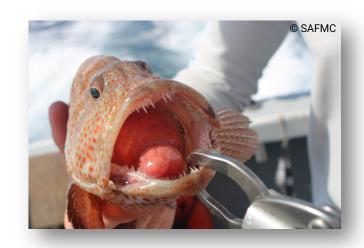
# Best Fishing Practices Update

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY PANEL

OCTOBER 2022

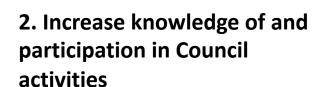


# Overall Goals and Objectives



- 1. Increase awareness, knowledge and use of fishing methods that will improve survivorship of released fish
  - Understanding of barotrauma and mitigation strategies, specifically descending devices
  - Knowledge of Council regulations related to best fishing practices, including descending devices and circle hooks





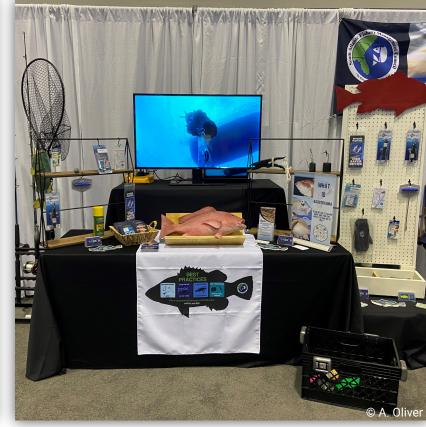
 Citizen Science Program, advisory panels, and public comment opportunities



- 3. Build and maintain relationships with fishing communities
  - Periodic contact both in-person and via email
  - Redistribution of best fishing practices and Citizen Science outreach materials







## Outreach Strategies

- Tackle Shop Tours
- Fishing Seminars
- Charter Trips
- Industry Events

# Activities Completed This Year

#### "Responsible and Effective Bottom Fishing" seminar

 With local charter captains, Mark Phelps and Chuck Griffin at Haddrell's Point in Mt.
 Pleasant, South Carolina

#### Outreach events with SCDNR

- Governor's Cup tournament in Georgetown,
   South Carolina
- Charter Guide Summits in Charleston,
   Murrells Inlet, Lemon Island, South Carolina)
- ICAST 2022- Orlando, FL
- Charter trip in Hatteras, NC
  - With Good Time Sportfishing and local writers

#### Tackle shop visits:

- Outer Banks, North Carolina (Hatteras, Manteo, Kitty Hawk)
- Northern (Myrtle Beach, Murrells Inlet, Georgetown), central (Charleston), and southern (Beaufort, Hilton Head) South Carolina
- Northern (Savannah) and southern (Darien, Brunswick) Georgia
- Florida Keys (Key Largo, Marathon, Key West)



# Regional Differences

Outer Banks, North Carolina

- Knowledge of barotrauma, but not descending devices
- Did not see a single descending device in the 15 tackle shops visited
- Hatteras is considered hub for bottom fishing, but little knowledge of descending devices
- Most upset about Red Snapper compared to other places visited



# Regional Differences South Carolina

Did have support for descending devices, but did not necessarily see a need for regulations

Expressed frustration with Council projects and concerns on how the data would be used

Central SC seems to be the most accepting of materials

# Regional Differences Georgia

- Mostly inshore tackle shops
- Big box stores had descending devices and knew of regulations (Bass Pro, West Marine)
- Marinas see offshore fishermen during Red Snapper season, but mostly inshore fishermen rest of year



# Regional Differences

### Florida Keys

- Accepting of descending devices and best fishing practice regulations
- Stores that did not have descending devices wanted them in stock
- Stores have an overall problem of getting enough descending devices in stock
- Questions daily about descending devices and regulations
- Need more education on how to explain descending devices to customers



