshore universe of anglers fishing for red snapper.
4. Collect biological information of red snapper off North Carolina through its Carcass Collection Program.
5. Collect demographic, social and economic data through surveys of private recreational anglers, and for-hire captains fishing for red snapper in North Carolina.

Under this EFP, private recreational anglers will be allowed to harvest one red snapper per person or 4 per vessel per day, whichever is more restrictive (Table 2). Charter boat captains (for hire operations of six or less passengers) will also be allowed to harvest one red snapper per paying customer per day with a vessel limit of 4, whichever is more restrictive (Table 2). Headboat captains (for-hire operations with more than six passengers) will be allowed to harvest 20 red snapper per vessel per day (Table 2). For-hire captain and crew will be excluded from possessing a bag limit of red snapper. The timeframe will be during MRIP Wave four (July and August) which coincides with SC and GA EFP proposals.

Private recreational anglers will be required to meet NC Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) licensing requirements unless otherwise exempted (e.g., under 16 years of age). For-hire guides will need to hold either a NC Blanket Vessel CRFL or a NC For-Hire Captains CRFL AND a South Atlantic Charter/Headboat Permit. To prevent false inflation of new entrants, for-hire vessels must have possessed both a NC DMF for-hire license AND a valid South Atlantic Charter/Headboat permit for Snapper Grouper prior to January 1, 2026.

Electronic reporting will be completed through an application created by Bluefin Data, LLC. This same application will be utilized by North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia state agencies to ensure standardization in data collection methods and allow for cost effective implementation. Bluefin Data specializes in developing electronic reporting platforms for fisheries data and built VESL. Bluefin Data currently provides South Carolina with an



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electronic reporting platform (See Appendix 1) and is also used to collect electronic commercial trip ticket data from North Carolina-permitted dealers.

Private recreational anglers will self-register in the VESL application as a user and will attest to conditions stipulated by the EFP including mandatory reporting during the defined season. The requirement stipulated in 50 CFR 600.745 (b) (7) and (8) and (d) (7) for the inspection of and requirement for the issued NOAA Fisheries EFP to be in the possession of persons authorized will be accomplished by including a digital (view only) copy in the VESL application. If an angler does not agree with the conditions, they will not be allowed to legally harvest red snapper during the season.

Through this VESL application, private recreational anglers will be required to declare a fishing trip no earlier than five days prior to the start of a trip to receive a trip authorization code linked to each trip. Anglers will have the ability to cancel the trip authorization should they encounter an issue (e.g., inclement weather or mechanical issues). For non-licensed private recreational anglers (e.g., under 16 years of age) or licensed anglers who do not have access to a smartphone or computer that are fishing under this EFP, alternate trip participants may submit data on their behalf. A method will be included in the mandatory post-trip reporting application for this purpose; additional data fields will be displayed for the designated representative to complete reporting for these individuals. Lastly, the trip authorization code will be directly linked to the post-trip mandatory reporting requirement, which must be completed within 24 hours of trip departure time. Any trip authorization and mandatory report must be completed and submitted prior to the initiation of a new trip with a unique authorization code.

Compliance of private recreational anglers will be enforced by DMF law enforcement. If an officer intercepts a private recreational angler as they are leaving for or returning from trips targeting or retaining red snapper, they will verify authorization codes for that trip.

For-hire captains will be required to have a copy of the EFP and have on board to show participation. In order to receive a copy of the EFP, for hire captains must contact the DMF and provide name, vessel documentation, contact information and attest that they shall adhere to federal rules to report for hire-trips through their respective federal reporting programs. For-hire captains are currently required to report trip information through the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) program and through the Southeast Region Headboat Survey. DMF law enforcement will take note of for-hire fishing activities and staff will work with NOAA Fisheries OST to monitor reporting compliance.



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Data collected through the VESL application will be summarized every other week. For-hire data will be requested through NOAA Fisheries OST and used to determine catch at the end of Wave four. Once Wave four is complete, no data will be collected beyond MRIP data collection that already occurs throughout the year. As we progress through this pilot project, we will work with NOAA Fisheries OST regarding sampling design and implementation.

The NCDMF Director has proclamation authority to implement management measures to comply with the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. The recreational snapper grouper proclamation will be amended to address possession and mandatory reporting requirements for both sectors as required through the EFP.

Outreach using press releases and social media will be created and distributed to announce the opportunity to participate. Videos will be developed to demonstrate how to use the VESL app, and relay to recreational anglers and the for-hire fleet information about the EFP and reporting requirements that they must submit to participate on the EFP.

**Data variables:**

Information to be collected through the state application VESL and will be consistent with information collected by South Carolina and Georgia:

- a. **Prior to fishing:** Name and contact of registered angler (login will be email)/ Trip number / Trip date / Trip start time / Landing county and site / Vessel registration number or US Coast Guard Documentation number
- b. **At trip completion:** Trip end time / Depth fished / Number of red snapper harvested / Number of red snapper released and general fate (alive or dead) / Hours spent fishing for red snapper

A unique trip identification will be created for each fishing trip, and a new trip cannot be initiated without the prior trip's complete and submitted report. Reporting will be mandatory, however the decision to indicate which of the above fields will be mandatory when implemented is still under consideration. The number of red snapper landed and discarded on the fishing trip will be a required field.

Validation of trips will occur alongside opportunistic angler intercept interviews conducted by NCDMF staff at saltwater access points. When feasible, staff will attempt to collect trip authorization codes, vessel registration number, number of anglers, hours fished, and number of fish released and retained. Intercept reports will be cross-referenced to VESL application reports and should shed light on quality of self-reported catch information and



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compliance. Data collection will not include correction factors for non-reporting during this first year. Data will be managed and processed then provided to ACCSP.

Anglers will be encouraged to provide red snapper carcasses through the NC Carcass Collection Program. This is a statewide program where carcasses of finfish are donated by recreational anglers. The division has placed freezers at designated sites across coastal areas to allow anglers to donate fileted fish carcasses. Red snapper carcasses will be collected to provide length, age, and sex data. Incentives will be used to encourage donations of red snapper carcasses. Anglers will fill out catch cards with the trip identifier, date, and other information required when donating carcasses. Depending on availability and capacity, NCDMF staff will coordinate with anglers for placement of coolers for ease of carcass collection as well as meet anglers at the dock to collect biological samples.

