

# South Atlantic Fisheries

Fisheries in the South Atlantic region are vital to the region's economy and culture—sustaining jobs, supporting coastal communities, and connecting people to the ocean through recreation and fresh seafood. The **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council** works to safeguard these resources for future generations through science-based planning and responsible stewardship.



**143,931**  
nautical miles<sup>2</sup>  
Area managed by the South Atlantic Council

## Involving Fishermen

Engaging constituents is an integral part of the fishery management process, and the Council embodies this in several ways—**collecting data** through the Citizen Science Program, promoting **stewardship** through the Best Fishing Practices Program, and supporting **management** decision-making through focus group meetings and advisory groups.

**Outreach**  
**129** Tackle shops visited, 57 more than once (2020-2025)  
**72** Events and seminars attended (2020-2025)

**Data Collection**  
SAFMC is the only regional fishery management council with a dedicated **Citizen Science Program**. The program has recruited **4,800 volunteers**

helping fill data gaps through 3 Citizen Science projects, addressing 3 different research priorities.

**#1** Region in the country for marine **recreational** fishing trips with **over a third** of all trips in the U.S.

**71.9 Million**  
Recreational fishing trips taken in 2022

**Stewardship**  
Unique to SAFMC, the **Best Fishing Practices Master Volunteer Program** empowers fishermen (BFP MVPs) to educate others on responsible fishing, management, and engagement.

**12** Workshops  
**200** BFP MVPs

**64** Species managed under 8 Fishery Management Plans (excluding coral)

**27,000 Jobs**  
**\$3.54 Billion**  
In recreational trip expenditures

**186.3 Million**  
Pounds in combined landings from both the recreational and commercial sectors in 2022

**Focus group meetings**, like Mackerel Port Meetings and Snapper Grouper Visioning, gather meaningful input and foster dialogue among fishery stakeholders.

**45** Meetings  
**533** Stakeholders  
**8** States

**#6** Region in the country for **commercial** landings

**94.5 Million**  
Pounds landed in 2022

**9,200 Jobs**

**\$4.23 Billion**  
In combined business sales from both the recreational and commercial sectors in 2022

**6.4 Million Acres**  
Is home to the world's largest deepwater coral reef habitat, the Blake Plateau

**Advisory Panels** and the **Scientific and Statistical Committee** provide the Council with essential input to guide effective fishery management.

**18** Advisory bodies  
**259** Advisory members

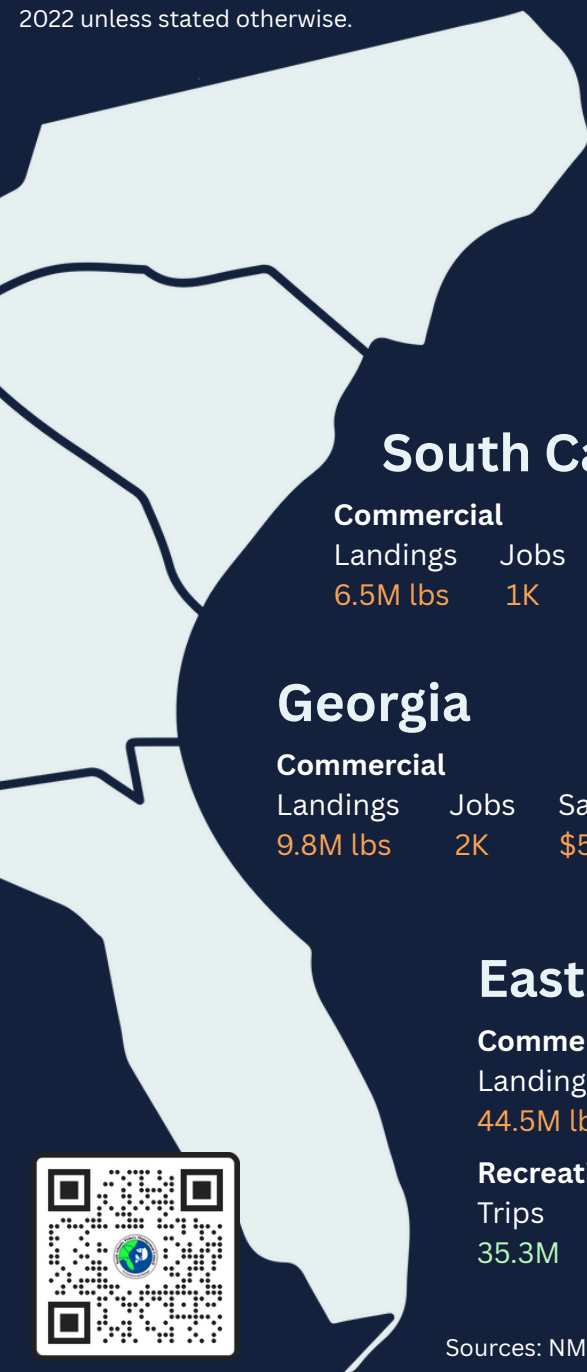
\*Values include state and federally managed species.

# South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



## Economic Metrics by State and Fishery Management Plan

All statistics on this page are from the year 2022 unless stated otherwise.



### North Carolina

#### Commercial

Landings	Jobs	Sales
33.7M lbs	4K	\$212M

#### Recreational

Trips	Jobs	Sales
20.6M	12K	\$1.62B

### South Carolina

#### Commercial

Landings	Jobs	Sales
6.5M lbs	1K	\$56.8M

#### Recreational

Trips	Jobs	Sales
10.8M	3K	\$359M

### Georgia

#### Commercial

Landings	Jobs	Sales
9.8M lbs	2K	\$52.8M

#### Recreational

Trips	Jobs	Sales
5.2M	2K	\$338M

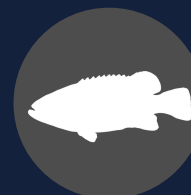
### East Florida

#### Commercial

Landings	Jobs	Sales
44.5M lbs	2.5K	\$214M

#### Recreational

Trips	Jobs	Sales
35.3M	9.5K	\$1.37B



### Snapper Grouper

21.7M lbs recreational landings  
4.2M recreational trips  
4.5M lbs commercial landings



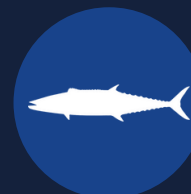
### Dolphin Wahoo

10.4M lbs recreational landings  
1.8M recreational trips  
260K lbs commercial landings



### Shrimp

17.1M lbs commercial landings



### Coastal Migratory Pelagics

8.4M lbs recreational landings  
5M recreational trips  
4.5M lbs commercial landings



### Spiny Lobster

1.7M lbs recreational landings  
5.7M lbs commercial landings



### Golden Crab

144K lbs commercial landings in 2021

