

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

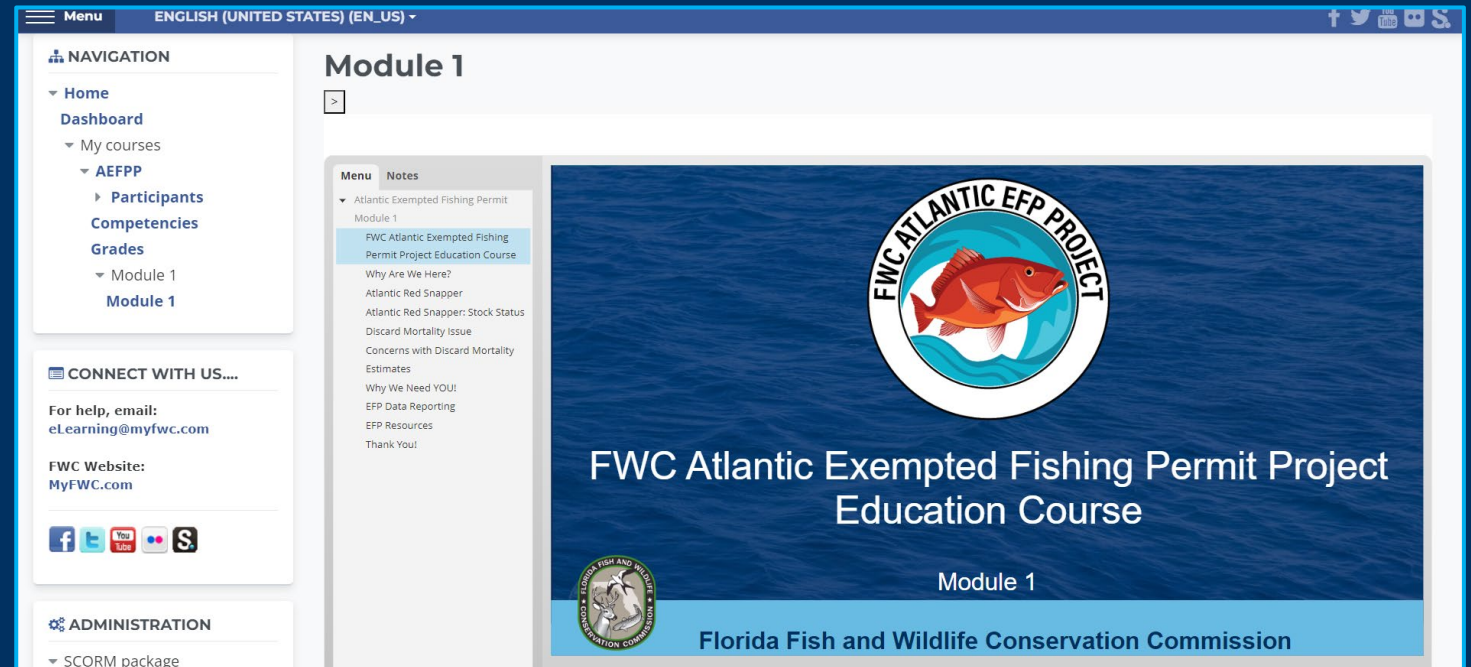


Proposal Components



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 professional, with a dark header bar containing the FWC logo and navigation links: 'My Trips', 'Submit Trip Declaration', and 'Logout'. The main content area is titled 'Trip Declaration' and contains several form sections. The first section asks 'Have you coordinated with a FWC biologist?' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No'. The 'Trip Information' section includes a text input for 'Vessel Registration Number or For Hire Charter/Head boat name'. The 'Departure Information' section features a light blue instruction box: 'Please provide either a boat ramp location or an address. Only one of these is required.' Below this are two tabs: 'Boat Ramp' (active) and 'Address Details'. The 'Boat Ramp' tab contains a text input for 'Boat Ramp Name'. At the bottom of this section are two date/time pickers: 'Date Of Intended Trip Departure' (set to 07/31/2024) and 'Approximate Departure Time' (set to 12:00 AM). The 'Return Information' section at the bottom has 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 the username '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

Private
recreational

For-hire
(charter or
headboat)

Commercial

Other (please
briefly
describe)



Validation

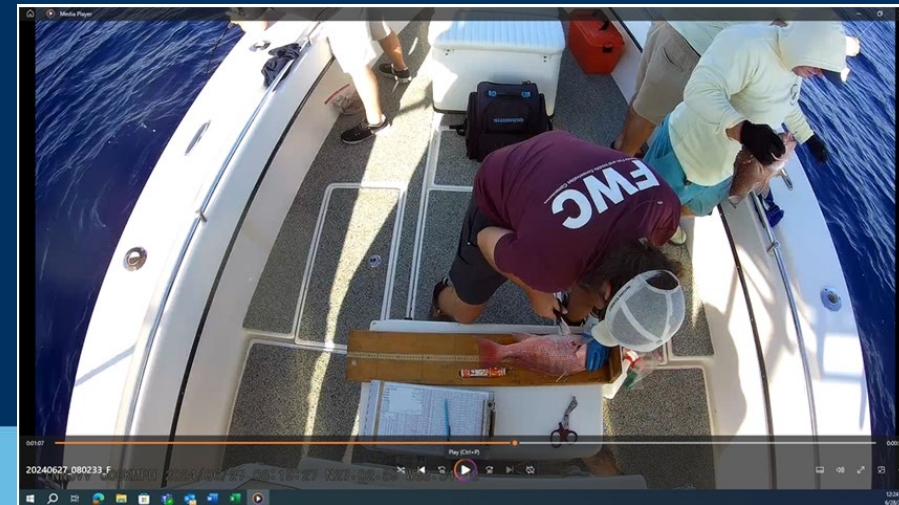


Dockside Interviews

- 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



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?