#### **Mail Survey**

Contact information collected through the VESL application (emails) will be used to survey private recreational anglers. Contact information provided by for-hire captains to receive an EFP will also be used to survey the for-hire sector. Information collected through the survey will include demographic information, social and economic information, input on state management and mandatory reporting and trip satisfaction information.

#### **iv. Documentation required for vessels covered by the EFP**

- (A) USCG documentation, state license, or registration of each vessel, or the information contained on the appropriate document
- (B) The current name, address, and telephone number of the owner and master, if not included on the document provided for the vessel

NC DMF will provide a list of documentation and contact information for anglers, captains, and vessels weekly.

#### **v. Targeted species expected to be harvested under the EFP, the amount, arrangements of disposition, and anticipated impacts on the environment, fisheries, marine mammals, threatened or endangered species, and EFH.**

The target species to be harvested under this EFP is red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*). North Carolina continues to request the resulting harvest from this EFP be equal to what is harvested during Wave for (62 days) by the private anglers registered on the VESL application and for-hire captains who requested a copy of the EFP and attested to mandatory reporting requirements. The poor quality of MRIP landings and discard data



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makes it extremely difficult to determine a harvest amount. Also, any projected red snapper harvest would be based on mini seasons and is inappropriate to estimate a specific number of fish for the proposed 62-day season. NC will limit harvest by the number of fishing days, bag limits and vessel limits (Table 2). Catch and effort data collected through this EFP will then provide more appropriate data to determine a projected harvest for the second year EFP. We request to be exempted from the recreational ACL and propose to work with NOAA fisheries to make use of dead discards available from the ABC to convert into harvest.

As noted earlier in this EFP, we are proposing one red snapper per person per day may be harvested with no size limit. We are also proposing vessel limits on all recreational sectors to constrain overall harvest (Table 2). Other snapper and grouper species are expected to be incidentally caught but will not be covered under this EFP. Participants will be required to follow current fishing seasons, size and bag limits established by state and federal regulations. Biological information will be provided through the carcass collection program and red snapper that are discarded by participants will be recorded through the VESL application.

Table 2. 2026 Proposed Recreational Bag Limits during EFP.

Sector	Limits
<b>Private Recreational</b>	1 per person or 4 per vessel (whichever more restrictive)
<b>Charter Boat (6 or less)</b>	1 per person or 4 per vessel (whichever more restrictive)
<b>Headboat (Greater than 6)</b>	20 per vessel

No significant impact on the red snapper population is expected. The red snapper is no longer overfished, is rebuilding faster than anticipated and overfishing is no longer occurring. There is minimal risk that harvest resulting from this EFP will impact the overfishing limit (OFL) of 551,000, or the total ACL of 509,000 fish and addresses National Standard 1 because:

- North Carolina is at the northern range of the stock with much of the population occurring further south (Figure 1.).
- It is anticipated that not every private angler and every for-hire captain will fish all 62 days due to weather, life issues, employment, mechanical issues, etc. It was noted, in a previous Florida EFP, 12,000 fish were requested, but only 5,300 were harvested because of these reasons (C.J. Sweetman, FWC personal comment).
- It is anticipated that daily effort will decompress because of the increased number of days available for fishing (Topping, et al. 2019).



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## Red Snapper

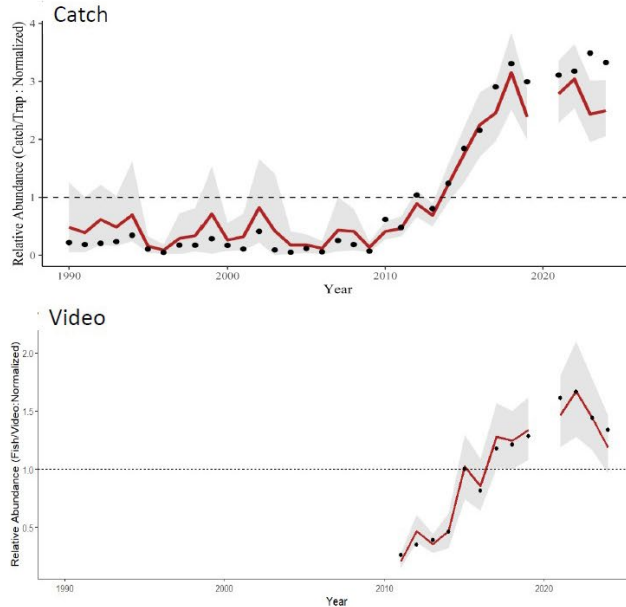
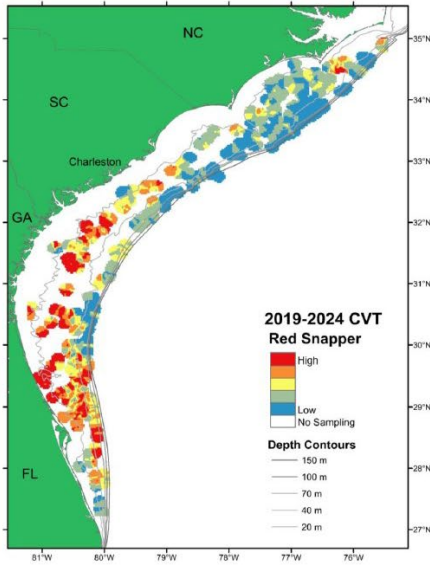


Figure 1. Red Snapper Relative Abundance 2019-2024. Source [Southeast Reef Fish Survey](#), SC DNR.

In the absence of an EFP, red snapper would continue to be regulatorily discarded. By allowing retention of red snapper that would otherwise be discarded, the requested EFP converts discards into harvest, makes use of the fishery resource instead of wasting the resource and therefore addresses both National Standards 5 and 9. This EFP also provides an opportunity to begin characterizing the NC red snapper fishery and addresses National Standard 8 by documenting the importance of the red snapper fishery to North Carolina coastal communities.

No significant impact on the environment, marine mammals, threatened or endangered species or EFH is expected since recreational fishing has and will continue to occur regardless of red snapper harvest.

**vi. Time and place fishing will take place and gear to be used.**

The time period requested for this EFP is July 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026, which corresponds with MRIP Wave four and what is requested in SC and GA's EFP. The gear will be allowable hook and line gear consistent with current regulations.



