



North Carolina Red Snapper EFP Outreach Plan

May 5, 2026

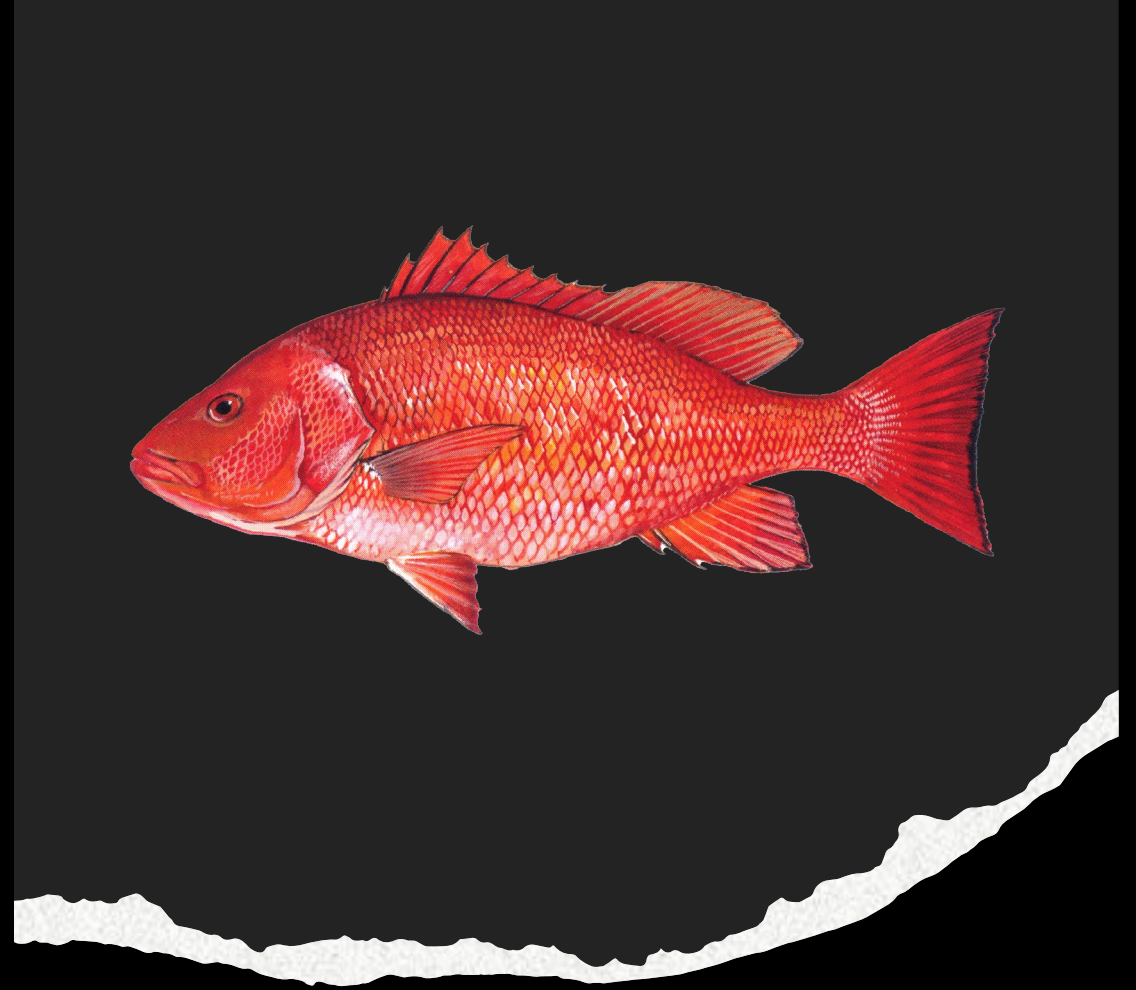
SAFMC
Outreach and Communication
Advisory Panel

