

# 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 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 sector in Georgia (annual data) and North Carolina (annual and bi-monthly data). That is, the data indicates decreases in the number of trips taken in those states in recent years. Detail is provided below.

Recreational trips to the EEZ increased from 2006 to 2007. However, trips made by the for-hire sector in Nov/Dec 2007 were lower than the number made in Nov/Dec 2006.

## Commercial Trips

Commercial logbook data indicates that 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).

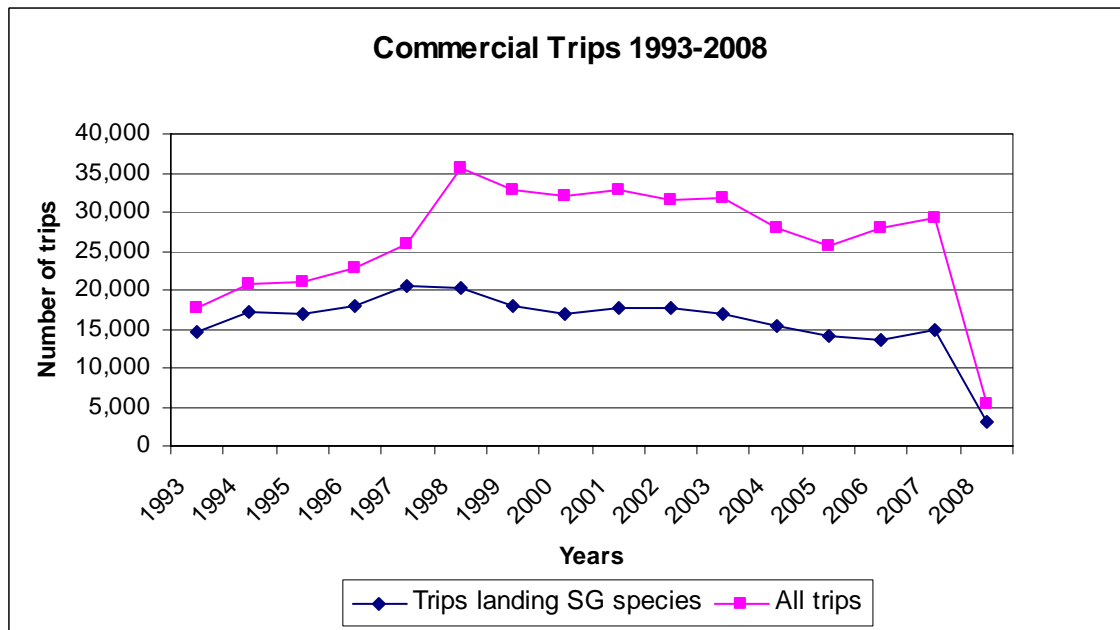


Figure 1. Commercial trips, 1993-2008. Note: 2008 date is incomplete.

## Recreational Trips

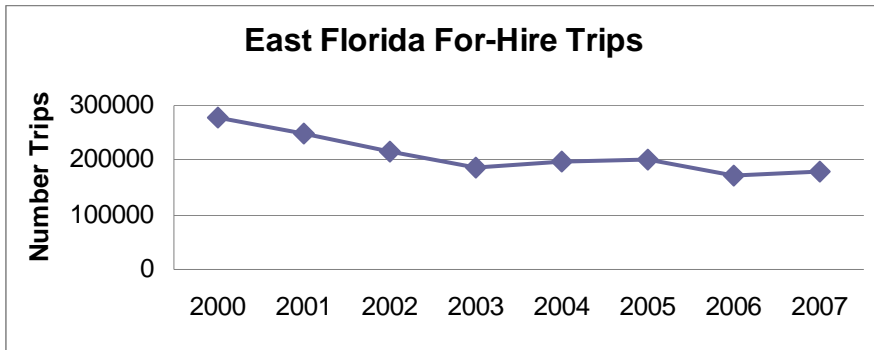
### Summary

MRFSS data was used to compare for-hire (headboat and charter) and private recreational trips on an annual and bi-monthly basis. Comparisons between 2007 and 2006 and between specific survey waves in 2007 and 2008 indicate recent increases in recreational trips for the South Atlantic region in general among both the for-hire sector and private recreational trips. However, when looking at the data for specific states, Georgia and North Carolina have experienced declines in the number of for-hire trips taken in 2006 compared to 2007 and between Jan/Feb of

2007 and Jan/Feb of 2008 (North Carolina only, data for 2008 not yet available for South Carolina and Georgia).