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**vii. Specific regulations for which an exemption is being requested**

50 CFR 622.8 (b) Quota closures

When a quota specified in this part is reached or is projected to be reached, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification to that effect with the Office of the Federal Register. On and after the effective date of such notification, for the remainder of the fishing year, the applicable closure restrictions for such a quota, as specified in this part apply. See the applicable ACLs, annual catch targets (ACTs), and AMs sections in [subparts B](#) through [U of this part](#) for closure provisions when an applicable ACL or ACT is reached or projected to be reached.

50 CFR 622.181(c)(2) Red Snapper

Red snapper may only be harvested or possessed in or from the South Atlantic EEZ during the commercial and recreational seasons as specified in [§§ 622.183\(b\)\(5\)](#) and [622.193\(y\)](#). Any red snapper caught in the South Atlantic EEZ during a time other than the specified commercial or recreational seasons specified in [§ 622.193\(y\)](#) must be released immediately with a minimum of harm. In addition, for a person on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, the prohibition on the harvest or possession of red snapper applies in the South Atlantic, regardless of where such fish are harvested or possessed, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters.

50 CFR 622.193(y)(2) Recreational sector

The recreational ACL for red snapper is 22,797 fish. The AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to announce the length of the recreational fishing season for the current fishing year. The length of the recreational fishing season for red snapper serves as the in-season accountability measure. [See § 622.183\(b\)\(5\)](#) for details on the recreational fishing season. On and after the effective date of the recreational closure notification, the bag and possession limits for red snapper are zero.

**viii Signature of applicants**

Kathy B. Rawls  
NC Division of Marine Fisheries Director

Patricia Murphey  
Executive Assistant for Councils



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**ix. Literature Cited**

NMFS Fisheries. 2025. Secretarial Amendment 59 to the Fisheries Management Plan for Snapper Grouper, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Region, 263 13th Ave S., St. Petersburg, FL, 33701.

SEDAR. 2021. SEDAR 73 South Atlantic Red Snapper Stock Assessment Report. SEDAR, North Charleston SC. 194 pp. <http://sedarweb.org/sedar-73>

SEDAR. 2024. SEDAR 73 Update of South Atlantic Red Snapper Stock Assessment Report. SEDAR, North Charleston SC. 131 pp. <http://sedarweb.org/sedar-73>

Topping, T.S., M.K. Streich, M.R. Fisher, G.W. Stunz. 2019. A comparison of private recreational fishing harvest and effort for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper during derby and extended federal seasons and implications for future management. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, 39:1311 – 1320.

# South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

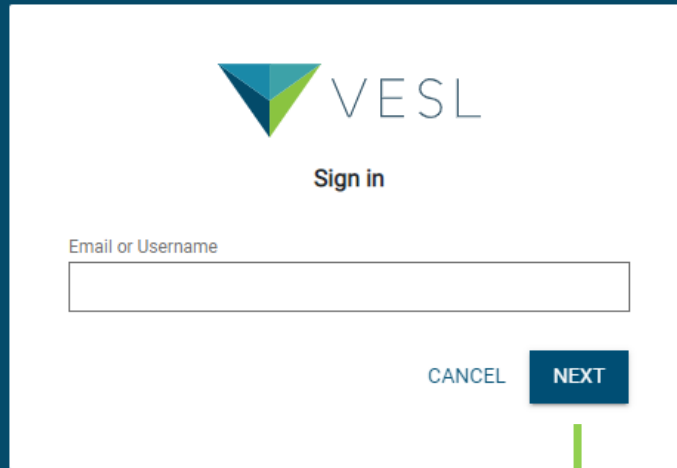


## Overview of For-Hire Electronic Reporting

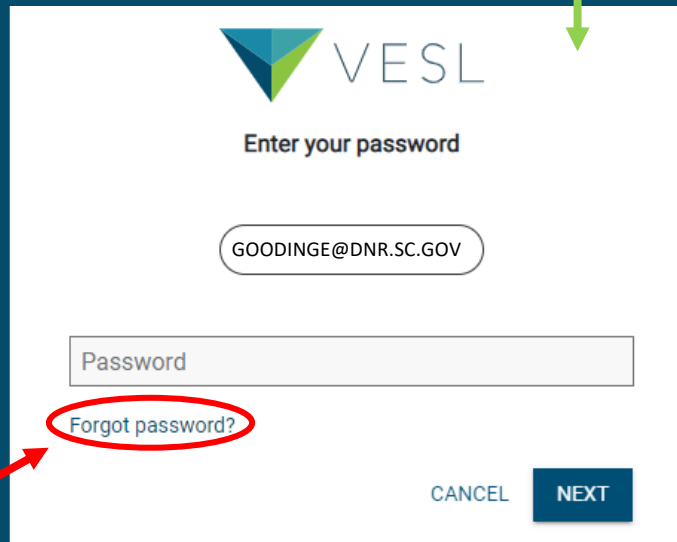
**For questions contact:**

Sydney Bates  
Recreational Data Coordinator  
(843) 953-8748  
[CharterReporting@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:CharterReporting@dnr.sc.gov)

Elizabeth Gooding  
Fisheries Statistics Section Manager  
(843) 953-0119

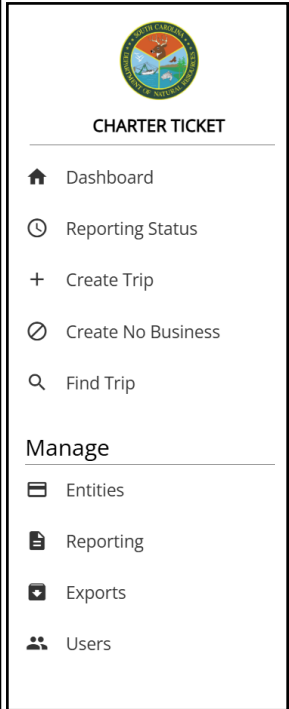


The image shows the VESL sign-in screen. At the top is the VESL logo, which consists of a stylized triangle with blue and green segments. Below the logo is the text "VESL" in a large, sans-serif font. Underneath that is the heading "Sign in". There is a text input field labeled "Email or Username". At the bottom right of the form are two buttons: "CANCEL" and "NEXT". A green arrow points from the "NEXT" button down to the next screen.



