

Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) update
(MARMAP, SEAMAP-SA, and SEFIS)
October 1, 2018

The Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) refers to the combined trap-video survey efforts of the Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment and Prediction (MARMAP) program, SEAMAP-South Atlantic, and the NMFS-SEFSC Southeast Fishery-Independent Survey (SEFIS) program. Below is a summary of the SERFS 2018 sampling season as of late September 2018.

Research cruises are continuing through October of 2018, so the 2018 totals in Table 1 are estimates. The RV *Palmetto* was used for MARMAP/SEAMAP-SA trap-video cruises, while the RV *Savannah* or the NOAA ship *Pisces* were used for SEFIS cruises. All SERFS sampling occurred between St. Lucie Inlet, Florida, and Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, in depths ranging from ~ 15 to 115 m. Sampling in 2018 began in late April and will end on October 5. Since 2009, ~2000 new hard-bottom stations have been added to the sampling universe in the region. Despite fewer sea days due to declining budgets and increased costs, total samples collected in 2018 increased due to good weather and increased efficiencies while on the water. Even fewer sea days (and trap-video samples) are expected in 2019 due to increasing costs and declining budgets.

Table 1. SERFS sampling totals for 2010-2018.

Year	Cruises	Days at sea	Trap-video samples	Months	Mapping
2010	22	122	1238*	May-Oct	350
2011	21	116	1156	May-Oct	150
2012**	16	118	1393	Apr-Oct	385
2013	19	133	1560	Apr-Oct	259
2014	21	127	1508	Apr-Oct	250
2015***	19	122	1521	Apr-Oct	0
2016	20	120	1537	May-Oct	465
2017	13	102	1574	Apr-Oct	302
2018	~16	~103	~1726	Apr-Oct	131

* Note that not all traps had video cameras in 2010.

** Note that short- and long-bottom long line sampling by MARMAP/SEAMAP-SA was halted due to a reduction in MARMAP funding.

*** Note that MARMAP/SEAMAP-SA resumed limited short- and long-bottom longlining in the region in 2015.