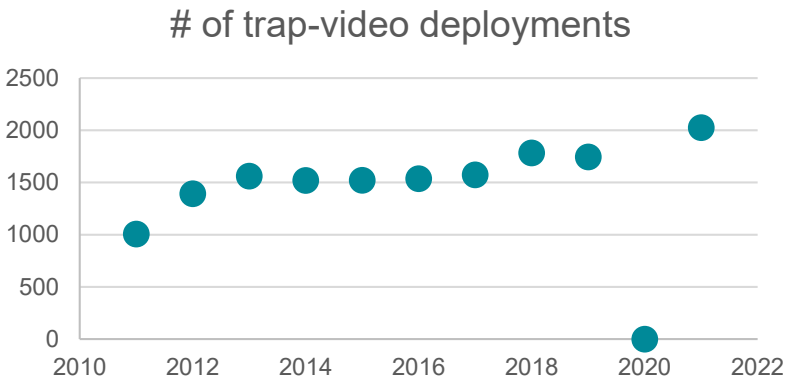
Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS)
2021 Annual Report

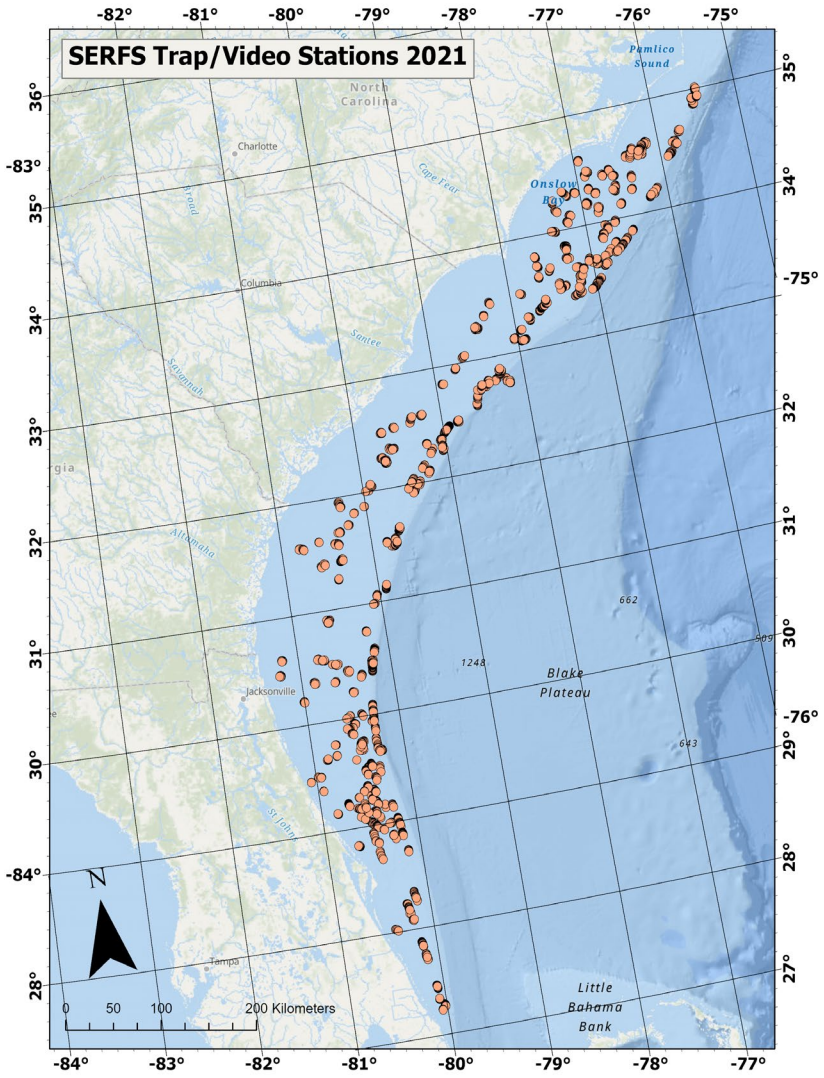
SERFS is comprised of three groups that work together to sample reef fishes using traps and video between NC and FL:

1. Southeast Fishery-Independent Survey (NMFS; Beaufort, NC)
2. Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction program (SCDNR; Charleston, SC)
3. Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program – South Atlantic (SCDNR; Charleston, SC)

2021 sampling by SERFS

- 2,025 traps deployed
  - 1,177 by SEFIS
  - 848 by MARMAP
- 14% more than any previous year (next highest: 1,784 traps were deployed in 2018)
- Reason: some sea days were carried over from 2020 when no regular monitoring occurred due to covid-19





Most frequently caught species in 2021
(top 15 shown of 70 total taxa caught)

Taxa	SEFIS	MARMAP	Total
Haemulon aurolineatum	9066	9252	18318
Centropristis striata	2740	843	3583
Rhomboplites aurorubens	1661	1919	3580
Lutjanus campechanus	1507	462	1969
Stenotomus sp.	1463	371	1834
Haemulon plumierii	331	583	914
Balistes capriscus	516	374	890
Pagrus pagrus	232	620	852
Diplectrum formosum	347	219	566
Diplodus holbrookii	240	248	488
Centropristis ocyurus	290	139	429
Calamus nodosus	20	131	151
Lagodon rhomboids	99	10	109
Equetus lanceolatus	69	14	83
Lutjanus vivanus	11	57	68

Biological samples taken from fish in 2021
(only top 10 taxa shown)

	Ages	Gonads	DNA
Lutjanus campechanus	1968	255	1968
Pagrus pagrus	850	850	0
Balistes capriscus	691	0	0
Centropristis striata	676	0	0
Rhomboplites aurorubens	664	0	2
Haemulon plumierii	476	0	0
Calamus nodosus	131	99	0
Lutjanus vivanus	68	56	0
Mycteroperca microlepis	26	3	0
Mycteroperca phenax	23	14	14

Indices of abundance

- Trap-based
  - SCDNR will continue to develop annual updates
- Video-based
  - Development of updated annual indices is underway for species that have undergone a SEDAR assessment that have utilized a SERFS-based video index
  - Species-specific indices will be completed by spring of 2022
  - Updated annually; completed early in subsequent calendar years
  - We are exploring options for developing updated video-based annual indices for a broader range of species in subsequent years.