

Finfish Advisory Panel

August 14, 2019 - 6PM

Susan Shipman Environmental Learning Center, Brunswick
(5:45PM - Assemble to serve dinner)

- 6:00 Welcome
- 6:05 Approve Agenda and November 2018 Meeting Summary
- 6:10 MFS Updates:
 - 2019 Shellfish Legislation & Board Rule Development
 - MFAC Reauthorization, Membership & updated Operational Guidelines (Action Item)
 - FishSmart Initiative & Gray's Reef Angler Engagement Project
 - ASMFC Cobia FMP Amendment 1
 - 2019 Red Snapper Mini-Season
- 6:40 Marine Habitat License Plate Funds: project development
- 6:55 Artificial Reef Website Redesign
- 7:15 Update: license reform funds 2019 & 2020 spending plan
- 7:30 Red Drum Escapement Study
- 8:00 Adjourn

MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COUNCIL OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Adopted August 10, 2015
Updated **XX**, 2019

I. Name and Objectives

The name of the organization shall be the Marine Fisheries Advisory Council, hereinafter referred to as the "MFAC."

Objectives:

- 1) The MFAC will provide input and advisement to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), on its current assessment and management practices; various marine recreational and commercial fisheries management issues; research; and enhancement needs and projects.
- 2) The MFAC will assist DNR in implementation of recreational and commercial fisheries initiatives.
- 3) The MFAC will serve to communicate issues and activities of the Coastal Resources Division (CRD) to individual constituencies and provide feedback to DNR to improve the use of information for marine fisheries management.

II. Membership

The MFAC shall be composed of the membership of the DNR Marine Fisheries Advisory Panels represented by recreational, commercial, environmental, academic and marine business interests (as summarized in Appendix A).

- (1) The membership of the MFAC, as defined by each Advisory Panel (AP), shall be determined jointly by the Commissioner of Natural Resources (Commissioner), the Director (Director) and the **Chiefs of Marine Fisheries and Coastal Management Sections of the CRD**. When vacancies occur, the CRD staff (Staff) shall solicit nominations or suggestions for replacements from the current AP members and interested public. Staff shall, in turn, recommend individuals for appointment, based on their interest area and expertise, to the Commissioner or Director as authorized on his/her behalf. Appointments shall be until the termination date of the Administrative Order creating the Advisory Council, with the possibility for reappointment after creation of the next Administrative Order. Such termination date will not extend beyond the term of the Governor at the time of the Council's creation.

- (2) Any individual issued a fishing-related violation up to two years prior to filling a vacancy, or having a pending citation, may not be considered for appointment to the MFAC or any of its Advisory Panels. For current members, citations and/or convictions of fishing-related violations will be referred to the Commissioner and Director to decide if the individual should be considered for removal from the MFAC. This decision will be based on the following three criteria: 1) severity; 2) intent; and 3) the number of violations. If, based on these criteria, the Commissioner and Director decide that dismissal from the MFAC is appropriate, the individual will be removed from the MFAC and will receive a letter to that effect.
- (3) Two consecutive unexcused absences will result in immediate termination of membership. A Chief is authorized to excuse an absence from meetings or conference calls. Within any calendar year, any member who has not attended at least one-half of the formally scheduled meetings of their Advisory Panel and the full MFAC, without excused absences, may be deemed to have resigned their appointment. In extenuating circumstances, if a member expects a long-term absence, that individual can recommend a proxy to be appointed by the Director. Long-term proxies have full privileges.
- (4) When required to attend a meeting, each MFAC member is eligible for compensation of travel related expenses (subsistence and mileage) as provided by law. Travel expense statements will be submitted to and processed by Staff.

III. Staff

Staff will moderate meetings and provide technical, clerical, and secretarial services as required. Staff will take notes and produce a written summary of the meeting, and/or an electronic file of presentations made during the meeting. Copies of the meeting summary/presentations will be provided to each member via email.

