

Best Fishing Practices Campaign Update

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel
November 2023



Best Fishing Practices

CAMPAIGN PROJECTS

- ❶ What It Means to Me"
- ❷ Best Fishing Practices Master Volunteer Program (BFP MVP)



An aerial photograph of the ocean with waves, overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent band across the center. The text is centered within this band.

'What It Means to Me'

Background and Purpose

- Trust between fishermen and fisheries managers has long been a challenge.
- Fostering positive relationships = regular interaction with stakeholders.
- Project aims to bridge trust gap by capturing participants' voices in a relatable and constructive manner.

Project Goals

- #1:** Help bridge the trust gap between the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and fishermen.
- #2:** Encourage the preservation of South Atlantic fisheries by using best fishing practices in everyday fishing activities.
- #3:** Increase involvement in the fisheries management process and programs, e.g., advisory panels, attending Council meetings, making public comment, SAFMC Release, and the Best Fishing Practices Master Volunteer Program.
- #4:** Document the stories of those involved in South Atlantic fisheries in a constructive manner.

Focus

- Record and edit informal, short conversations with fishermen.
- **Possible conversation topics:**
 - How participant began fishing
 - Importance of fishery preservation
 - How their fishery can be preserved
 - Perspectives of change over time in fishery
 - Involvement in SAFMC Release and FISHstory
 - Advice to fellow fishermen
- **Possible platforms:**
 - Social media stories and Youtube
 - ArcGIS StoryMap
 - SAFMC website
 - Other SAFMC outreach programs



TIMELINE

2023

July-September

- Develop project proposal
- Investigate platforms to be used
- Draft conversation topics
- Practice with SAFMC staff

September-December

- Present proposal to Council- **APPROVED**
- Gather b-roll content
- Identify and confirm participants
- Project implementation
 - Oct: SG AP meeting
 - Nov: DW, MC AP meetings
 - Dec: Council meeting

2024

December-February

- Continue gathering b-roll content
- Video and audio editing
- Begin sharing on SAFMC platforms

Discussion

1. What **additional conversation topics** may fit into the scope of the project?
2. What platforms presented may be **best** to share videos on? **Additional suggestions** for platforms?
3. Who would be interested in participating in the project?

Best Fishing Practices Master Volunteer Program

Project Update



Goals

- #1:** Expand reach by empowering key members of the fishing community to spread the best fishing practices message and methods on SAFMC's behalf.
- #2:** Increase awareness and use of all best fishing practices when releasing fish, specifically snapper grouper species exhibiting signs of barotrauma.
- #3:** Increase SAFMC's regular interaction with stakeholders that will grow involvement in fisheries management.



What is it?



Regional, in person workshops to train volunteers to become experts in best fishing practices (BFP).



Encourage training those in their fishing community.



Hosted quarterly, approximately 1.5-2 hour long workshops

Target Audience

- Key members of fishing communities
- Port samplers
- State and federal agencies
- Novice fishermen (indirectly)

