

# Socio-Economic Profile of the Snapper Grouper Fishery in the South Atlantic Region

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# Overview of Presentation

- Background and Goals for the SG Profile
- Data and Methods
- Key Findings, with a focus on info in the report for 2-for-1 provision for Unlimited SG permits, 'latent' permits, and vessel/trip characteristics
- Additional info/analysis that may be needed



# Background on the Project

- Council and Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel requested an in-depth profile of the commercial fishery as part of the Snapper Grouper Vision Blueprint
- Input from AP, Council and SEP
- Analysis conducted October 2017 – January 2018 by Kari MacLauchlin Buck
- Presented to SEP (Feb 2018), SAFMC (March 2018) and Snapper Grouper AP (Apr 2018)

# Project Goals

- Community/Area summaries
  - 9 areas
- Detailed analysis of SG permits, permit holders and permitted vessels
- Participation
  - Details on number of trips, vessels and days at sea by year and area
  - Catch portfolios, trip types
- Snapper Grouper Landings
  - Total landings and revenue over time
  - Landings and revenue by species or complex
  - Landings and revenue by gear type

# Data and Methods

- Data

- Permit records from 1998 through 2016
- Commercial logbook data from 1998 through 2016
- Accumulated Landings System (ALS) data
- SEFSC- SSRG Socioeconomic Data set Oct 2017

- Methods

- Descriptive statistics
- Two-mode network analysis and network metrics (permit and catch portfolios)

# Key Findings: Permits and Permit Holders

How many SG1 (Unlimited) and SG2 (225-lb Limited) permits are there?

Total as of January 2018:

- 541** SG1 permits

- 110** SG2 permits

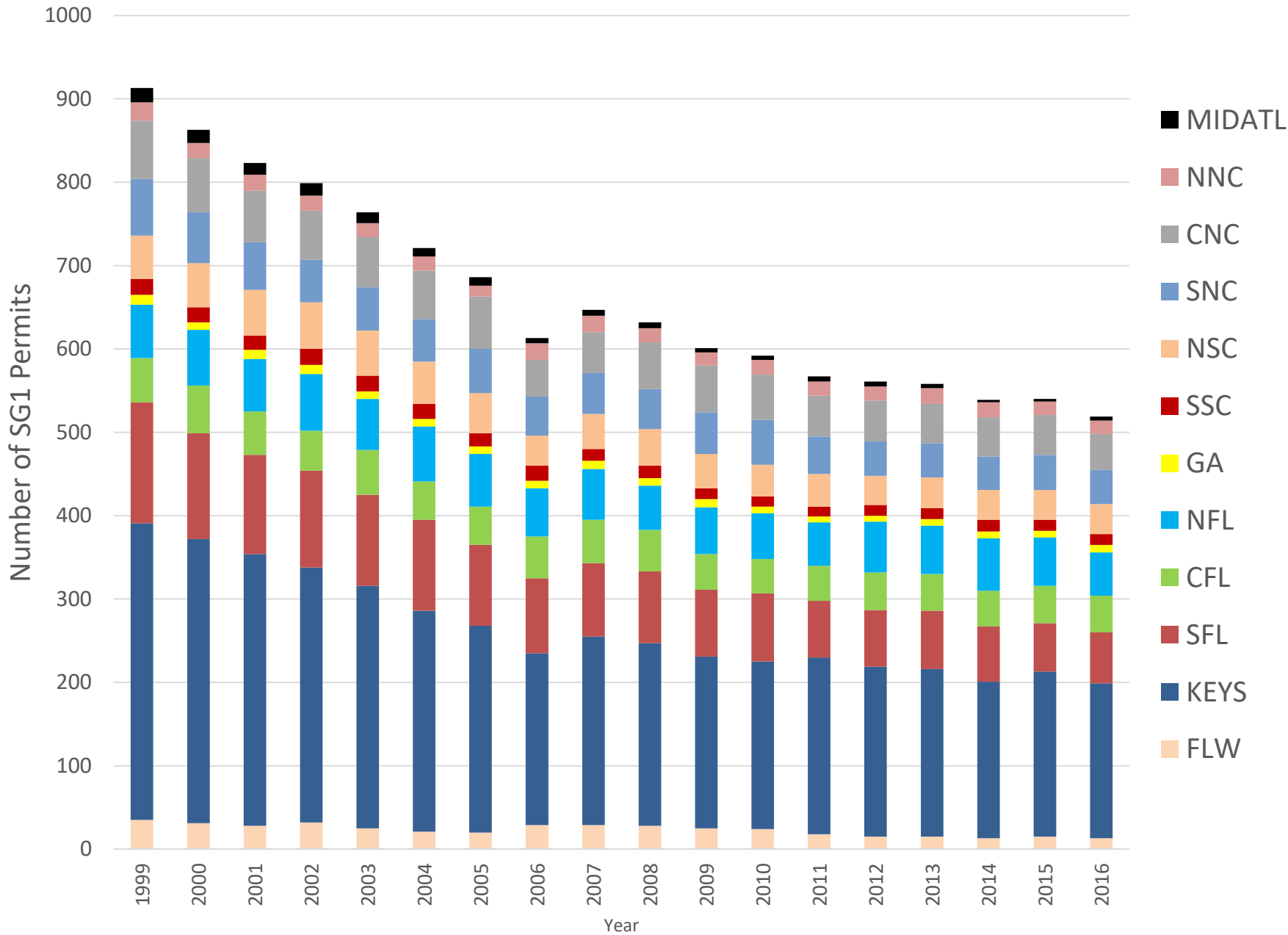
How have the numbers of SG1/SG2 permits changed since 1998?