*For Hire Recreational Sector*

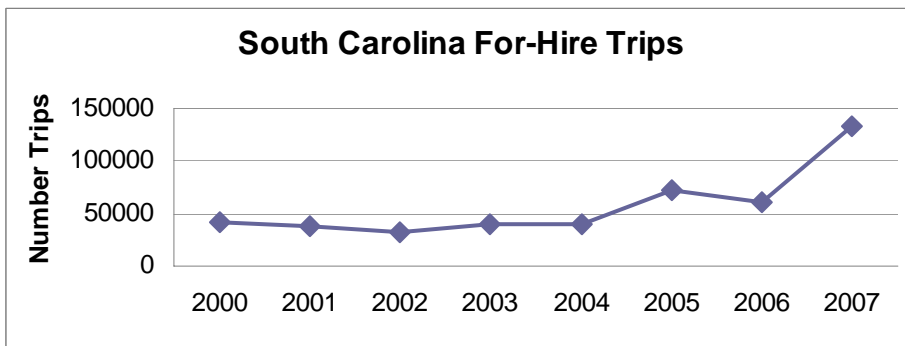
Annual data on for-hire trips taken between 2000 and 2007 by state within the South Atlantic region are shown in Figures 2-5. The data indicate that Georgia and North Carolina have experienced slight decreases in the number of for-hire trips taken from 2006 to 2007 while east Florida and South Carolina have experienced increases over this period. The number of for-hire trips had been on the rise since 2003 up to last year while South Carolina more than doubled the number of for-hire trips from 2006 to 2007.



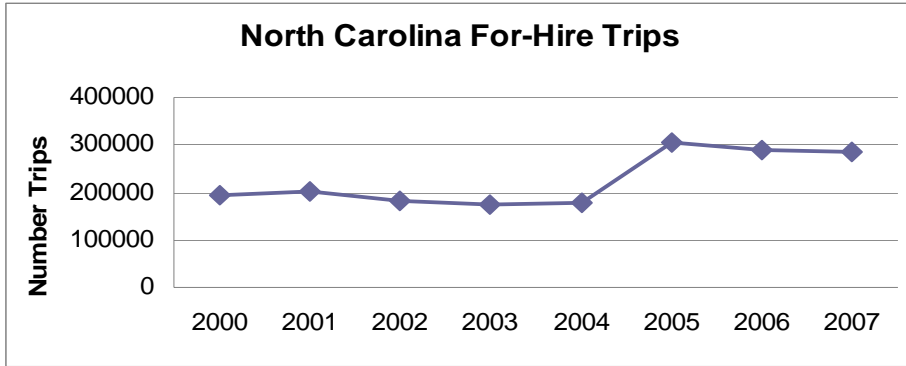
**Figure 2.** East Florida For-Hire Trips, 2000-07.



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



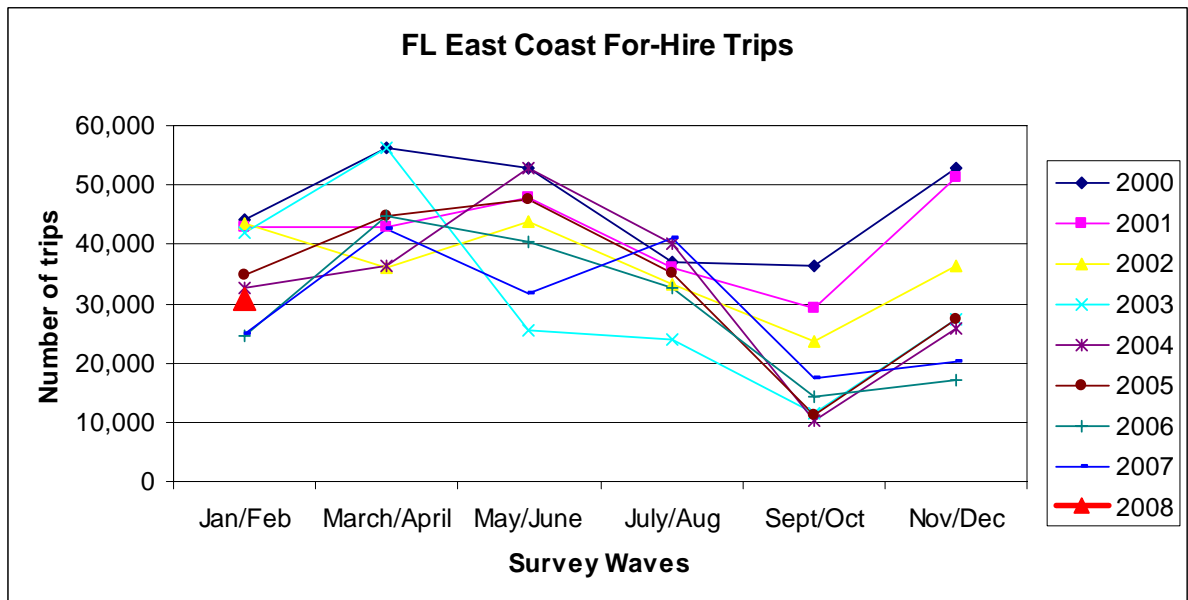
**Figure 4.** South Carolina For-Hire Trips, 2000-07.