Patricia Smith
N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries



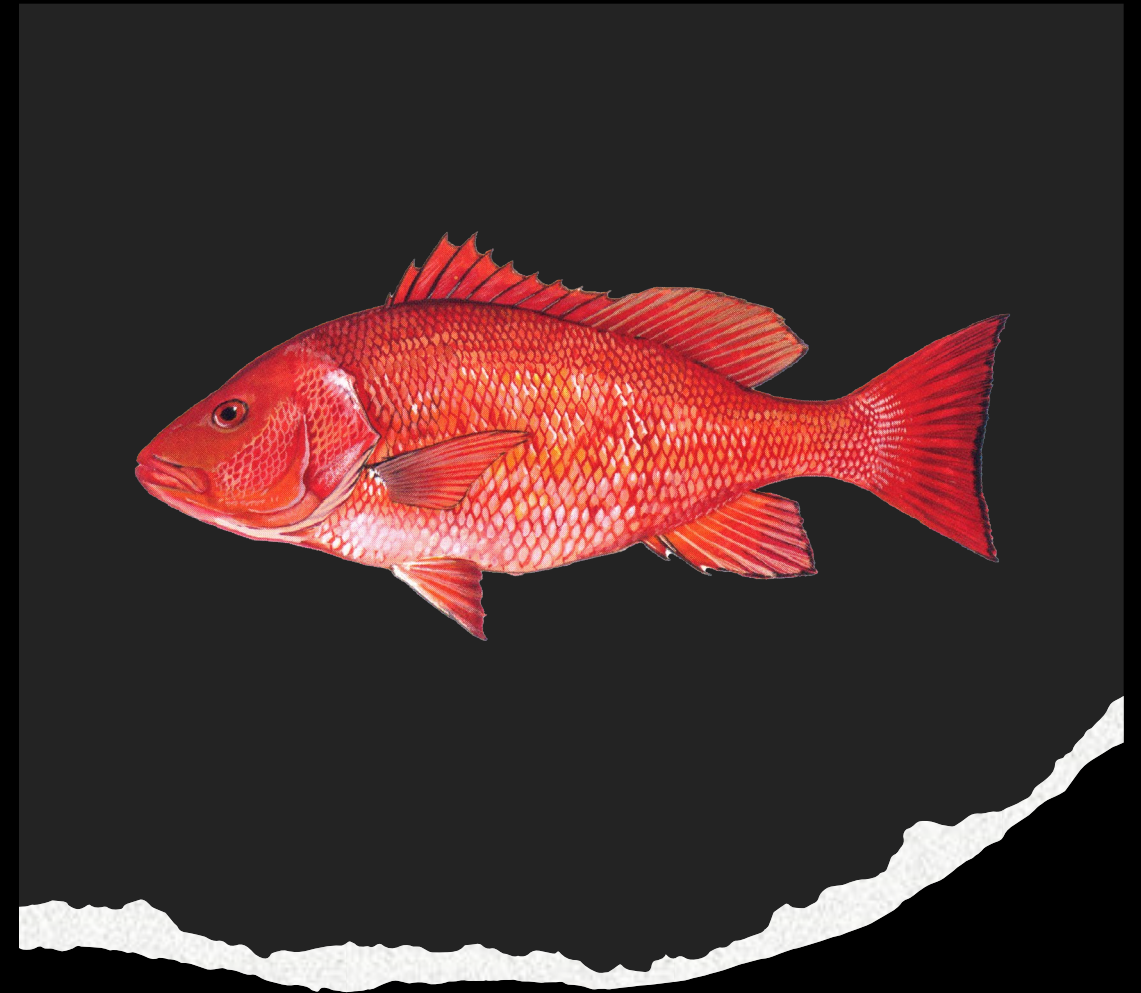
Goal:

To provide information to potential recreational anglers and recreational for-hire captains about the 2026 North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit, how to participate on the permit, and how to record red snapper data on the Bluefin Data Application VESL.



