

South Atlantic Region Commercial and Recreational Trips 2000-08

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Introduction

Data was collected from commercial logbooks and the MRFSS website to see if there was any correlation between recent fuel price increases and the number of commercial and recreational fishing trips taken. A simple analysis indicates no correlation between recent fuel price increases and a decrease in the total number of commercial or recreational (for-hire and recreational) trips taken in the South Atlantic jurisdiction. However, there were some regional correlations within the recreational for-hire sectors in Georgia and North Carolina (annual data). That is, the data indicates small decreases in the number of trips taken in those states in recent years. In addition, some states show that for-hire trips are down slightly on a monthly basis for 2008 compared to 2007. Detail is provided below.

Commercial Trips

Commercial logbook data indicates no correlation between an increase in diesel producer price index (PPI) and a decrease in number of trips taken. A total of 27,900 fishing trips for all species were reported in 2006 compared to 29,300 trips in 2007 (see Figure 1). With regard to trips landing snapper grouper species only, there was an increase from 13,500 trips in 2006 to 14,800 trips in 2007. A total 5,300 trips for all species and 3,000 snapper grouper trips have been reported so far in 2008 (see Figure 1).

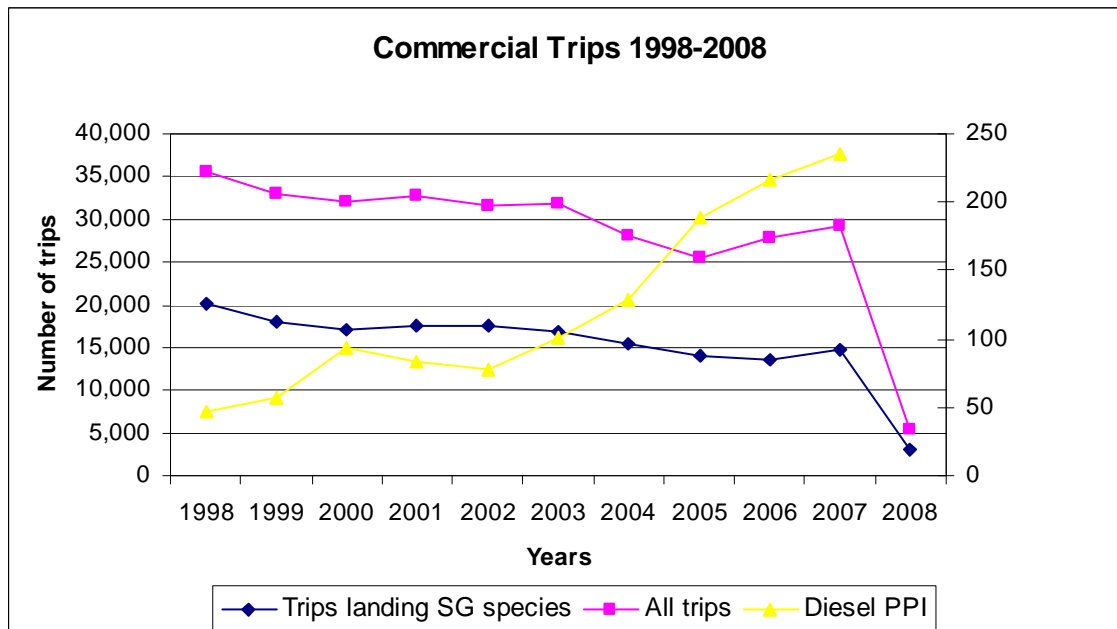


Figure 1. Commercial trips, 1993-2008. Note: 2008 date is incomplete.

Recreational Trips

Summary

MRFSS data was used to compare for-hire (headboat and charter) and private recreational trips on an annual and bi-monthly basis. Comparisons between 2006 and 2007 and between specific survey waves in 2007 and 2008 indicate recent increases in the total number of recreational trips for the South Atlantic region.

However, when looking at the headboat data for specific states, East Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina have experienced declines in the number of headboat trips taken in 2006 compared to

2007. Georgia experienced declines between the second and third waves of 2007 and the second and third waves of 2008. North Carolina saw declines for the first two waves of 2008. East Florida and South Carolina experienced a decline for the second wave.

With regard to private and rental trips, all four states experienced increases between 2006 and 2007. But, comparing the number of trips reported during the first three waves in 2007 and 2008 indicates consistent decreases in East Florida and South Carolina with increases in Georgia and North Carolina.

While the total number of private recreational trips to the EEZ have increased from 2005-07, for-hire trips have fluctuated with a decrease in for-hire trips from 2005 to 2006. Both private and for-hire trips increased from 2006 to 2007. Bi-monthly EEZ trip data indicates that for-hire trips decreased between the first and second waves in 2007 and 2008. Private and rental trips decreased between the first and third waves of 2007 and 2008.

For-Hire Recreational Sector

Annual data on for-hire trips taken between 2000 and 2007 by state within the South Atlantic region are shown in Figures 2-5. The MRFSS data indicate that East Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina have experienced slight decreases in the number of for-hire trips taken from 2006 to 2007 while South Carolina has experienced increases over this period. However, data made available by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources indicates a different trend. In summary, MRFSS data indicates a large increase in the number of for-hire trips between 2006 and 2007 in South Carolina. State gathered data indicate only a very small increase in the number of for-hire trips over this period. See Table 7 notes for details.

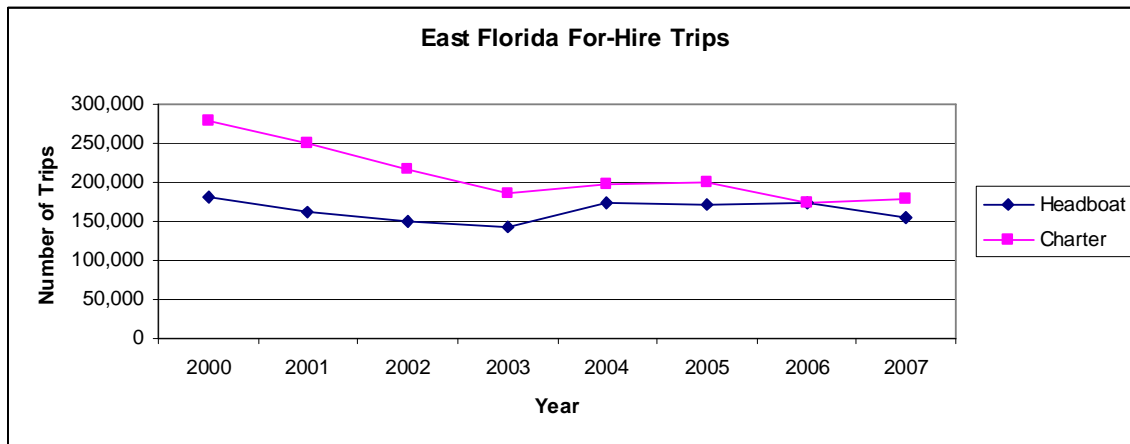


Figure 2. East Florida For-Hire Trips, 2000-07.

