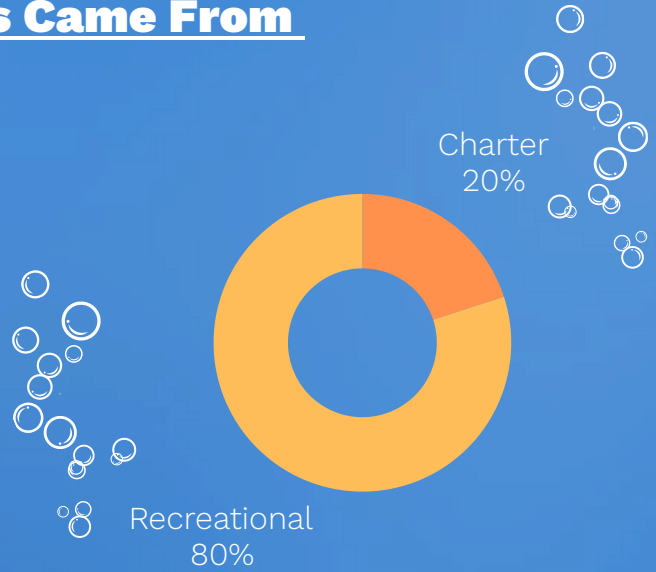
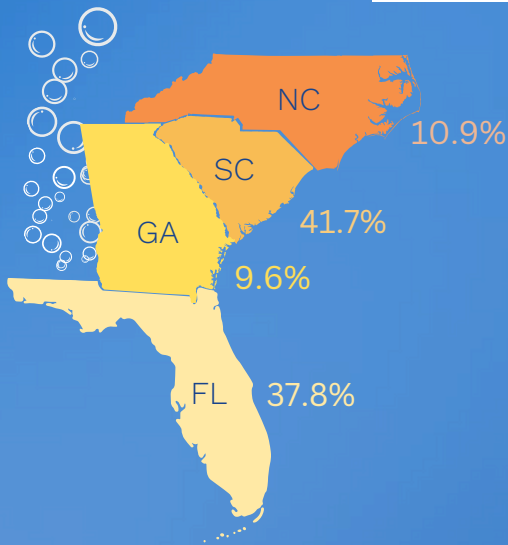


All data summarized below were submitted to SAFMC Release in 2024.

Where Entries Came From

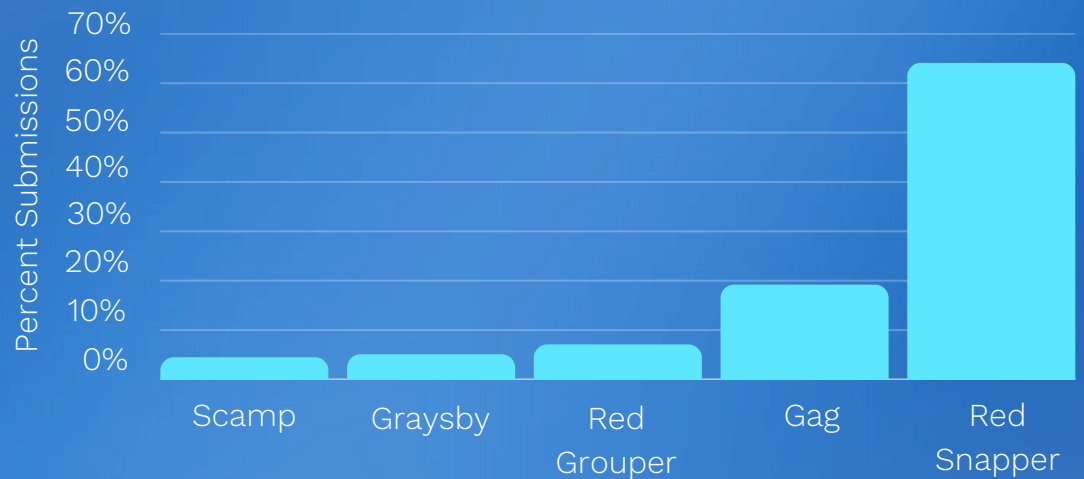


Most 2024 submissions came from South Carolina, followed by Florida, North Carolina, and Georgia.

The majority of submissions were from recreational trips, followed by charter trips.