IV. Meetings

- (1) Meetings will be held a minimum of once annually and as deemed necessary by the Staff.
- (2) New members shall be required to attend an orientation and education program.
- (3) Meetings will be announced to all members not less than two weeks in advance, and will list the date, time, location, and proposed agenda.
- (4) Members may submit agenda items, as well as requests for nonmembers to participate in an upcoming meeting, directly to Staff for consideration at the meeting at least five working days in advance of the meeting.

- (5) The current revised edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall guide meeting procedures and all business, as much as practical.
- (6) Non-DNR scientists and State agency personnel will be appointed as ex-officio members.
- (7) A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the voting membership, with the number of members dependent on whether it is an AP or full MFAC meeting. For example, an AP with 10 appointed members would require 6 members present to establish a quorum at a meeting. No action items will be taken without a quorum. Votes are a simple majority, except on amendments as noted below. The MFAC shall provide the opportunity for dissenting opinions to be reflected in meeting summaries. Once a meeting or conference call is adjourned, participating members may not change their vote. Ex-officio members do not have voting privileges and do not count toward establishing a quorum.
- (8) Electronic voting (e.g., via email or Survey Monkey) may be used with unanimous concurrence by members, following the same rules for establishing a quorum at meetings. The discussion summary will be sent out to the membership. Additional written or oral comments will be considered for one week and shared with membership electronically at the time Staff call for a vote.
- (9) All meetings are open to the public and all interested persons are invited to attend. Public comment, or questions regarding matters on the meeting agenda, may be taken at designated periods at the discretion of the meeting moderator.

V. Amendment of Guidelines

These guidelines may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the MFAC.

VI. Ad Hoc Panels

Ad hoc panels composed of MFAC members shall be appointed by the Director as necessary.

Appendix A

The purpose of the Advisory Panels is to provide input and advice to CRD regarding management of specific marine fisheries. It is the goal of the MFAC and Director to have equitable representation from the various sectors in proportions as listed below:

The Blue Crab Advisory Panel's (BCAP) membership will consist of between 11 and 15 persons who are knowledgeable about Georgia's blue crab fishery:

- Maximum of eight **licensed** commercial crabbers/dealers, with at least one crabber from each geographic sector (North – Chatham/Bryan; Middle – Liberty/McIntosh; South – Glynn/Camden). **Fishermen must have possessed a Georgia Resident Commercial Fishing license during the previous two years, have reported landings of crab, and must possess all other state and federal permits, as required.**
- Minimum of two **licensed** recreational crabbers, who do not possess a commercial fishing license.
- One non-DNR scientist experienced with crustacean population dynamics and/or management and affiliated with a non-governmental organization or academic institution based in Georgia (**ex-officio member**).

The Finfish Advisory Panel's (FAP) membership will consist of no more than 12 persons who are knowledgeable about Georgia's saltwater finfish fisheries:

- Six **licensed** recreational anglers - two from each sector (North – Chatham/Bryan/Liberty; South – McIntosh/Glynn/Camden; and at-large – reside in a non-coastal county). These individuals do not possess a commercial fishing license.
- Three licensed saltwater fishing guides - one from each sector (North – Chatham/Bryan/Liberty; South – McIntosh/Glynn/Camden; and at-large – reside in any GA county). The guides must have possessed a Georgia Resident Saltwater Fishing Guide license for the previous two years and possess all other state and federal permits, as required.
- Two licensed commercial fishermen – Fishermen must have possessed a Georgia Resident Commercial Fishing license during the previous two years, have reported landings of finfish, and must possess all other state and federal permits, as required.
- One non-DNR scientist experienced with saltwater fish population dynamics and/or management and affiliated with a non-governmental organization or academic institution based in Georgia (**ex-officio member**).