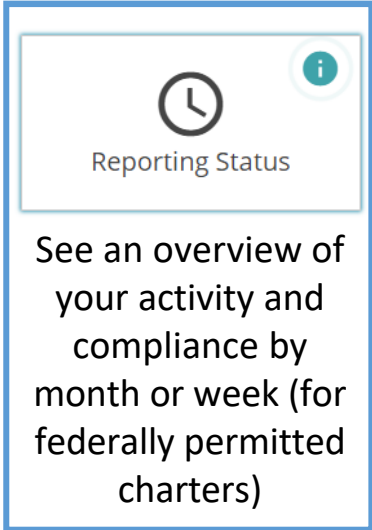
The image shows the VESL password entry screen. At the top is the VESL logo. Below it is the heading "Enter your password". There is a rounded rectangular field containing the email address "GOODINGE@DNR.SC.GOV". Below that is a password input field labeled "Password". At the bottom left, the text "Forgot password?" is circled in red, with a red arrow pointing to it from the bottom left of the slide. At the bottom right are two buttons: "CANCEL" and "NEXT".

If you forget your password, click here to reset it. [Support@vesldata.com](mailto:Support@vesldata.com) will send a link to the email address we have on file for you. Be sure to check your junk folder and add VESL support to your known contacts to avoid lost emails.



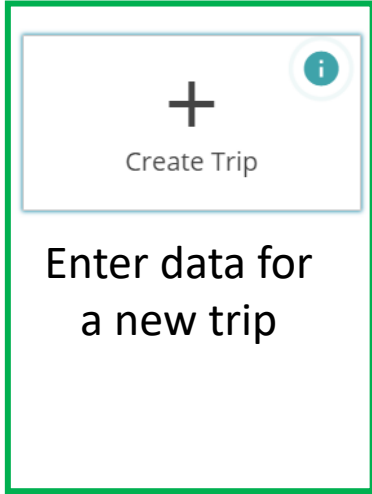
CHARTER TICKET

- Dashboard
- Reporting Status
- Create Trip
- Create No Business
- Find Trip
- Manage
  - Entities
  - Reporting
  - Exports
  - Users



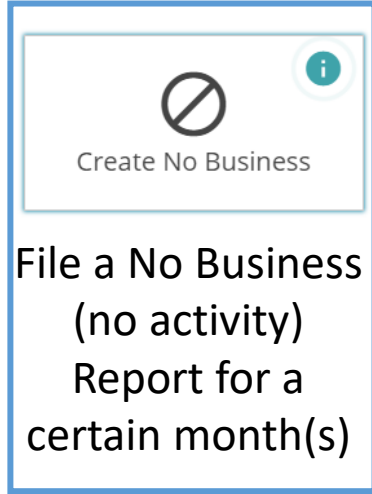
Reporting Status

See an overview of your activity and compliance by month or week (for federally permitted charters)



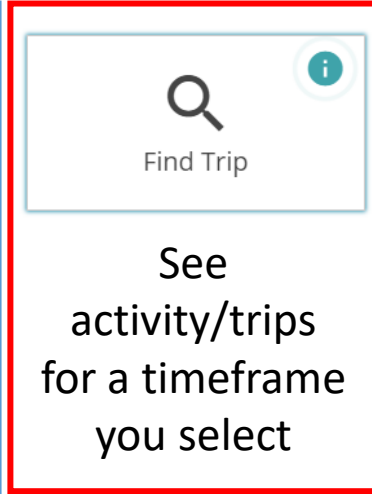
Create Trip

Enter data for a new trip



Create No Business

File a No Business (no activity) Report for a certain month(s)



Find Trip

See activity/trips for a timeframe you select

These tabs will take you to the same page.

By clicking on these 3 stacked bars, a drop-down navigation menu will appear to the left. The options on this menu are the same as the tabs on the Dashboard (homepage). You can use this menu while on any screen in the site.



Reporting Status

Create Trip

Create No Business

Find Trip

We'll explore each of these tabs/pages, with the current working page noted in the upper left throughout the tutorial. Remember that the Reporting Status and Create No Business are the same page – we'll cover submitting no activity in Reporting Status.

In the Reporting Status page, you'll see an overview of the entire fiscal year. Remember DNR's fiscal year is **July 1 → June 30**.



Reporting Status



FILTERS

Vessel

LEGEND

Period is out of compliance and past deadline

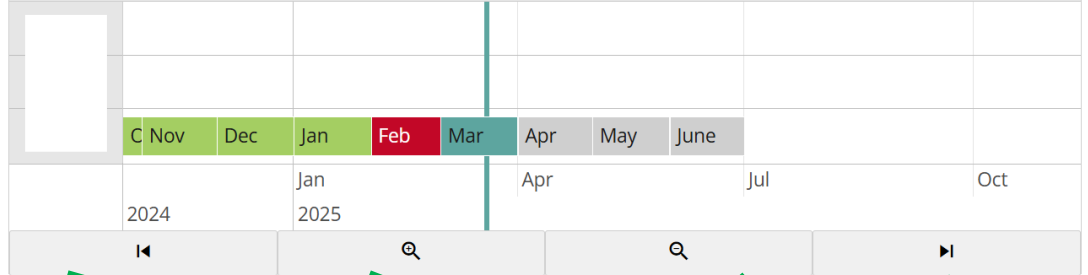
Reporting period is over, but not past the deadline

Current filing period

Period is open for filing

Period is compliant

COMPLIANCE SUMMARY



NOTIFICATIONS [ 1 ]

- February: Past Deadline, No Submitted Trips

Use these buttons to change the view of the compliance timeline.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2025 - October 10/01/2024 - 10/31/2024	7 SUBMITTED TRIPS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2025 - November 11/01/2024 - 11/30/2024	1 PENDING TRIP 10 SUBMITTED TRIPS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2025 - December 12/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	11 SUBMITTED TRIPS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2025 - January 01/01/2025 - 01/31/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	<a href="#">UNDO NO BUSINESS</a>
2025 - February 02/01/2025 - 02/28/2025	<a href="#">CREATE FIRST TRIP</a>	<a href="#">FILE NO BUSINESS</a>
2025 - March 03/01/2025 - 03/31/2025	<a href="#">CREATE FIRST TRIP</a>	<a href="#">FILE NO BUSINESS</a>



Create No Business

FILTERS  
Vessel

- LEGEND
- Period is out of compliance and past deadline
  - Reporting period is over, but not past the deadline
  - Current filing period
  - Period is open for filing
  - Period is compliant

COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

	C Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	
	2024		Jan			Apr		Jul	Oct
			2025						

NOTIFICATIONS [ 1 ]

February: Past Deadline, No Submitted Trips

2025 - October	7 SUBMITTED TRIPS	
2025 - November	1 PENDING TRIP	
2025 - December	11 SUBMITTED TRIPS	
2025 - January	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - February	CREATE FIRST TRIP	FILE NO BUSINESS
2025 - March	CREATE FIRST TRIP	FILE NO BUSINESS
2025 - April	--	FILE NO BUSINESS

If you don't fill out a trip entirely, you'll have an incomplete trip saved. If this is your only trip for a month, you'll be marked out of compliance. You can click on the message info (blue letters) to edit, complete and submit trips.

