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# South Atlantic Commercial Biosampling: Targets and Achievements

## ACCSP Biological Review Panel (BRP)

- Formed in 1999
- Made up representatives from each Atlantic Coast State, each Region's NMFS (SEFSC and NEFSC)
- Since 2004, has put out yearly biosample guidance for Atlantic Coast Species



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## BRP: Species Considered

- Atlantic Coast (Maine to Florida)
- Can be commercially or recreationally important (or both)
- Can be Federally managed or particular to State(s) Management
- Species considered arrived at by consensus; a subjective rather than quantitative process



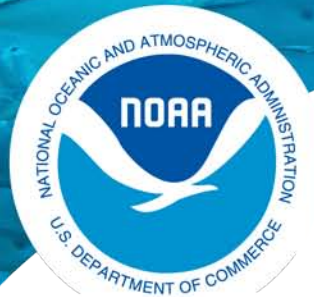
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## BRP: Target Determination (Southeast Region)

- Prior to 2009, targets were based on what was achieved the previous year
- During 2009-2010, targets were calculated by applying the previous year's overall sampling fraction (for all species combined) to previous year's landings in each species/quarter/gear/area combination
- Starting in 2011, a process that incorporated variability in a species' length distribution was produced by the SEFSC



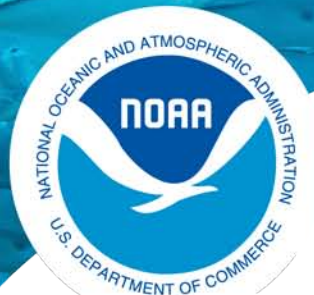
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## BRP: Target Determination Caveats

- The methods used in 2009-10 and the new process used since 2011 have been the subject of concern by BRP members
- Both processes based on previous year's landings. If landings drop significantly from previous year's levels due to regulatory changes or weather, achieving the pre-set target can be difficult.
- Process makes no allowance for certain species that are difficult or impossible to biosample.



# South Atlantic Commercial Biosampling: Targets and Achievements

Results: Targets and resultant percent biosample (lengths) for 2011 and 2012, selected species. Original targets and State revisions both displayed.

COMMON_NAME	TARGET	TARGET_REV	PCNT_2011	PCNT_2011_REV	PCNT_2012	PCNT_2012_REV
BLACK GROUPE	1701	1477	2%	3%	3%	4%
BLACK SEA BASS	8822	12993	30%	20%	36%	25%
BLUELINE TILEFISH	6959	4431	11%	17%	17%	26%
SPINY LOBSTER	3000	3000	182%	182%	313%	313%
GAG	6323	6318	20%	20%	18%	18%
GRAY SNAPPER	3863	3863	9%	9%	21%	21%
GRAY TRIGGERFISH	7551	7551	43%	43%	29%	29%
KING MACKEREL	7228	6151	70%	83%	55%	65%
MUTTON SNAPPER	2040	2040	8%	8%	14%	14%
RED GROUPE	14806	4983	6%	17%	5%	14%
RED SNAPPER	7766	7237	0%	0%	3%	3%
SNOWY GROUPE	4925	5106	14%	13%	20%	19%
VERMILION SNAPPER	9203	8735	80%	84%	68%	71%
WRECKFISH	474	493	53%	51%	34%	32%
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	2049	2049	144%	144%	227%	227%



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## Discussion

- 100 Percent of target approached or even exceeded where length-only sampling is the norm. Sampler does not have to take hard part samples so can length sample many more individuals (e.g. spiny lobster, king mackerel)
- Percentage seems to be higher for species that samplers might perceive as more commercially important based on the amount of landings (e.g. lobster, mackerel, vermilion snapper, black sea bass)
- Effect of regulations clear in some cases (e.g. red snapper % is zero in 2011)





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## Asset Distribution: Samplers

- Federal samplers:
  - 4 in FL,
  - 2 in NC
- FL-5
- GA-0
- SC-2
- NC-5



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# South Atlantic Commercial Biosampling: Targets and Achievements

## Discussion

- Federal and State funding levels of biosampling programs have substantial impact on target achievement
- Other metrics such as number of trips sampled may be equally or even more important indicators of sampling quality
- Currently, no simple process to monitor progress towards target achievement during a year.





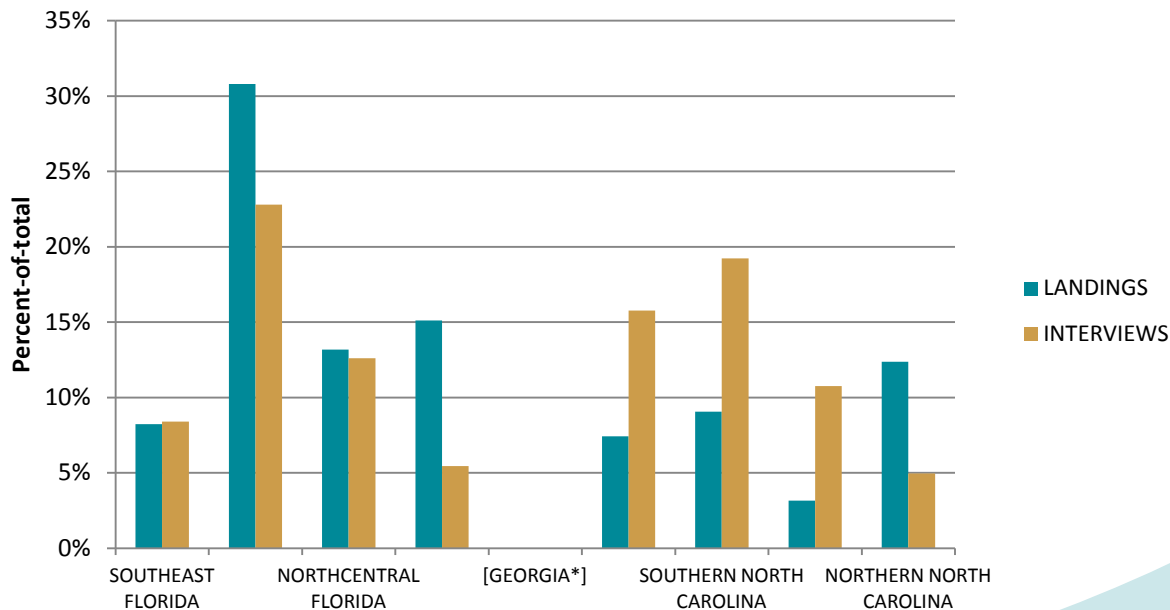
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# South Atlantic Commercial Biosampling: Targets and Achievements

## Discussion

- Evaluation of biosampling activities optimally include more than just achievement of sampling targets



Landings vs. TIP Interviews (percent of all areas total) by sampler area, 2008-2012. Asterisks indicate areas where no Federal samplers are active, in all other areas State and Federal samplers coordinate operations. Georgia not shown due to confidentiality restrictions.



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# South Atlantic Commercial Biosampling: Targets and Achievements

Primary objective of SEFSC sampling is to obtain samples representative at two stages:

- Stage 1: trips sampled are representative (in terms of gear type, season, area fished, etc.) of the commercial trips targeting Federally managed species in the management area
- Stage 2: within a trip, individuals sampled are representative (in terms of length, weight, age, sex, etc.) of the total catch of that trip