

Sea Grant Reef Fish Extension Update

David J. Hugo

Outreach and Communications
Advisory Panel Meeting

October 2023



Background

“... advance stakeholder understanding of reef fish issues and management, including advances in research as they relate to red snapper, greater amberjack, and other managed reef fish species.”



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“... advance stakeholder understanding of reef fish issues and management, including advances in research as they relate to red snapper, greater amberjack, and other managed reef fish species.”

Outreach:

- Tackle shop tours
- Seminars
- Media Charter Trips
- Webinar Series



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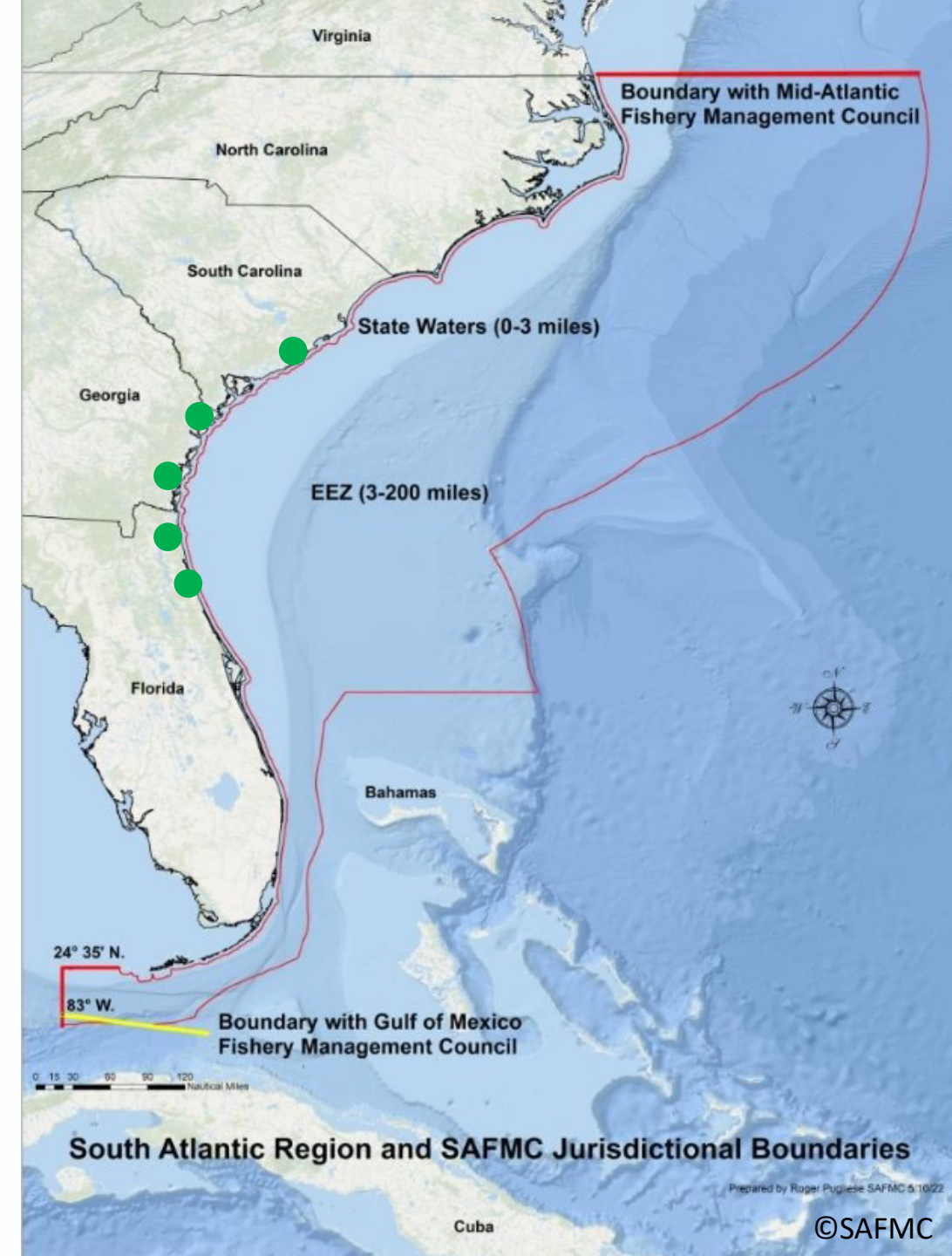
Best Fishing Practices (BFP) → Best Fishing Habits

- Goal:
 - *Improve reef fishing sustainability by leveraging BFP as an acquired habit*
- Best Fishing Practices
 - Landing
 - Handling
 - Releasing
 - Logging*