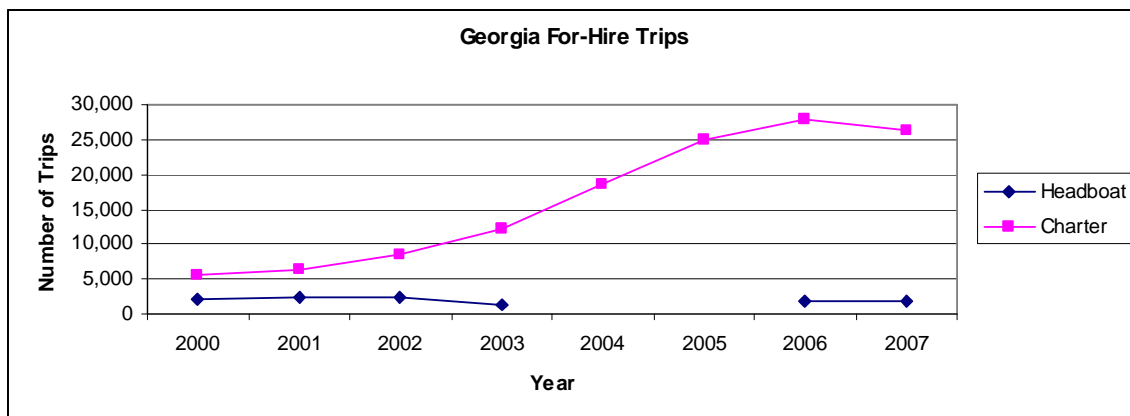


Figure 3. Georgia For-Hire Trips, 2000-07.

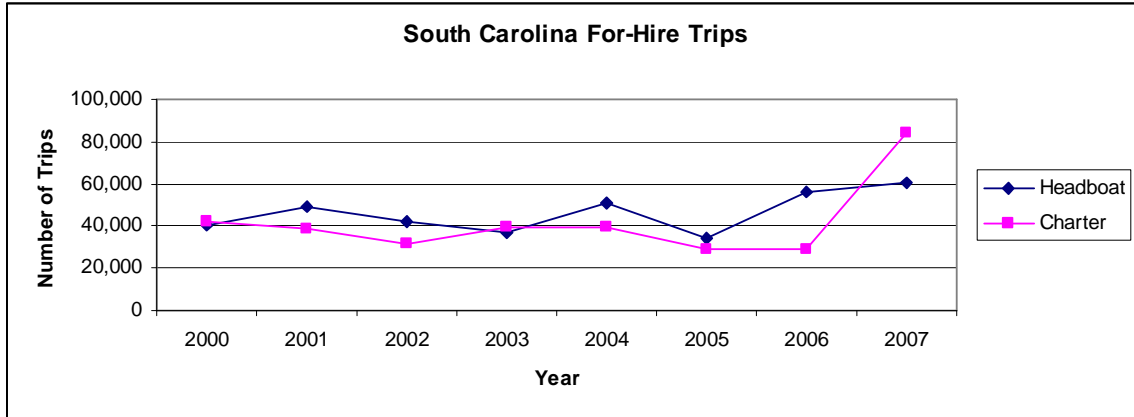


Figure 4. South Carolina For-Hire Trips, 2000-07.

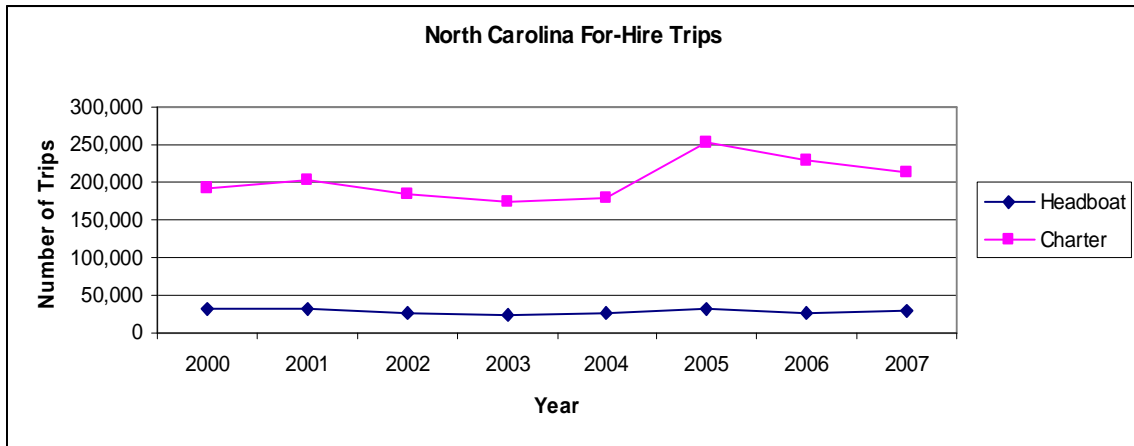


Figure 5. North Carolina For-Hire Trips, 2000-07.

Data for the first three survey waves for 2008 is available from the MRFSS website. However, this data is not yet verified. Figures 6-9 use this and verified monthly data from previous years. Figures 6-9 show the number of for-hire trips taken on a bi-monthly basis for each of the four states. Comparing the number of trips reported during the first three waves in 2007 and 2008 in each of the states indicates a consistent decrease in for-hire trips for Georgia with mixed results for the other states.

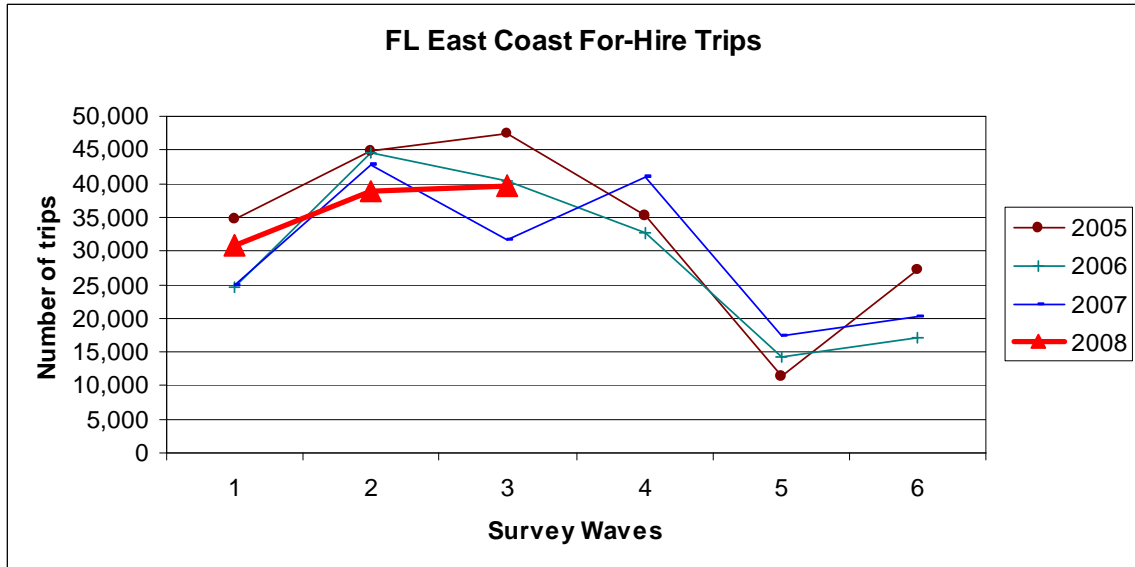


Figure 6. Bi-Monthly Florida East Coast For-Hire Trips, 2005-08.

