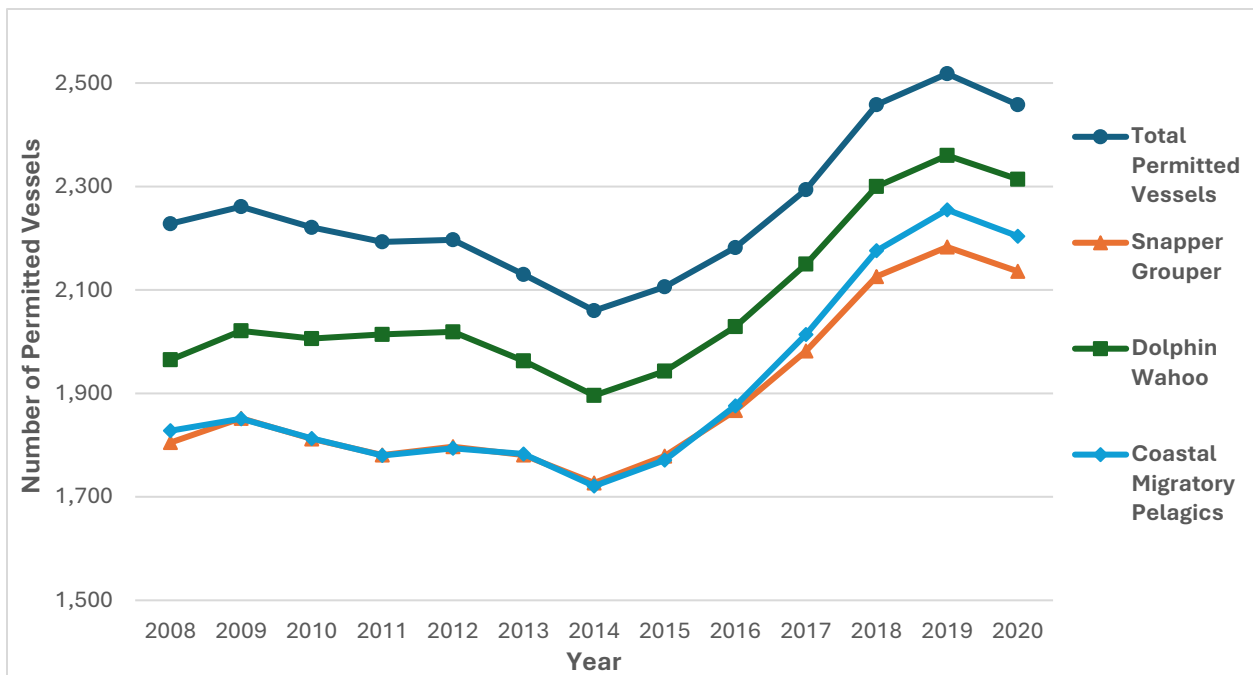


# Summary of Available Data on For-Hire Permits in the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, and Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fisheries

The following permit information was provided by the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office’s (SERO) Limited Access Privilege Programs and Data Management Branch in January 2024. The number of federal for-hire (charter/headboat) permitted vessels for the three finfish fisheries that the Council manages was examined from 2008 through 2020. Full-year data after 2020 are currently unavailable due to issues and ongoing updates with the SERO permits system. It is expected that information from 2020 onwards will be available later in 2024. **It should be noted that COVID-19 and the comprehensive for-hire logbook reporting amendment (effective January 4, 2021) likely affected the number of federally permitted for-hire vessels in recent years and these trends are not fully shown in the following figures and tables.**