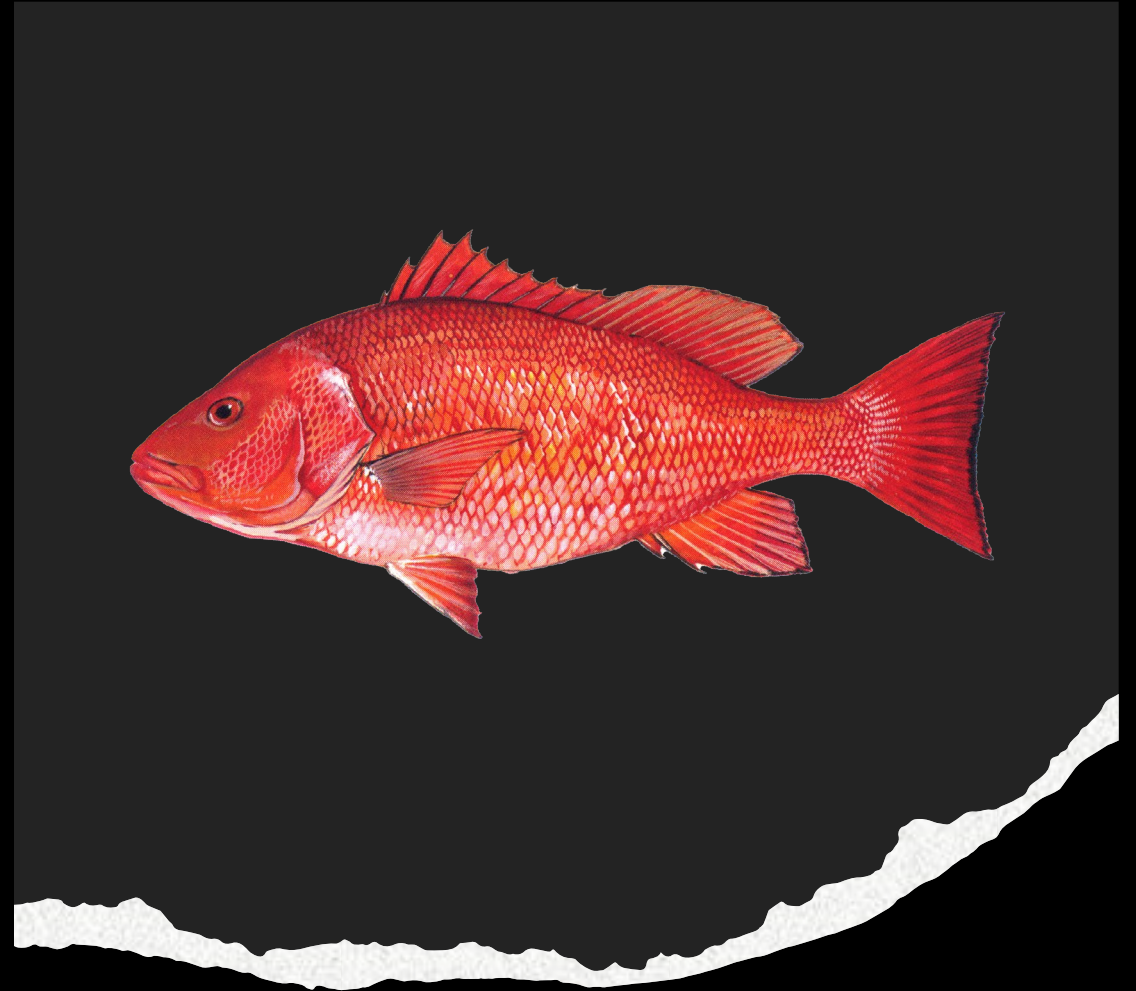
Objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Inform anglers about the EFP and why NC applied for it
- **Objective 2:** Inform recreational anglers and for-hire captains about how to become involved and participate on the NC EFP
- **Objective 3:** Educate recreational anglers and for-hire captains the importance of collecting recreational catch and harvest data.
 - Carcass collection program
- **Objective 4:** Inform how to use the bluefin data phone app and web-based app.
- **Objective 5:** Educate recreational anglers about best fishing practices:
 - Safe handling practices
 - Descending devices