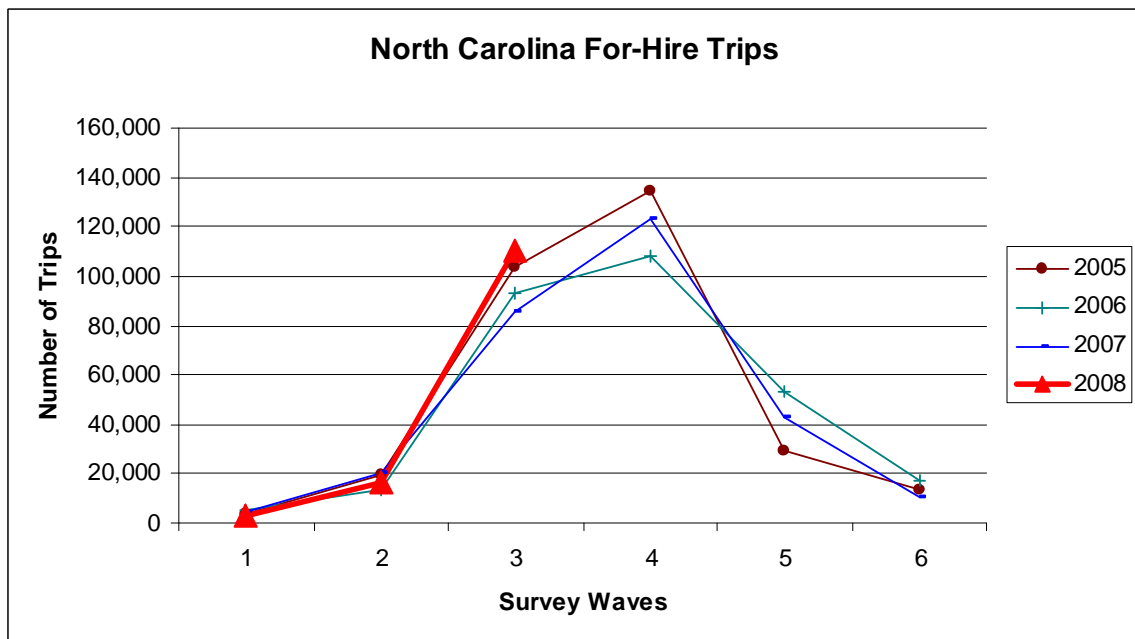


Figure 7. Bi-Monthly North Carolina For-Hire Trips, 2005-08.

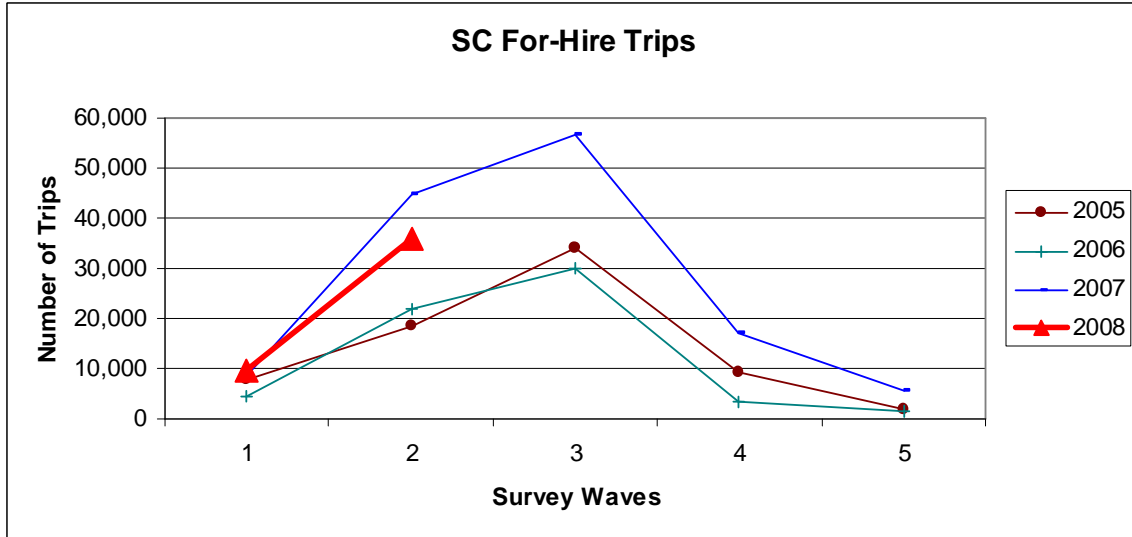


Figure 8. Bi-Monthly South Carolina For-Hire Trips, 2005-08.

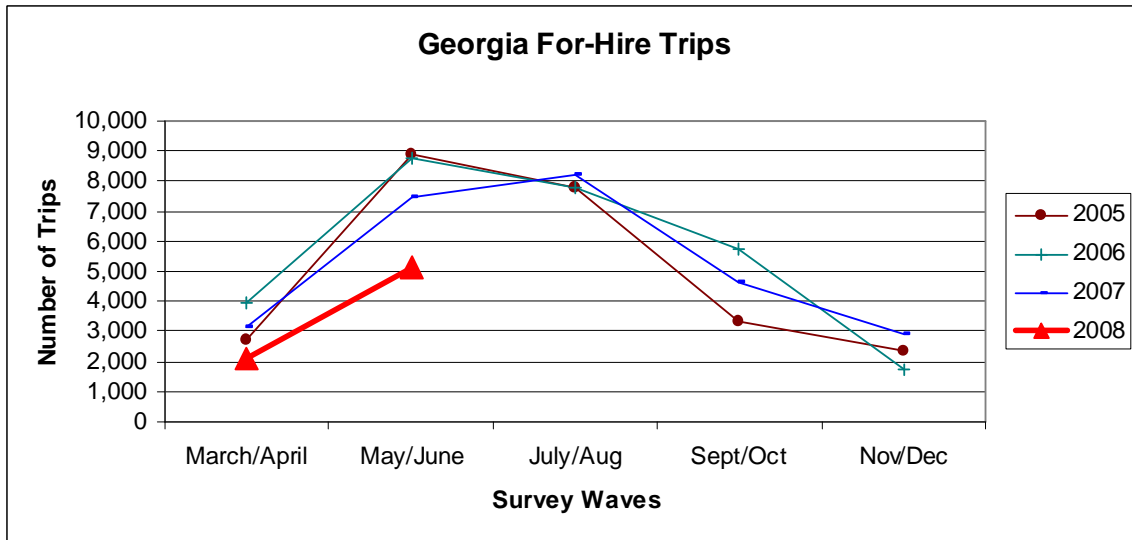


Figure 9. Bi-Monthly Georgia For-Hire Trips, 2005-08

Private Recreational Sector

Annual data on private and rental recreational trips taken between 2000 and 2007 by state within the South Atlantic region are shown in Figures 10-13. The data indicate that all states within the South Atlantic jurisdiction experienced slight increases in the number of private recreational trips taken from 2006 to 2007 (see Figures 10-13).