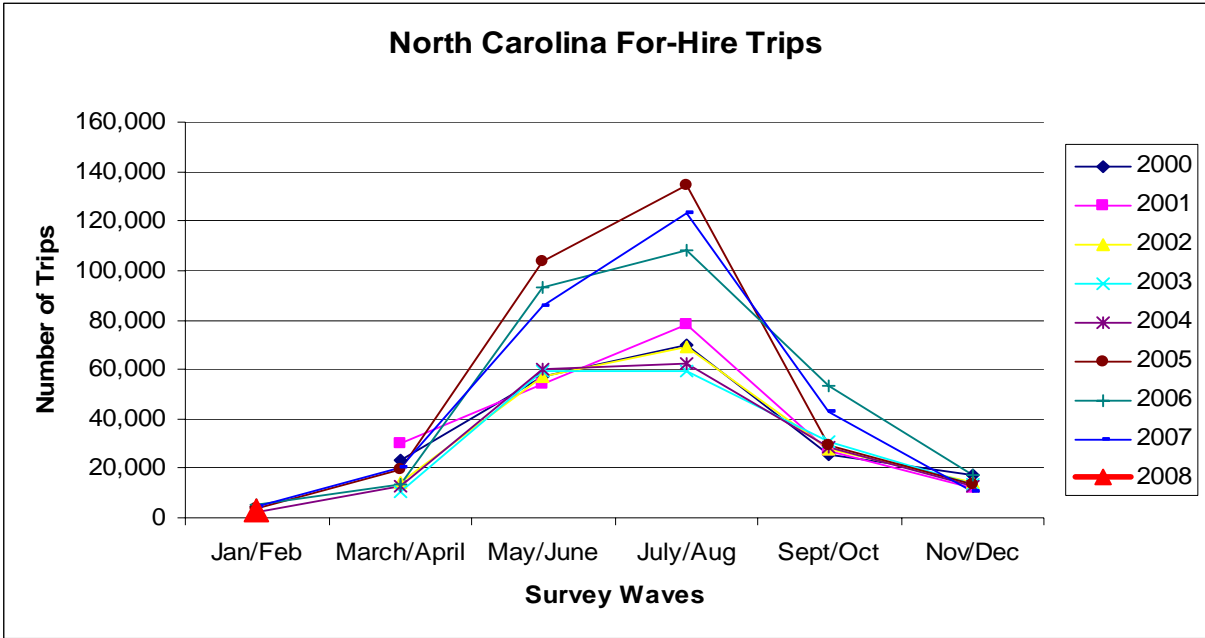
**Figure 5.** North Carolina For-Hire Trips, 2000-07.

Data for the first survey wave for 2008 is available from the MRFSS website for the east coast of Florida and North Carolina only. Figures 6 and 7 show the number of for-hire trips taken on a bi-monthly basis in Florida (east coast) and North Carolina, respectively. Comparing the number of trips reported during the first wave in 2007 and 2008 in Florida (east coast) indicates an increase from approximately 24,800 to approximately 30,800 (see Figure 6). A comparison between the average of the first survey wave of each year 2005 to 2007 and the first wave of 2008 also shows an increase. The same trend exists when comparing Wave 6 (Nov/Dec) in 2006 and 2007.

However, when comparing Wave 6 (Nov/Dec) of each year 2004-2006 to 2007, there is a decline. The comparison of the first wave in 2007 to 2008 for North Carolina indicates a decrease from approximately 4,300 to 3,000 (see Figure 7). A comparison of the averages also indicates a decline from 4,326 to 3,009, a 30% decrease. The same trends exist when comparing Wave 6 (Nov/Dec) in 2006 and 2007 in North Carolina.



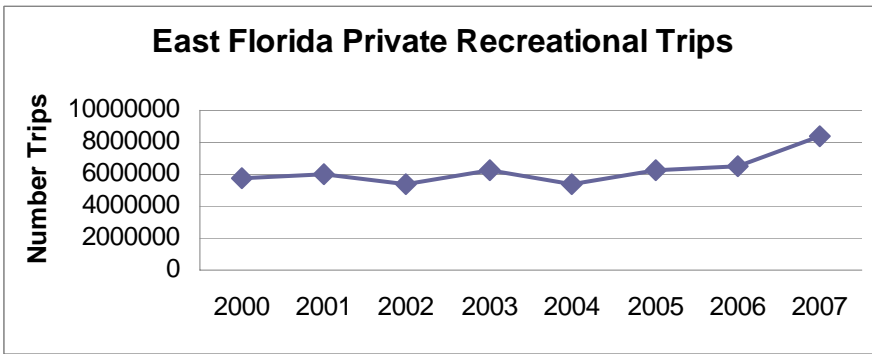
**Figure 6.** Bi-Monthly Florida East Coast For-Hire Trips, 2000-08.



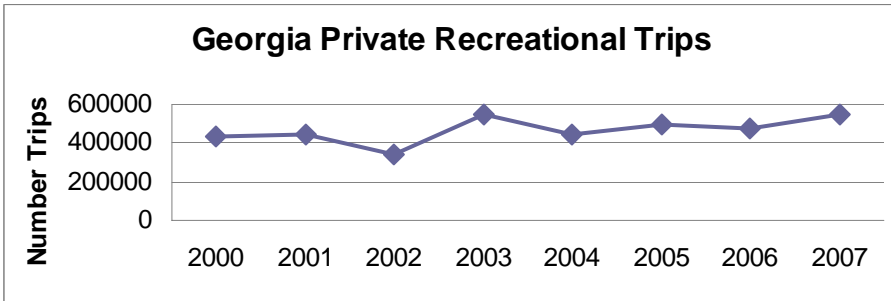
**Figure 7.** Bi-Monthly North Carolina For-Hire Trips, 2000-08.

