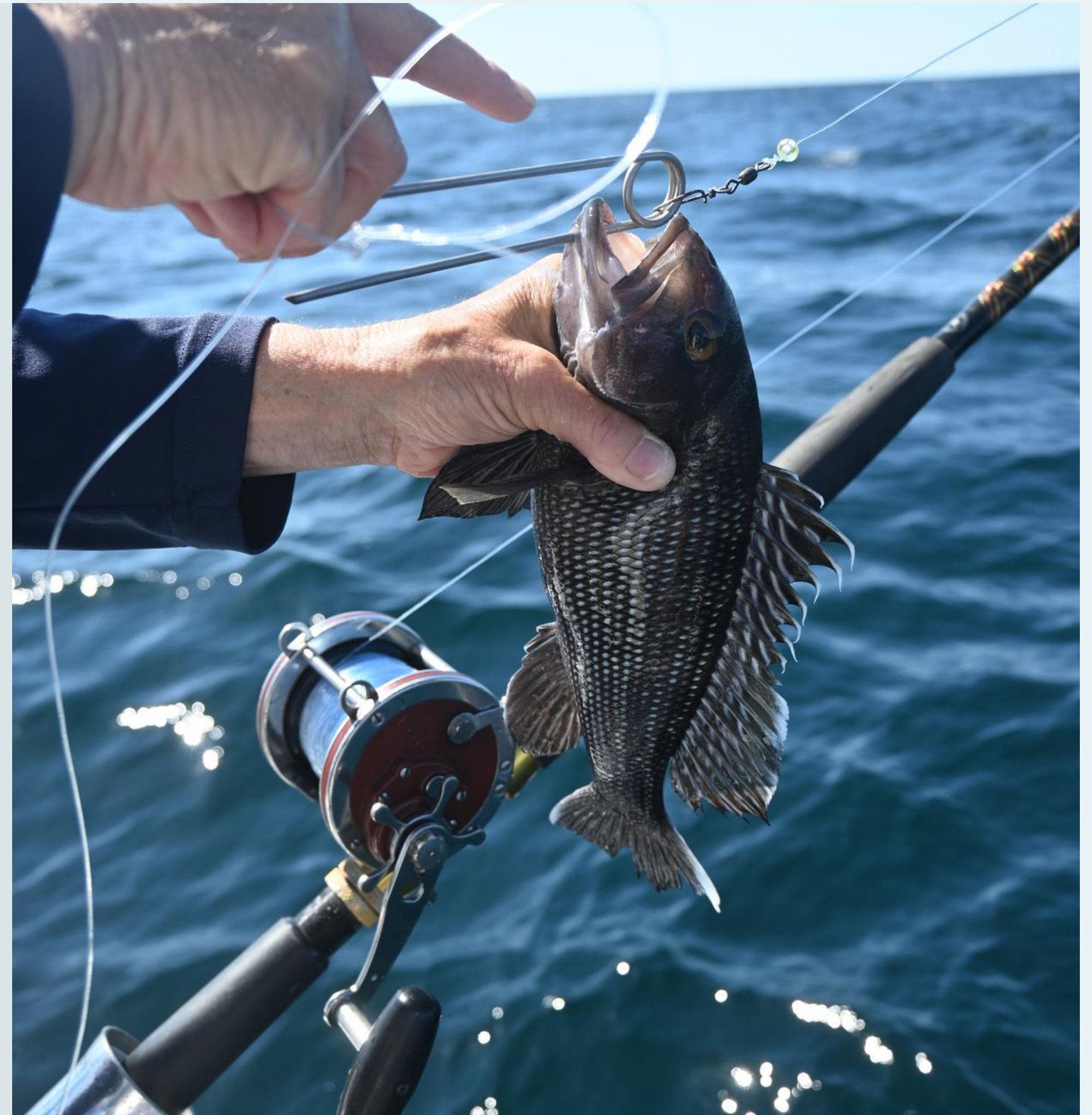


# Best Fishing Practices Campaign Update

*October 2024 Snapper Grouper AP Meeting*



- Outreach Events
- Best Fishing Practices Master Volunteer Program
- Sea Grant Reef Fish Fellowship





# BFP and Citizen Science Outreach Events

Since April 2024

- Seminars
- Tackle shop outreach
- ICAST
  - Donuts and Descending Devices
- BFP MVP implementation
  - South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

**Best  
Fishing  
Practices**

**Master  
Volunteer  
Program**



# Goals

**#1:** Expand reach by empowering key members of the fishing community to spread the best fishing practices message and methods on SAFMC's behalf.

**#2:** Increase awareness and use of all best fishing practices when releasing fish, specifically snapper grouper species exhibiting signs of barotrauma.

