



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL




King and Spanish Mackerel Port Meetings Update

June 2024



Where we’ve been and where we’re going:

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is hosting a series of port meetings along the Atlantic coast to take a focused look at the commercial and recreational king and Spanish mackerel fisheries. Input gathered during these port meetings will directly affect future management efforts for king and Spanish mackerel!

North Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wilmington• Morehead City• Hatteras• Manteo		South Carolina and Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Darien• Pooler• Charleston• Murrells Inlet	July-August
New England	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connecticut• Rhode Island• Massachusetts		Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fort Lauderdale• Stuart• Cape Canaveral• Saint Augustine	October
New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Riverhead (Long Island)• With the MAFMC meeting.		Mid-Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virginia Beach, Virginia• TBD (Inner Chesapeake)• Ocean City, Maryland• Toms River, New Jersey	November

Outreach and Information

How do you envision the future of the king and Spanish mackerel fisheries?

Join the conversation at a port meeting near you!

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is hosting a series of port meetings along the Atlantic coast in order to take a focused look at the commercial and recreational king and Spanish mackerel fisheries. Input gathered during these port meetings will directly affect future management efforts for king and Spanish mackerel.



North Carolina Mackerel Port Meetings

**April 1st
Wilmington**

North Carolina Division of
Marine Fisheries
Southern District Office

127 Cardinal Drive Extension
Wilmington, NC 28405

6:00PM to 8:00PM

**April 2nd
Morehead City**

North Carolina Division of
Marine Fisheries
Central District Office

5285 Highway 70 West
Morehead City, NC 28557

6:00PM to 8:00PM

**April 3rd
Hatteras**

Hatteras Village
Civic Center

56658 North Carolina Hw 12
Hatteras, NC 27943

6:00PM to 8:00PM

**April 4th
Manteo**

Dare County
Administrative Building
BOC Room

954 Marshall C. Collins Dr.
Manteo, NC 27954

6:00PM to 8:00PM

Scan for more
information and
to register!



Coastal Migratory Pelagics

King mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and Gulf cobia are managed jointly by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council via the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region.

The Gulf Council and South Atlantic Council must agree on major management decisions before they may move forward. Additionally, Mid-Atlantic Council liaisons serve on the South Atlantic Council's Mackerel Cobia Committee to provide insight from that region.



Migratory Groups



The management unit for king and Spanish mackerel extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the New York/Connecticut/Rhode Island line. Both king and Spanish mackerel are managed as separate stocks: a Gulf migratory stock and an Atlantic migratory stock.

Furthermore, the Atlantic migratory groups are broken up into two separate management zones. The Northern Zone runs from the New/Connecticut/Rhode Island line to the North Carolina/South Carolina line. The Southern Zone runs from the North Carolina/South Carolina line to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line, Florida.



King Mackerel Regulations



Management History



Spanish Mackerel Regulations

THE COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL IN NORTH CAROLINA



STOCK STATUS ATLANTIC KING MACKEREL

Most Recent Assessment
SEDAR 38 Update (2020)

Stock Status
Not overfished or undergoing overfishing.

2024/2025 Total Annual Catch Limit*

Total: 24,130,000 lbs.
Commercial: 8,952,230 lbs. (37.1%)
Northern Zone: 2,062,594 lbs. (23.04%)
Southern Zone: 6,889,636 lbs. (76.96%)
Recreational: 15,177,770 lbs. (62.9%)

*SEDAR 38 Update included a decreasing yield stream, as a result the total annual catch limit for king mackerel changes each season. See Amendment 34 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan for more information.

STOCK STATUS ATLANTIC SPANISH MACKEREL

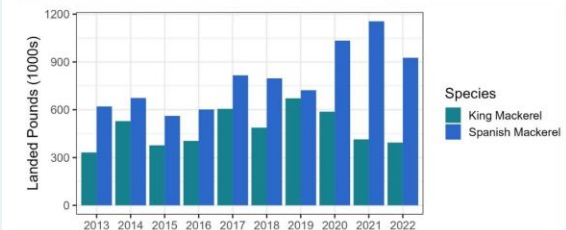
Most Recent Assessment
SEDAR 78 (2022)

Stock Status
Not overfished or undergoing overfishing.