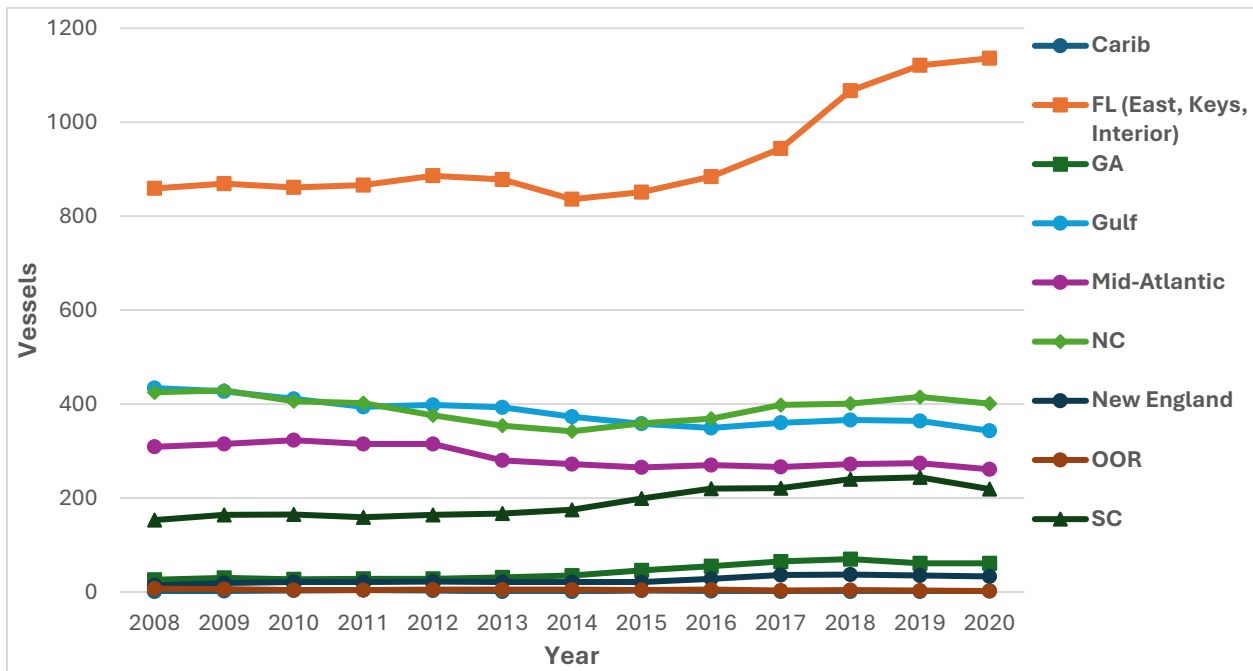
The number of federal for-hire permitted vessels for the three finfish fisheries decreased slightly from 2008 through 2014 and notably increased from 2014 through 2019. The number of for-hire snapper grouper and coastal migratory pelagics (CMP) permits was very similar until 2016. CMP permits increased above snapper grouper permits thereafter. Overall, the number of dolphin wahoo for-hire permits during the period examined has been substantially higher than those for the other two fisheries (**Figure 1; Table 1**). Most of the permitted vessels are homeported in the South Atlantic region (**Figure 2; Table 2**).



**Figure 1.** Number of federally permitted charter/headboat vessels in the Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Dolphin Wahoo fisheries from 2008 through 2020.

**Table 1.** Number of federally permitted charter/headboat vessels in the Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Dolphin Wahoo fisheries from 2008 through 2020.

Year	Snapper Grouper	Dolphin Wahoo	Coastal Migratory Pelagics	Total Permitted Vessels
2008	1,805	1,965	1,828	2,228
2009	1,852	2,021	1,851	2,261
2010	1,812	2,006	1,813	2,221
2011	1,781	2,014	1,780	2,193
2012	1,797	2,019	1,794	2,197
2013	1,781	1,963	1,783	2,130
2014	1,727	1,896	1,721	2,060
2015	1,779	1,943	1,771	2,106
2016	1,867	2,029	1,876	2,182
2017	1,982	2,150	2,014	2,294
2018	2,126	2,300	2,176	2,458
2019	2,183	2,360	2,255	2,518
2020	2,136	2,314	2,204	2,458



**Figure 2.** Number of federally permitted charter/headboat vessels in the Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Dolphin Wahoo fisheries from 2008 through 2020 by homeport state or region. (note: OOR stands for “Out of the Region” (i.e., Mid-West, West Coast, Alaska, etc.))