*Private Recreational Sector*

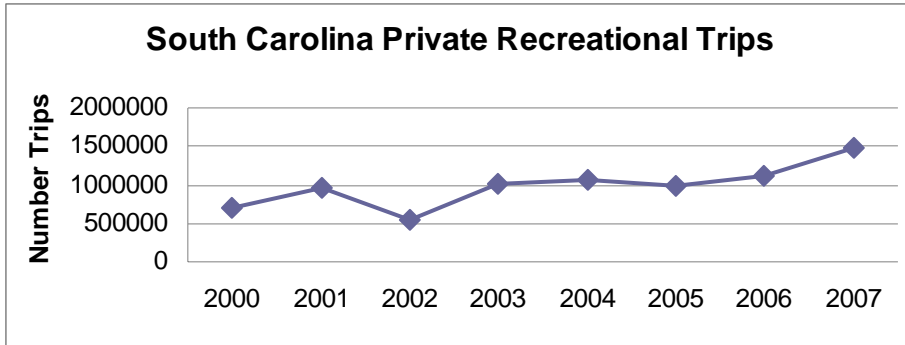
Annual data on private and rental recreational trips taken between 2000 and 2007 by state within the South Atlantic region are shown in Figures 8-11. The data indicate that all states within the South Atlantic jurisdiction experienced slight increases in the number of private recreational trips taken from 2006 to 2007 (see Figures 8-11).



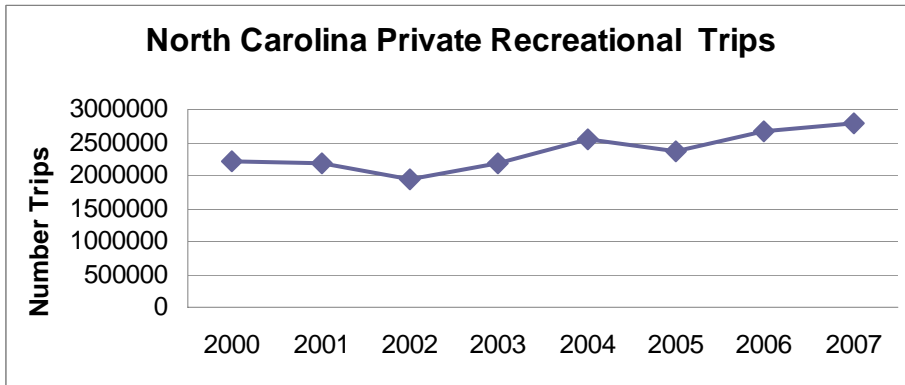
**Figure 8.** East Florida Private Recreational Trips, 2000-07.



**Figure 9.** Georgia Private Recreational Trips, 2000-07.



**Figure 10.** South Carolina Private Recreational Trips, 2000-07.



**Figure 11.** North Carolina Private Recreational Trips, 2000-07.

Data for the first survey wave for 2008 is available from the MRFSS website for the east coast of Florida and North Carolina only, as mentioned above. Figures 12 and 13 show the number of private recreational trips taken on a bi-monthly basis in Florida (east coast) and North Carolina, respectively. Comparing the number of trips reported during the first wave in 2007 and 2008 in Florida (east coast) indicates an increase from approximately 1.08 million trips to approximately 1.14 million trips (see Figure 12). A comparison between the average of the first survey wave of each year 2005 to 2007 and the first wave of 2008 also shows an increase as well. The same trend exists when comparing Wave 6 (Nov/Dec) in 2006 and 2007.

The comparison of the first wave in 2007 to 2008 for North Carolina indicates an increase from approximately 119,000 to 158,000 (see Figure 13). A comparison of the averages also indicates an increase from 133,000 to 158,000. The same trends exist when comparing Wave 6 (Nov/Dec) in 2006 and 2007 in North Carolina.