Click this to report no activity for a particular month. You can click it again to undo the action. This can also be done for future months if no activity is expected.



Reporting Status



Create No Business



# Federal Permits:

## COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

2024w39	2024w40	2024w41	2024w42	2024w43	2024w44	2024w45
6	11	16	21	26	1	6
October 2024				November 2024		

### NOTIFICATIONS [ 0 ]

Week	Trips	Actions
2025 - 2024w39 09/30/2024 - 10/06/2024	2 SUBMITTED TRIPS	
2025 - 2024w40 10/07/2024 - 10/13/2024	3 SUBMITTED TRIPS	
2025 - 2024w41 10/14/2024 - 10/20/2024	1 SUBMITTED TRIP	
2025 - 2024w42 10/21/2024 - 10/27/2024	3 SUBMITTED TRIPS	
2025 - 2024w43 10/28/2024 - 11/03/2024	4 SUBMITTED TRIPS	
2025 - 2024w44 11/04/2024 - 11/10/2024	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2024w45 11/11/2024 - 11/17/2024	1 SUBMITTED TRIP	
2025 - 2024w46 11/18/2024 - 11/24/2024	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS

If you purchase federal permits, your reporting requirements will automatically switch to weekly rather than monthly, as shown.

As long as you report your trips through VESL to SCDNR, your reports will be sent to SERO automatically.

# Federal Permits:



Reporting Status



Create No Business

The charter shown on the right is compliant for SCDNR, but out of compliance for SERO.

If you do not report one week in a month, you will be compliant for SCDNR, but out of compliance for SERO and will not be able to renew your federal permits.

This also applies for pending trips. If you only have pending trips, and no submitted trips for a week, you are out of compliance for SERO.

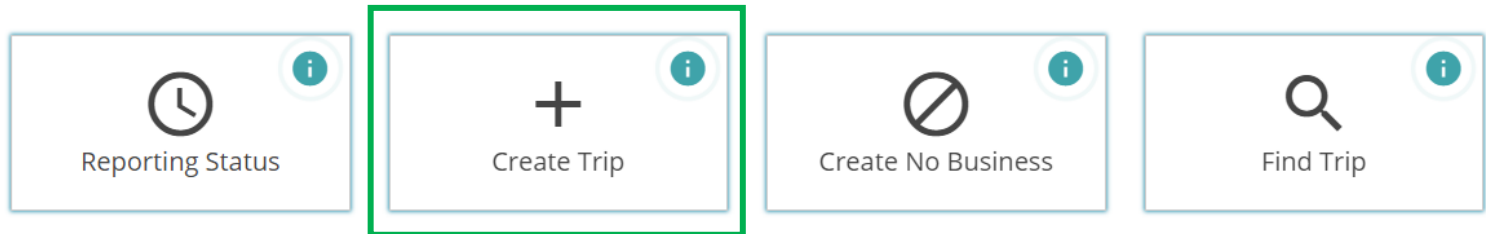
## COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

2024...	2025w01	2025w02	2025w03	2025w04	2025w05	2025w06	2025w07	2025w08	2025w09
Jan 2025					Feb				Mar

## NOTIFICATIONS [ 1 ]

25w06: Past Deadline, No Submitted Trips

2025 - 2024w52 12/30/2024 - 01/05/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2025w01 01/06/2025 - 01/12/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2025w02 01/13/2025 - 01/19/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2025w03 01/20/2025 - 01/26/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2025w04 01/27/2025 - 02/02/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2025w05 02/03/2025 - 02/09/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2025w06 02/10/2025 - 02/16/2025	<a href="#">CREATE FIRST TRIP</a>	FILE NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2025w07 02/17/2025 - 02/23/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2025w08 02/24/2025 - 03/02/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2025w09 03/03/2025 - 03/09/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS
2025 - 2025w10 03/10/2025 - 03/16/2025	NO BUSINESS FILED	UNDO NO BUSINESS



Now we'll take a look at creating a trip.

Remember, your reporting requirements are trip-level, so if you make multiple trips in a day, you'll need to submit a trip for each one.

+  
Create Trip

Use these icons to enter trip date & time and location. Smaller windows will appear to help you select.

### New Trip

**Trip Details**

Trip Start (EDT) \* ⓘ  
03/18/25 10:00 AM

Trip End (EDT) \* ⓘ  
03/18/25 03:00 PM

Vessel \* ⓘ

# of Anglers \* ⓘ: 3

# of Crew \* ⓘ: 1

**Location**

Departing Marina \* ⓘ  
Wappoo Cut Public Boa...

Location ⓘ  
32, 79 - A2

Locale ⓘ  
ESTUARINE

Reef ⓘ

**Fishing Activity**

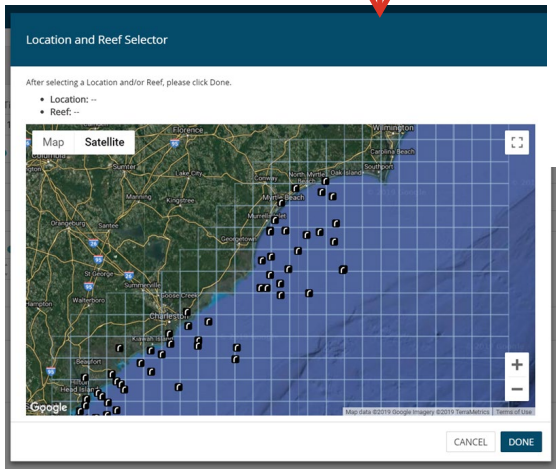
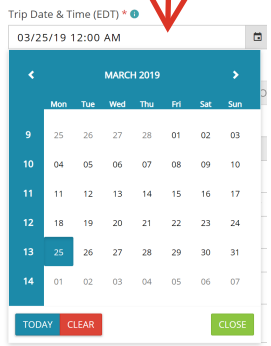
Min Depth \* ⓘ: 3 FT

Max Depth \* ⓘ: 15 FT

Hours Fished \* ⓘ: 4 HRS

Target Species ⓘ: Drum, Red

Fishing Methods \* ⓘ: ROD AND REEL (BOTTOM)



12 : 00 AM

Scroll up/down for hrs/mins

Click to switch AM/PM

Hours fished = time actually spent fishing. Excludes running time, etc.