The Shrimp Advisory Panel's (SAP) membership will consist of 11 to 15 persons who are knowledgeable about Georgia's shrimp fisheries:

- Maximum of four commercial food shrimp trawlers, with at least one from each geographic sector (North – Chatham/Bryan; Middle – Liberty/McIntosh; South – Glynn/Camden).
- Maximum of four commercial castnetters, with at least one from each geographic sector.
- Minimum of one commercial bait shrimp fishermen/dealer.
- Minimum of one commercial food shrimp dealer associated with a seafood processing facility.
- **Commercial fishermen must have possessed a Georgia Resident Commercial Fishing license during the previous two years, have reported landings of shrimp, and must possess all other state and federal permits, as required.**

- Minimum of two licensed recreational shrimpers, who do not possess a commercial fishing license.
- One non-DNR scientist experienced with crustacean population dynamics and/or management and affiliated with a non-governmental organization or academic institution based in Georgia (ex-officio member).

The Shellfish and Mariculture Advisory Panel's (SMAP) membership will consist of 11 to persons who are knowledgeable about Georgia's shellfish and mariculture fisheries:

- Maximum of four certified shellfish dealers.
- Maximum of four licensed master harvesters.
- Minimum of two licensed recreational shellfish harvesters or coastal county residents.
- One non-DNR scientist experienced with shellfish science and affiliated with a non-governmental organization or academic institution based in Georgia (ex-officio member).
- One Department of Agriculture food safety officer (ex-officio member).
- One private, commercial, in-state shellfish hatchery or nursery operator.
- One related business owner such as a restaurateur.

DRAFT

From: Tina Berger [mailto:tberger@asmfc.org]

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 2:28 PM

Cc: Robert Beal <Rbeal@asmfc.org>; Deke Tompkins <dtompkins@asmfc.org>; ISFMP_DEPT <isfmp_dept@asmfc.org>

Subject: ASMFC Approves Atlantic Cobia Amendment 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST 9, 2019
PRESS CONTACT, TINA BERGER, 703.842.0740

ASMFC Approves Atlantic Cobia Amendment 1

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia (Atlantic cobia). Amendment 1 establishes management measures that transition the FMP from complementary management with the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils to sole management by the Commission. Amendment 1 to the FMP was initiated in anticipation of the Councils' Regulatory Amendment 31 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) FMP, which was approved earlier this year and removed Atlantic cobia from the Councils' oversight.

Amendment 1 changes several portions of the Commission's FMP that were previously dependent on the CMP FMP and institutes a long-term strategy for managing in the absence of a federal plan. Several of these changes establish processes for the Commission to carry out management responsibilities previously performed by the South Atlantic Council, including setting of harvest quotas and sector allocations, defining stock status criteria, and recommending management measures to be implemented by NOAA Fisheries in federal waters. Additionally, Amendment 1 transitions responsibilities of monitoring and closing (if necessary) commercial harvest to the Commission.

Moving forward, the Commission will recommend to NOAA Fisheries that fishing in federal waters be regulated according to the state of landing. If a vessel has licenses for multiple states with open seasons, they must follow the most restrictive license's regulations. If a vessel has licenses for multiple states, only one of which has an open season, they may fish under the regulations of the open state. Regulations resulting from this recommendation would only apply in federal waters. Fishermen would still be required to follow state possession or landing limits in state waters.

Amendment 1 establishes a harvest specification process, which allows the Board to specify a limited set of management measures for up to 3 years. One of the measures that may be set through this process is a coastwide harvest quota. However, until the first specification process occurs, after completion of the ongoing stock in 2020, the current coastwide quota (670,000 pounds) remains in effect.

The Amendment also changes the units used to measure and evaluate the recreational fishery from pounds numbers of fish. To accommodate this change, the recreational harvest quota in pounds

(620,000) is converted to numbers (22,142 fish) and allocated among the states, resulting in the following state recreational harvest targets:

- Virginia: 8,724 fish
- North Carolina: 8,436 fish
- South Carolina: 2,679 fish
- Georgia: 2,081 fish
- 1% *De Minimis* Set Aside: 222 fish

States still may set their own seasons and vessel limits to achieve their respective targets.