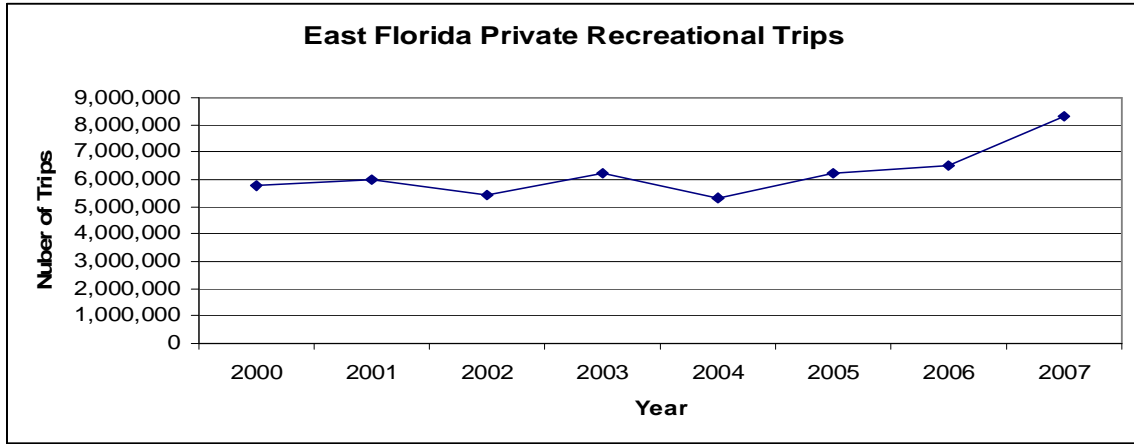


Figure 10. East Florida Private Recreational Trips, 2000-07.

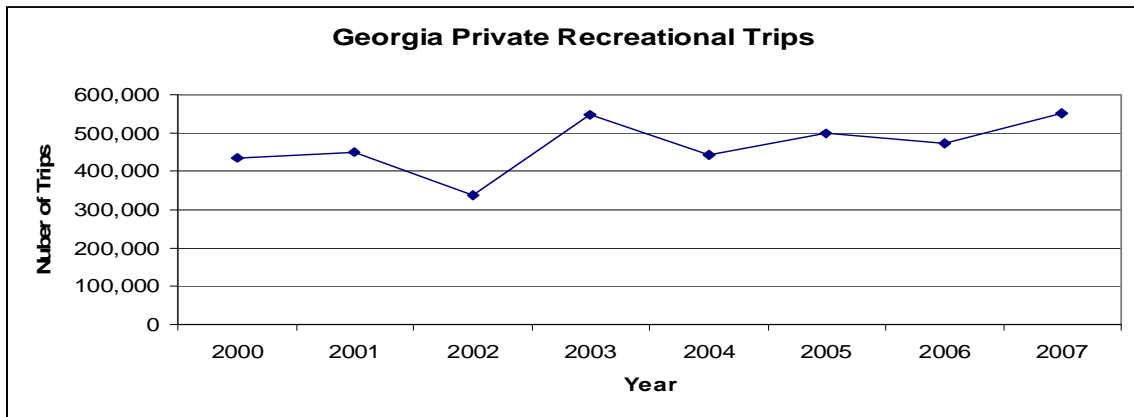


Figure 11. Georgia Private Recreational Trips, 2000-07.

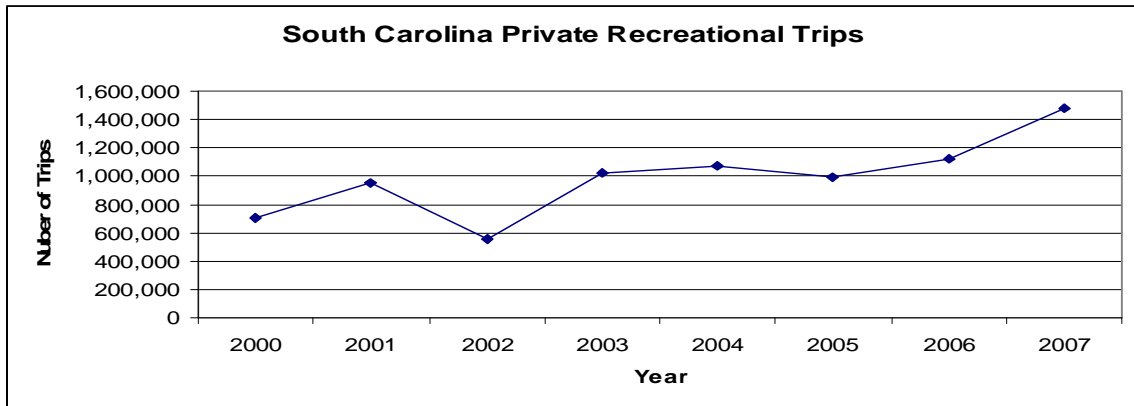


Figure 12. South Carolina Private Recreational Trips, 2000-07.

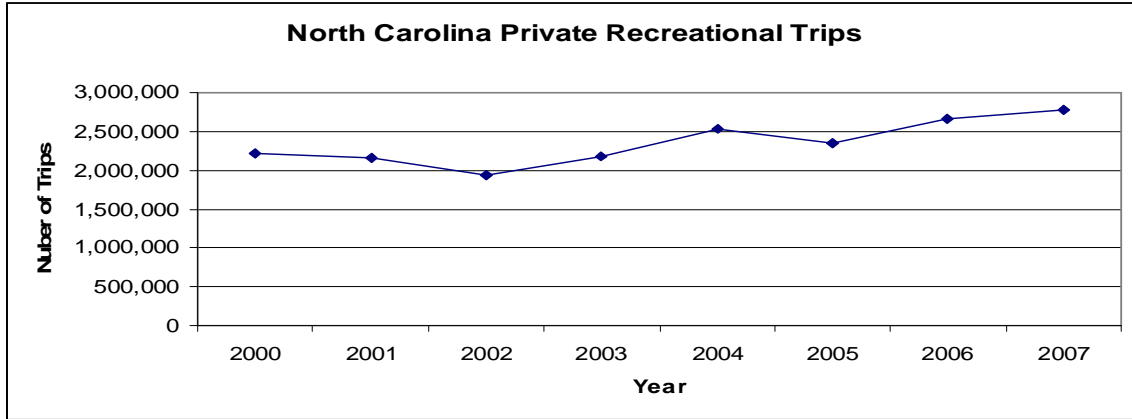


Figure 13. North Carolina Private Recreational Trips, 2000-07.