**Table 2.** Number of federally permitted charter/headboat vessels in the Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Dolphin Wahoo fisheries from 2008 through 2020 by homeport state or region.

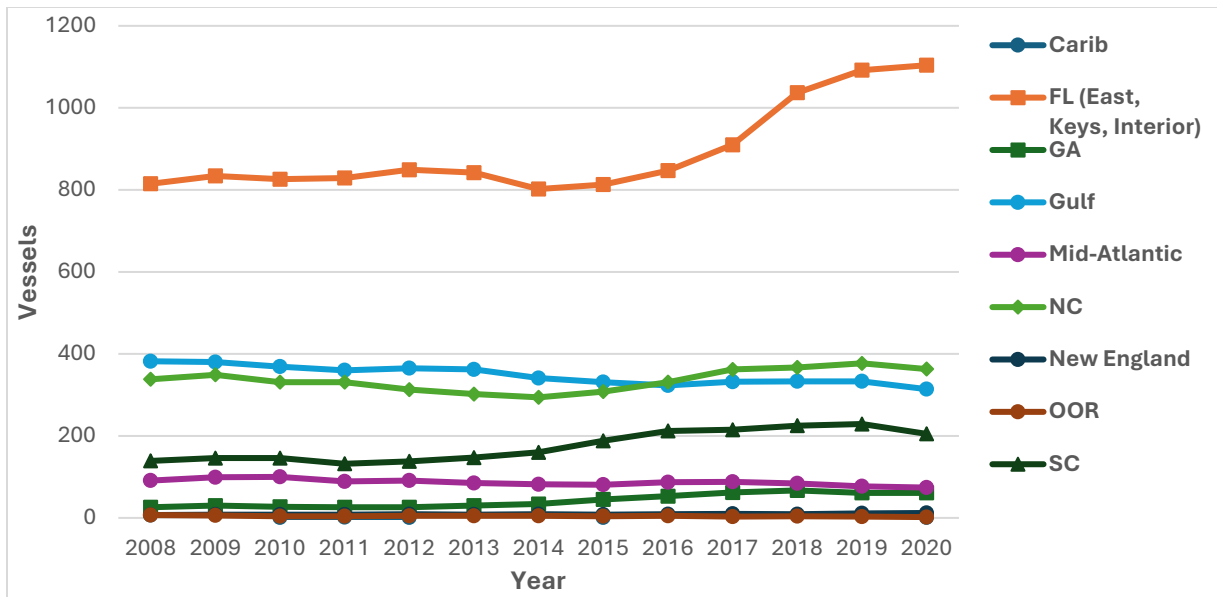
Year	FL (East, Keys, Interior)	GA	SC	NC	Gulf	Mid-Atlantic	New England	Carib	OOR
2008	859	26	153	425	434	309	14	1	7
2009	869	30	164	429	427	315	19	2	6
2010	861	27	165	406	411	323	21	3	4
2011	866	28	159	402	394	315	21	4	4
2012	886	28	164	376	398	315	22	3	5
2013	878	31	167	354	393	280	21	1	5
2014	836	35	175	342	373	272	21	1	5
2015	851	46	199	359	358	265	21	3	4
2016	884	55	220	369	349	270	28	2	5
2017	944	65	221	398	360	266	36	1	3
2018	1,067	70	240	401	366	272	37	1	4
2019	1,121	61	244	415	364	274	35	1	3
2020	1,136	61	219	401	343	261	33	2	2

## Snapper Grouper

Federal South Atlantic Charter/Headboat permits for Snapper Grouper are open access. **Figure 3** and **Table 3** show the number of federally permitted for-hire snapper grouper vessels by homeport state or region from 2008 through 2020.