Finally, Amendment 1 establishes a *de minimis* status for the commercial sector that exempts states with small commercial harvests from in-season monitoring requirements. States are required to implement measures of Amendment 1 by July 1, 2020. Amendment 1 will be available on the Commission's website, <http://www.asmfc.org/species/cobia>, by the end of August.

For more information, please contact Dr. Michael Schmidtke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mschmidtke@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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PR19-22

A PDF of the press release can be found here –

<http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/5d4dba0epr22CobiaAm1Approval.pdf>

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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
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Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

2019 Red Snapper season (5 days 7/12-7/14; 7/19-7/20)

Out of those 5 – Only 1 day of poor weather conditions where trips were cancelled

452 samples collected for ageing [**2018 = 401**; dockside=217 (54%), carcass=184 (46%)]

Dockside = 162 (36%); Carcasses = 290 (64%)

258 first weekend/ 194 second weekend

Lengths: 11–37 inches; **avg 25 in** (2018 = 10-37 in; avg 23.4 in)

Weights: 1-29 lbs; **avg 9.4 lbs** (2018 = 0.5-31lbs, avg 8.0 lbs)

2018 ages 1-26 with 75% 5 years or younger

Extra info:

7/12-7/14 (258 total samples)

7/12 all Charters scheduled for dockside sampling cancelled for weather. Two HB's went out as scheduled

Total dockside samples = 71 (12=NOAA)