Figures 14-17 show the number of private recreational trips taken on a bi-monthly basis in each of the four states. Comparing the number of trips reported during the first three waves in 2007 and 2008 indicates consistent decreases in East Florida and South Carolina with increases in Georgia and North Carolina.

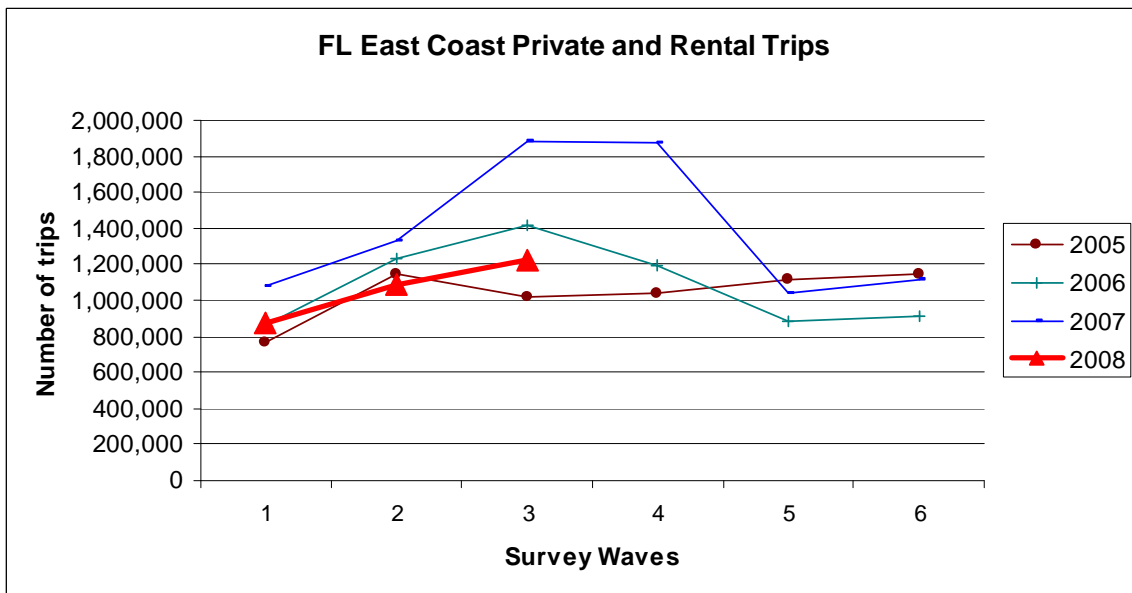


Figure 14. Bi-Monthly Florida East Coast Private Recreational Trips, 2005-08

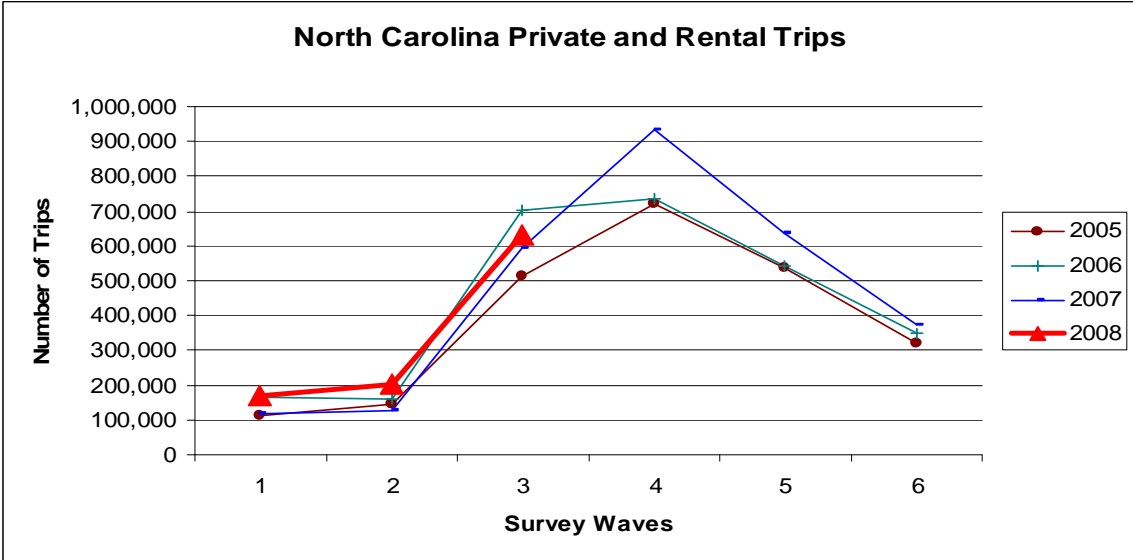


Figure 15. Bi-Monthly North Carolina Private Recreational Trips, 2005-08

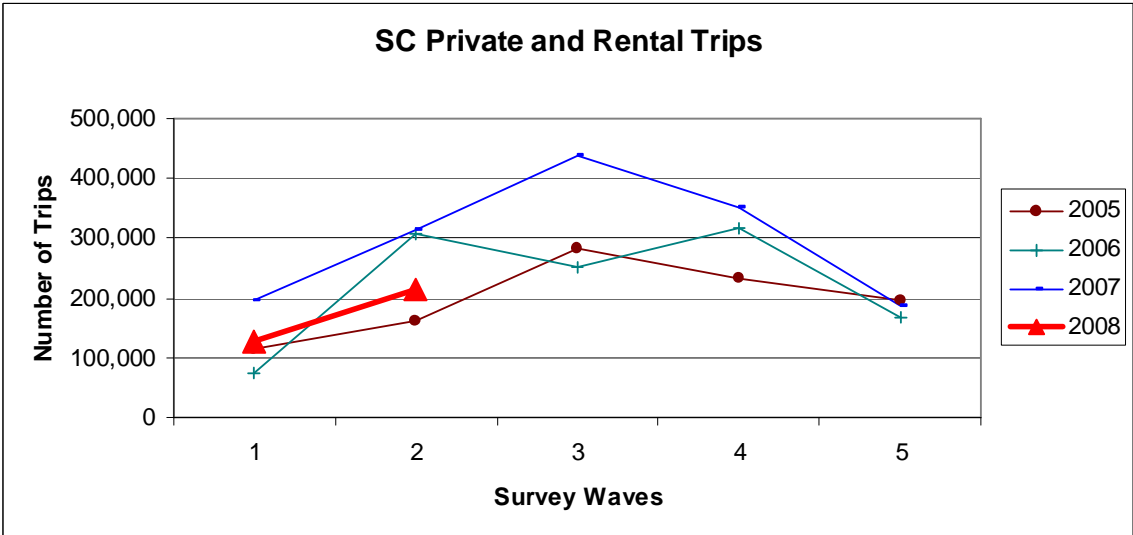


Figure 16. Bi-Monthly South Carolina Private and Rental Trips, 2005-08

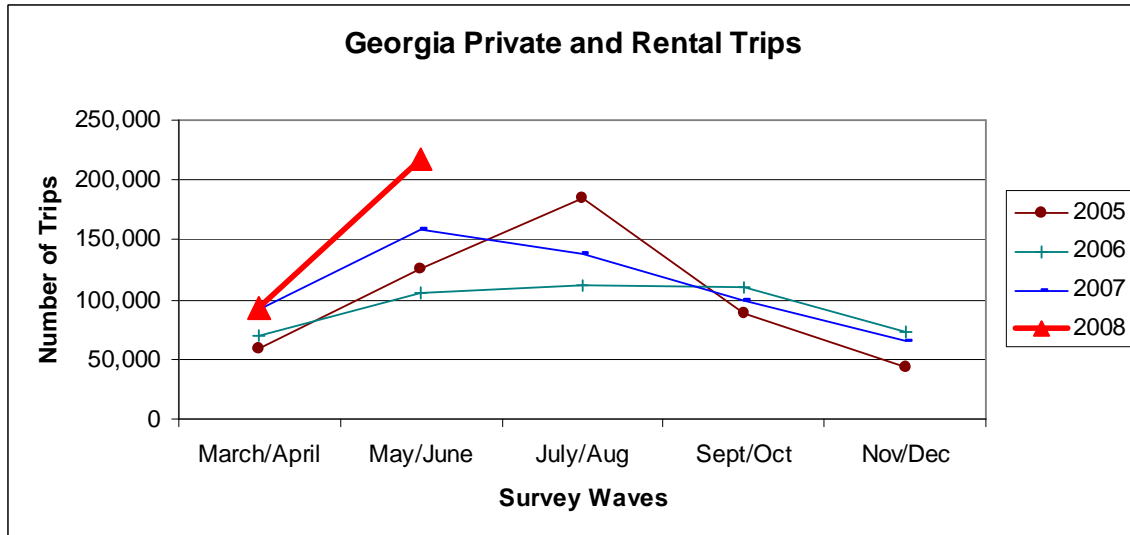


Figure 17. Bi-Monthly Georgia Private and Rental Trips, 2005-08

EEZ

