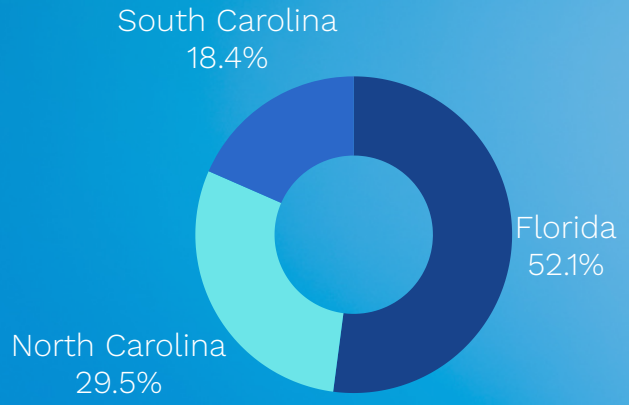
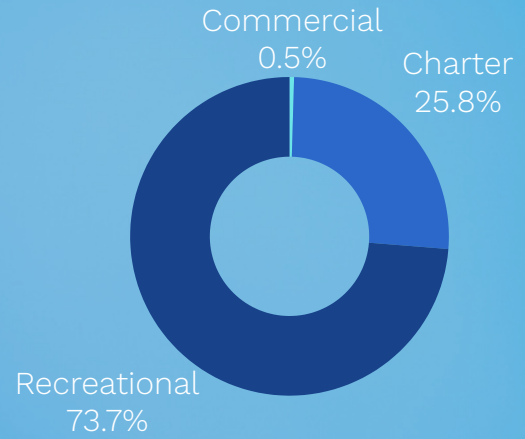


All data summarized below were submitted to SAFMC Release in 2023.

Where Release Submissions Came From



Most 2023 submissions came from Florida, followed by North Carolina and South Carolina.



The majority of submissions were from recreational trips, followed by charter and commercial trips.

Species Submitted and Lengths

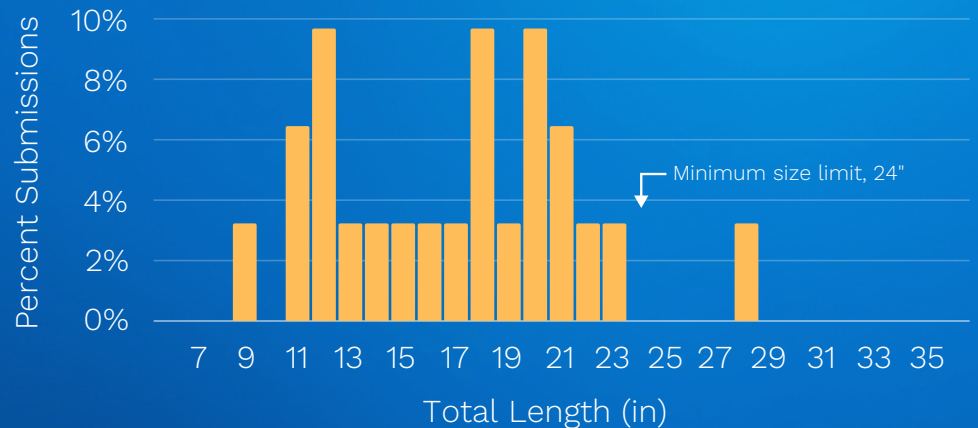


Of the releases logged in 2023, 71.9% were Red Snapper, 10.6% were Gag, 7.8% were Scamp, and 6.5% were Red Grouper. Graysby and Red Hind each accounted for less than 5%.



Gag
 Smallest: 9 in
 Largest: 28 in
 Average: 17.0 in
 Average depth caught: 77.9 ft