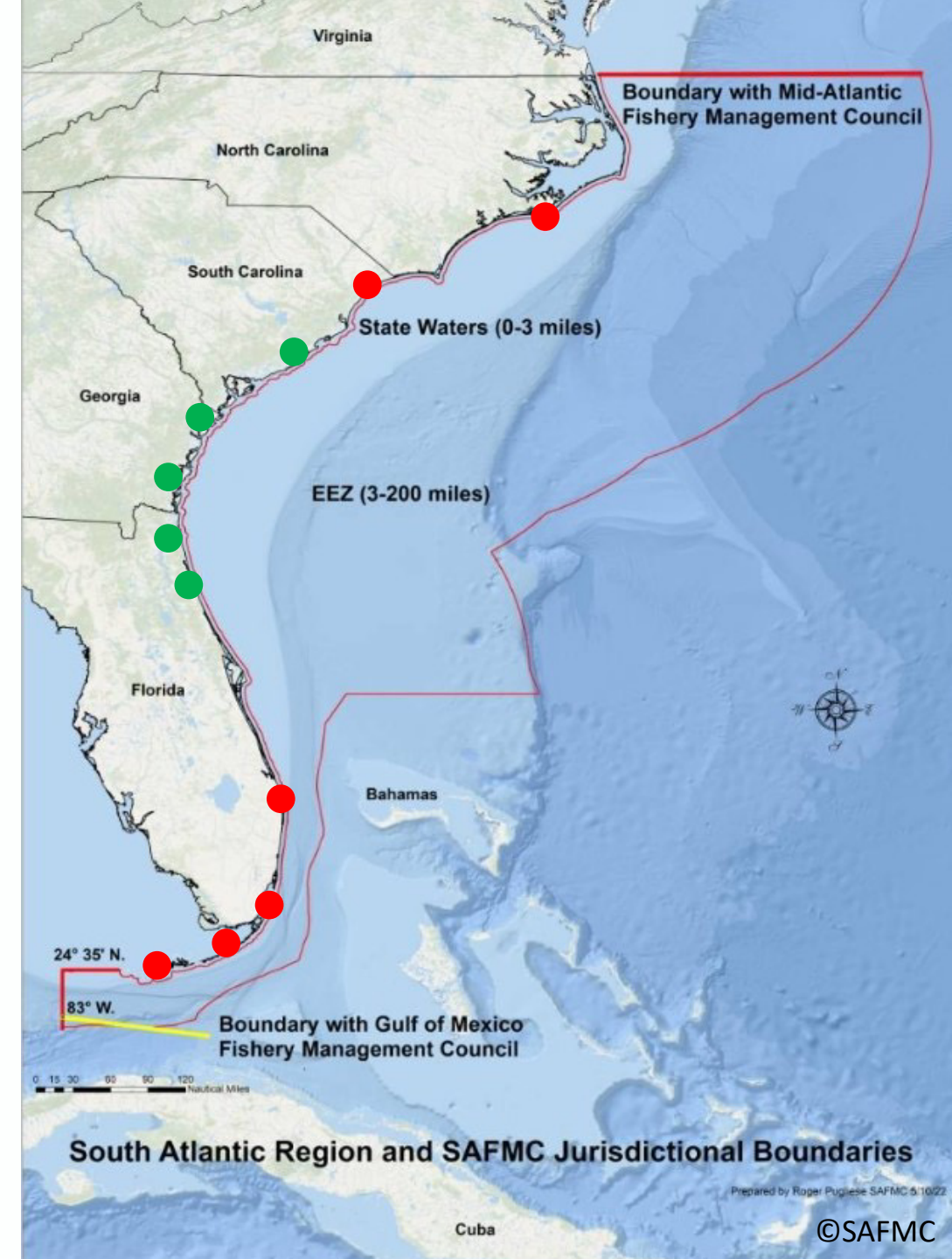
Tackle Shop Outreach

- Completed:
 - St. Augustine, FL
 - Charleston, SC
 - Savannah, GA
 - Brunswick, GA
 - Jacksonville, FL



Tackle Shop Outreach

- Upcoming:
 - West Palm Beach, FL
 - Little River, SC
 - Morehead City, NC
 - FL Keys



Tackle Shop Observations

- General acceptance of BFP regardless of council beliefs
- Universal willingness to display materials
- Year-to-year consistency in interactions



Tackle Shop Observations

- Skepticism surrounding the value of public input and angler data
- Limited descending device inventory
- Non-stainless steel hooks are unclear
- Red Snapper hot spots
- Inshore/nearshore focus in SC and GA



ICAST

- Orlando, FL
- July 11th – 14th, 2023
- Sea Grant and SAFMC
- Donuts and Descending Devices Event
- Potential Sea Grant/SAFMC industry collaborations



Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club

- August 17th, 2023
- Sea Grant, SAFMC, and FL FWC
- Seminar and Q & A
 - BFP, Citizen Science, how to make a descending device
 - Questions mainly focused on red snapper and shark management
- Descending Device Giveaway
- Future collaborations with JOSFC



SC Media Trip

- September 5, 2023
- Captain Chuck Griffin
- SC Sea Grant writer Erica Hussey
- Best Fishing Practices article undergoing review
 - Emphasis on:
 - Angler preparedness
 - Handling practices
 - Barotrauma explanation



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R/V Palmetto

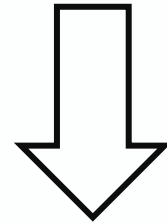
- Reef Fish Survey Leg 11
- Experience in fisheries independent surveying
 - Data collection
 - Data analysis
 - Pros and cons of surveying techniques





R/V Palmetto

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Stronger Education and Outreach Foundation



Looking Ahead...

- Regional Reef Fish Extension AP Meeting
- NC Media Trip
- MREP
- Webinar Series—SARSRP, Greater Amberjack Count, RFS
- FL Keys Seafood Festival
- Ongoing Tackle Shop Outreach
- Seminars



Discussion

- Do you know of other upcoming industry events that may be of interest for best fishing practices and descending device outreach/education?
- Would it be beneficial to expand outreach efforts to target different demographics—specifically younger generations through school programs, etc?