- **45%** decrease in SG1 permits

- **67%** decrease in SG2 permits

Decrease in SG1 permits → 2-for-1 requirement and retired (not renewed) permits

Decrease in SG2 permits → retired permits (non-transferable)



**Figure 2-2.** Snapper Grouper Unlimited (SG1) permits by homeport area/state from 1999 through 2016

# Key Findings: Permits and Permit Holders

Where are the homeports of vessels with SG1/SG2 permits?

Majority in Florida, largest concentration in the Florida Keys

- **67%** SG1 permits in FL
- **80%** SG2 permits in FL

How long have SG1 permit holders held the permits?

- ~**60%** : same permit holder for 10+ years
- ~**30%**: original permit holder

What other federal permits do SG1/SG2 vessels have?

- Most vessels have 3-4 federal permits
- Majority have Commercial Dolphin/Wahoo and Spanish Mackerel— many also have Commercial King Mackerel
- About 1/3 have at least one federal S Atlantic charter permit

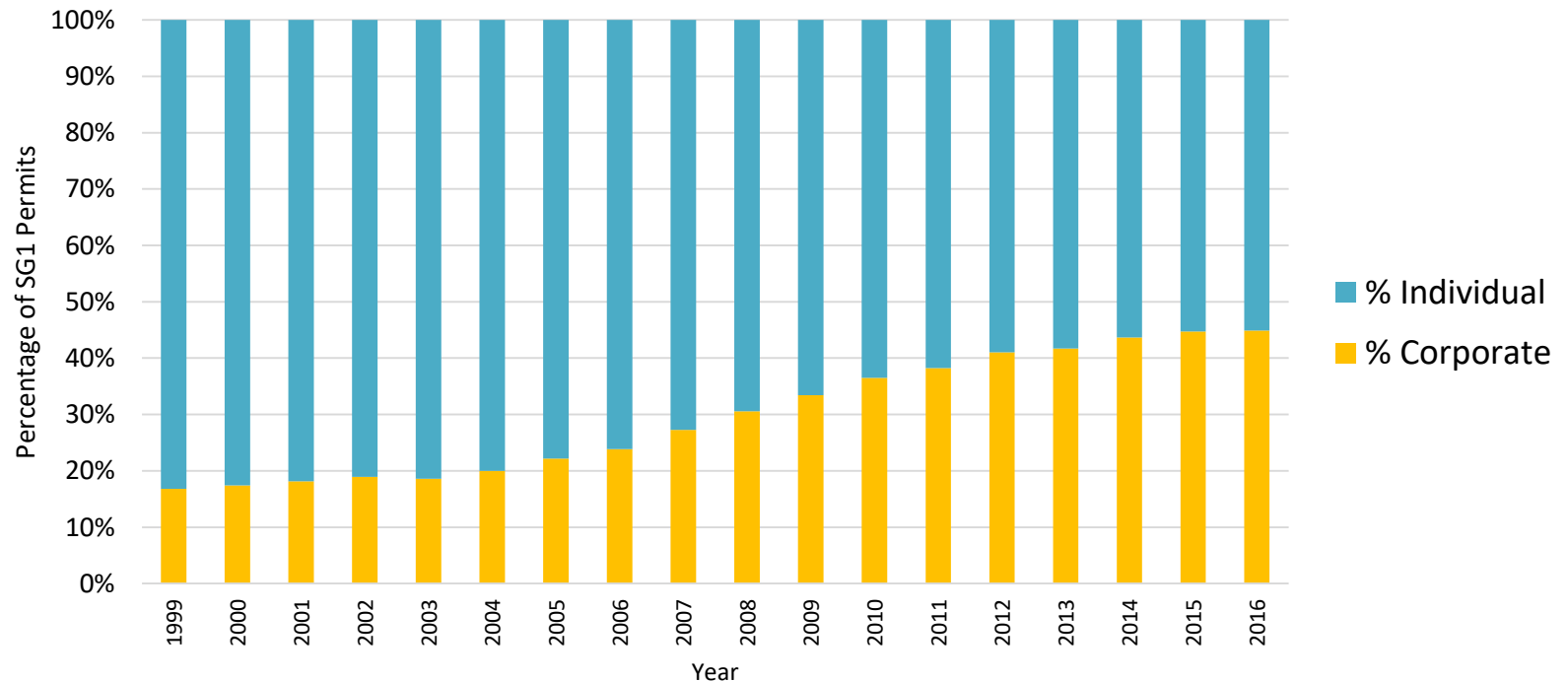


# Key Findings: Permits and Permit Holders

## How many SG1 permits are held by corporations?

The proportion of SG1 permits held by corporations has increased from 17% in 1998 → 45% in 2016

Most permits holders are individuals (non-corporate).