Gag Lengths





Red Snapper

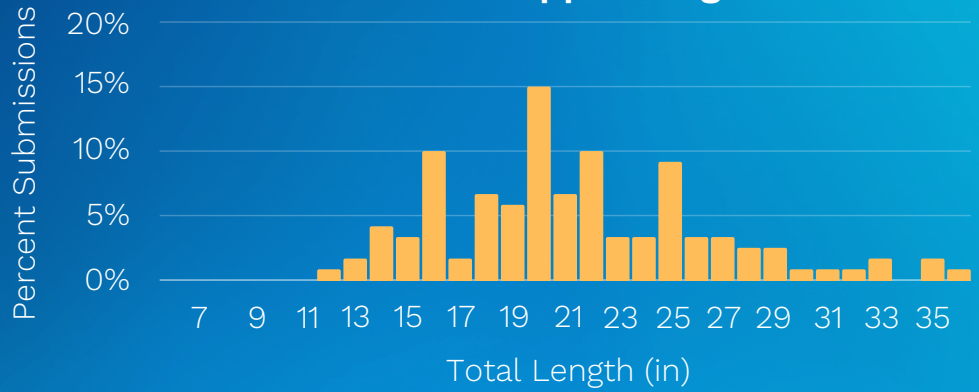
Smallest: 12 in

Largest: 36 in

Average: 21.5 in

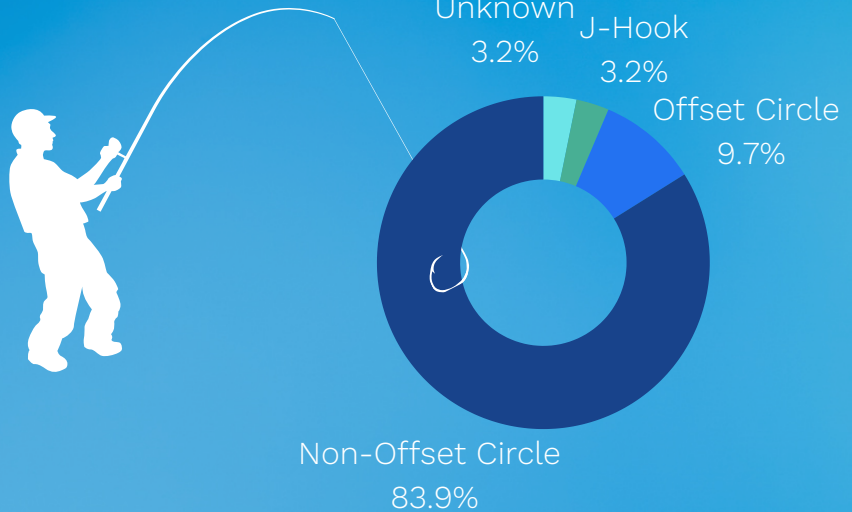
Average depth caught: 99.9 ft

Red Snapper Lengths

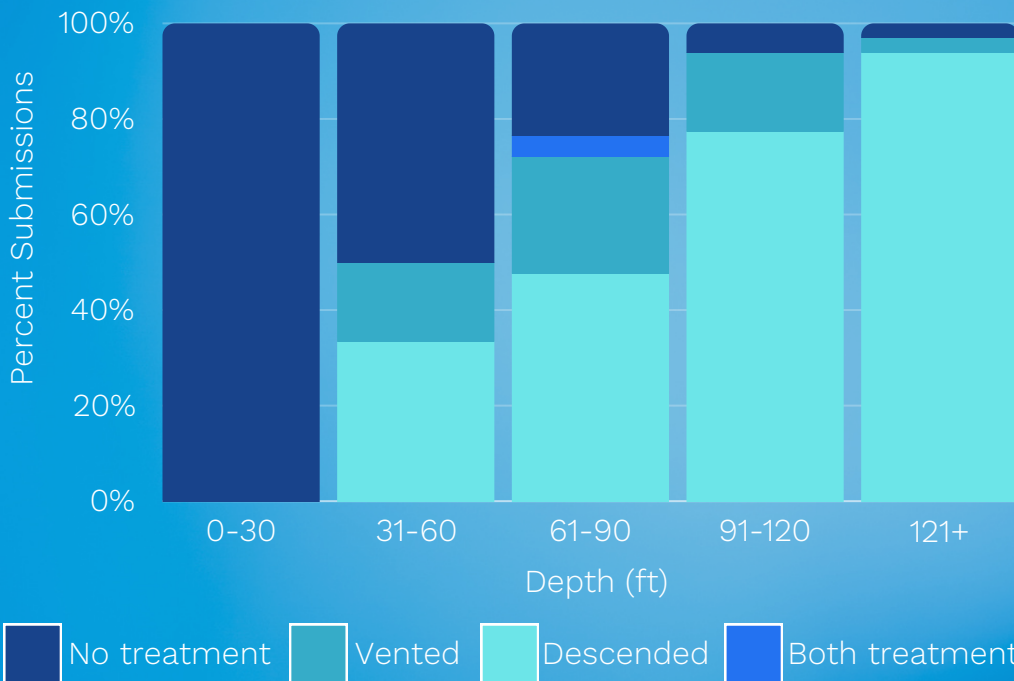


Hook Type, Shark Depredation, and Release Treatment

Non-offset circle hooks were logged most frequently at 83.9% followed by offset circle hooks (9.7%) and j-hooks (3.2%). 3.2% of submissions had no hook information. The majority of released fish (91.1%) were hooked in the jaw. The overwhelming use of non-offset circle hooks is great because they are less likely to hook a fish in a lethal area, like the gills or eye. For hook regulations, see the [Best Fishing Practices webpage](#).



6.8% Of released fish experienced shark depredation.



This graph shows the percent of released fish that are vented and/or descended according to depth caught. As depth increases, the percent of fish being treated before release also increases. Fish caught in deeper depths are more likely to experience barotrauma, so this trend makes sense! Learn more about barotrauma on the [Best Fishing Practices webpage](#).

Participant Recognition Program Milestones

In the SAFMC Release Participant Recognition Program (PRP), participants are recognized for meeting project-specific milestones, such as submitting the largest/smallest of each species, recording the most species, and submitting the most releases overall. Find all the milestones in the [2023 PRP Overview document](#). Check out the PRP winners below!

Smallest and Largest of Each Species

Red Hind

Smallest: 10 in
Justin Carnes

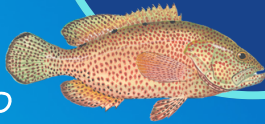
Largest: 15 in
Justin Carnes



Graysby

Smallest: 10 in
Tom Roller

Largest: 13 in
Tom Roller



Red Grouper

Smallest: 13 in
Justin Carnes

Largest: 26 in
Robert Sarvary



Scamp

Smallest: 10 in
Chris Kimrey

Largest: 19 in
Chris Kimrey, Justin
Carnes



Gag

Smallest: 9 in
Chris Kimrey

Largest: 28 in
Justin Carnes



Red Snapper

Smallest: 12 in
Darrin Willingham

Largest: 36 in
Tony Constant



Most Diverse Submissions and Most Overall Submissions



Justin Carnes submitted the most releases in 2023 with a whopping 56 submissions! He also submitted the most species (5 total), meaning he won the most diverse submissions PRP milestone as well as the most overall submissions. A round of applause for Justin!

**Every SAFMC Release participant makes a difference in
the project and your snapper grouper fishery.**

Thank you!

Anything you're curious about? Drop us a line!

[Visit our website for more resources](#)

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