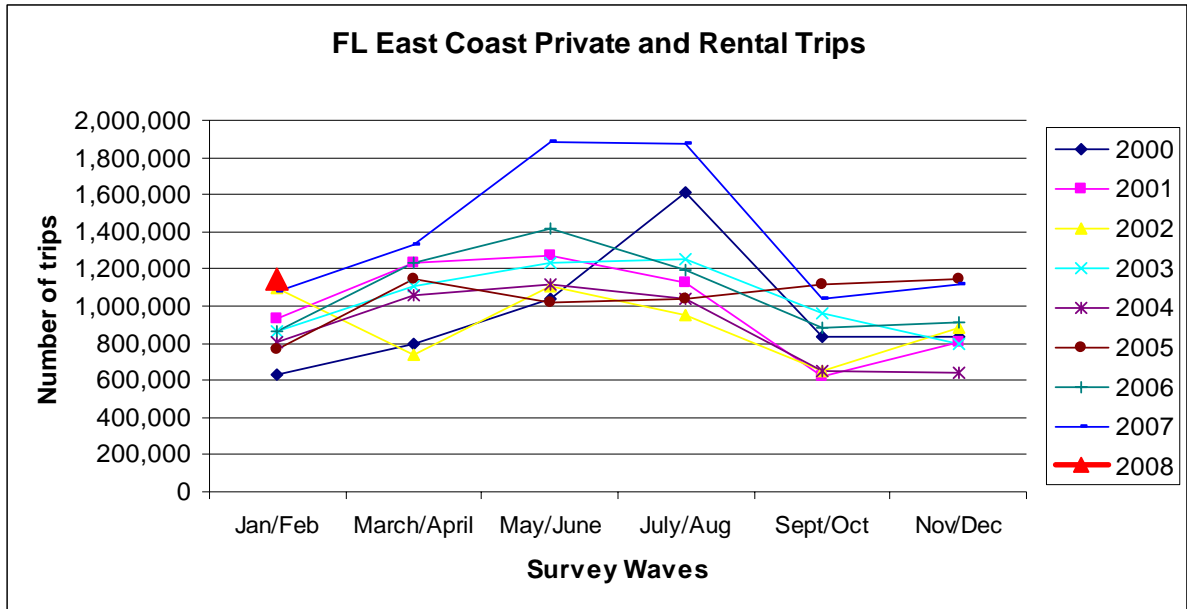


Figure 12. Bi-Monthly Florida East Coast Private Recreational Trips, 2000-08

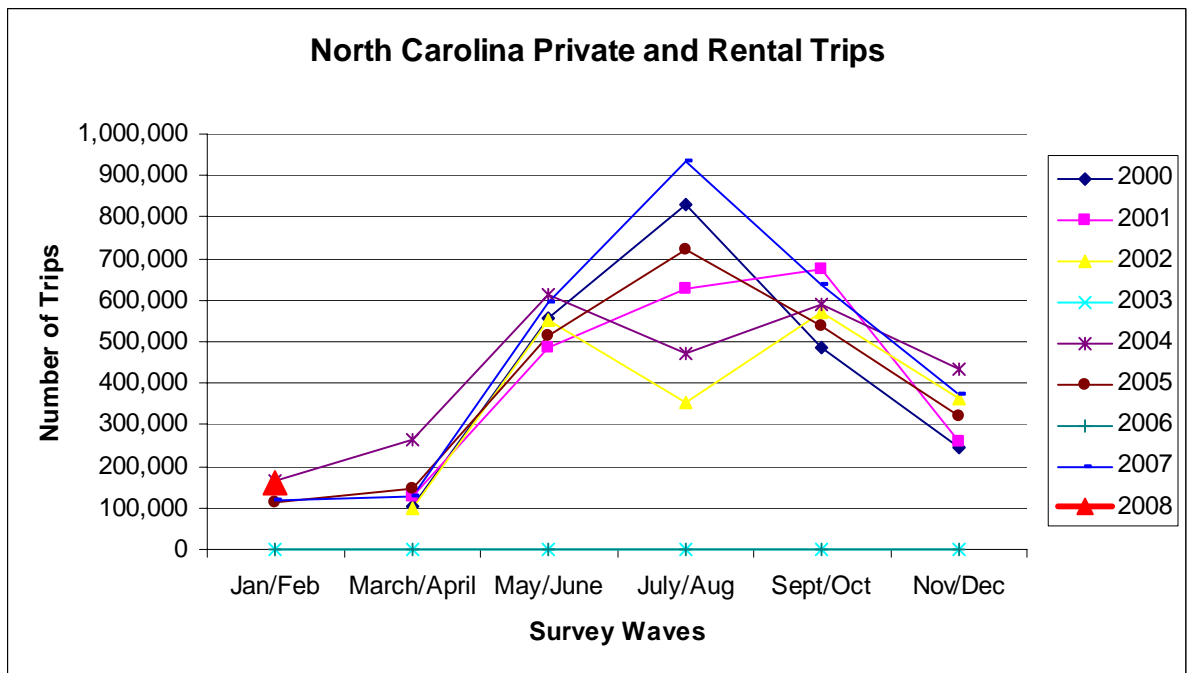


Figure 13. Bi-Monthly North Carolina Private Recreational Trips, 2000-08

**EEZ**

Annual and bi-monthly data was also analyzed for recreational vessels making fishing trips to the EEZ. The data, shown in Figure 14, indicate that on an annual basis, trips to the EEZ have increased from 2004-2007. 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 14).

Bi-monthly data indicates that total recreational trip numbers increased in a comparison between Jan/Feb 2006 to Jan/Feb 2007 from approximately 139,000 to 218,000 (see Table 8). Both for-

hire and private trips increased in this comparison. However, for-hire trips decreased in a comparison between Nov/Dec 2006 and Nov/Dec 2007 from 23,500 to 19,000 trips (see Figure 15). Private trips increased in this comparison (see Figure 16).



Figure 14. Recreational Trips Made to the EEZ, 2004-07.

