

FWC's Atlantic Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Project



SAFMC Meeting: December 2024



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



FWC Atlantic Red Snapper EFP Project

- 3 unique EFP Projects
- **Duration:** August 2024- July 2025
- **Goals**
 - Collaborate with fishers to obtain catch and discard data
 - Test innovative strategies to reduce discards
 - Allow additional red snapper harvest
 - Develop a reporting app and an education course
 - Evaluate angler satisfaction



Photo courtesy of Ethan Gumble



Study Area


NE Florida




SE Florida



	Study Fleet		
Where:	NE Florida		
Who:	Private and for-hire vessels		
# of Participants:	Total: 40 (10/quarter)		
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Test 15 fish aggregate bag limit- Full retention of red snapper (up to 36 vessel)- 4 trips per quarter		
Angler Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Education course- Trip declaration- Data validation- Customized app for reporting- Angler satisfaction surveys- Angler incentives		






		Hot Spot Fleet	SE Florida Snapper Grouper Fleet
Where:	NE Florida		SE Florida
Who:		Private anglers	
# of Participants:		Total: 800 (200/quarter)	
Summary:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Test 15 fish aggregate bag limit- Add. red snapper harvest opportunities (bag limit of 3 pp)- Trips per quarter (Hot Spot: 3, SE Fleet: 2)- Experimental and control group selected via lottery	
Angler Requirements:	<div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">- Education course- Trip declaration- Data validation</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">- Customized app for reporting- Angler satisfaction surveys- Angler incentives</div></div> <div></div>		



	Study Fleet	Hot Spot Fleet	SE Florida Snapper Grouper Fleet
Where:	NE Florida		SE Florida
Who:	Private and for-hire vessels	Private anglers	
# of Participants:	Total: 40 (10/quarter)	Total: 800 (200/quarter)	
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Test 15 fish aggregate bag limit- Full retention of red snapper (up to 36 vessel)- 4 trips per quarter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Test 15 fish aggregate bag limit- Add. red snapper harvest opportunities (bag limit of 3 pp)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Trips per quarter (Hot Spot: 3, SE Fleet: 2)- Experimental and control group selected via lottery	
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Control and Experimental Groups

- Components of Hot Spot Fleet and Southeast Snapper Grouper Fleet
- 100 participants for each Group in each Fleet

Experimental Group

- Allowed red snapper harvest opportunities
- Fish for 15-fish snapper grouper aggregate

Control Group

- No additional red snapper harvest opportunities
- Provide information on normal fishing activities
- Receive priority for Experimental Fleet in a subsequent fishing quarter



Proposal Components



15- Fish Aggregate Bag Limit

- Designed to hit bag limit quicker, stop bottom fishing; thereby reducing discards
- Considers current federal regs, species stock status
- Required for experimental groups and all Study Fleet participants

15-fish Snapper Grouper Aggregate

This aggregate is inclusive of all current state and federal fishing regulations (e.g., you must follow current size and season restrictions for the species listed below)

- Only 1 fish can be a gag, black, or scamp grouper
- Up to 2 fish can be red, yellowfin, yellowmouth, coney, graysby, red hind, or rock hind grouper
- Only 1 fish can be a red porgy, blueline tilefish, or golden tilefish
- Only 1 fish can be greater amberjack
- Up to 3 fish can be lesser amberjack, almaco jack, or banded rudderfish
- Up to 5 fish can be black sea bass
- Up to 5 fish can be gray triggerfish
- Up to 10 fish can be grunts
- Up to 10 fish can be Atlantic spadefish or bar jack
- Up to 10 fish can be porgies (red porgy excluded)
- Up to 10 can be schoolmaster, gray, lane, yellowtail, queen, silk, or blackfin snapper
- Up to 5 can be vermilion, cubera, or mutton snapper