2024/2025 Total Annual Catch Limit**

Total: 6,057,000 lbs.
Commercial: 3,330,000 lbs. (55%)
Northern Zone: 662,670 lbs. (20%)
Southern Zone: 2,667,330 lbs. (80%)
Recreational: 2,727,000 lbs. (45%)

**SEDAR 78 included revised recreational landings based on the newer Fishing Effort Survey method. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee proposed an Acceptable Biological Catch of 8,024,000 lbs. The South Atlantic Council will consider implementation of the results of SEDAR 78 after the port meetings.



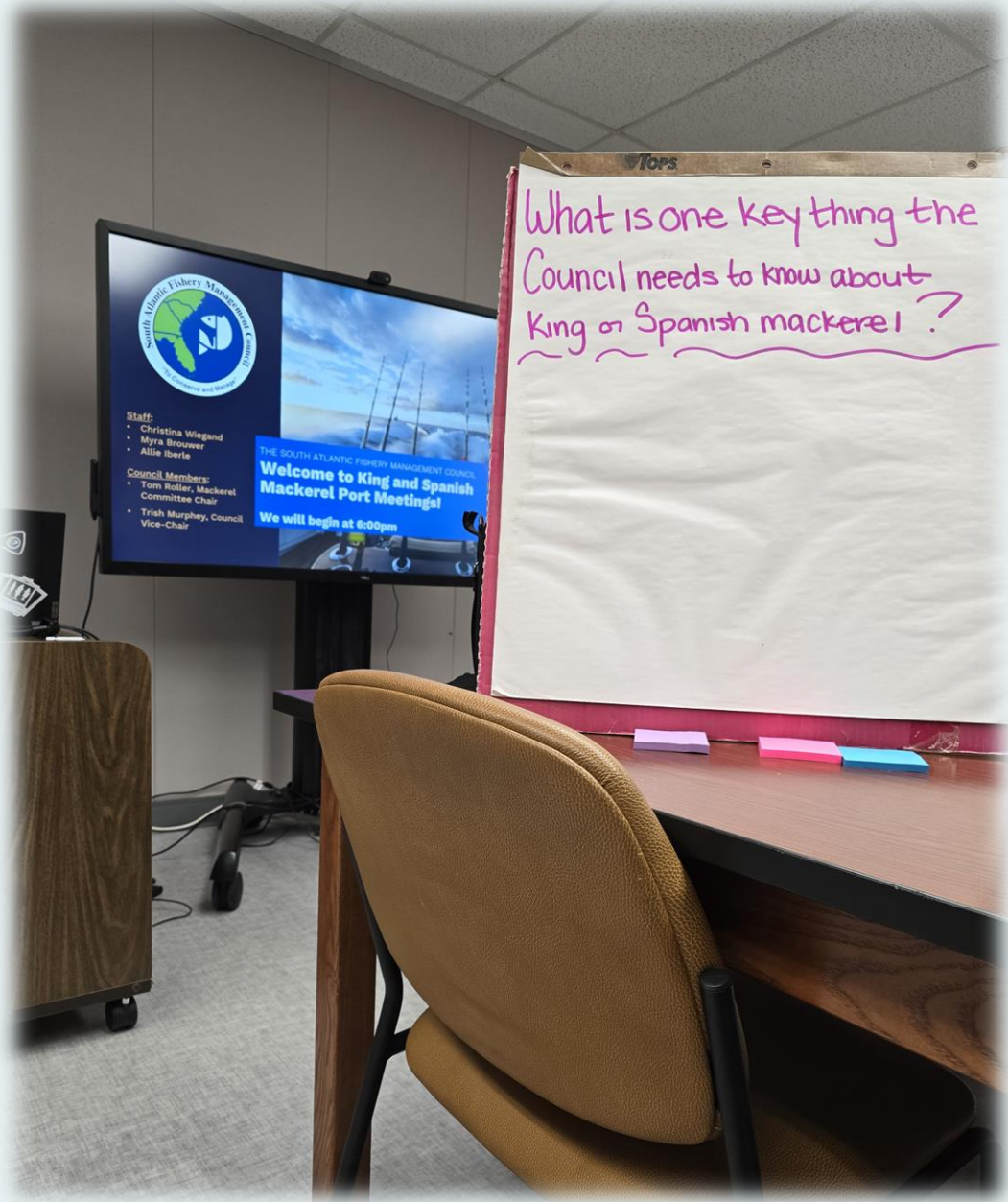
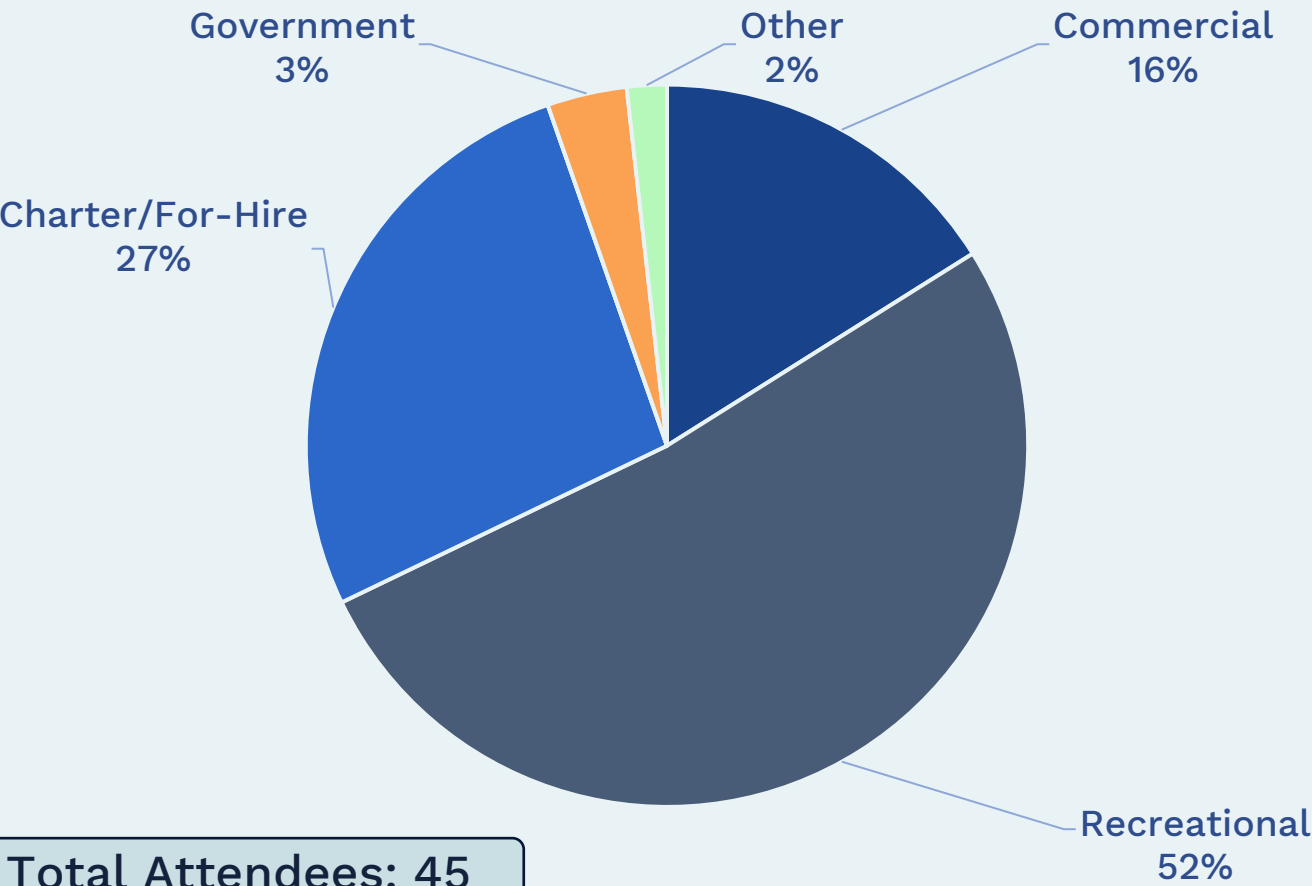
Commercial landings of Atlantic king mackerel and Atlantic Spanish mackerel in North Carolina from the 2013/2014 fishing season through the 2022/2023 fishing season.

Questions?