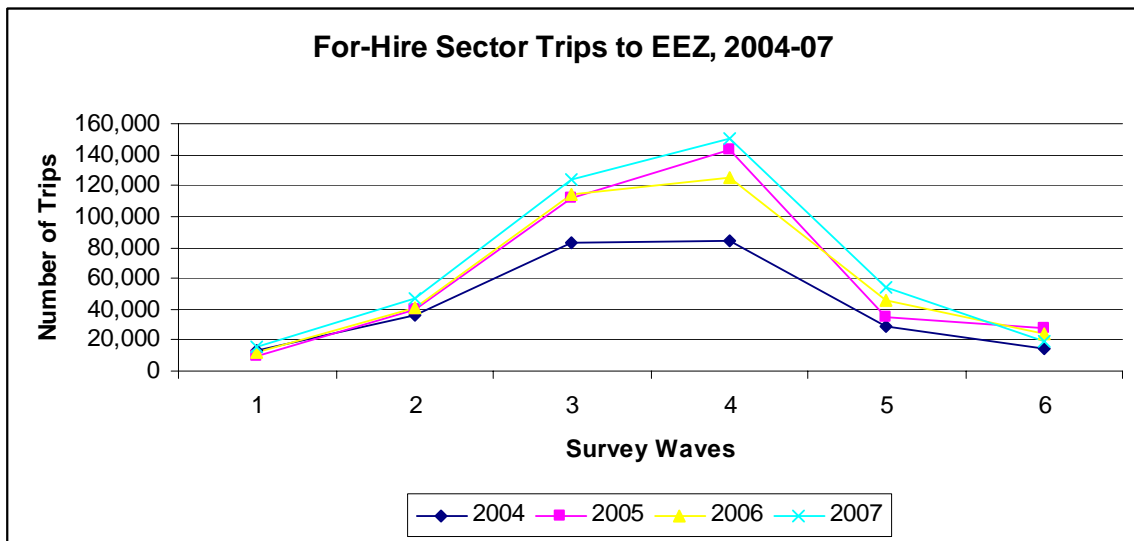


Figure 15. For-Hire Trips Made to the EEZ, 2004-07.

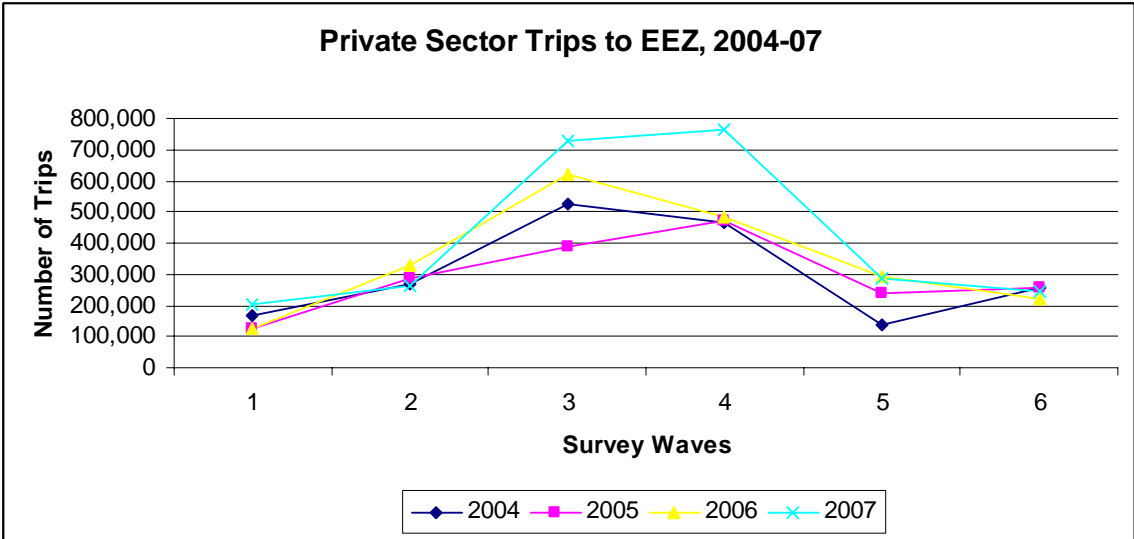


Figure 16. Private Recreational Trips Made to the EEZ, 2004-07.



## Appendix

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Trips landing SG species</b>	<b>Total trips</b>
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

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

<b>State</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number Trips</b>
East Florida	2000	278,989
East Florida	2001	250,508
East Florida	2002	216,451
East Florida	2003	186,678
East Florida	2004	198,004
East Florida	2005	200,910
East Florida	2006	173,465
East Florida	2007	177,725
Georgia	2000	5,688
Georgia	2001	6,453
Georgia	2002	8,609
Georgia	2003	12,190
Georgia	2004	18,511
Georgia	2005	25,081
Georgia	2006	28,003
Georgia	2007	26,302
South Carolina	2000	42,299
South Carolina	2001	38,434
South Carolina	2002	31,948
South Carolina	2003	39,290
South Carolina	2004	39,279
South Carolina	2005	71,530
South Carolina	2006	60,997
South Carolina	2007	132,449
North Carolina	2000	193,056
North Carolina	2001	201,731
North Carolina	2002	183,262
North Carolina	2003	173,573
North Carolina	2004	178,335
North Carolina	2005	303,804
North Carolina	2006	289,915
North Carolina	2007	286,122

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

<b>State</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number Trips</b>
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, 2000-08.