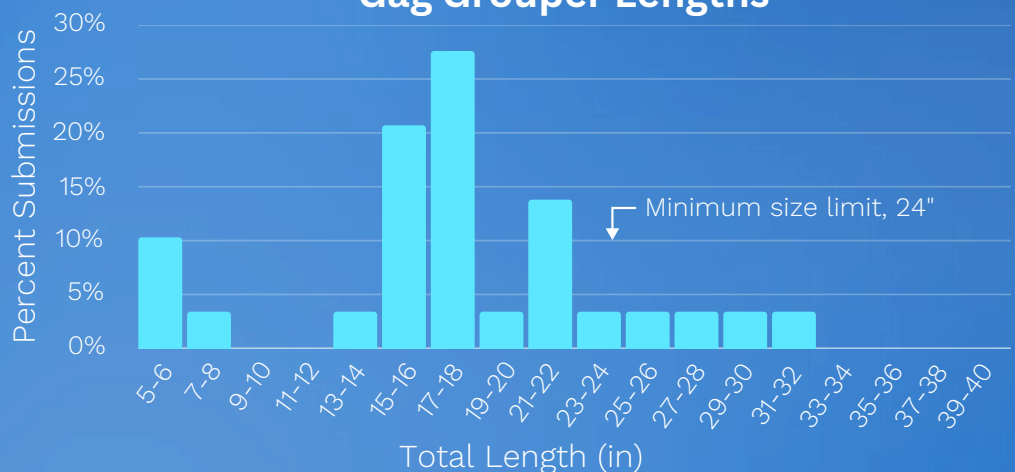
Species Submitted and Lengths

64% of logged releases were Red Snapper, 19% were Gag, and 7% were Red Grouper. Graysby and Scamp each accounted for about 5% of entries.