Annual and bi-monthly data was also analyzed for recreational vessels making fishing trips to the EEZ. The data, shown in Figures 18-20, indicate that on an annual basis, trips to the EEZ have increased from 2005-2007. While the total number of private recreational trips to the EEZ have increased over this time period, for-hire trips have fluctuated with a decrease in for-hire trips from 2005 to 2006. Both private and for-hire trips increased from 2006 to 2007 (see Figure 18).

Bi-monthly data indicates that for-hire trips decreased between the first and second waves in 2007 and 2008. Private and rental trips decreased between the first and third waves of 2007 and 2008.

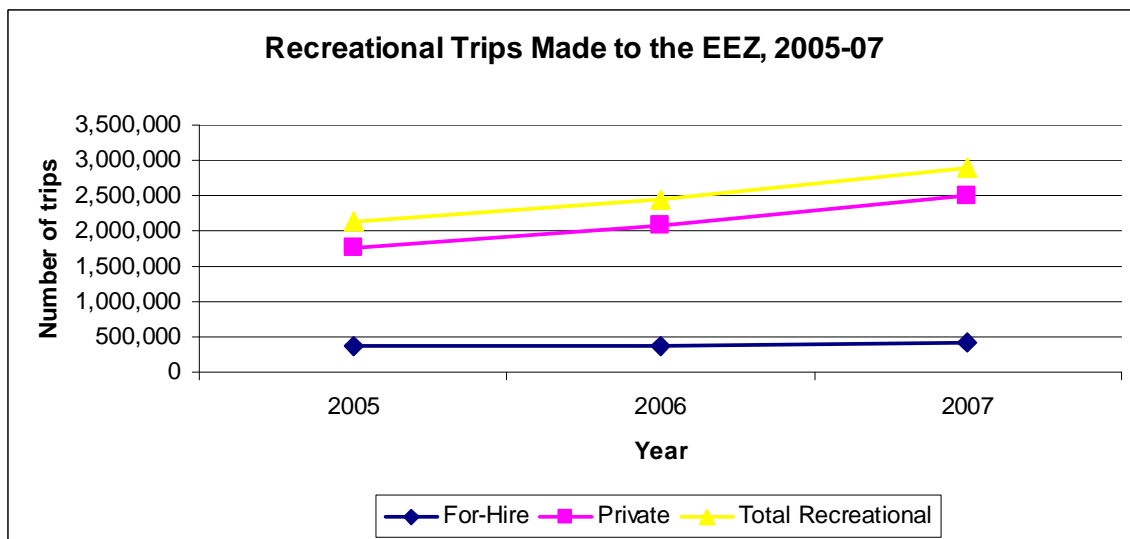


Figure 18. Recreational Trips Made to the EEZ, 2005-07.

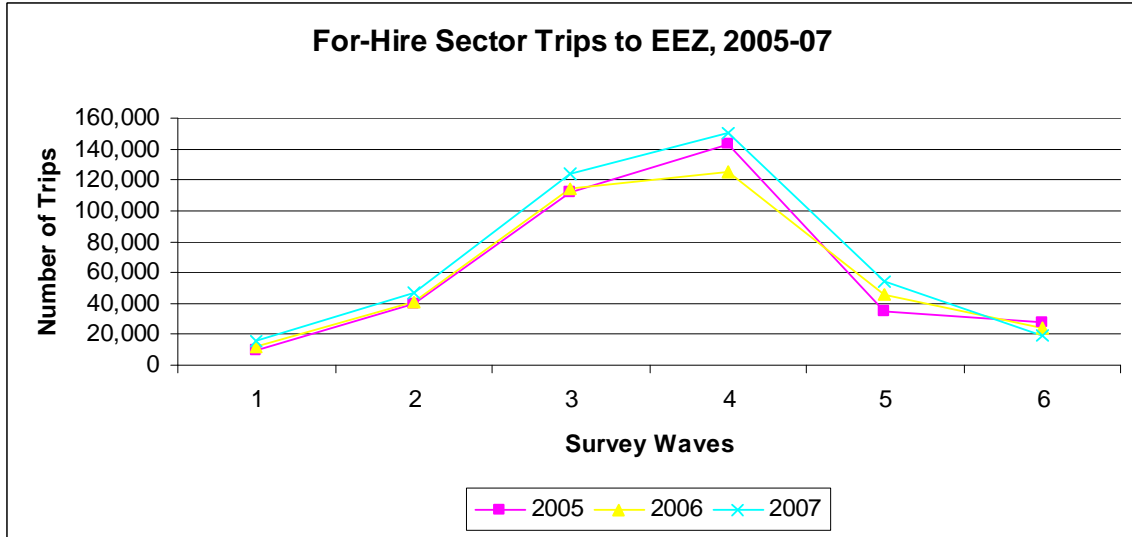


Figure 19. For-Hire Trips Made to the EEZ, 2005-07.