<b>Wave and Year</b>	<b>Private Trips</b>	<b>For-Hire Trips</b>	<b>Total Rec Trips (for-hire and private)</b>
<b>2000</b>			
Jan/Feb	633,163	44,076	<b>677,239</b>
March/April	795,919	56,151	<b>852,070</b>
May/June	1,037,893	52,821	<b>1,090,714</b>
July/Aug	1,614,391	36,911	<b>1,651,302</b>
Sept/Oct	832,559	36,288	<b>868,847</b>
Nov/Dec	838,764	52,742	<b>891,506</b>
<b>TOTAL 2000</b>	<b>5,752,689</b>	<b>278,989</b>	<b>6,031,678</b>
<b>2001</b>			
Jan/Feb	936,035	42,867	<b>978,902</b>
March/April	1,236,830	42,822	<b>1,279,652</b>
May/June	1,271,949	47,997	<b>1,319,946</b>
July/Aug	1,124,405	36,193	<b>1,160,598</b>
Sept/Oct	619,359	29,199	<b>648,558</b>
Nov/Dec	805,547	51,429	<b>856,976</b>
<b>TOTAL 2001</b>	<b>5,994,125</b>	<b>250,507</b>	<b>6,244,632</b>
<b>2002</b>			
Jan/Feb	1,099,338	43,462	<b>1,142,800</b>
March/April	736,021	35,961	<b>771,982</b>
May/June	1,104,086	43,728	<b>1,147,814</b>
July/Aug	949,703	33,286	<b>982,989</b>
Sept/Oct	653,044	23,676	<b>676,720</b>
Nov/Dec	887,536	36,339	<b>923,875</b>
<b>TOTAL 2002</b>	<b>5,429,728</b>	<b>216,452</b>	<b>5,646,180</b>
<b>2003</b>			
Jan/Feb	861,290	41,829	<b>903,119</b>
March/April	1,105,745	56,391	<b>1,162,136</b>
May/June	1,235,679	25,610	<b>1,261,289</b>
July/Aug	1,253,417	23,934	<b>1,277,351</b>
Sept/Oct	961,184	11,545	<b>972,729</b>
Nov/Dec	794,751	27,370	<b>822,121</b>
<b>TOTAL 2003</b>	<b>6,212,066</b>	<b>186,679</b>	<b>6,398,745</b>
<b>2004</b>			
Jan/Feb	809,328	32,523	<b>841,851</b>
March/April	1,056,576	36,376	<b>1,092,952</b>
May/June	1,113,565	52,930	<b>1,166,495</b>
July/Aug	1,041,905	40,197	<b>1,082,102</b>
Sept/Oct	652,887	10,256	<b>663,143</b>
Nov/Dec	639,105	25,722	<b>664,827</b>
<b>TOTAL 2004</b>	<b>5,313,366</b>	<b>198,004</b>	<b>5,511,370</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Jan/Feb	768,535	34,827	<b>803,362</b>
March/April	1,147,134	44,702	<b>1,191,836</b>
May/June	1,014,775	47,487	<b>1,062,262</b>
July/Aug	1,042,797	35,256	<b>1,078,053</b>
Sept/Oct	1,115,816	11,322	<b>1,127,138</b>

Nov/Dec	1,141,270	27,315	1,168,585
<b>TOTAL 2005</b>	<b>6,230,327</b>	<b>200,909</b>	<b>6,431,236</b>
<b>2006</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL 2006</b>	<b>6,502,929</b>	<b>173,465</b>	<b>6,676,394</b>
<b>2007</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL 2007</b>	<b>8,317,490</b>	<b>177,725</b>	<b>8,495,215</b>
<b>2008</b>			
Jan/Feb	1,141,441	30,804	1,172,245

**Table 5.** Bi-Monthly Number of Trips for the North Carolina, 2000-08.

<b>Wave and Year</b>	<b>Private Trips</b>	<b>For-Hire Trips</b>	<b>Total Rec Trips (for-hire and private)</b>
<b>2000</b>			
Jan/Feb			
March/April	104,367	23,180	127,547
May/June	556,475	57,016	613,491
July/Aug	830,125	70,034	900,159
Sept/Oct	487,381	25,826	513,207
Nov/Dec	245,694	17,000	262,694
<b>TOTAL 2000</b>	<b>2,224,042</b>	<b>193,056</b>	<b>2,417,098</b>
<b>2001</b>			
Jan/Feb			
March/April	125,816	30,231	156,047
May/June	484,028	54,391	538,419
July/Aug	625,069	78,456	703,525
Sept/Oct	674,873	26,685	701,558
Nov/Dec	259,139	11,968	271,107
<b>TOTAL 2001</b>	<b>2,168,925</b>	<b>201,731</b>	<b>2,370,656</b>
<b>2002</b>			
Jan/Feb			
March/April	99,378	14,630	114,008
May/June	552,871	57,408	610,279
July/Aug	355,097	68,824	423,921
Sept/Oct	571,526	28,083	599,609
Nov/Dec	362,008	14,318	376,326
<b>TOTAL 2002</b>	<b>1,940,880</b>	<b>183,263</b>	<b>2,124,143</b>