**#3:** Increase SAFMC's regular interaction with stakeholders that will grow involvement in fisheries management.

# Target Audience

- Key members of offshore fishing community
- Novice fishermen
- State and federal agencies
- *Port samplers*



# Workshop Components



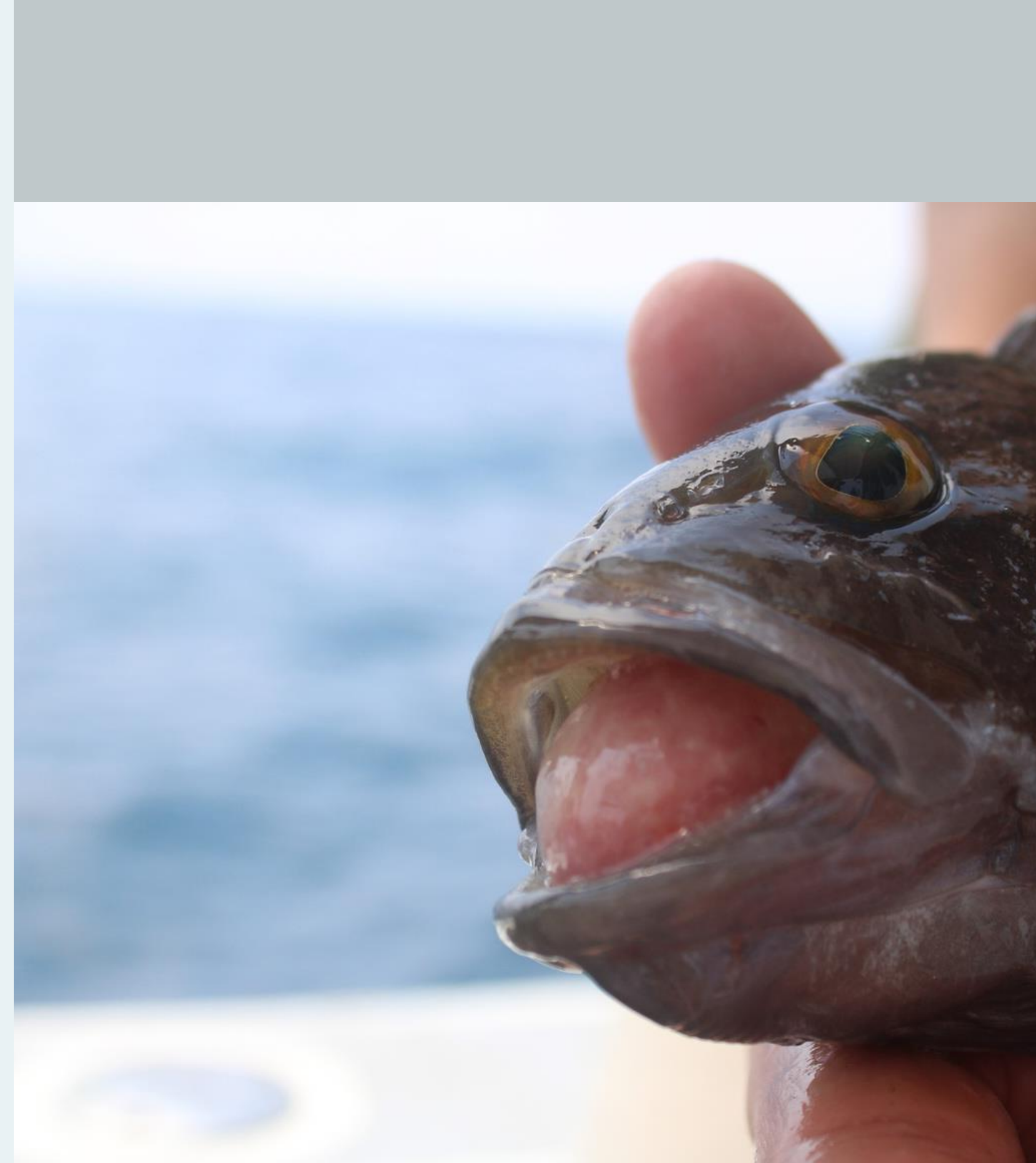
## 1. Best Fishing Practices

- General practices
- Identifying barotrauma
- Descending and venting

## 2. Getting Involved

- Citizen Science projects
- Regional Fishery Management Councils
- The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Marine Resource Education Program (MREP)

## 3. State agency efforts (if applicable)



*South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's*

## **Best Fishing Practices Master Volunteer Program**



**April 25th, 2024**

**6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

**South Carolina DNR Outdoor Classroom  
Charleston, SC**

# **BFP MVP Educational Binder**

Each participant is given a binder for future reference and use when sharing information to others.