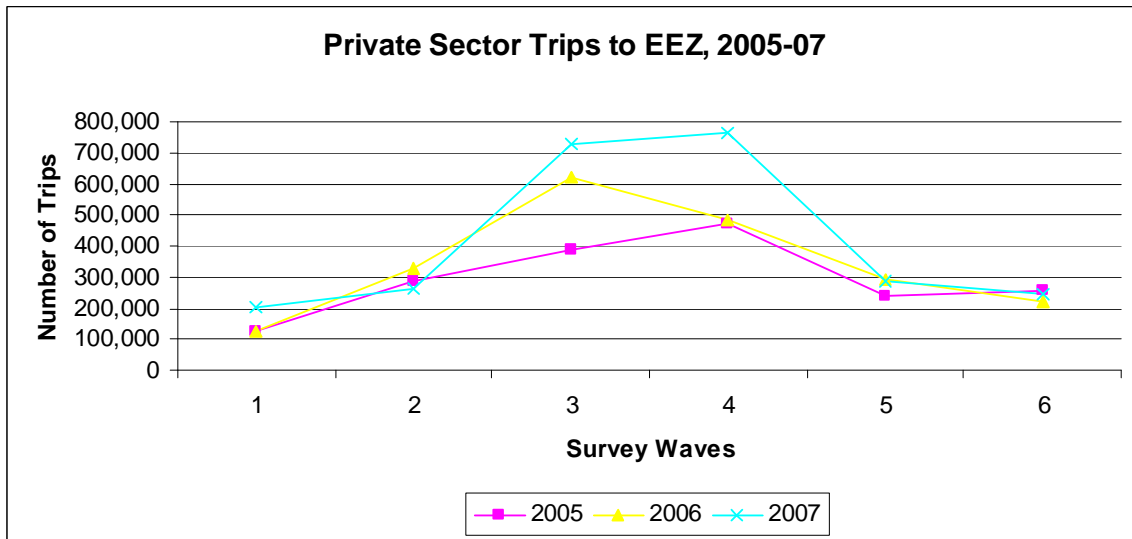


Figure 20. Private Recreational Trips Made to the EEZ, 2005-07.

Appendix

Table 1. Annual Number of Commercial Trips in the South Atlantic Region, 1993-2008.

Year	Trips landing SG species	Total trips
1993	14,700	17,800
1994	17,200	20,800
1995	16,800	20,900
1996	17,900	22,800
1997	20,600	26,000
1998	20,200	35,600
1999	18,000	32,900
2000	17,000	32,000
2001	17,600	32,800
2002	17,600	31,500
2003	16,900	31,900
2004	15,400	28,000
2005	14,000	25,600
2006	13,500	27,900
2007	14,800	29,300
2008	3,000	5,300

Note: 2008 data is incomplete.

Table 2. Annual Number of For-Hire Trips by State, 2000-07.

State	Year	Headboat	Charter	Total For-Hire
East Florida	2000	180,097	278,989	412,858
East Florida	2001	161,052	250,508	366,239
East Florida	2002	149,274	216,451	317,821
East Florida	2003	143,585	186,678	287,719
East Florida	2004	173,701	198,004	323,386
East Florida	2005	171,078	200,910	321,203
East Florida	2006	173,604	173,465	294,391
East Florida	2007	155,184	177,725	299,502
Georgia	2000	2,152	5,688	7,840
Georgia	2001	2,337	6,453	8,790
Georgia	2002	2,272	8,609	10,881
Georgia	2003	1,426	12,190	13,616
Georgia	2004	-	18,511	18,511
Georgia	2005	-	25,081	25,081
Georgia	2006	1,918	28,003	29,921
Georgia	2007	1,966	26,302	28,268
South Carolina	2000	40,291	42,299	82,590
South Carolina	2001	49,265	38,434	87,699
South Carolina	2002	42,467	31,948	74,415
South Carolina	2003	36,556	39,290	75,846
South Carolina	2004	50,461	39,279	89,740
South Carolina	2005	34,036	28,889	62,925
South Carolina	2006	56,074	28,592	84,666
South Carolina	2007	60,729	84,307	145,036
North Carolina	2000	31,351	193,056	224,407
North Carolina	2001	31,779	201,731	233,510
North Carolina	2002	27,601	183,262	210,863
North Carolina	2003	22,998	173,573	196,571
North Carolina	2004	27,255	178,335	205,590
North Carolina	2005	31,573	253,162	284,735
North Carolina	2006	25,736	229,179	254,915
North Carolina	2007	29,002	212,284	241,286

Note: Data on charter trips provided by the state of South Carolina differs significantly from that provided through MRFSS. MRFSS estimates that about 29,000 charter angler trips were taken in 2006 and about 84,000 trips taken in 2007. The state logbook indicates that 38,978 charter trips were taken in 2006 and 39,551 in 2007.

Table 3. Annual Number of Private and Rental Trips by State, 2000-07.

State	Year	Number of Trips
East Florida	2000	5,752,689
East Florida	2001	5,994,125
East Florida	2002	5,429,728
East Florida	2003	6,212,067
East Florida	2004	5,313,366
East Florida	2005	6,230,328
East Florida	2006	6,502,930
East Florida	2007	8,317,491
Georgia	2000	435,250
Georgia	2001	448,507
Georgia	2002	338,104
Georgia	2003	549,099
Georgia	2004	442,083
Georgia	2005	500,607
Georgia	2006	471,562
Georgia	2007	552,638
South Carolina	2000	707,203
South Carolina	2001	953,558
South Carolina	2002	557,165
South Carolina	2003	1,020,784
South Carolina	2004	1,070,368
South Carolina	2005	988,887
South Carolina	2006	1,118,469
South Carolina	2007	1,483,233
North Carolina	2000	2,224,041
North Carolina	2001	2,168,925
North Carolina	2002	1,940,880
North Carolina	2003	2,180,687
North Carolina	2004	2,542,824
North Carolina	2005	2,353,569
North Carolina	2006	2,656,155
North Carolina	2007	2,783,516

Table 4. Bi-Monthly Number of Trips for the East Coast of Florida, 2005-08.

Wave and Year	Private Trips	For-Hire Trips	Total Rec Trips (for-hire and private)
2005			
Jan/Feb	768,535	34,827	803,362
March/April	1,147,134	44,702	1,191,836
May/June	1,014,775	47,487	1,062,262
July/Aug	1,042,797	35,256	1,078,053
Sept/Oct	1,115,816	11,322	1,127,138
Nov/Dec	1,141,270	27,315	1,168,585
TOTAL 2005	6,230,327	200,909	6,431,236
2006			
Jan/Feb	859,664	24,599	884,263
March/April	1,235,491	44,682	1,280,173
May/June	1,413,515	40,311	1,453,826
July/Aug	1,193,190	32,561	1,225,751
Sept/Oct	885,478	14,217	899,695
Nov/Dec	915,591	17,095	932,686
TOTAL 2006	6,502,929	173,465	6,676,394
2007			
Jan/Feb	1,080,368	24,795	1,105,163
March/April	1,327,349	42,705	1,370,054
May/June	1,888,023	31,637	1,919,660
July/Aug	1,873,922	40,996	1,914,918
Sept/Oct	1,035,095	17,318	1,052,413
Nov/Dec	1,112,733	20,274	1,133,007
TOTAL 2007	8,317,490	177,725	8,495,215
2008			
Jan/Feb	877,677	30,803	908,480
March/April	1,086,785	38,978	1,125,763
May/June	1,219,235	39,551	1,258,786

Note: 2008 numbers are not finalized and are subject to change.