Next, we'll cover choosing your fishing location and the interactive map.



# Common Problem: Overlapping Trips

+  
Create Trip

Sometimes when creating a trip, the end date accidentally jumps a couple days. You will then be unable to submit a trip later in the week during the trip dates accidentally listed.

1 error must be resolved before submitting.  
• The trip start to trip end time overlap an existing trip for this vessel.

This is the error message you will see when trying to submit a trip within dates from extended trip.

## Trip Details

Trip Start (EDT) \*

09/12/24 02:00 PM

Trip End (EDT) \*

09/12/24 05:00 PM

To check for this error: go to reporting status to review trips and see dates. See date change below.

\*Remember: this trip is still pending and needs to be submitted when overlap is fixed!

<input type="checkbox"/>	TRIP # ^	TRIP DATE & TIME ^	TRIP END ^	LAST MODIFIED ^	STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	09-12-2024 02:00 PM	09-12-2024 05:00 PM	03-24-2025 02:12 PM	Pending
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	09-10-2024 09:00 AM	09-17-2024 12:00 PM	03-24-2025 02:11 PM	Submitted

Staff can see pending trips, so if you are having trouble clearing an error, call and let us walk you through it.

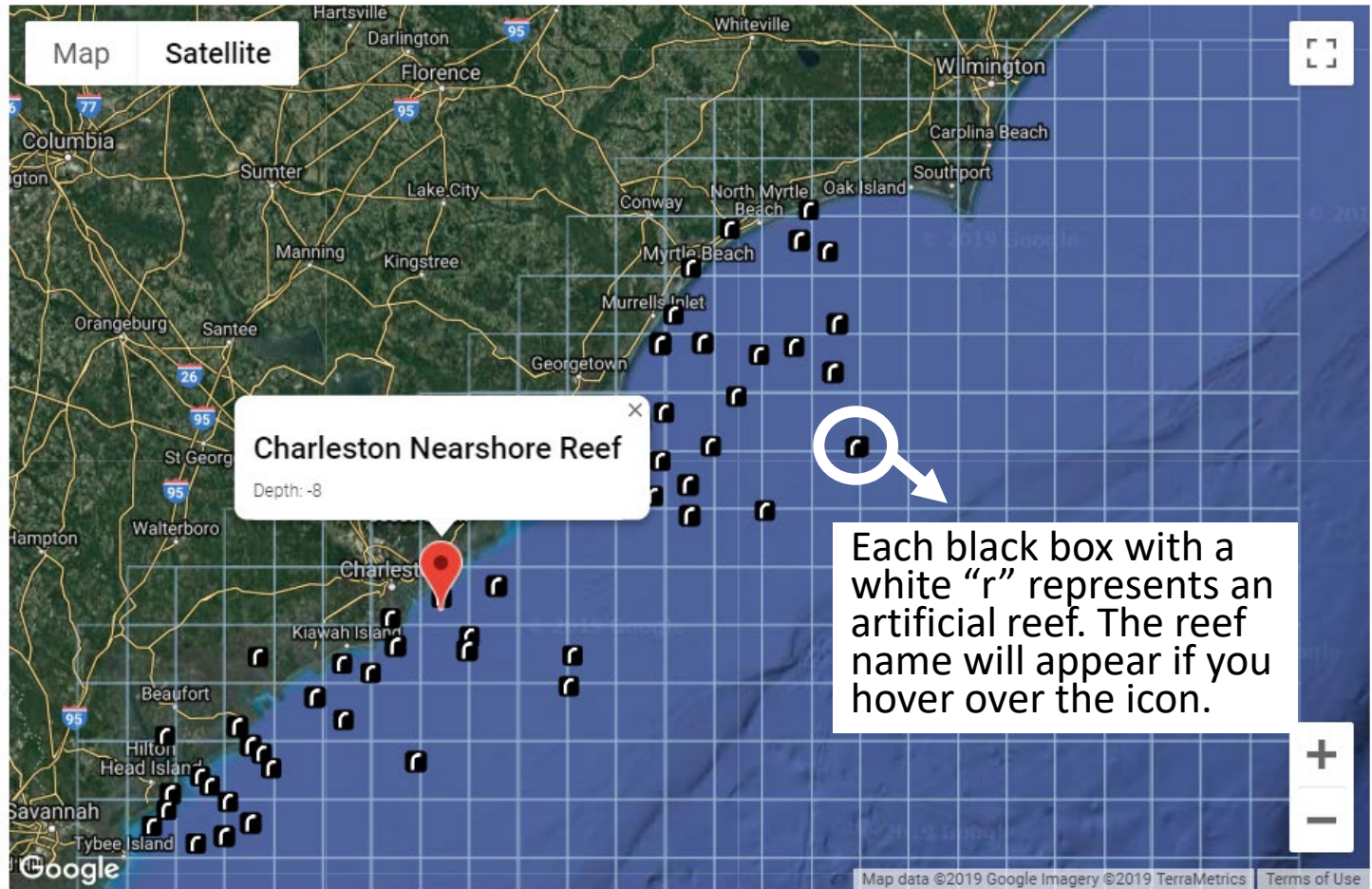
## Location and Reef Selector

After selecting a Location and/or Reef, please click Done.

- Location: 32, 79 - B2 ✕
- Reef: Charleston Nearshore Reef ✕

Note: if you click on the wrong box or reef, click the red "x" next to the location/reef name.

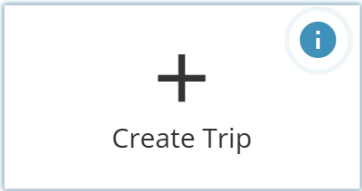
Each of these boxes represents a 10x10 sq. mile area. Select the box in which most of the fishing activity occurred. If you also fished on an artificial reef, click on the black box that represents it. You'll see the location and reef name populate **above**. Then click done in the bottom right. If no fishing took place on a reef, select your location and then click done.



