



DO YOU FISH FOR SNAPPER OR GROUPER OFFSHORE?

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is seeking your perspectives on how to manage the snapper grouper fishery.

THE ISSUE

While fishing for species that are in-season, many out-of-season snapper grouper species are also caught and must be released. Some of these fish die from the catch and release process. Within the last 10 years, we've seen the highest numbers of recreationally released snapper grouper species on record, so the numbers of dead releases have been at their highest levels, as well. These large snapper grouper dead releases are impacting the Council's ability to provide access to the fishery while also preventing overfishing.

SCOPING SESSIONS

The first of several scoping sessions is at 6pm on **Wednesday, April 26, 2023**, at the Hilton Garden Inn in North Charleston, SC (5265 International Blvd). Your comments will help the Council determine what management approaches should and should not be evaluated through the MSE.

NEXT STEPS

The Council has partnered with Blue Matter Science to develop a management strategy evaluation (MSE), a tool that evaluates different approaches to achieve management goals.

- **MSE's main goal:** Reduce snapper grouper releases in the recreational fishery.
- **First step:** Define current and desired management positions.
- **Why we need you:** As we evaluate ways to get to better management, we want to include what is most important to fishermen participating in this fishery.

At this scoping session, we will ask:

- What are the most important snapper grouper species are in your area?
- How do you change the way you fish for snapper grouper species in response to different regulations (e.g. bag limits, size limits, seasons), especially when regulations change during different parts of the year?