Gag
 Smallest: 5 in
 Largest: 32 in
 Average: 18 in
 Average depth caught: 82 ft

Gag Grouper Lengths

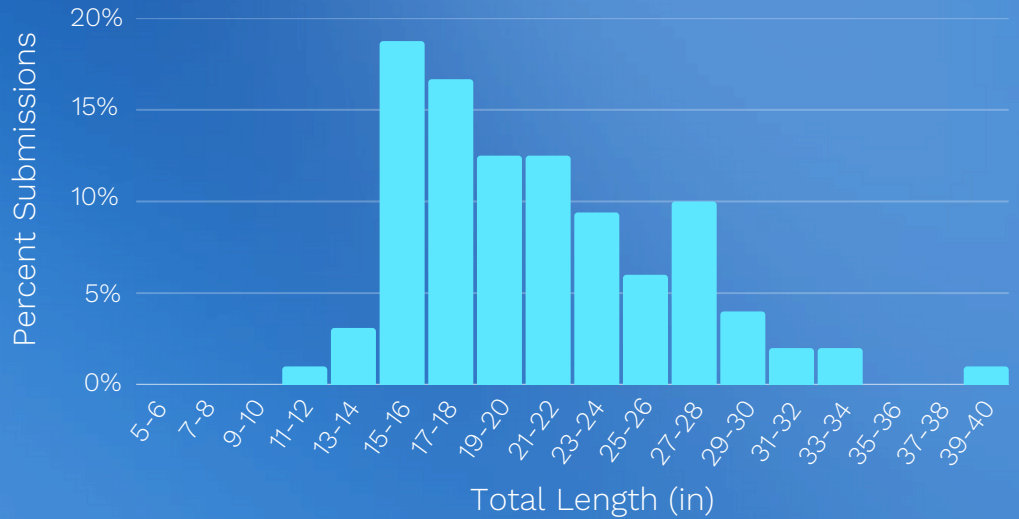




Red Snapper
 Smallest: 12 in
 Largest: 40 in
 Average: 21 in

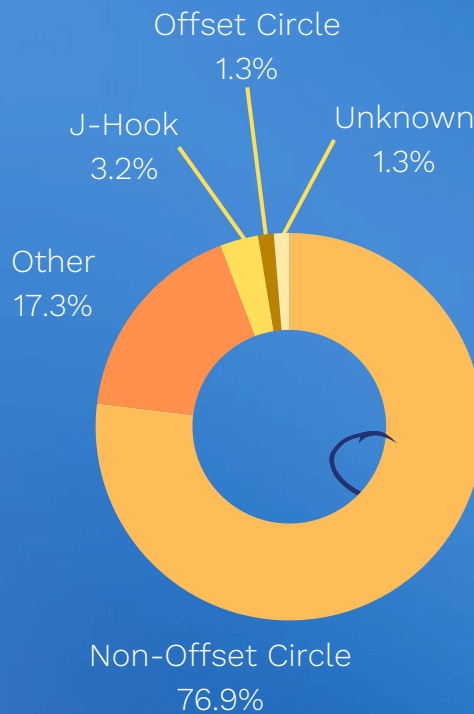
Average depth caught: 89 ft

Red Snapper Lengths

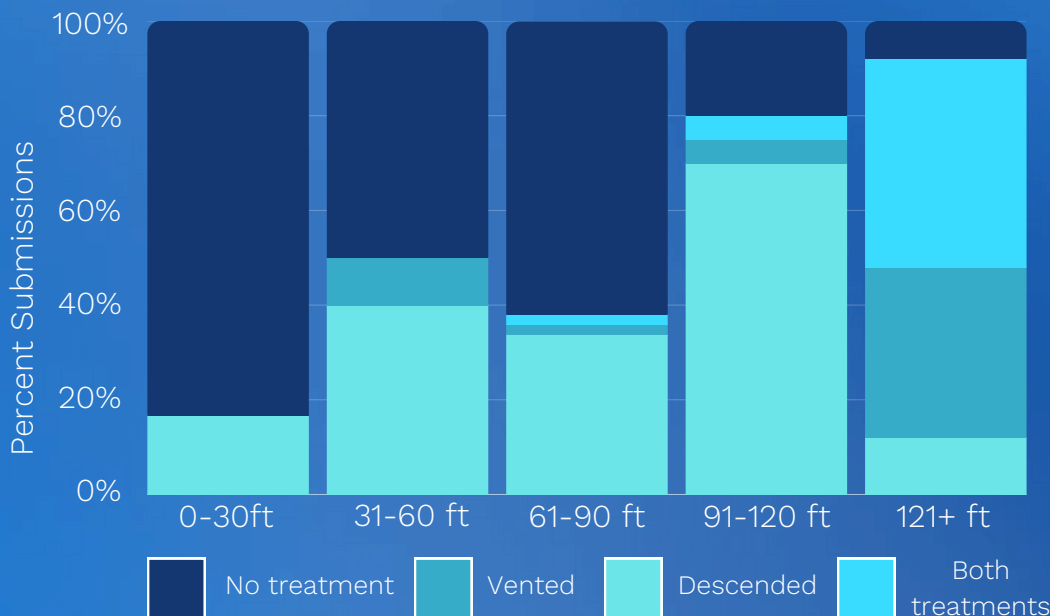


Hook Type, Shark Depredation, and Release Treatment

Non-offset circle hooks were logged most frequently in 2024, followed by other hooks (e.g., jigs), j-hooks, and offset circle hooks. Non-offset circle hooks have been the most commonly recorded hook type with the project each year, which is great since these hooks are less likely to hook a fish in lethal areas like the gills. About 93% of releases were hooked in the jaw. For hook regulations, see the [Best Fishing Practices webpage](#).



2% of recorded releases experienced shark depredation.



As depth caught increases, so does the percent of releases being vented, descended, or both. This makes sense because the risk of barotrauma increases with depth caught. However, not all fish caught in deeper waters need descending. Familiarity with the signs of barotrauma is key to knowing when to descend. Learn more about barotrauma on the [Best Fishing Practices webpage](#).

Participant Recognition Program Milestones

In the SAFMC Release Participant Recognition Program (PRP), participants are recognized for meeting project-specific milestones, such as submitting the largest/smallest of each species, recording the most species, and submitting the most releases overall. Find all the 2024 milestones in the [2024 PRP Milestones Overview Document](#). Check out some of the PRP winners below!

Size Matters



Red Grouper
Smallest: 11 in
Jon Reynolds

Largest: 24 in
Jon Reynolds



Gag
Smallest: 5 in
Tom Roller

Largest: 32 in
Jake Harmon



Scamp
Smallest: 18 in
Nigel Bowers

Largest: 34 in
Jake Harmon



Red Snapper
Smallest: 12 in
Mark McWaters

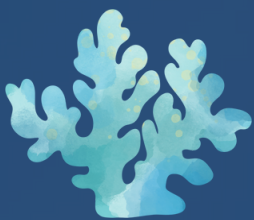
Largest: 40 in
Byron Shults



Graysby
Smallest: 14 in*
Nigel Bowers

Largest: 15 in
Nigel Bowers

*Smallest by participant taking part in the PRP



Around the Reef

Jake Harmon is in the lead for this milestone!

To win this milestone, a participant records information for all 11 species included in the project. Jake has recorded valuable information for four of our species!



Release Champion

Mark McWaters is our 2024 Release Champion!

Congratulations to Mark for submitting an incredible 41 entries this year, earning him the title of Release Champion!

Every SAFMC Release participant makes a difference in the project and your snapper grouper fishery. Thank you!