Each black box with a white "r" represents an artificial reef. The reef name will appear if you hover over the icon.

CANCEL

DONE



## New Trip

**Trip Details**

Trip Start (EDT) \* ⓘ

Trip End (EDT) \* ⓘ

Vessel \* ⓘ

# of Anglers \* ⓘ

# of Crew \* ⓘ

**Location**

Departing Marina \* ⓘ

Location ⓘ

Locale ⓘ

Reef ⓘ

Marina/landing used.  
If name doesn't appear,  
enter "Not listed"

# of Crew: total number  
of crew aboard during the  
charter. This includes the  
captain and any mates.  
This does not include the  
anglers.

If you consistently target  
multiple species, please  
alternate them per trip.

**Fishing Activity**

Min Depth \* ⓘ  FT

Max Depth \* ⓘ  FT

Hours Fished \* ⓘ  HRS

Target Species ⓘ

Fishing Methods \* ⓘ

Now that all of your effort information is entered and accurate, click NEXT to continue to the catch section of the trip. If you have any errors or an incomplete section, you'll get a warning pop up so you can correct it before moving on. →

+  
Create Trip

h  
kept from

If a zero value applies to a field, the number "0" must be entered

Clicking drop down arrow lists commonly caught species

- 223 total options  
Type to filter
- Amberjack, Greater  
168689
- Croaker, Atlantic  
169283
- Drum, Black  
169288
- Drum, Red  
169290
- Flounder, Southern

Details

Catch Details

Species	Kept	Lbs Kept	Released Alive	Released Dead
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> LBS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

CANCEL ADD ADD & NEW

If this is the only species you caught

If you need to add additional species

Details

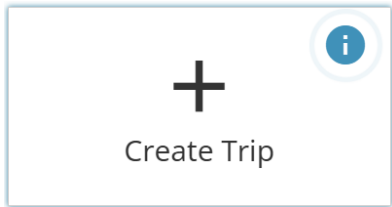
Catch Details

^ COLLAPSE MULTI-ENTRY    × CLEAR ALL

Species	Kept	Lbs Kept	Released Alive	Released Dead
× Amberjack, Greater	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> LBS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
× Croaker, Atlantic	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> LBS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
× Drum, Black	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> LBS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
× Drum, Red	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> LBS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
× Flounder, Southern	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> LBS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

CANCEL ADD ADD & NEW

This drop down allows for a species favorite list to enter repeatedly caught species easily



Details




Catch Details

Species <sup>1</sup> Kept <sup>1</sup> Lbs Kept <sup>1</sup> Released Alive Released Dead

☰ [Dropdown] [Dropdown] [Dropdown] LBS [Dropdown] [Dropdown]

CANCEL ADD ADD & NEW


Edit (blue pencil) or delete (red trash can) species info

SPECIES	KEPT	LBS KEPT	RELEASED ALIVE	RELEASED DEAD
  Croaker, Atlantic	3	3.00 lbs	0	0
Additional species, click here 				


SAVE SUBMIT

Your trip will not be saved and you won't be compliant unless you SAVE, then click SUBMIT!!






Reporting Status



Create Trip



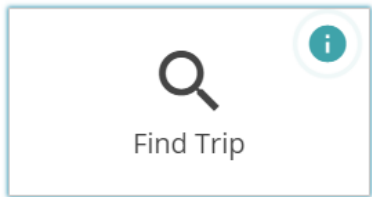
Create No Business



Find Trip

Now let's explore Find Trip.

This icon allows you to see activity/trips for a timeframe you select.



You can sort trips by any of these categories by clicking on the column header

<input type="checkbox"/>	TRIP # ^	TRIP DATE & TIME ^	TRIP END ^	LAST MODIFIED ^	STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/>	919	12-17-2024 09:00 AM	12-17-2024 01:00 PM	12-18-2024 12:53 PM	Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	918	11-29-2024 12:30 PM	11-29-2024 04:30 PM	11-29-2024 10:42 PM	Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	917	11-12-2024 12:30 PM	11-12-2024 04:30 PM	11-12-2024 05:34 PM	Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	916	11-02-2024 12:00 PM	11-02-2024 04:00 PM	11-03-2024 12:18 AM	Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	915	11-02-2024 07:30 AM	11-02-2024 11:30 AM	02-12-2025 02:32 PM	Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	914	11-01-2024 08:30 AM	11-01-2024 12:30 PM	12-04-2024 03:57 PM	Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	913	10-28-2024 09:00 AM	10-28-2024 12:00 PM	10-28-2024 07:35 PM	Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	912	10-26-2024 01:00 PM	10-26-2024 05:00 PM	03-18-2025 12:58 PM	Pending
<input type="checkbox"/>	911	10-26-2024 08:30 AM	10-26-2024 12:30 PM	10-26-2024 03:48 PM	Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	910	10-25-2024 08:30 AM	10-25-2024 12:30 PM	02-12-2025 02:33 PM	Submitted

First Previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Next Last

\*All times are in Eastern Time

**FILTERS**

Vessel  
Test Vessel (SCXXXX... x)

Date Range ⓘ  
This Month v

License ⓘ  
100001 v

Status ⓘ  
All v

Status ⓘ  
All  
Deleted  
Pending  
Submitted

Date Range ⓘ  
Last 12 months v  
Last 30 days  
This Week  
This Month  
This Year  
Last 12 months  
Year + Month  
Custom

By clicking on Date Range dropdown, you can select any time period you'd like to see your data appear for. You can also filter by Status. If you accidentally delete a trip, it can always be recovered.

Eye icon = view  
Pencil icon = edit

# HELP & SUPPORT

Browser address bar: <https://vesldata.com/user/dashboard>

Navigation bar: CHARTER TICKET DASHBOARD

Utility icons: Bell, User, Help (?), Profile

Reporting Status

Create Trip

Create No Business

Find Trip

South Carolina DNR Support

Phone: 843-953-8748

Email: [charterreporting@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:charterreporting@dnr.sc.gov)

FAQs: [Help Center](#)

**VESL SUPPORT AND FEEDBACK**

[VIEW KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS](#)

[TERMS OF USE](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

Utility icons: Bell, User, Help (?), Profile

Sydney Bates  
bates@dnr.sc.gov

[CHANGE PASSWORD](#)

[SIGN OUT](#)

Frequently Asked Questions can be found here!