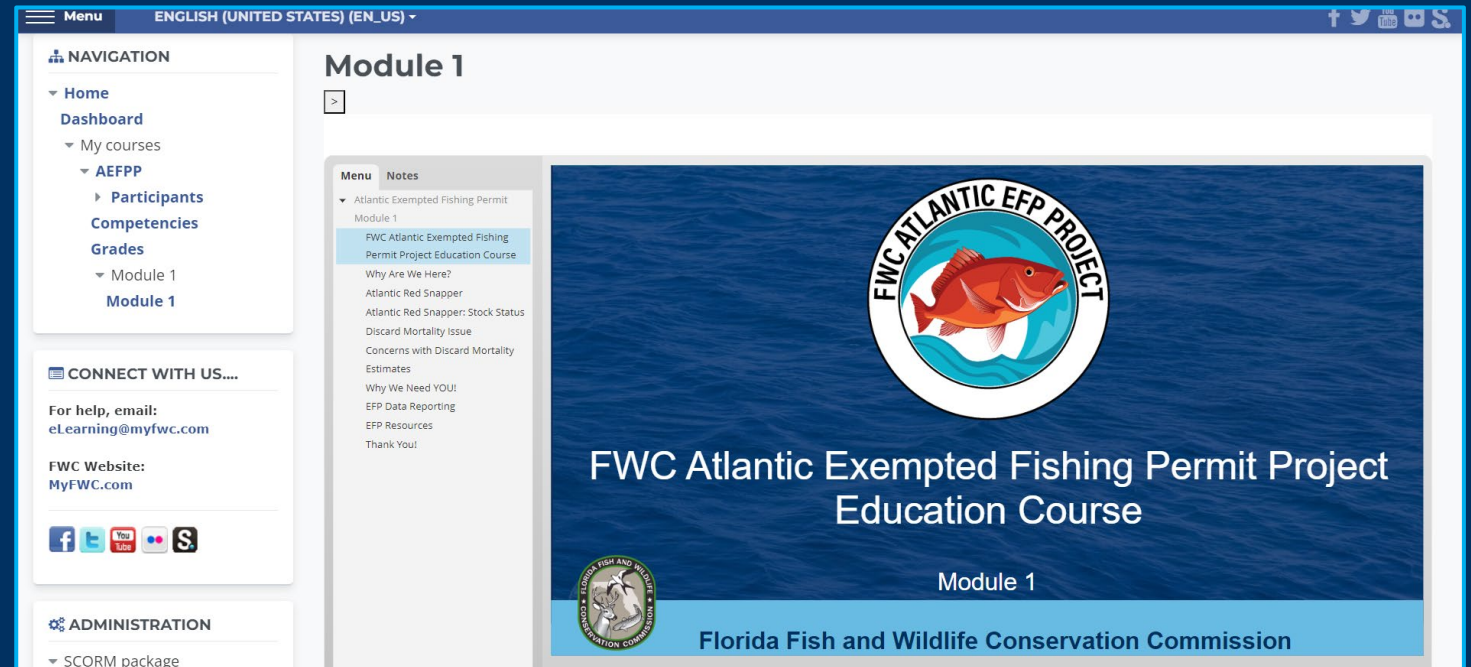


Proposal Components



Education Course

- Required for all participants
- 3 modules:
 - EFP Background
 - Best Fishing Practices
 - Fish ID



Proposal Components



FWC Reporting System

- Web application developed by FWC IT
- All participants required to declare trips and input trip information
- Includes details on fishing location and condition, species catch and discards

A screenshot of the 'Red Snapper Reporting System' web application. The interface is clean and modern, with a dark blue header bar containing the FWC logo and navigation links: 'My Trips', 'Submit Trip Declaration', and 'Logout'. Below the header, the main content area is titled 'Trip Declaration'. It features several form sections: a 'Have you coordinated with a FWC biologist?' section with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No'; a 'Trip Information' section with a text input for 'Vessel Registration Number or For Hire Charter/Head boat name'; a 'Departure Information' section with a light blue instruction box stating 'Please provide either a boat ramp location or an address. Only one of these is required.' Below this are two tabs, 'Boat Ramp' (selected) and 'Address Details'. The 'Boat Ramp' tab contains a text input for 'Boat Ramp Name', a date input for 'Date Of Intended Trip Departure' (set to 07/31/2024), and a time input for 'Approximate Departure Time' (set to 12:00 AM). At the bottom, there is a 'Return Information' section with a text input for 'Location of Trip Return (one item needs to be filled in)'. The top right corner of the browser window shows 'TEST' and 'ratherfishing'.