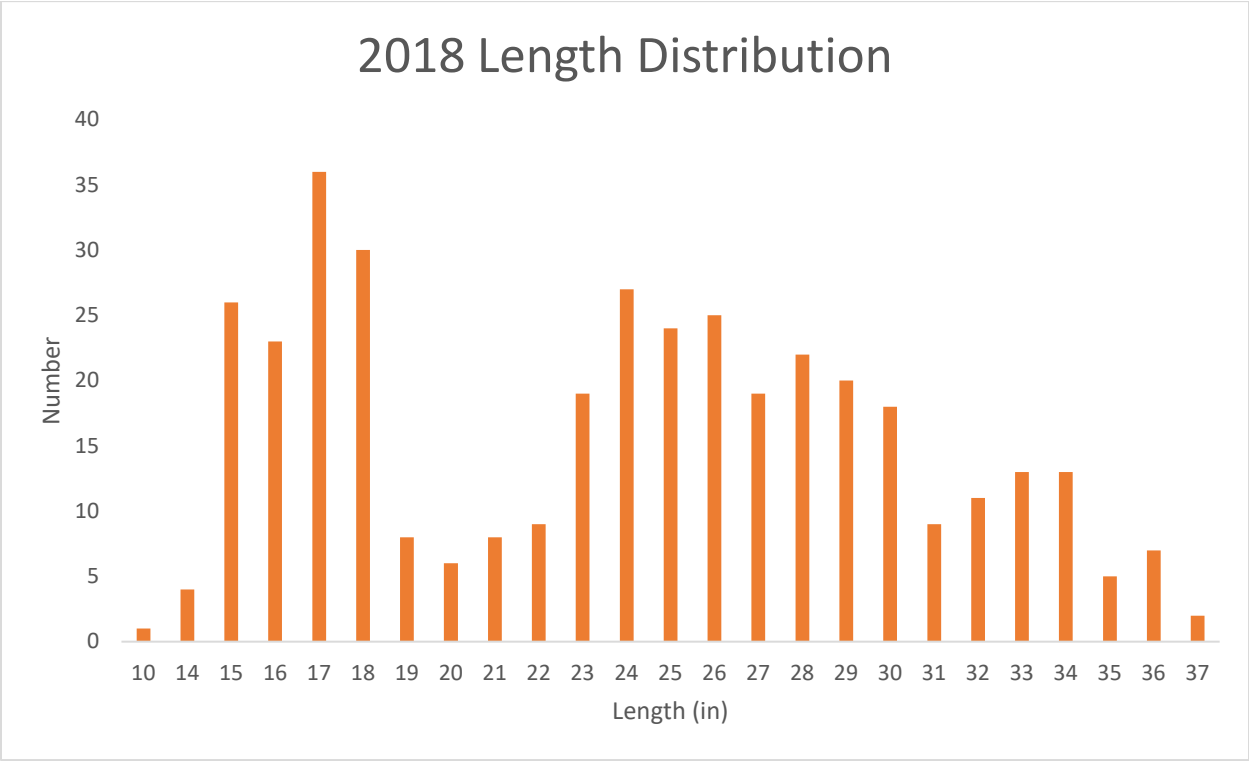
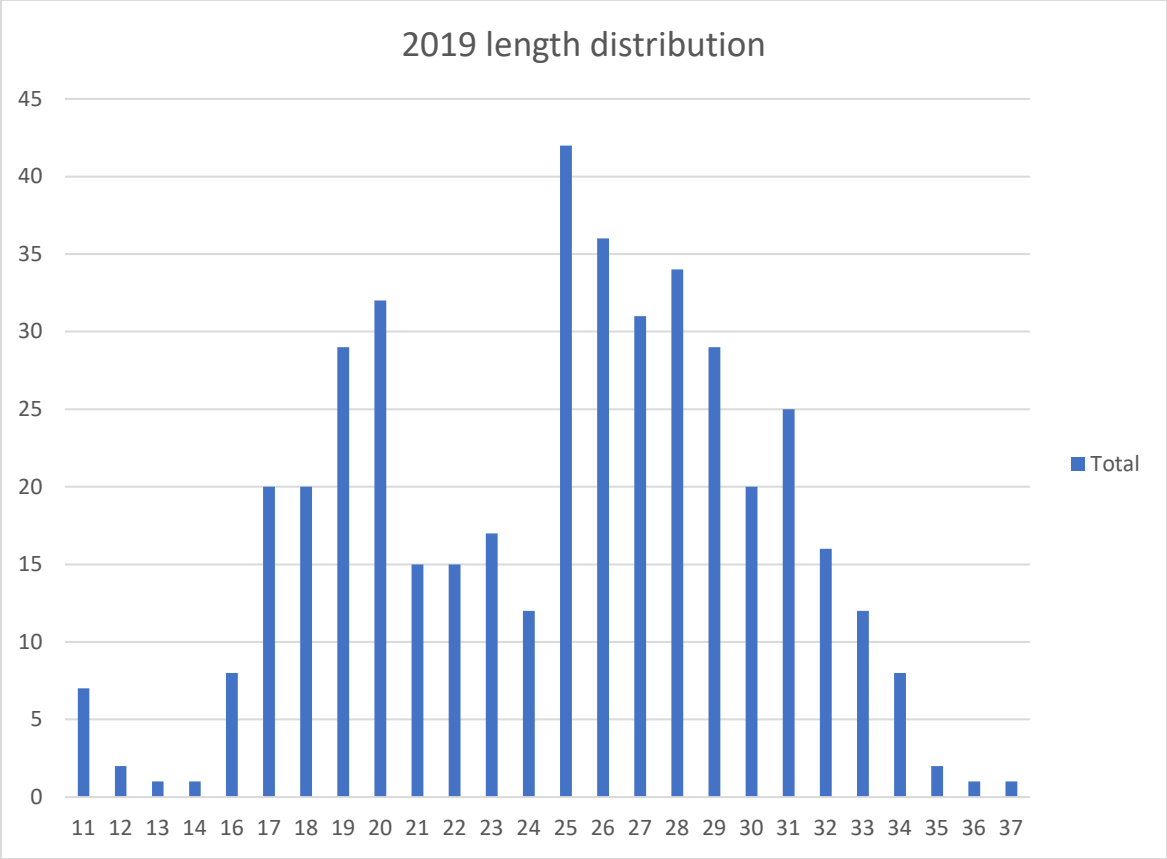
Contentment Bluff King Mack Tournament = 4

