



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

**Southeast
Region**

State Management of Federal Fisheries:

Key authorities, roles, and considerations for program design and implementation



Presentation to South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
September 16, 2025

Legislative Authority

- Magnuson-Stevens Act
 - State registered vessel *and*
 - No federal FMP or regulations *or*
 - State laws and regulations are consistent with federal FMP or regulations
 - Delegated in federal FMP and state laws *and* regulations are consistent with FMP (requires $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote)
- Atlantic Coastal Act
 - Coastal, interstate-transboundary stocks

Gulf Red Snapper Delegation: How It Works

- Gulf Council
 - Sets management goals and objectives in FMP
 - Sets allocation and catch levels consistent with SSC's fishing level recommendations
 - Manages for-hire vessels, commercial sector
- States
 - Manage private angler harvest (state and federal waters) relative to state-specific catch limits
 - Must set season, bag limit, and minimum size limit (14"-18")
 - Must monitor catches, account for overages
 - May request closure of federal waters adjacent to state waters
- NMFS
 - Conducts stock assessments
 - Sets for-hire season; administers IFQ program
 - Implements paybacks as appropriate
 - Ensures consistency with FMP

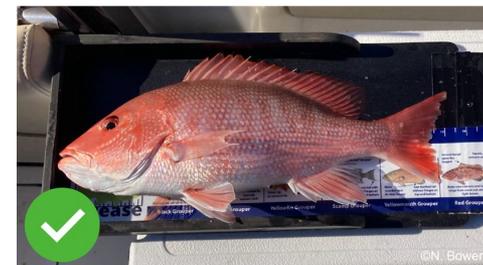
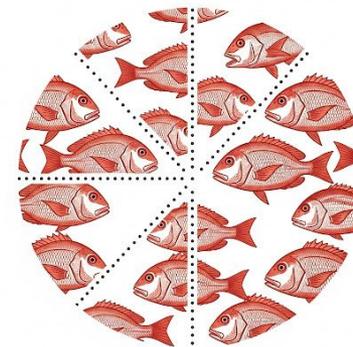
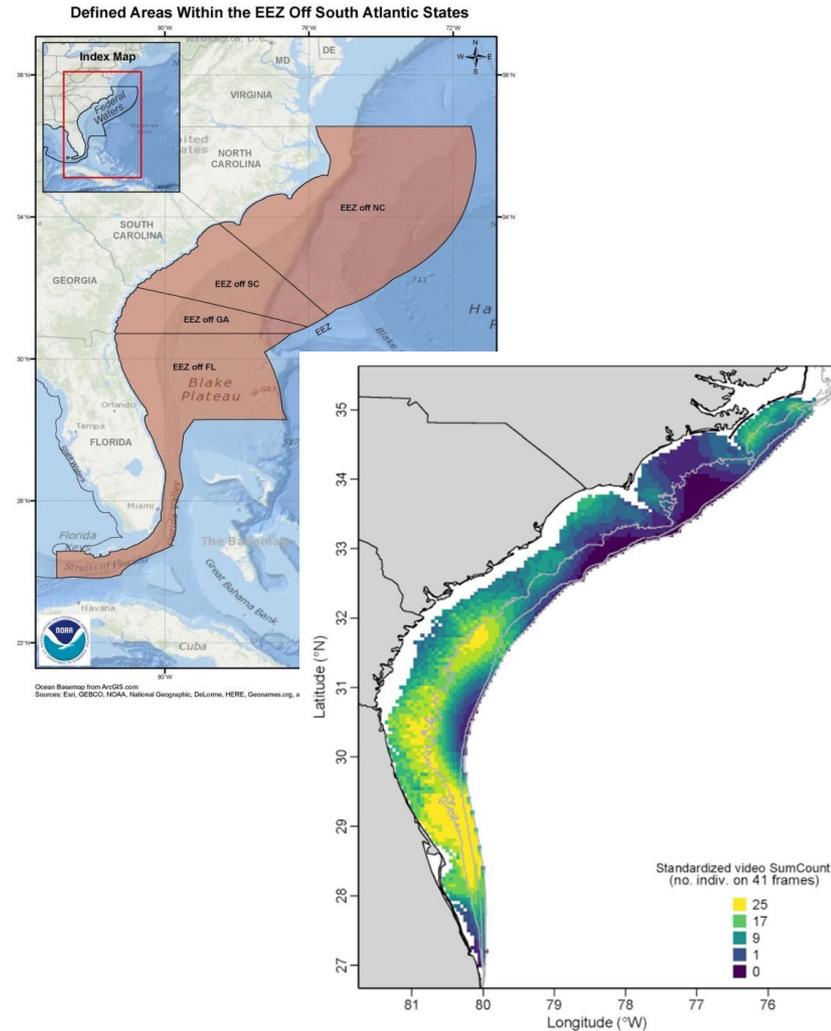


Photo Credit: gulfseagrant.org



Key Design Considerations

- Geographic regionalization -- states vs regions
- Who to include -- private and for-hire vs private only
- How to allocate catch among states or regions
- Monitoring program -- state (SRFS, new survey) vs federal (MRIP); calibration
- Accountability measures

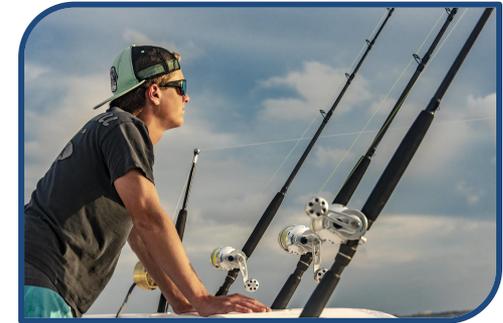


Predicted video SumCounts of red snapper from the Southeast Reef Fish Survey, 2018-2023. Source: Bachelor 2024

State Management in the South Atlantic: Potential Benefits and Challenges

Benefits

- Flexibility to tailor management to local needs



Challenges

- Integration of new state surveys into assessment
- Small catch level, discards

Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing Survey

This survey should be completed by FIRST NAME LASTNAME only.
Return this form even if you don't participate in saltwater recreational fishing.