Proposal Components

Angler Incentives

- Participants are eligible for incentives for successfully completing Fleet fishing trips and submitting data
- Incentives include: EFP shirts, circle hooks, descending devices
- Randomly-selected drawing opportunity for submitting multiple trips



Proposal Components



Angler Satisfaction Surveys

- Led by FWC Social Science Team
- Pre and post surveys; semi-structured interviews
- Better understand angler satisfaction around current management and project strategies

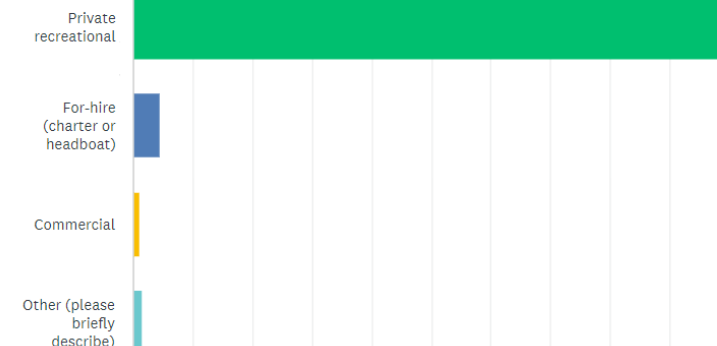
Red Snapper Pre-Survey

All Pages ▼

Q1

How would you describe your fishing (select all that apply)?

Answered: 204 Skipped: 1



Validation

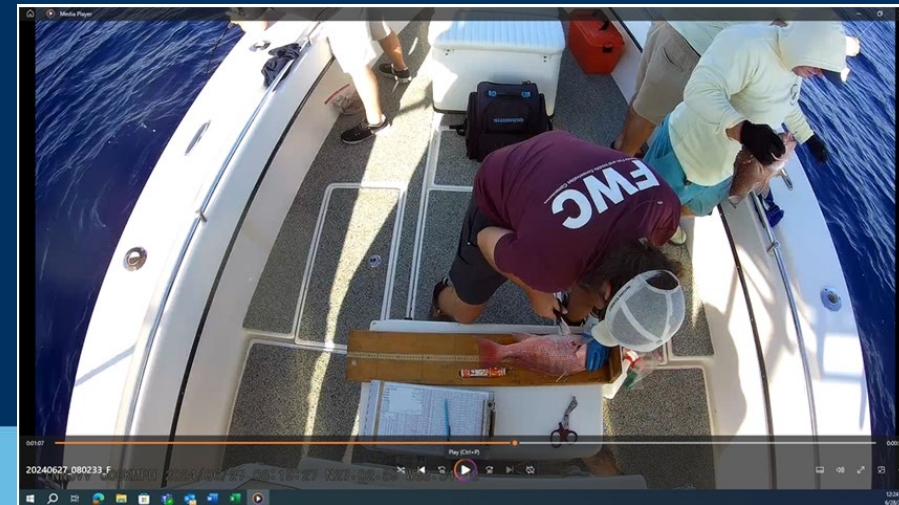


Dockside Interviews

- Led by FWRI Team (5 samplers)
- Intercept participants at the dock to collect biological samples

Cameras and Observers

- For Study Fleet only
- Opportunity to validate discards and catch information



Applications and Project Timeline



	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Aug.- Oct.	Nov- Jan.	Feb.-April	May-July
Applications Received	7,722	3,392	TBD	TBD
Participants Selected	410	410	--	--



Quarter 1: Project Stats

As of 11/8/2024

- August- October
- 244 completed pre-survey
- 307 completed education course
- 143 completed Fleet trips
- 67 dockside intercepts
- 1,385 red snapper harvested
 - 1,000 red snapper sampled
 - 846 otoliths
 - 691 fin clips



Study Fleet Trip: Capt. Holmquist



Photo courtesy of Return 'Em Right

What We've Learned So Far

- Massive agency lift
- Challenges due to delayed funding
- Lots of interest in participation
- Overall, positive feedback to program
 - Improving fisheries and quality of data are main motivators to participation
 - Many prefer snapper grouper aggregate compared to current regulations
 - Many consider education course moderately useful
- Continuing to build relationships and trust with anglers



Hot Spot Fleet: Richard McCormick



Photo courtesy of Return 'Em Right

Resources

- EFP Website: myfwc.com/AtlanticEFP
- EFP Email: AtlanticEFP@myfwc.com
- Promotional items for outreach



Study Fleet Trip: James Isbell

Want to keep more
Atlantic red
snapper?

Apply to be a part the
FWC Atlantic EFP Project!



Why You Should Apply

- More red snapper days
- Test innovative ideas
- Provide valuable data
- Receive angler incentives

Learn more at
MyFWC.com/AtlanticEFP





Questions?