843-302-8437 christina.wiegand@safmc.net

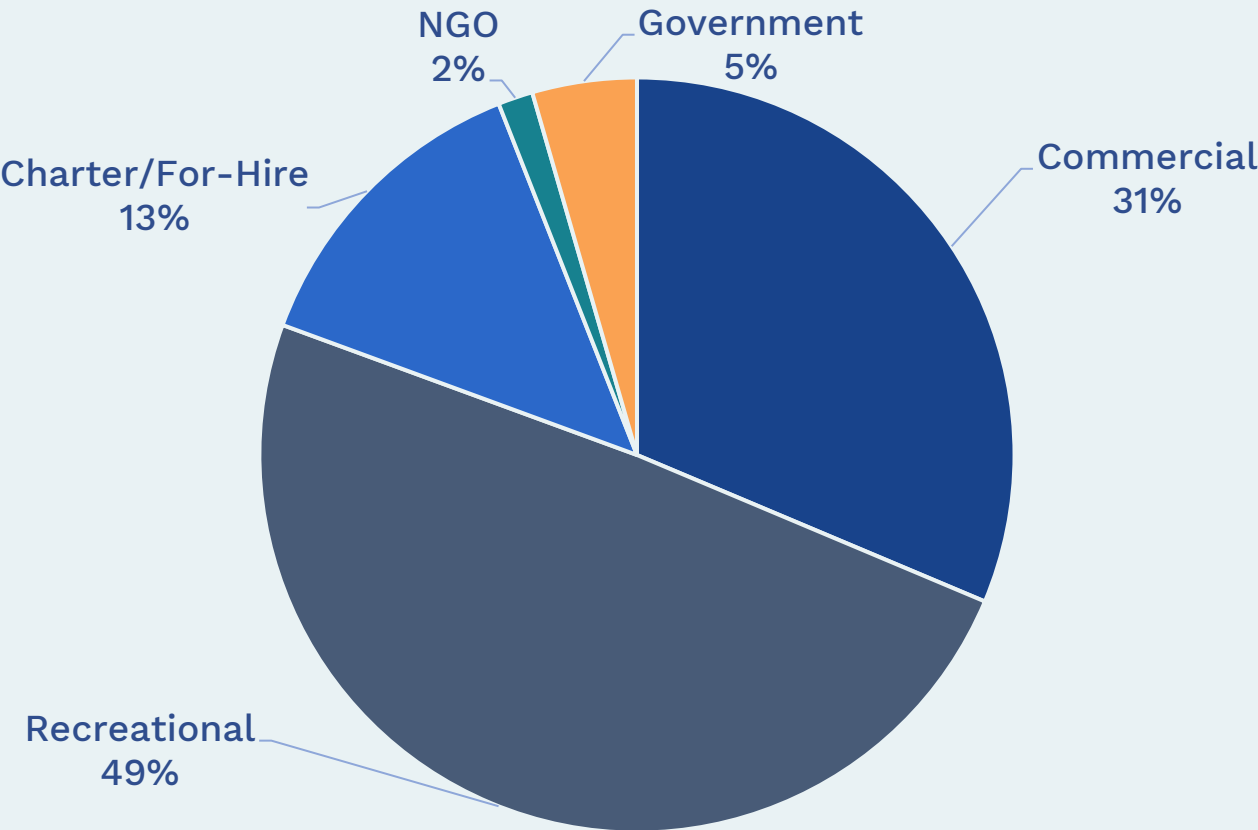


Wilmington
North Carolina





Morehead City
North Carolina

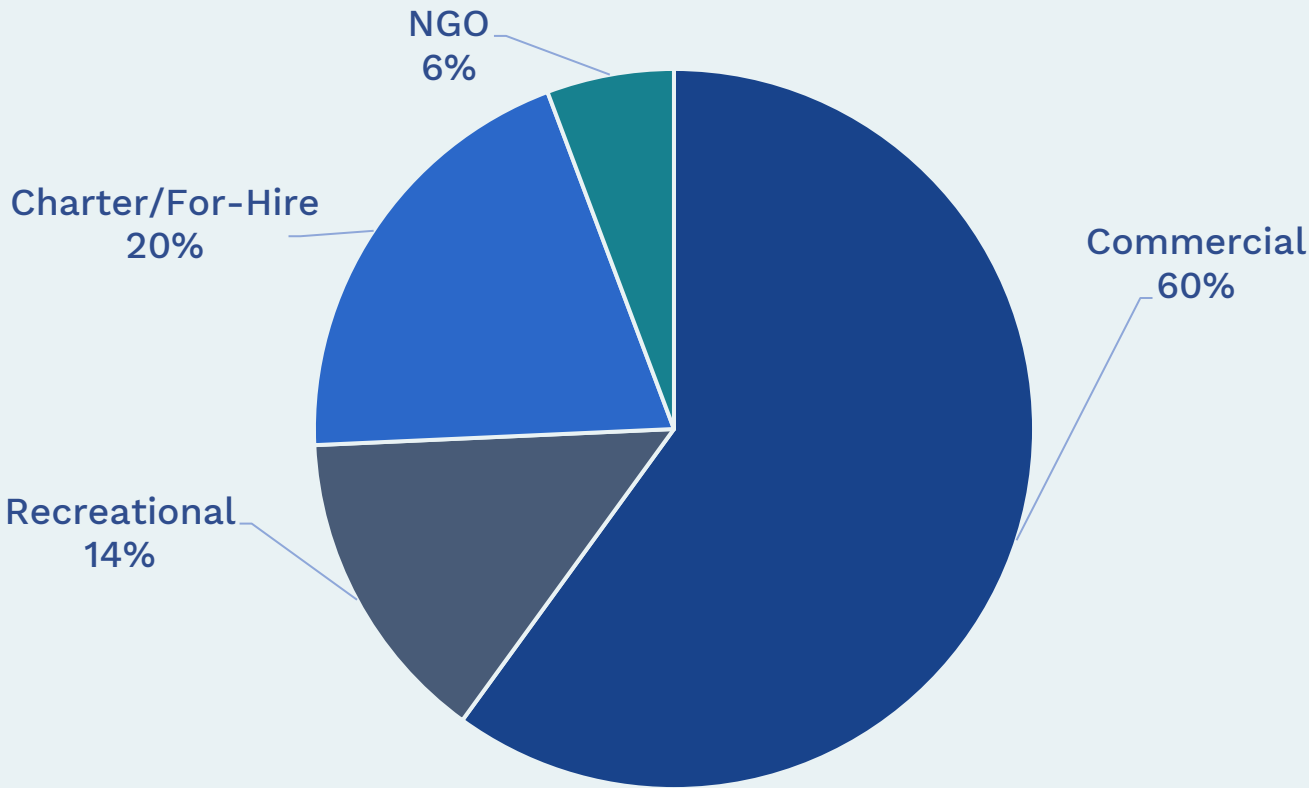


Total Attendees: 52





**Hatteras
North Carolina**

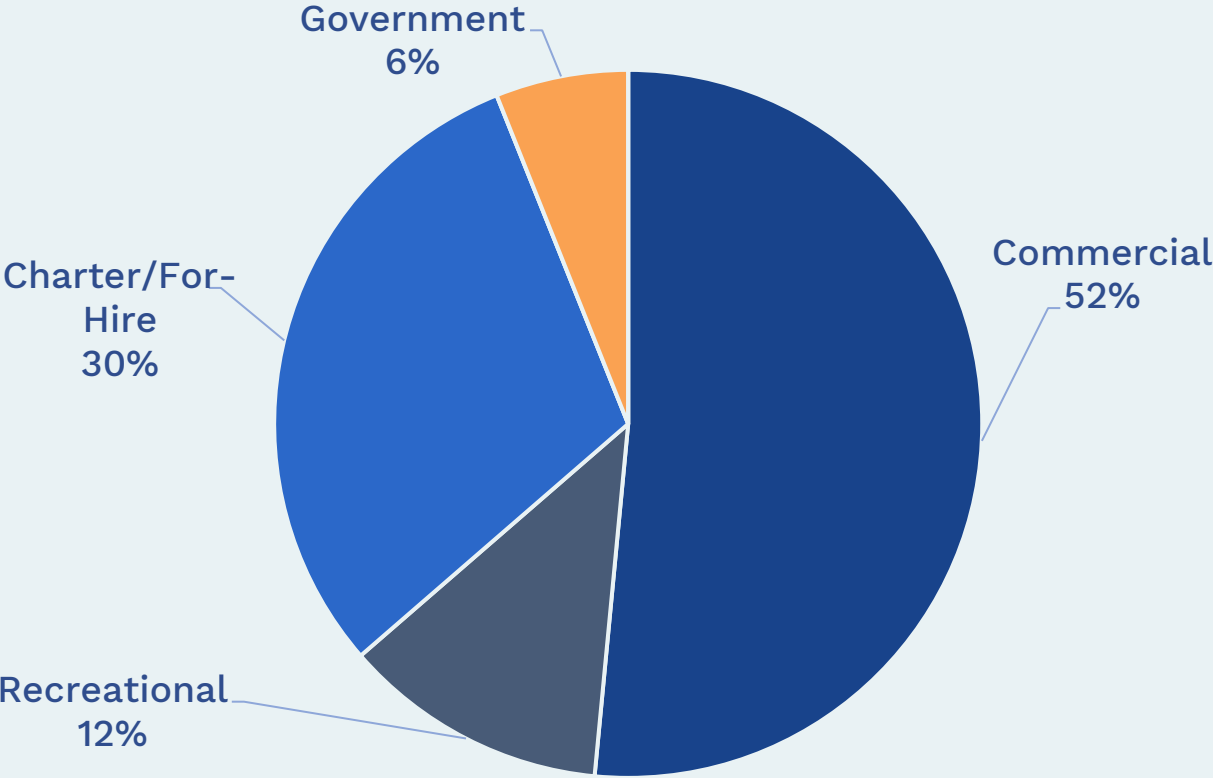


Total Attendees: 32





**Manteo
North Carolina**



Total Attendees: 29