Communication Methods:

- Press releases/emails
- Webpage
- FAQs
- Social media posts
- Rack cards
- QR codes
- How to videos



Press releases/emails

First release planned to go out upon EFP receipt of approval

Announce	Announce the 62-day Red Snapper season
Explain	Explain the EFP and how to participate
Point	Point those interested to webpage for more information



JOSH STEIN
Governor
D. REID WILSON
Secretary
KATHY B. RAWLS
Division Director



May 4, 2026

North Carolina recreational Red Snapper season will open for 62 days

MOREHEAD CITY – The recreational Red Snapper season will open for 62 days this summer for those willing to participate in a pilot project to test a state recreational data collection program to monitor a recreational Red Snapper season.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Marine Fisheries is one of four Southeastern states that received a Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) from NOAA Fisheries to explore the ability of managing the recreational red snapper fishery

All participants will be required to have a copy of the EFP with them. To participate and receive copy, private recreational anglers will need to download the VESL data collection application and agree to record their red snapper harvest and discard information.

Charter and ~~headboat~~ captains will need to fill out an online request form to receive a copy of the EFP. Those captains will also need to agree to continue to report their red snapper harvest and discards through their NOAA reporting system.

Season: July 1 – Aug. 31, 2026

Gear: Recreational hook and line only

Size limit: None


Bag limits:

Private Recreational – 1 fish per person or 4 fish per vessel (whichever is more restrictive)

Charter Boat (up to 6 passengers) – 1 fish per person or 4 fish per vessel (whichever is more restrictive)


Webpage:

An official website of the State of North Carolina [How you know](#)









Home > About > Divisions > Marine Fisheries > Managing the Fisheries > Red Snapper Season 2026


Red Snapper Season 2026



North Carolina recreational Red Snapper season will open for 62 days in 2026
The season will open July 1 - August 31 for those willing to participate in a pilot project to test a state recreational data collection program monitoring a recreational Red Snapper season.


- What is the Red Snapper Project? 
- Information on the Red Snapper Season 
- Downloading the VESL App 
- Why Reporting Matters 
- How to participate 

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) 

[Download the VESL Application](#) 

Thank you to [Return 'Em Right](#) for the Red Snapper photo

Social Media:



NC Division of Marine Fisheries
10K followers · 27 following
Official account of @NCDEQ Division of Marine Fisheries. All content subject to NC Public Records Law
Government organization

Contact us Following Message

All About Reels Photos Followers More

Switch into NC Division of Marine Fisheries's Page to start managing it. [Switch Now](#)

Details

- Closing Soon
- 3441 Arendell St, Morehead City, NC, United States, 28557

Links

- ncmarinefisheries.net

Contact info


- NC_DMFB NC_DMFB northcarolinadeq5206
- (252) 726-7021
- NC Division of Marine Fisheries

Photos [See all photos](#)

Posts [Filters](#)

NC Division of Marine Fisheries
April 22 at 6:36 PM · 🌐

Today we are celebrating Administrative Professionals Day and recognizing some of the amazing people who keep everything running smoothly! Thank you for everything you ... [See more](#)



Videos

- How to use VESL
- Ethical angling
- Use of descending device



Carcass Collection

- Freezer locations across the North Carolina coast
- Flyers at tackle shops and weigh stations



Rack card:

North Carolina
2026
Red Snapper Season



JULY 1 - AUG. 31



Scan to Learn More

Open 62 days for those participating in a pilot project to test a recreational data collection program to monitor the Red Snapper season



Regulations

- Season: July 1 – August 31, 2026
Gear: Recreational hook & line only
Size limit: None
Bag limits:
- Private Recreational – 1 fish per person or 4 fish per vessel (whichever more restrictive)
 - Charter Boat (up to 6 passengers) – 1 fish per person or 4 fish per vessel (whichever more restrictive)
 - Head Boat (Greater than 6 passengers) – 20 fish per vessel
 - Reporting required

Sign Up

Download the VESL App to get started.



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