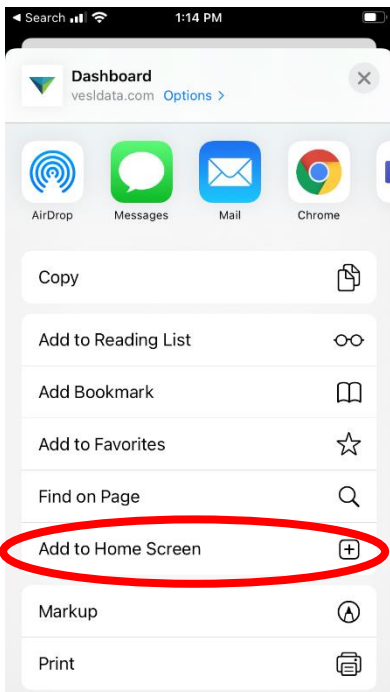
For help with reporting process, how-to, permits etc., contact here for SCDNR - Sydney Bates

Unfortunately, as of now, the VESL app is not compatible with SCDNR. These steps show you how to pin VESL to your homescreen as an app.

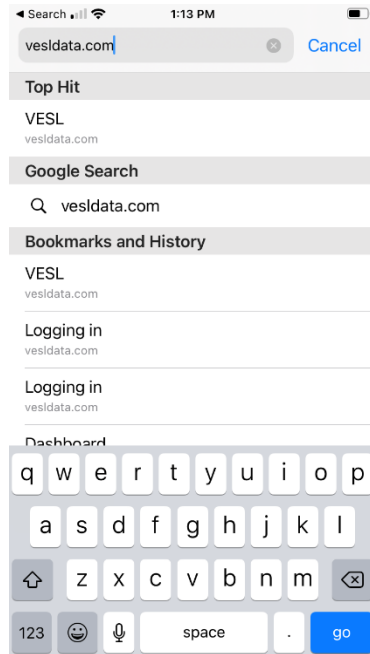
# Pinning VESL to Your Home Screen



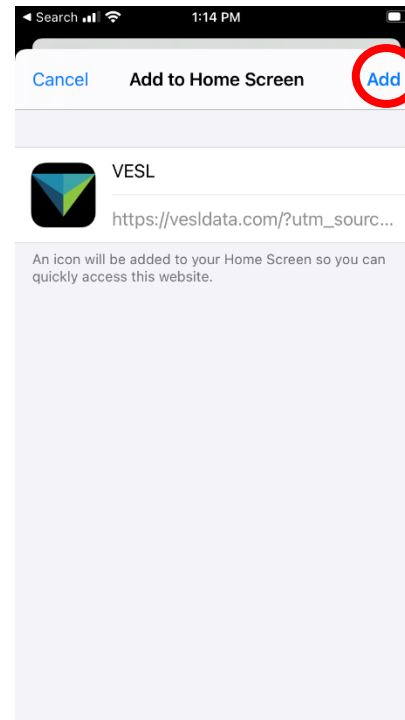
**Step 1:** Use Safari for Apple products and Chrome for Android products.



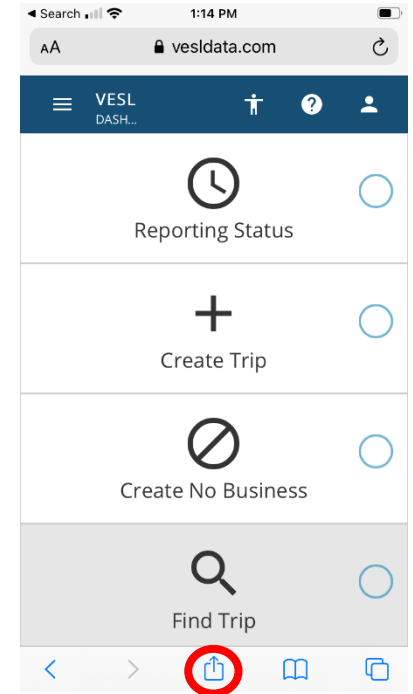
**Step 4:** Scroll down until you see “Add to Home Screen,” circled above.



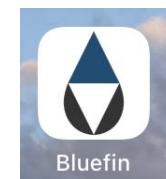
**Step 2:** Type vesldata.com into the browser.



**Step 5:** Click “Add,” circled above.

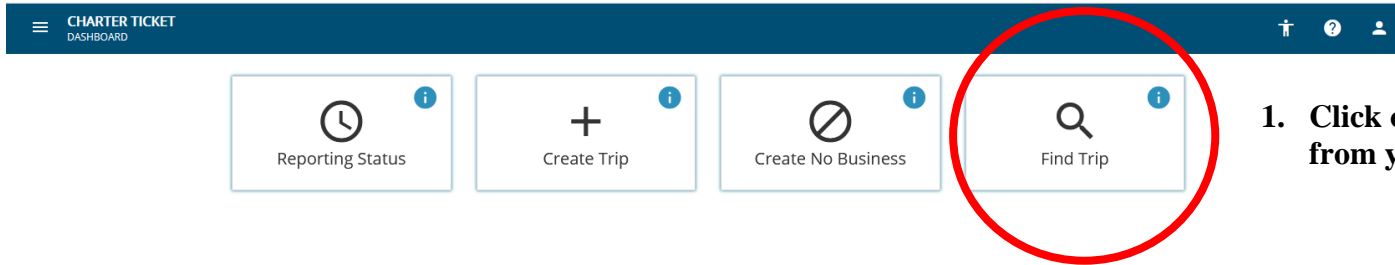


**Step 3:** When the dashboard appears, click on the symbol circled above.



**Step 6:** Access VESL from your home screen. App will appear as shown above.

# Downloading Your Trip Data



1. Click on "Find Trip" from your dashboard.



2. Enter your vessel number.

3. Choose a date range.

**FILTERS**

Vessel

Date Range

Status

**ACTIONS**

<input type="checkbox"/>	TRIP # ^	TRIP DATE & TIME ^^	TRIP END ^^	LAST MODIFIED ^^	STATUS
No Trips found for the set filters					
*All times are in Eastern Time					

4. If interested in all trips within date range, click this box. Otherwise click boxes to the left of specific trips needed.

5. Click "Download Selected Items." Click on Excel (if preferred) and click "OK."