

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 miles²
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

- 131** Tackle shops visited, 74 more than once (2020-2026)
- 94** In-person events attended (2020-2026)
- 30** Seminar series with more than 1,600 attendees (2021-2026)

Data Collection

SAFMC is the only regional fishery management council with a dedicated **Citizen Science Program**. The program has recruited **4,983 volunteers** helping fill data gaps through 3 Citizen Science projects, addressing 3 different research priorities.

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)

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

78.8 Million
Recreational fishing trips taken in 2023

36,500 Jobs

Supported → **\$7.6 Billion** In business sales
Generated → **20,600 Jobs**

187.5 Million
Pounds in combined landings from both the recreational and commercial sectors in 2023

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

100.7 Million
Pounds landed in 2023

Generated → **\$193.1 Million**
Commercial ex-vessel value

Supported → **\$691.9 Million**
In income

\$9.5 Billion
In combined business sales from both the recreational and commercial sectors in 2023

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

Management

A continued commitment to **community-focused** outreach, including Lines of Communication and Mackerel Port Meetings to gather meaningful input and foster two-way dialogue among fishery stakeholders.

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

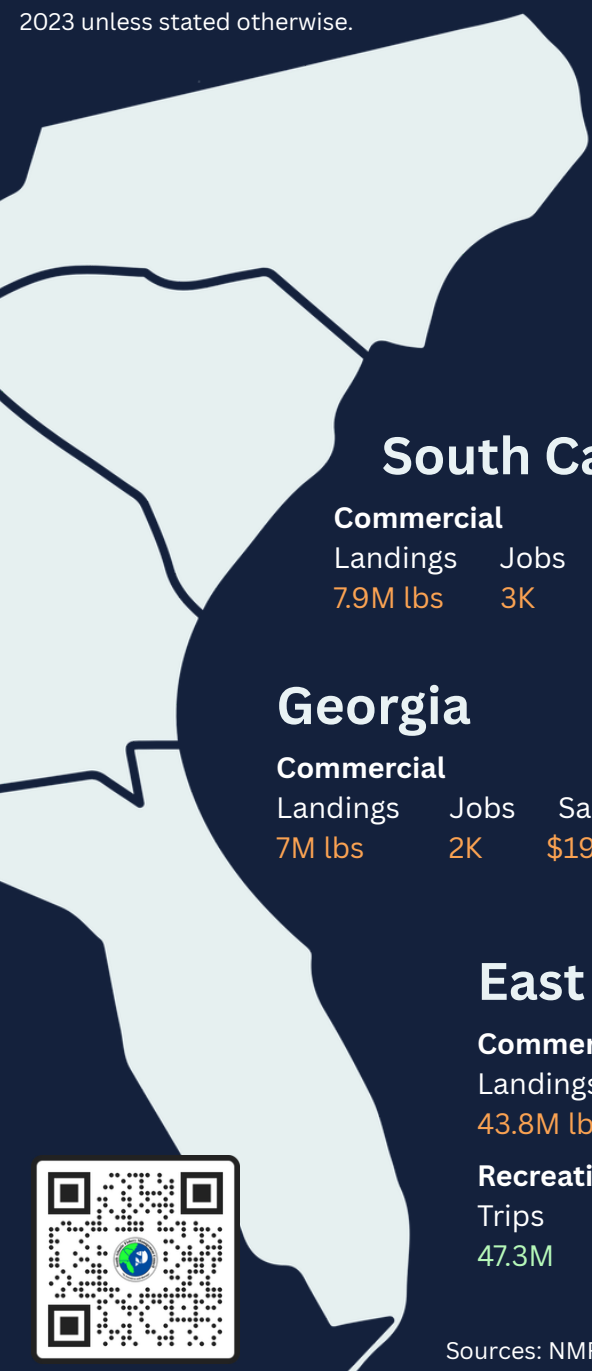
- 52** Meetings
- 655** Stakeholders
- 8** States
- 18** Advisory bodies
- 259** Advisory members

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Economic Metrics by State and Fishery Management Plan

All statistics on this page are from the year 2023 unless stated otherwise.



North Carolina

Commercial

Landings	Jobs	Sales
42.1M lbs	8K	\$731M

Recreational

Trips	Jobs	Sales
15.8M	11K	\$2.1B

South Carolina

Commercial

Landings	Jobs	Sales
7.9M lbs	3K	\$247.9M

Recreational

Trips	Jobs	Sales
10.7M	3.4K	\$665.4M

Georgia

Commercial

Landings	Jobs	Sales
7M lbs	2K	\$190.1M

Recreational

Trips	Jobs	Sales
5.1M	2.7K	\$578.3M

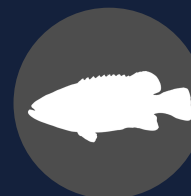
East Florida

Commercial

Landings	Jobs	Sales
43.8M lbs	8K	\$750M

Recreational

Trips	Jobs	Sales
47.3M	19.2K	\$3.99B



Snapper Grouper

20.1M lbs recreational landings
6.3M recreational trips
4.2M lbs commercial landings



Dolphin Wahoo

10.6M lbs recreational landings
2.1M recreational trips
231K lbs commercial landings



Shrimp

16.9M lbs commercial landings



Coastal Migratory Pelagics

11.7M lbs recreational landings
5.3M recreational trips
4.9M lbs commercial landings



Spiny Lobster

1.6M lbs recreational landings
5.3M lbs commercial landings



Golden Crab

144K lbs commercial landings in 2021

