

# Florida State Management EFP Proposal



**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

SAFMC Meeting: December 2025



# Florida State Management EFP Proposal

- FWC submitted EFP application to NOAA Fisheries on Nov. 10
- Governor DeSantis held a press conference announcing proposal to test state management of recreational red snapper
  - Test how an expanded season decreases effort, landings, and discards for 2026 season
- Strong support from Florida Attorney General, Congressional delegations, recreational advocacy groups, and anglers



# Need for EFPs

- Red snapper stock is at record abundance and biomass
  - No longer considered overfished or undergoing overfishing
- Significant catch limit constraints
  - Includes unreliable discard mortality estimates
- Management challenges impact ability to collect baseline catch and effort data
- Fundamental shortcomings of MRIP-FES
- Extreme angler dissatisfaction
- State management of Gulf recreational red snapper is a success



***EFPs provide ability to test innovative management strategies outside bounds of current regulations***



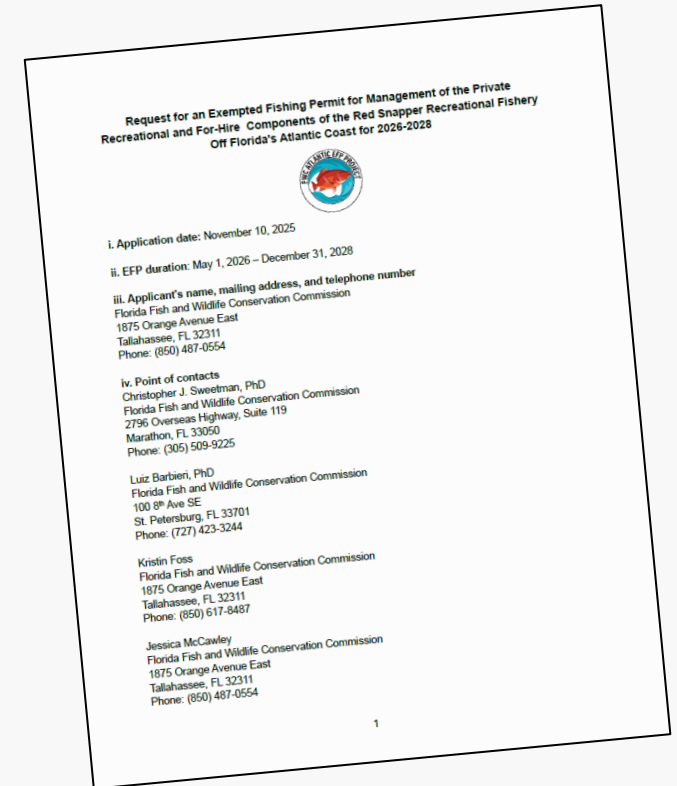
# Recent FWC State Management Workshops

- Prior to EFP development, FWC held 8 workshops in October
- Well attended by the public
- **Summary**
  - Strongly supportive of state management
  - Prefer longest season
  - General support for a 1-2 fish bag limit
  - Mixed support for establishing a size limit
  - Mixed support for an aggregate SG bag limit
  - Strong willingness to report data to FWC
  - Support same regulations for private anglers and for-hire



# Florida State Management EFP: Purpose

- To conduct a pilot study during 2026-2028 to test two methods for use in recreational data collection and catch, effort, and discard monitoring
  - 1) Florida's State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS)
  - 2) Voluntary smartphone web-based application during trips where a red snapper is harvested
- Will monitor recreational red snapper harvest through an extended 2026 fishing season to obtain reliable catch, effort, and discard rates



# Florida State Management EFP: Details

- Applies to private and for-hire
- 2026 season: 39-days
  - Summer: May 22- June 20
  - Fall: Oct. 2-4, 9-11, & 16-18
- Bag limit: 1 red snapper per person
  - Within 10-fish snapper grouper aggregate limit
- Voluntary app reporting
- Trip declaration
- Expanded SRFS sampling for harvest monitoring



Photo courtesy of Return 'Em Right

*Incorporates takeaways from Year 1  
of FWC's Atlantic Red Snapper  
EFP Research Project*



# Expected Outcomes

- Provide reliable baseline recreational catch and effort data of Atlantic red snapper
- Eliminate dangerous, short “derby” fishing seasons
- Reduce discard mortality across the entire snapper grouper fishery
- Rebuild trust and relationships with recreational community
- Provide transition to state-based management of recreational red snapper

***Strong coordination and cooperation  
between South Atlantic states***



# Questions?