Includes:

- Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit sheet
- Copy of presentation and QR codes
- Packet of BFP and Citizen Science informational materials (stickers, brochures, rack cards)

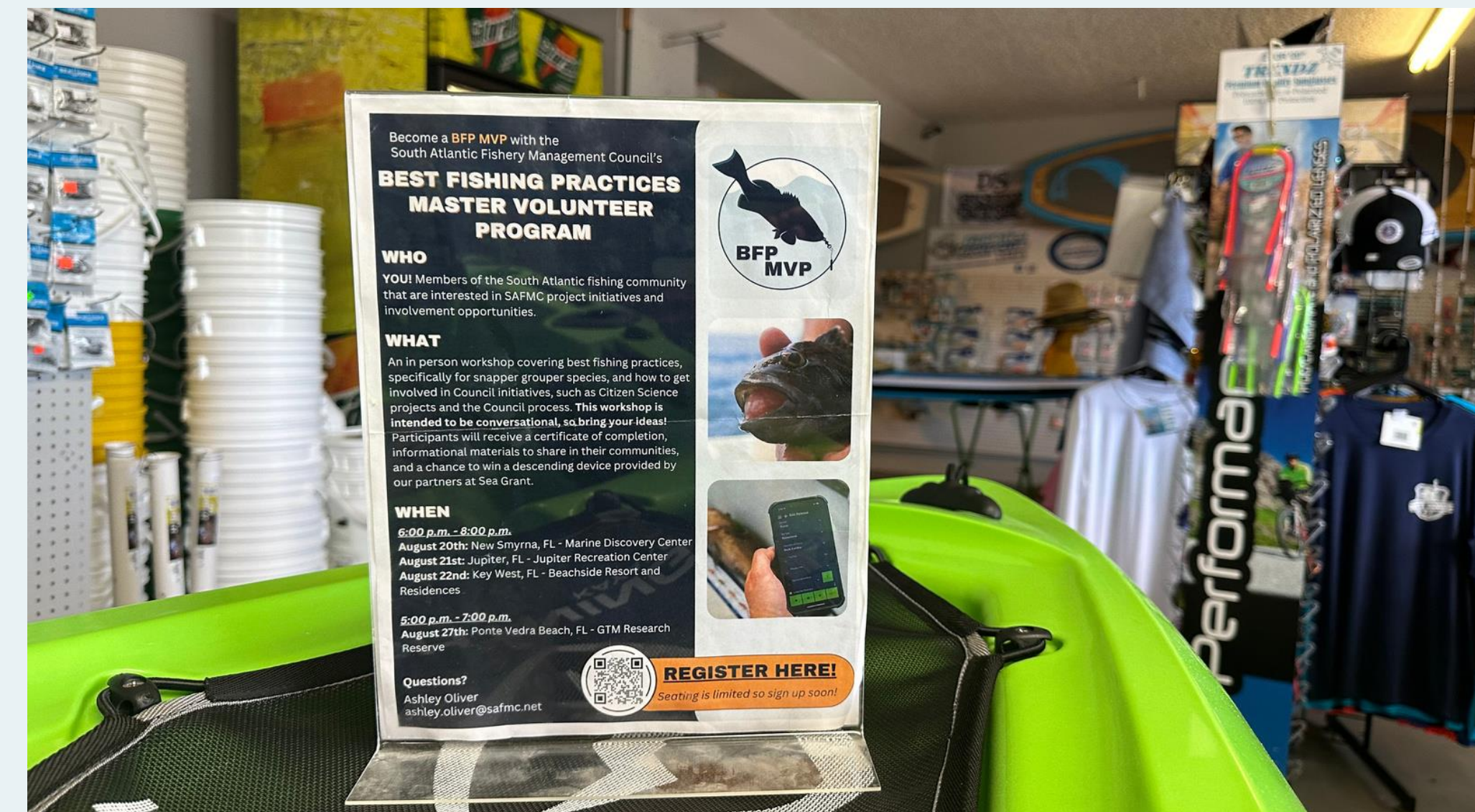
# 2024 Workshop Schedule



State	Location
South Carolina	Charleston
	Myrtle Beach
	Port Royal
Georgia	Savannah
Florida	Porte Vedra Beach
	New Smyrna
	Jupiter
	Key West
North Carolina	Wilmington <i>11/19</i>
	Morehead City <i>11/20</i>
	Raleigh <i>11/21</i>

# Key Takeaways

- Quality over quantity.
- Discussions and activities are needed to break up content.
- Positive feedback from attendees suggests more fishermen need to take a course like this.
- Outreach from state partners, advisory panel members, and Council members are a must to be successful.



# Sea Grant Reef Fish Extension Fellowship

## Goal

To advance stakeholder understanding of reef fish issues and management, particularly as it relates to species in the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Unit.

## Focus

Increasing awareness of Best Fishing Practices—particularly those which reduce barotrauma-related release mortality—while building relationships with stakeholders.

# Fellowship Activities

Activities the fellow conducts  
across NC, SC, GA, and FL

