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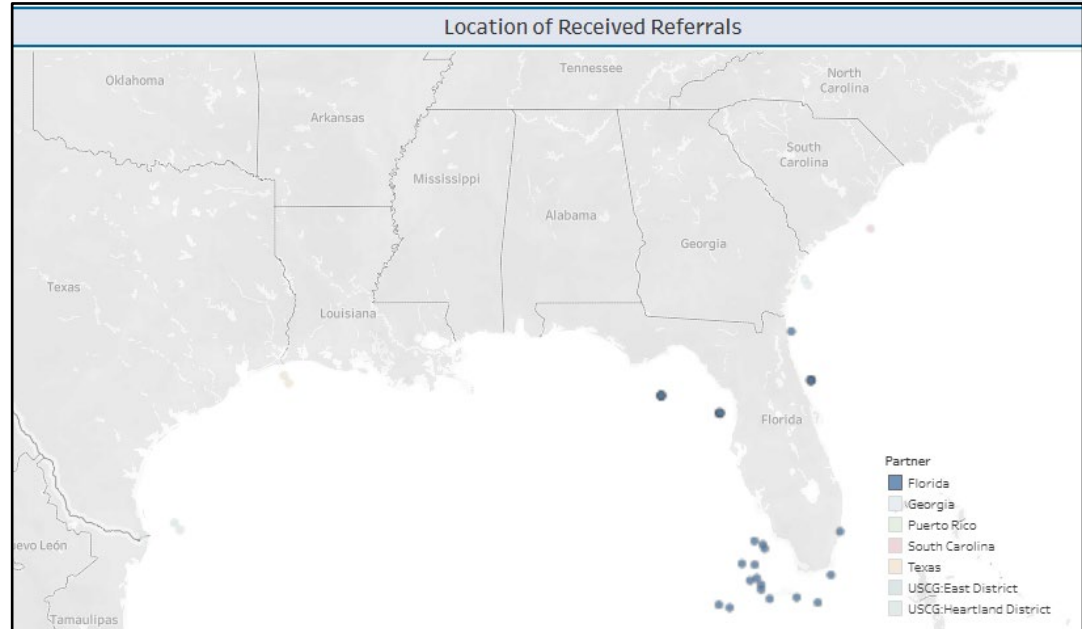
Enforcement Updates

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting
June 8, 2026. Compliance Liaison Matt Walia



Enforcement Partnerships & Referrals

SAFMC Enforcement Partners



- 52 Overall Enforcement Referrals (QTR 2)
 - Encompasses entire SED
 - Within SAFMC Partners:
 - FWC (37), GADNR (3), SCDNR (2), USCG (1)

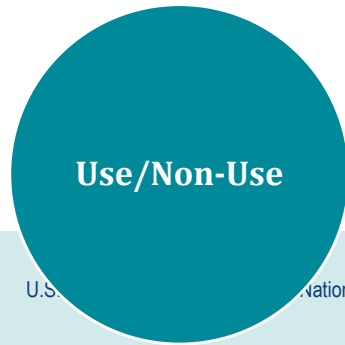
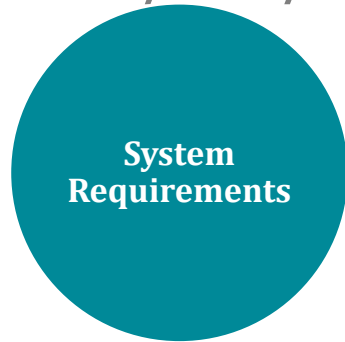


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What is a Vessel Monitoring System?

VMS is a secure satellite/cellular based GPS device

- Data are confidential, available to owners
- LE has access-Signed NDAs
- **Reimbursement Funds Available, up to \$3100/unit/new owner**



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Highly Migratory Species Enforcement

Bluefin Tuna catch

- Daily Catch Exceeded
- Fillets onboard
- Provided False Information



Tournament Registrations

- Failure to Register
- Failure to Report

Atlantic Tournament Registration & Reporting

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Tournaments

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) tournaments are fishing events that award points for catches in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Caribbean Sea. Tournament operators must register with NOAA Fisheries, keep records of anglers and their catches.

From this site you may:

[Register Your Tournament](#)

[Report Your Tournament's Catch](#)

[View Registered Tournaments](#)



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Recreational Fishing

Lacey Act-interstate/foreign commerce

- Declare in w/Bahamians
- Single day vessel/per person bag limits
- Transit on return-no stops
- Skin on fillets



State JEA Referrals



- **Bag Limit Exceeded (U.S. and Bahamas)**
- **Fail to Maintain Fish Intact**
 - 88 fillets, no skin
- **Previous history**
 - Referred to General Counsel



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Closed Area Case

Shrimper

- Detected via VMS inside Oculina Bank
- Boarded 2 times, within days of each other



- Anchoring
- Possession of Shrimp
- Gear Violations
 - Not Stowed
 - BRDs Sewn Shut
 - TEDs Sewn Shut
- Fail to Maintain Fish Intact
- VMS (no 2-way comms)





Multi-Year Investigation

Tournament Requirements

- Southern Florida
- Sale/Purchase of king mackerel
- Provided False Information



- 2018-2021 records
- Catch split between 2 trucks/vessels
- 5,900+ lbs catch/ \$20,000+ in sales from recreational catch



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ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

- Recreational Snowy Grouper
 - Closed **June 7**
- Recreational Gag Grouper
 - Open through **August 2**
- Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper Complex
 - **Effective July 6**
 - **1 fish (either scamp or yellowmouth)/person/day within overall aggregate bag limit**
 - **Commercial Trip Limit-300lbs**

53% Compliance among South Atlantic Incidents



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Report A Violation

NOAA's Law Enforcement Hotline,
available 24/7 at
(800) 853-1964

- Location, time, and date of the activity.
 - Description of the activity.
- Name(s) of the vessel, owner/operator, captain, crew, or additional witnesses.



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QUESTIONS



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