



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Golden Tilefish Recreational Season Discussion

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RECENT SEASONS

Year	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	Total Reported	ACL	Dataset	Percent of ACL	Closure Date	
2019	15,116	237	1	284	0	0	15,638	2,316	CHTS	675%	CLOSED on 6/17/2019	
2020	1,810	0	921	60	0	103	2,894	2,316	CHTS	125%	CLOSED	
2021	1,132	0	1,576	108	257	0	3,073	2,316	CHTS	133%	CLOSED on 9/20/21	
2022	389	471	491	535	0	471	2,357	2,316	CHTS	102%	CLOSED	
2023	12,956	1,057	22,465	1,037	0	1,172	38,687	2,559	FES	1512%	CLOSED on 7/17/2023	
2024	1,758	10	48	6	1,135	0	2,957	2,635	FES	112%	CLOSED on 2/29/2024	
2025*	14,020	66	2,507	0	0		16,593	2,694	FES	616%	CLOSED on 3/21/2025	
2026*	Landings not yet published								2,741	FES		CLOSED on 3/27/2026

[NOAA SERO Annual Catch Limit Monitoring Website](#)



RECENT HARVESTS (MRIP)

VERY HIGH PERCENT STANDARD ERRORS (use with caution; smaller differences will be more difficult to estimate)

- No estimated harvests for SC or GA

Year	FLORIDA	NORTH CAROLINA
2019	97.93%	2.07%
2020	99.13%	0.87%
2021	98.46%	1.54%
2022	100.00%	0.00%
2023	97.56%	2.44%
2024	100.00%	0.00%
2025	93.65%	6.35%

MRIP Data Query (4/14/2026)



STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

- Early recreational closures have led to a lack of access for anglers in the northern part of the region, due to poor weather for accessing the offshore fishing grounds at the beginning of the year, off NC
- Off FL, golden tilefish fishing grounds are closer to shore, and better winter weather than further north allows access
- Issue of early recreational closures was raised by NC Council member Tom Roller in Dec 2025, based on feedback he'd received from recreational fishermen in the Carolinas
- Similar feedback received more recently during Lines of Communication meetings in NC (Mar 2026)

DISCUSSION



- Should the Council consider changes to the golden tilefish recreational sector to allow increased access for anglers in the northern part of the region (i.e. NC)?
- Potential changes:
 - Adjusting the fishing year (currently, calendar)?
 - Should it align with the May 1 opening of blueline tilefish and snowy grouper?
 - Split season?
- How high of a priority is this issue?