The number of federally permitted charter/headboat vessels in the snapper grouper fishery hovered near or just below 1,800 from 2008 until 2015. The increase thereafter may reflect speculative entry into the fishery as discussion of a possible limited entry program ensued during Snapper Grouper AP meetings, through the Council’s Snapper Grouper Visioning Project, and development of Amendment 47. The number of permits peaked in 2019 at 2,183 permitted vessels (**Table 3**).

Among the South Atlantic states, Florida has consistently had the highest number of permitted snapper grouper for-hire vessels. Florida has also seen the largest increase in the number of for-hire snapper grouper permits compared to the other South Atlantic states since the June 15, 2016 control date.



**Figure 3.** Number of vessels with federal charter/headboat snapper grouper permits by homeport state or region from 2008 through 2020.

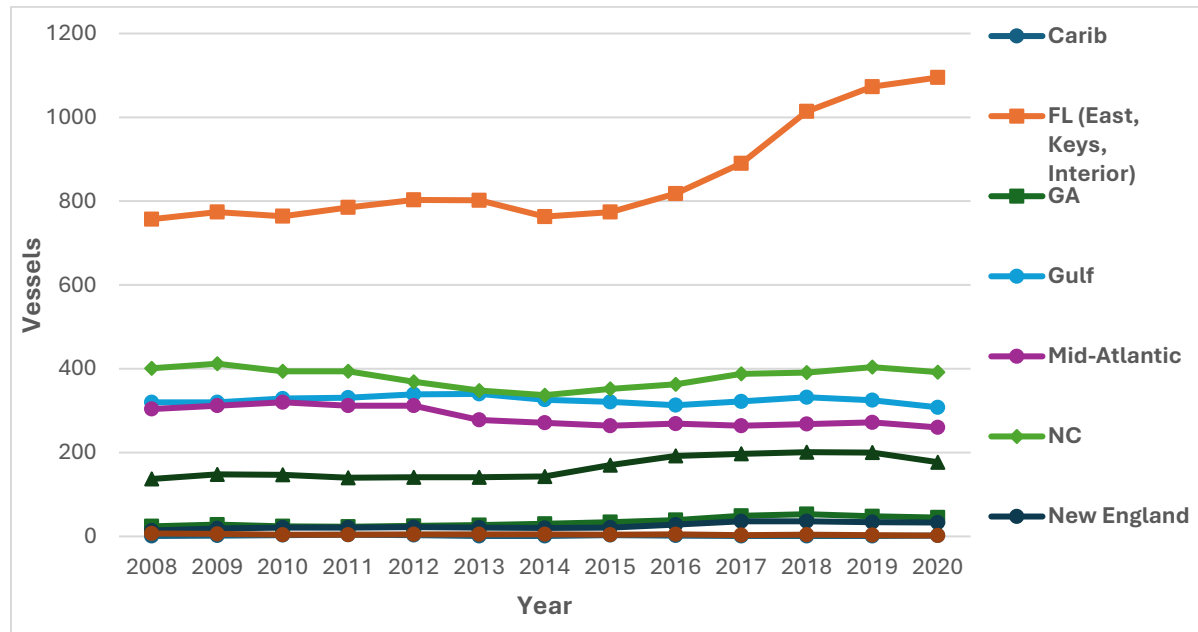
**Table 3.** Number of vessels with federal charter/headboat snapper grouper permits by homeport state or region from 2008 through 2020.

