

SAFMC Staff Report

December 2025

Best Fishing Practices (BFP)

- BFP and Citizen Science staff conducted tackle shop outreach throughout the Georgia coast, sharing information on descending devices, SAFMC Release, and the upcoming Georgia meetings for Lines of Communication.
- For the third consecutive year, BFP and Citizen Science staff were invited to present to the Seacoast Anglers fishing club in Little River, SC. Staff engaged with over 40 members of the club and Sea Grant provided descending devices for the club to distribute.
- The BFP Outreach Specialist supported a citizen science content creation trip offshore out of Charleston, SC. Best fishing practices were captured through photographs and a professional videography company (see additional details in the Citizen Science section of this report).
- BFP staff continue to participate in collaboration meetings with the Descending Device Core Team which consists of partners from FWC, Return 'Em Right, SCDNR, NCDMF, Gulf Council, and The Nature Conservancy.
- Planning for 2026 outreach initiatives is underway, including participation in the Haddrell's Tackle Fishing Expo in Mt. Pleasant, SC in January.

Sea Grant Reef Fish Fellowship

- The South Atlantic Sea Grant Team recently hired the fourth (and final) Reef Fish Extension and Communication Fellow, Ryan McMullen. Ryan will be continuing the extension project which focuses on outreach and communication relative to best fishing practices. He'll also be assisting SC Sea Grant with outreach related to the South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program (SARSRP) including educational videos and a public webinar series.

“What It Means to Me”

The BFP OS and Digital Media and Communications Specialist continue releasing videos for the ‘What It Means to Me’ series. A sixth video featuring Haley Stephens of the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel was posted this morning and can be found [HERE](#). If you would like to watch any of our previous videos, you can find them [HERE](#).

Website and Digital Communications Updates

- Commenced planning for SAFMC 50th Anniversary.
- Completed developing a logo for the MSA/RFCMs 50th Anniversary and working on incorporating suggestions with a sub-contractor.
- Working on a multi-organizational team to coordinate outreach for ongoing SSMZ research including a seminar series session conducted on Nov. 12th.

- Helped plan and attended GA Lines of Communication meetings.
- Website development and design:
 - Published [Regulations FAQ Page](#)
 - Continued general website maintenance, posting meetings, pages, amendments, news, and more.
 - Continued public comment upkeep.
 - Continued social media management.
 - Continued FishRules updates and management including routine regulation review.
 - Continued design work to support Council initiatives.

Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) Southeast

The Workshop scheduled for November 17-21, 2025, in St. Petersburg, FL was postponed due to the government shutdown and has been rescheduled for March 9-13, 2026. The MREP Southeast Steering Committee will meet in San Juan, PR on January 13-14, 2026. Christina Wiegand will take over for Kim Iverson as a member of the Southeast Steering Committee and the Southeast Plan Team.

Resilient Fisheries Update

Resilient Fisheries Initiative and Projects support the development of more nimble and adaptive fisheries management processes and advice in the Southeast region by reviewing available information, identifying impactful change, and supporting the Council's implementation. Please click [here](#) for the most recent update on the three ongoing projects. A presentation on the Management Program Review is scheduled to be delivered to the Council on December 9, 2025.