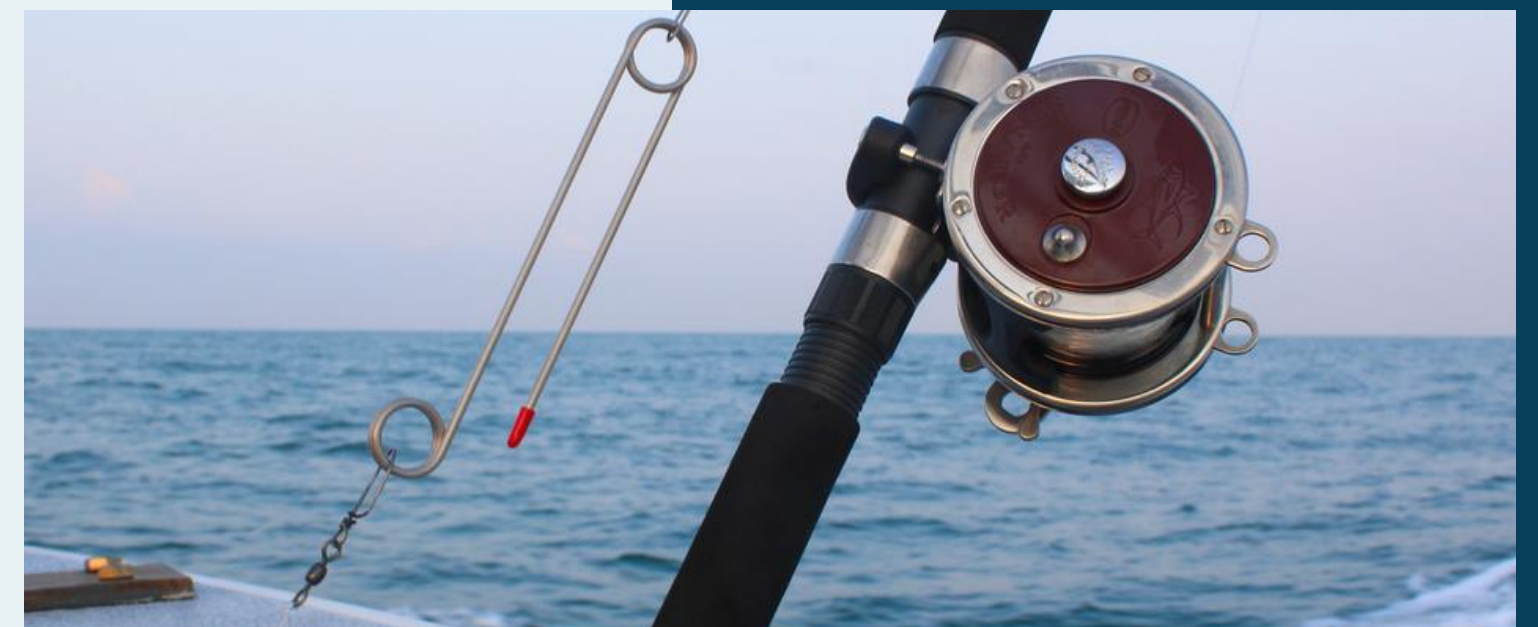


Workshop Components

BEST FISHING PRACTICES

- General best practices
 - Planning ahead, handling, hooks, air exposure, avoidance
- Barotrauma
- Barotrauma mitigation devices
 - Descending devices and venting tools
 - How they work, state and federal regulations
- Creating a descending device

!! *Discussion throughout*

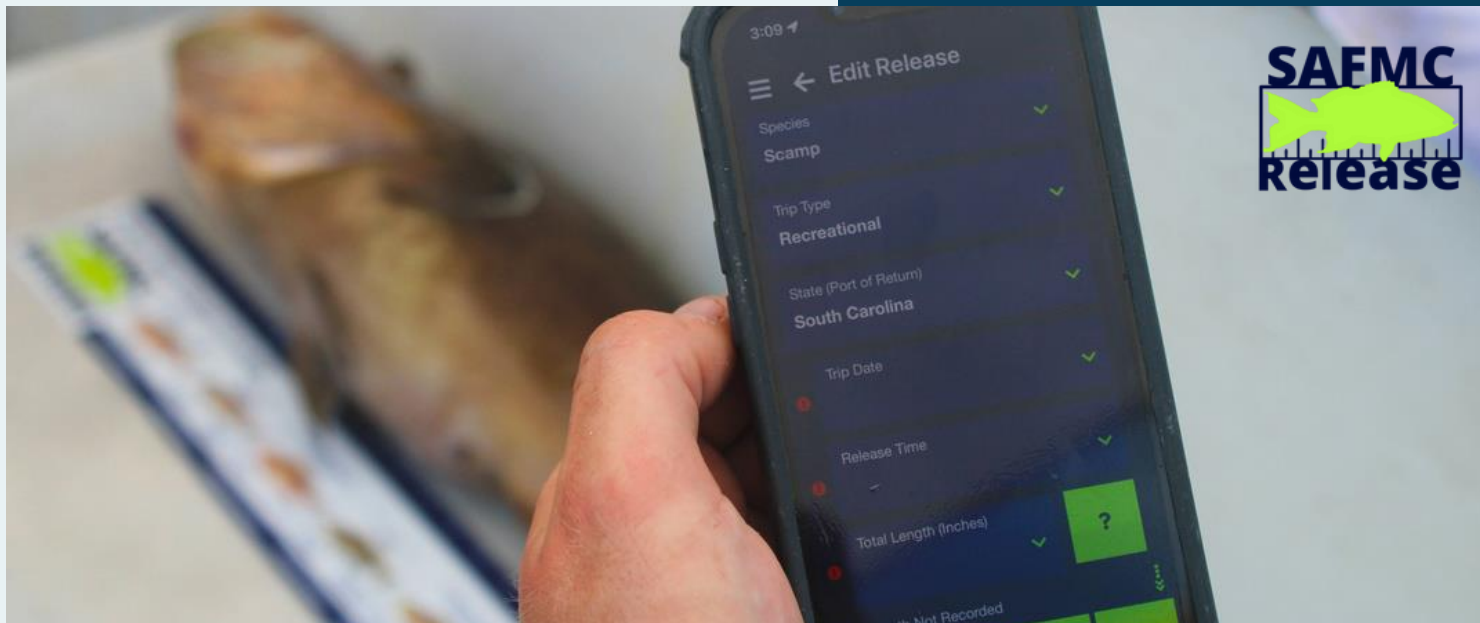


Workshop Components

GETTING INVOLVED

- Citizen Science
 - SAFMC Release, FISHstory
- The SAFMC
 - Magnuson Stevens Act overview
 - SAFMC jurisdiction and FMPs
 - Advisory panels, Council, public comment

!! *Discussion throughout*



Next Steps

- 1 Finish workshop components
- 2 Create new informational materials
- 3 Solidify locations and dates
- 4 Advertise workshop
- 5 **Implement workshop Spring 2024**

Questions?

BEST PRACTICES

Use appropriate



gear

Keep the fish



in the water

Look for signs



of barotrauma

Use a descending



device when
needed

For a complete list of best practices visit:
safmc.net/bfp