Year	FL (East, Keys, Interior)	GA	SC	NC	Gulf	Mid-Atlantic	New England	Carib	OOR	Total
2008	815	26	139	338	382	91	7	0	7	1,805
2009	834	30	146	349	380	99	8	0	6	1,852
2010	826	27	146	331	369	100	8	1	4	1,812
2011	829	26	132	331	360	89	8	2	4	1,781
2012	849	26	138	313	365	91	9	1	5	1,797
2013	842	30	147	302	362	85	8	0	5	1,781
2014	802	34	160	294	341	82	9	0	5	1,727
2015	813	45	188	308	331	81	8	1	4	1,779
2016	847	53	212	331	323	87	9	0	5	1,867
2017	910	62	215	362	332	88	10	0	3	1,982
2018	1,037	67	225	367	333	84	9	0	4	2,126
2019	1,092	61	229	377	333	77	11	0	3	2,183
2020	1,104	61	205	363	314	74	12	1	2	2,136

## Dolphin Wahoo

Federal Atlantic Charter/Headboat permits for Dolphin Wahoo are open access. From 2008 through 2020, most of the federal for-hire dolphin wahoo permitted vessels had a homeport in the South Atlantic region. A similar increase in the number of permits also seen in the snapper grouper

fishery is evident in the dolphin wahoo for-hire component after 2015 (**Figure 4, Table 4**) with most permitted vessels homeported in Florida. The number of permits peaked in 2019 at 2,360 permitted vessels (**Table 4**). Compared to snapper grouper for-hire permits, there are notably more dolphin wahoo permits for vessels in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions since the permit is required to fish for the two species in those regions.



**Figure 4.** Number of vessels with federal charter/headboat dolphin wahoo permits by homeport state or region from 2008 through 2020.

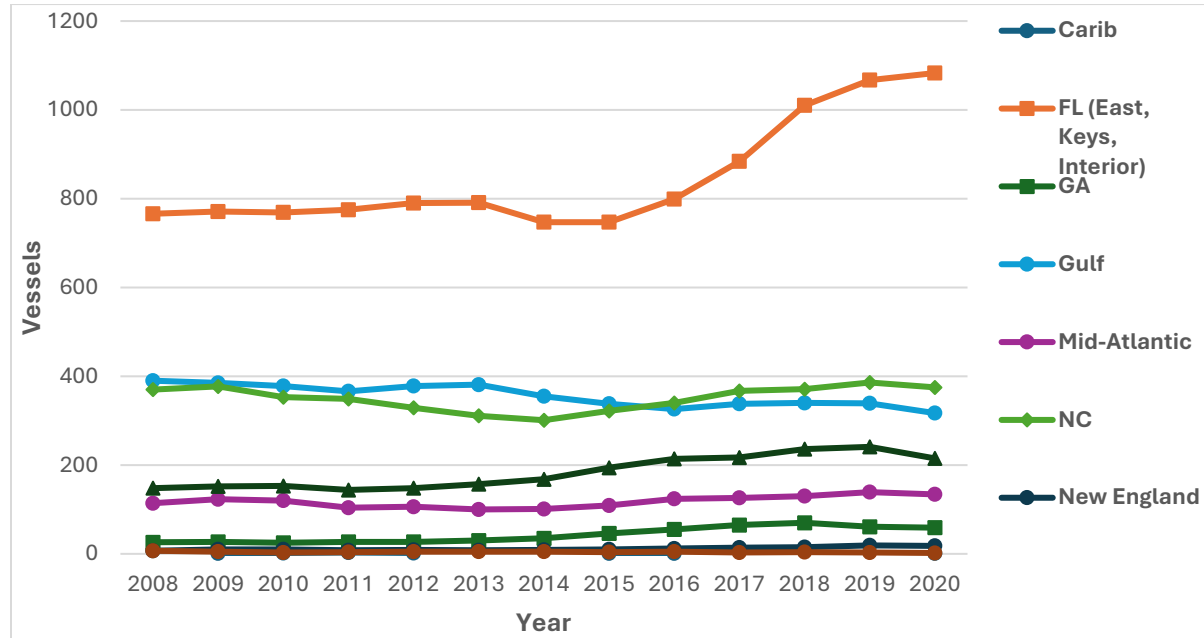
**Table 4.** Number of vessels with federal charter/headboat dolphin wahoo permits by homeport state or region from 2008 through 2020.