<b>2003</b>			
Jan/Feb			
March/April	201,231	10,584	<b>211,815</b>
May/June	529,580	59,354	<b>588,934</b>
July/Aug	649,462	59,191	<b>708,653</b>
Sept/Oct	542,440	30,596	<b>573,036</b>
Nov/Dec	257,974	13,846	<b>271,820</b>
<b>TOTAL 2003</b>	<b>2,180,687</b>	<b>173,571</b>	<b>2,354,258</b>
<b>2004</b>			
Jan/Feb	164,559	2,028	<b>166,587</b>
March/April	265,723	12,984	<b>278,707</b>
May/June	613,126	60,049	<b>673,175</b>
July/Aug	472,154	62,323	<b>534,477</b>
Sept/Oct	591,087	28,296	<b>619,383</b>
Nov/Dec	436,176	12,655	<b>448,831</b>
<b>TOTAL 2004</b>	<b>2,542,825</b>	<b>178,335</b>	<b>2,721,160</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Jan/Feb	114,597	3,446	<b>118,043</b>
March/April	146,197	19,720	<b>165,917</b>
May/June	513,351	103,382	<b>616,733</b>
July/Aug	722,164	134,487	<b>856,651</b>
Sept/Oct	538,722	29,302	<b>568,024</b>
Nov/Dec	318,538	13,467	<b>332,005</b>
<b>TOTAL 2005</b>	<b>2,353,569</b>	<b>303,804</b>	<b>2,657,373</b>
<b>2006</b>			
Jan/Feb	166,948	5,217	<b>172,165</b>
March/April	162,487	13,234	<b>175,721</b>
May/June	701,445	92,800	<b>794,245</b>
July/Aug	736,589	108,348	<b>844,937</b>
Sept/Oct	541,922	53,342	<b>595,264</b>
Nov/Dec	346,765	16,974	<b>363,739</b>
<b>TOTAL 2006</b>	<b>2,656,156</b>	<b>289,915</b>	<b>2,946,071</b>
<b>2007</b>			
Jan/Feb	118,457	4,316	<b>122,773</b>
March/April	127,737	20,102	<b>147,839</b>
May/June	594,080	85,969	<b>680,049</b>
July/Aug	931,994	123,031	<b>1,055,025</b>
Sept/Oct	637,243	42,468	<b>679,711</b>
Nov/Dec	374,004	10,237	<b>384,241</b>
<b>TOTAL 2007</b>	<b>2,783,515</b>	<b>286,123</b>	<b>3,069,638</b>
<b>2008</b>			
Jan/Feb	158,035	3,009	<b>161,044</b>

**Table 6.** Annual Number of Trips Taken to the EEZ, 2004-07.

<b>For-hire</b>					
<b>Wave</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jan/Feb	12,772	10,094	11,915	15,634	
March/April	35,494	40,022	41,086	46,343	
May/June	82,651	111,914	114,254	124,269	
July/Aug	83,950	143,466	125,005	150,551	
Sept/Oct	29,060	34,445	46,196	53,650	
Nov/Dec	14,841	27,555	23,488	18,955	
<b>Private</b>					
<b>Wave</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jan/Feb	164,604	123,704	126,777	202,260	
March/April	268,155	288,038	330,492	264,206	
May/June	524,760	386,240	619,015	730,686	
July/Aug	464,241	471,147	482,134	761,521	
Sept/Oct	136,048	236,412	295,252	284,815	
Nov/Dec	254,270	256,557	222,872	244,362	
<b>Total Recreational Trips Taken to the EEZ</b>	<b>2,070,846</b>	<b>2,129,594</b>	<b>2,438,486</b>	<b>2,897,252</b>	

**Table 8.** Bi-Monthly For-Hire, Private, and Total Trips Taken to the EEZ, 2004-07.

<b>Wave</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Jan/Feb	For-Hire	12,772	10,094	11,915	15,634
Jan/Feb	Private	164,604	123,704	126,777	202,260
<b>Jan/Feb</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>177,376</b>	<b>133,798</b>	<b>138,692</b>	<b>217,894</b>
March/April	For-Hire	35,494	40,022	41,086	46,343
March/April	Private	268,155	288,038	330,492	264,206
<b>March/April</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>303,649</b>	<b>328,060</b>	<b>371,578</b>	<b>310,549</b>
May/June	For-Hire	82,651	111,914	114,254	124,269
May/June	Private	524,760	386,240	619,015	730,686
<b>May/June</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>607,411</b>	<b>498,154</b>	<b>733,269</b>	<b>854,955</b>
July/Aug	For-Hire	83,950	143,466	125,005	150,551
July/Aug	Private	464,241	471,147	482,134	761,521
<b>July/Aug</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>548,191</b>	<b>614,613</b>	<b>607,139</b>	<b>912,072</b>
Sept/Oct	For-Hire	29,060	34,445	46,196	53,650
Sept/Oct	Private	136,048	236,412	295,252	284,815
<b>Sept/Oct</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165,108</b>	<b>270,857</b>	<b>341,448</b>	<b>338,465</b>
Nov/Dec	For-Hire	14,841	27,555	23,488	18,955
Nov/Dec	Private	254,270	256,557	222,872	244,362
<b>Nov/Dec</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>269,111</b>	<b>284,112</b>	<b>246,360</b>	<b>263,317</b>