

**Spend plan for FY23 \$1.8 million in reef fish funding
NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Science Center**

Mandate: *“NMFS shall follow prior year direction adopted by Public Law 117–103 regarding “South Atlantic Reef Fish,” and the agreement provides \$1,800,000 for this purpose. NOAA is directed to follow the guidance of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in identifying the best research and data collection necessary to better understand discard rates and mortality in the fishery. Further, the agreement supports full integration of the South Atlantic Great Red Snapper Count data into the next stock assessment so that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council can appropriately use this new abundance data when making management decisions regarding red snapper.”*

Key Actions	amount	partner
<p>Action 1 Recreational and for-hire fishery catch and discard characterization and estimation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Expand for-hire observer coverage ii. Provide biological information on released fish, epigenetics samples iii. Provide catch rate information iv. genetic or conventional tagging v. Improve spatial resolution of effort and catch information <p><i>Justification- this funding will directly address the total magnitude of recreational catch and discards. The tagging may allow for estimation of the magnitude of catch and discard mortality (e.g. the total impact of both catch and discards on the population). Improved spatial information will allow for more accurate determination of the distribution of catch and discards.</i></p>	\$500,000	States
<p>Pilot “study fleets” in private recreational, headboat or charter fleets.</p> <p><i>Justification: This will provide funding to support a call for proposals for different groups to develop pilot ‘study’ fleets that would implement different fishing strategies, collect critical information on catch, discards and effort and test different measures to reduce discards. These pilot fleets could be used to collect more precise data on fishing effort using electronic cell-phone based applications or other means to facilitate data collection.</i></p>	\$630,000	SERO

<p>Action 2. Descender devices, outreach and education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support for SAFMC Best fishing practices expansion and RELEASE projects, planned evaluation workshop to examine the effectiveness of outreach and education efforts 2. Support for RELEASE project to increase efforts to collect voluntary information from fishermen on descender usage, the size of released fish, and other data that are not obtained from existing monitoring programs. 3. Support for a regional Symposium on the ‘state of science’ regarding descenders and other release mortality reduction efforts. <p><i>Justification: this was a direct request from consultations with the SAFMC and will support the evaluation and implementation of best fishing practices to reduce discards in the reef fishery.</i></p>	<p>\$100,000</p>	<p>South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council</p>
<p>Action 3. Additional support for the SAFMC Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More explicit incorporation of conceptual and operational management objectives related to socioeconomics and recreational fishing 2. Explicit incorporation of SARSRP findings and SARSRP results into MSE when available. 3. Development and testing of empirical, rate-based and model-based management procedures that might become available as a result of the SARSRP. <p><i>Justification: This will contribute directly to testing a more explicit management link between SARSRP and reef fish management moving forward, allowing the findings of SARSRP to pay dividends well into the future.</i></p>	<p>\$300,000</p>	<p>South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council</p>
<p>Action 4. Incorporate SARSRP findings into the pending SEDAR Red Snapper stock assessment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. support for a dedicated scientist to focus on developing the modeling methods to incorporate SARSRP findings into the stock assessment and management advice framework. <p><i>Justification: Given that SARSRP will provide novel products such as a close-kin mark recapture estimate and a hierarchical model estimate of total abundance it is critical that new methodology be develop and tested to be able to seamlessly integrate these products into the existing stock assessment. This will provide support throughout the remaining lifespan of SARSRP and throughout the research track stock assessment.</i></p>	<p>\$220,000</p>	<p>NMFS-SEFSC</p>
<p>Action 5: Pre-assessment workshop of SARSRP and SEDAR participants to develop a process for incorporating the new data and information. to possibly include and be combined with a Center for Independent Experts review of SARSRP.</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>	<p>South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council</p>

<i>Justification: This was a direct request from consultations with the SAFMC and will allow for SARSRP participants to contribute to the SEDAR process and allow time for presentation of the CIE review.</i>		
TOTAL	\$1,800,000	