▼ START HERE

For the purpose of this questionnaire:

- A **private boat** is defined as any boat that did not have a paid professional captain and/or crew used for recreational fishing. *Do not report any trips taken from a paid charter or large party boat.*
- Please report only those trips where the boat launched from Florida and recreational fishing occurred in saltwater regardless if fish were caught.
- Use only a blue or black ink pen to "X" the boxes.
- Make solid marks inside the response boxes.
- Do not make other marks on the survey.

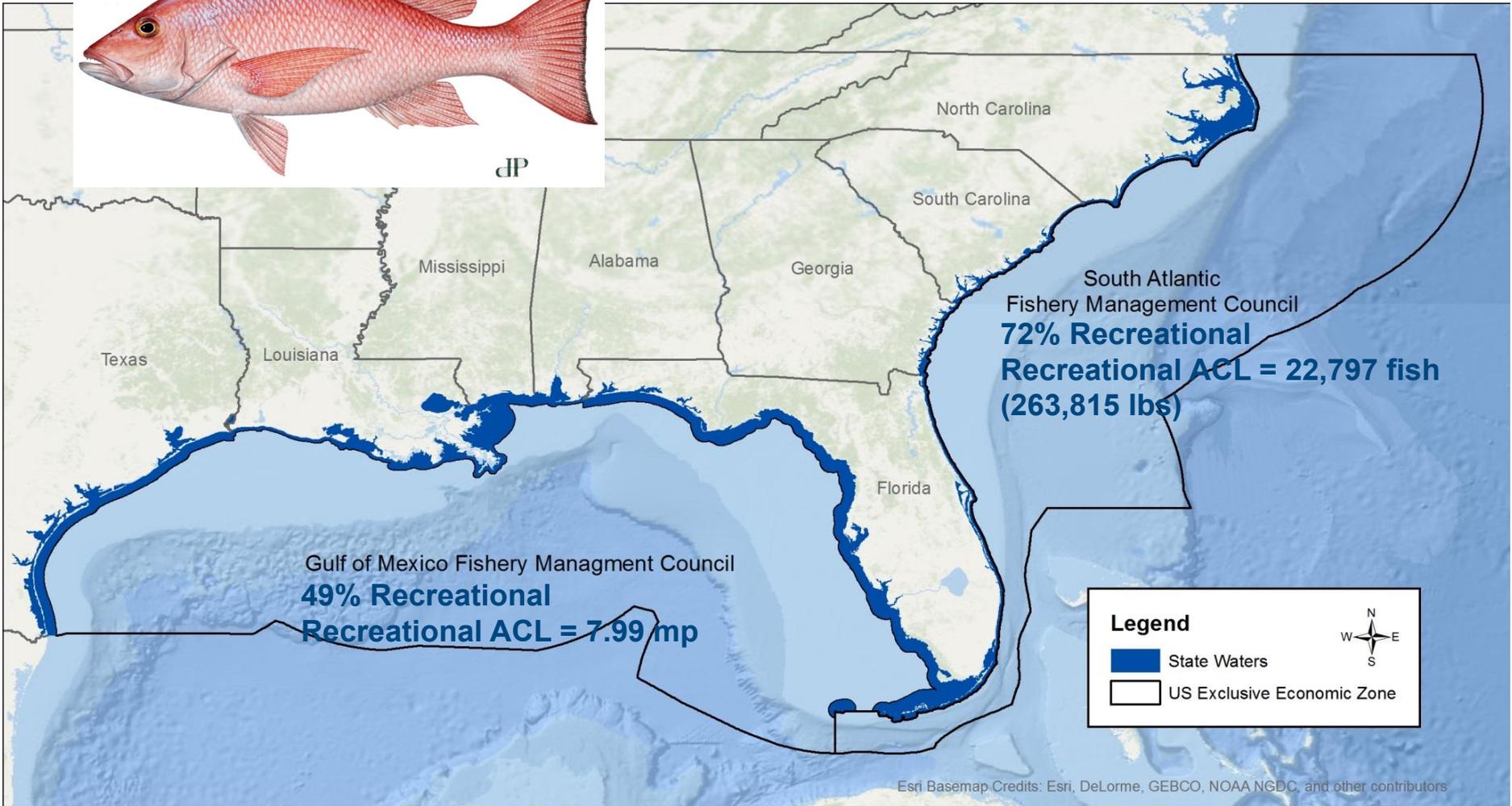
Q1. During the month of JULY, did you personally participate in a recreational fishing trip on a private boat that launched from Florida? (Check the box that corresponds to your answer)

- NO, I DID NOT FISH → THANK YOU - That is all the information we need. Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.
 YES, I FISHED (Continue to Q2.)
 NOT SURE, DO NOT RECALL

Q2. On the JULY calendar below, please "X" the box for each date that you personally participated in a recreational fishing trip on a private boat that launched from Florida.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Source: myfwc.com



Use of Experimental Fishing Permits to Pilot New Programs

- Purpose
 - Gulf states requested EFPs to demonstrate effectiveness of state management and data collection through 2-year pilots
- Process
 - EFP application, FR notice, Council review
- Schedule
 - Dependent on Council meeting schedule, complexity, and controversy level

Questions?



Credit: Florida Sea Grant