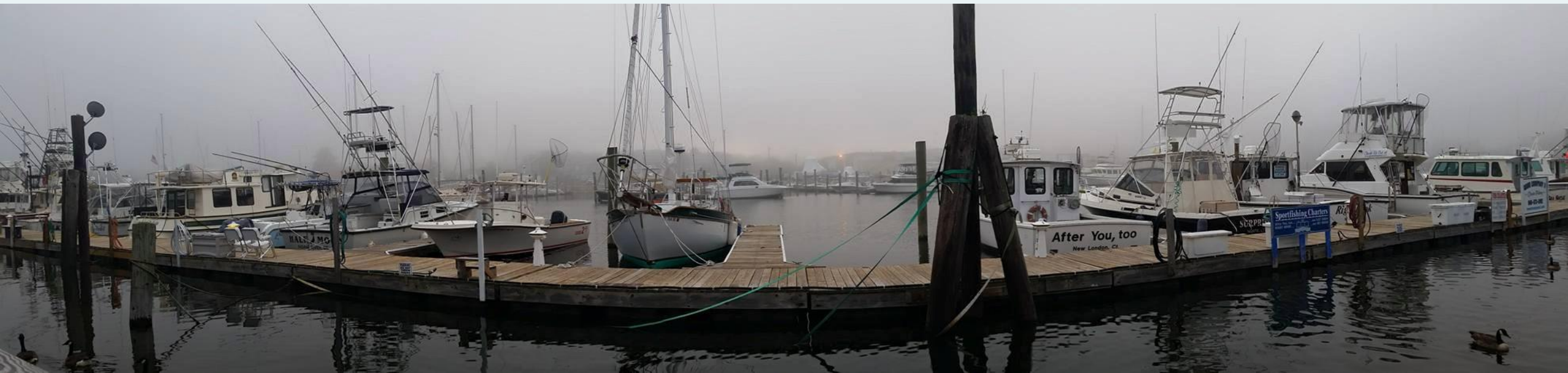


New England Webinars

Webinars held on three nights (May 14, 15, 16) at 6:00p.

Three total attendees that participate in the recreational sector in New England, especially the Massachusetts and Cape Cod areas.

Low attendance may reflect the comparatively low importance of king and Spanish mackerel at this time, but input received was extremely high quality.



Riverhead, New York



What we've learned:



Outreach before hand and the day of is key to increasing attendance!



Initial presentation needs to “set the stage” for the evening.



Staff should provide more different opportunities for additional input outside of breakout groups.



Questions?