**Figure 2-3.** Proportions of total SG1 permits that are held by individuals and corporations 1998-2016

# Key Findings: Permits and Permit Holders

## What is the cost to obtain a SG1 permit?

- \$60,000 to \$80,000
    - for 1 corporate or 2 non-corporate SG1 permits
  - The increase in advertised prices from about \$40,000 in 2011
  - Advertised prices for SG1 annual “leases” at \$6,000 to \$8,000
  - This is based on information found online; actual costs may be different
- \* The SERO Permits Office does not track when another entity fishes on a commercial permit for one year, but fishermen refers to these permits as “leased” permits.

# Key Findings: Landings on Permits

How many permits have no landings of Snapper Grouper?

- **Less than 5%** of SG1/SG2 permits have zero SG landings total for five years (from 2012-2016)

How many permits have any Snapper Grouper landings (>0 lbs) in every year from 2012-2016?

- **45%** SG1 permits have landings every year
- **30%** SG2 permits have landings every year

# Key Findings: Landings on SG1 Permits

**Table 3-7.** Percentage of valid **SG1** permits by area each year with landings of species in the Snapper Grouper complex (SG spp) and with landings from the Snapper Grouper, CMP, and DW complexes (SG/CMP/DW spp) from 2012 through 2016

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>TOTAL</b>					
SG spp	76.4%	71.9%	76.2%	78.6%	77.2%
SG/CMP/DW spp	78.5%	74.9%	78.6%	80.5%	78.4%
<b>NC</b>					
SG spp	85.2%	76.7%	89.1%	84.5%	90.6%
SG/CMP/DW spp	88.9%	76.7%	90%	87.3%	92.5%
<b>SC and GA</b>					
SG spp	87.7%	79.7%	81.7%	77.8%	73%
SG/CMP/DW spp	87.7%	83.1%	81.7%	79.4%	73.5%
<b>FL East Coast</b>					
SG spp	77%	70.1%	81.6%	87.2%	68%
SG/CMP/DW spp	81.1%	76.6%	86.2%	90.6%	85.8%
<b>FL Keys</b>					
SG spp	64.8%	59.6%	64.9%	73.1%	73%
SG/CMP/DW spp	66.5%	61.3%	66.8%	73.5%	73.5%
<b>Other Regions</b>					
SG spp	54.5%	34.8%	47.1%	36.4%	29.2%
SG/CMP/DW spp	54.5%	39.1%	47.1%	36.4%	45.8%

# Key Findings: Landings on SG2 Permits

**Table 3-8.** Percentage of valid **SG2** permits by area each year with landings of species in the Snapper Grouper complex (SG spp) and with landings from the Snapper Grouper, CMP, and DW complexes (SG/CMP/DW spp) from 2012 through 2016

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SG spp	44.1%	42.1%	45.2%	38.4%	38.7%
SG/CMP/DW spp	50.4%	47.9%	51.3	46.4%	49.1%

# Permits with no or low landings

For an analysis of ‘latent’ permits, the Council may need to provide guidance on:

→ How many SG pounds per year (or period of # years) would qualify a vessel to be:

- Very occasional SG participant (example: <300 lbs?)
  - Mostly participates in other commercial fisheries but has a SG commercial permit
  - Minimal fishing with another non-fishing employment
- Part-time (e.g., “weekend fisherman”) (example: 300-1,000 lbs?)
- Full-time but works both Charter and Commercial (example: 1,001-30,000 lbs?)
- Full-time Commercial (example: greater than 30,000 lbs?)

# Key Findings: Vessel Characteristics

## – Florida vessels

- 20-30 ft
- Built in 1970s or 1980s
- 201-400 hp
- Fiberglass, ice for refrigeration

## – North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia vessels

- 30-40 ft
- Built in 1980s or 1990s
  - NC has the highest number of newer vessels (2000s)
- 201-400 hp
- Fiberglass, ice for refrigeration

# Key Findings: Trip Characteristics

- Northern NC, Central NC and Florida areas typically have 1-day trips with 1-2 crew
- Southern NC, South Carolina and Georgia have longer trips (3-5 days) with 2-3 crew

What is a “traditional bandit boat”?

- Requires additional analysis to understand:
  - How many vessels take multi-day trips
  - Regional variation
  - Seasonal variation



# Other Great Info in the SG Commercial Profile Report!

- Sub-area summary profiles
- Number of permits by area and changes over time
- Business structure
- Permit portfolios
- How to obtain permits (price, leasing etc)
- Retired permits
- Length of time permits are held
- Landings on permits
- Vessel characteristics
- Details on number of trips, vessels and days at sea by year and area
- Catch portfolios, trip types
- Total landings and revenue over time
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# The Snapper Grouper Commercial Fishery Profile Report is available online at:

[http://safmc.net/download/SGProfileReport\\_May2018.pdf](http://safmc.net/download/SGProfileReport_May2018.pdf)



Chef Jon Buck with a golden tilefish  
Photo credit: Hannah Miller



Offloading, Charleston SC  
Photo credit: Amber Von Harten