Year	FL (East, Keys, Interior)	GA	SC	NC	Gulf	Mid-Atlantic	New England	OOR	Carib	Total
2008	757	24	137	401	320	304	14	7	1	1,965
2009	774	28	148	412	320	312	19	6	2	2,021
2010	764	24	147	394	329	320	21	4	3	2,006
2011	785	23	140	394	331	312	21	4	4	2,014
2012	803	25	141	369	339	312	22	5	3	2,019
2013	802	27	141	348	340	278	21	5	1	1,963
2014	763	30	143	337	326	271	20	5	1	1,896
2015	774	34	170	352	321	264	21	4	3	1,943
2016	818	39	192	363	313	269	28	5	2	2,029
2017	890	49	197	388	322	264	36	3	1	2,150
2018	1,014	53	201	391	332	268	36	4	1	2,300
2019	1,073	48	200	404	325	272	34	3	1	2,360
2020	1,095	45	177	392	308	260	33	2	2	2,314

## Coastal Migratory Pelagics

CMP Amendment 14, which established a charter vessel/headboat permit moratorium for the CMP fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, was implemented on June 16, 2003. The intended effect was to cap the number of for-hire vessels operating in the CMP fishery as of March 29, 2001, while the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council evaluated whether a limited access program was needed to permanently constrain effort. The moratorium on permits was set to expire June 16, 2006. CMP Amendment 17, implemented on June 15, 2006, established the current limited access system on for-hire CMP permits in the Gulf of Mexico. Permits are renewable and transferable, and the Gulf Council conducts periodic reviews on the effectiveness of the limited access system.

Federal Atlantic Charter/Headboat permits in the CMP fishery are open access. From 2008 through 2020, most of the CMP for-hire permits were in the South Atlantic region and, similarly to the other two fisheries, the number of permits increased after 2015, presumably in response to concerns about a future limited entry program being established (**Figure 5, Table 5**). The same trend is reflected in the breakdown by state, with most of the permits originating in Florida. The number of permits peaked in 2019 at 2,255 permitted vessels (**Table 5**). Compared to snapper grouper for-hire permits, there are notably more permits held in the Mid-Atlantic region since the federal for-hire coastal migratory pelagics permit is required to fish for Spanish mackerel or king mackerel in that region.



**Figure 5.** Number of vessels with federal charter/headboat coastal migratory pelagics permits by homeport state or region from 2008 through 2020.

**Table 5.** Number of vessels with federal charter/headboat coastal migratory pelagics permits by homeport state or region from 2008 through 2020.

Year	FL (East, Keys, Interior)	GA	SC	NC	Gulf	Mid-Atlantic	New England	OOR	Carib	Total
2008	766	26	148	370	390	114	7	7	0	1,828
2009	771	27	152	377	385	123	10	5	1	1,851
2010	769	25	153	353	378	120	10	3	2	1,813
2011	775	27	144	349	366	104	8	4	3	1,780
2012	790	27	148	329	378	106	9	5	2	1,794
2013	791	30	157	311	381	100	8	5	0	1,783
2014	747	35	168	301	355	101	9	5	0	1,721
2015	747	46	194	322	338	109	10	4	1	1,771
2016	799	55	214	340	326	124	12	5	1	1,876
2017	884	65	217	367	338	126	14	3	0	2,014
2018	1,010	70	236	371	340	130	15	4	0	2,176
2019	1,067	61	241	386	339	139	19	3	0	2,255
2020	1,083	59	215	375	317	134	18	2	1	2,204

## Additional Summary Data Availability

**The ongoing SERO permits system update prevents additional analysis of permits from 2021 through 2023.** It is expected that the system upgrade will be complete in 2025, and additional analysis will be possible. In addition to for-hire permit information for more recent years, such analyses could include information on permitted vessels that do and do not qualify for the control dates that the Council set in December 2023.