Note: For-Hire includes charter and headboat angler trips.

Table 5. Bi-Monthly Number of Trips for North Carolina, 2005-08.

Wave and Year	Private Trips	For-Hire Trips	Total Rec Trips (for-hire and private)
2005			
Jan/Feb	114,597	3,446	118,043
March/April	146,197	19,720	165,917
May/June	513,351	103,382	616,733
July/Aug	722,164	134,487	856,651
Sept/Oct	538,722	29,302	568,024
Nov/Dec	318,538	13,467	332,005
TOTAL 2005	2,353,569	303,804	2,657,373
2006			
Jan/Feb	166,948	5,217	172,165
March/April	162,487	13,234	175,721
May/June	701,445	92,800	794,245
July/Aug	736,589	108,348	844,937
Sept/Oct	541,922	53,342	595,264
Nov/Dec	346,765	16,974	363,739
TOTAL 2006	2,656,156	289,915	2,946,071
2007			
Jan/Feb	118,457	4,316	122,773
March/April	127,737	20,102	147,839
May/June	594,080	85,969	680,049
July/Aug	931,994	123,031	1,055,025
Sept/Oct	637,243	42,468	679,711
Nov/Dec	374,004	10,237	384,241
TOTAL 2007	2,783,515	286,123	3,069,638
2008			
Jan/Feb	170,395	3,009	161,044
March/April	202,899	16,190	256,928
May/June	630,405	110,484	740,889

Note: 2008 numbers are not finalized and are subject to change.

Note: For-Hire includes charter and headboat angler trips.

Table 6. Bi-Monthly Number of Trips for Georgia, 2005-2008.

Wave and Year	Private Trips	For-Hire Trips	Total Rec Trips (for-hire and private)
2005			
March/April	59,002	2,740	61,742
May/June	125,453	8,913	134,366
July/Aug	184,372	7,780	192,152
Sept/Oct	88,680	3,326	92,006
Nov/Dec	43,100	2,322	45,422
TOTAL 2005	500,607	25,081	525,688
2006			
March/April	70,517	3,976	74,493
May/June	106,356	8,793	115,149
July/Aug	111,365	7,765	119,130
Sept/Oct	110,606	5,758	116,364
Nov/Dec	72,718	1,711	74,429
TOTAL 2006	471,562	28,003	499,565
2007			
March/April	92,328	3,175	95,503
May/June	158,912	7,441	166,353
July/Aug	137,454	8,181	145,635
Sept/Oct	98,654	4,602	103,256
Nov/Dec	65,290	2,903	68,193
TOTAL 2007	552,638	26,302	578,940
2008			
March/April	92,999	2,072	95,071
May/June	217,934	5,132	223,066

Note: 2008 numbers are not finalized and are subject to change.

Note: For-Hire includes charter and headboat angler trips.

Table 7. Bi-Monthly Number of Trips for South Carolina, 2005-08.

Wave and Year	Private Trips	For-Hire Trips	Total Rec Trips (for-hire and private)
2005			
March/April	114,530	7,822	122,352
May/June	162,056	18,550	180,606
July/Aug	283,166	33,912	317,078
Sept/Oct	234,210	9,404	243,614
Nov/Dec	194,925	1,842	196,767
TOTAL 2005	988,887	71,530	1,060,417
2006			
March/April	75,409	4,293	79,702
May/June	307,707	21,830	329,537
July/Aug	250,583	30,168	280,751
Sept/Oct	315,939	3,338	319,277
Nov/Dec	168,832	1,368	170,200
TOTAL 2006	1,118,470	60,997	1,179,467
2007			
March/April	196,160	8,511	204,671
May/June	314,864	44,677	359,541
July/Aug	436,368	56,502	492,870
Sept/Oct	349,576	17,205	366,781
Nov/Dec	186,265	5,555	191,820
TOTAL 2007	1,483,233	132,450	1,615,683
2008			
March/April	127,518	9,713	137,231
May/June	214,005	36,045	250,050

Note: 2008 numbers are not finalized and are subject to change.

Note: For-Hire includes charter and headboat angler trips.

Note: Data on charter trips provided by the state of South Carolina differs significantly from that provided through MRFSS. MRFSS estimates that about 29,000 charter angler trips were taken in 2006 and about 84,000 trips taken in 2007. The state logbook indicates that 38,978 charter trips were taken in 2006 and 39,551 in 2007.

Table 8. Annual Number of Trips Taken to the EEZ, 2005-08.

<u>For-hire</u>				
Wave	2005	2006	2007	2008
Jan/Feb	10,094	11,915	15,634	10,506
March/April	40,022	41,086	46,343	44,063
May/June	111,914	114,254	124,269	126,096
July/Aug	143,466	125,005	150,551	
Sept/Oct	34,445	46,196	53,650	
Nov/Dec	27,555	23,488	18,955	
<u>Private</u>				
Wave	2005	2006	2007	2008
Jan/Feb	123,704	126,777	202,260	180,485
March/April	288,038	330,492	264,206	281,634
May/June	386,240	619,015	730,686	653,837
July/Aug	471,147	482,134	761,521	
Sept/Oct	236,412	295,252	284,815	
Nov/Dec	256,557	222,872	244,362	
Total Recreational Trips Taken to the EEZ	2,129,594	2,438,486	2,897,252	

Note: 2008 numbers are not finalized and are subject to change.

Note: For-Hire includes charter and headboat angler trips.

Table 9. Bi-Monthly For-Hire, Private, and Total Trips Taken to the EEZ, 2005-08.

Wave	Sector	2005	2006	2007	2008
Jan/Feb	For-Hire	10,094	11,915	15,634	10,506
Jan/Feb	Private	123,704	126,777	202,260	180,485
Jan/Feb	TOTAL	133,798	138,692	217,894	190,991
March/April	For-Hire	40,022	41,086	46,343	44,063
March/April	Private	288,038	330,492	264,206	281,634
March/April	TOTAL	328,060	371,578	310,549	325,697
May/June	For-Hire	111,914	114,254	124,269	126,096
May/June	Private	386,240	619,015	730,686	653,837
May/June	TOTAL	498,154	733,269	854,955	779,933
July/Aug	For-Hire	143,466	125,005	150,551	
July/Aug	Private	471,147	482,134	761,521	
July/Aug	TOTAL	614,613	607,139	912,072	
Sept/Oct	For-Hire	34,445	46,196	53,650	
Sept/Oct	Private	236,412	295,252	284,815	
Sept/Oct	TOTAL	270,857	341,448	338,465	
Nov/Dec	For-Hire	27,555	23,488	18,955	
Nov/Dec	Private	256,557	222,872	244,362	
Nov/Dec	TOTAL	284,112	246,360	263,317	

Note: 2008 numbers are not finalized and are subject to change.

Note: For-Hire includes charter and headboat angler trips.