Carcasses = 183 (160 CP, 23 CHCP)

7/19-7/20 (194 total samples)

Total dockside samples = 87 (includes 4 PR sampled at Turner's)

Carcasses = 107 (85 CP, 22 CHCP *assuming last 4 carcasses donated were CP*)



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Red Snapper Fishing Reports Are In! Reported Data For 2019 Atlantic Red Snapper Mini-Season



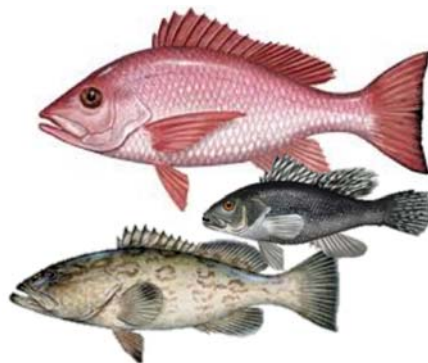
The following information was reported through the [MyFishCount](#) voluntary recreational angler reporting project during the 2019 red snapper mini-season.

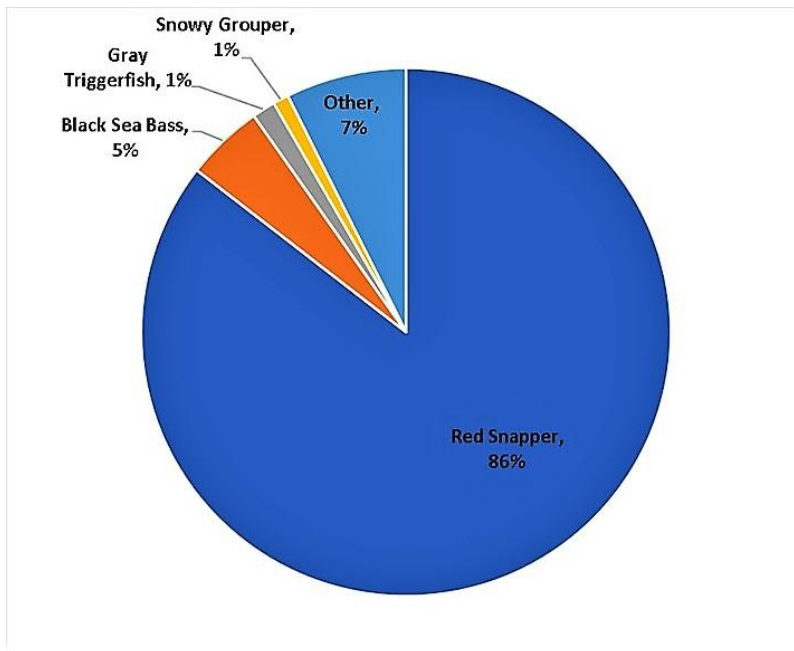
Participants in the project received this summary report on Friday, August 2nd. By using the mobile app and online reporting options, MyFishCount participants provided information to help managers better understand fishing effort and other data during the 5-day mini-season. The figures below summarize preliminary mini-season data that were submitted by July 20, 2019.

We encourage all anglers to use the MyFishCount app to report fishing activity throughout the year. The project offers users the opportunity to create their own personal fishing logs while demonstrating the effectiveness of using mobile applications for recreational reporting. Over 1,350 users have reported information on over 3,000 fish through the MyFishCount pilot project. Recreational anglers are needed to continue to demonstrate the value of this reporting tool and make a difference in collection of fishery data. Create your account today!

MyFishCount Mini-Season Reported Highlights

- Largest red snapper was 38 inches
- Heaviest red snapper was 29.8 lbs
- Smallest red snapper was 8 inches
- Largest fish reported was a 40 inch cobia
- Smallest fish reported was an 8 inch black sea bass
- Other species reported included scamp grouper, dolphin, black sea bass, banded rudderfish, black grouper, and red porgy

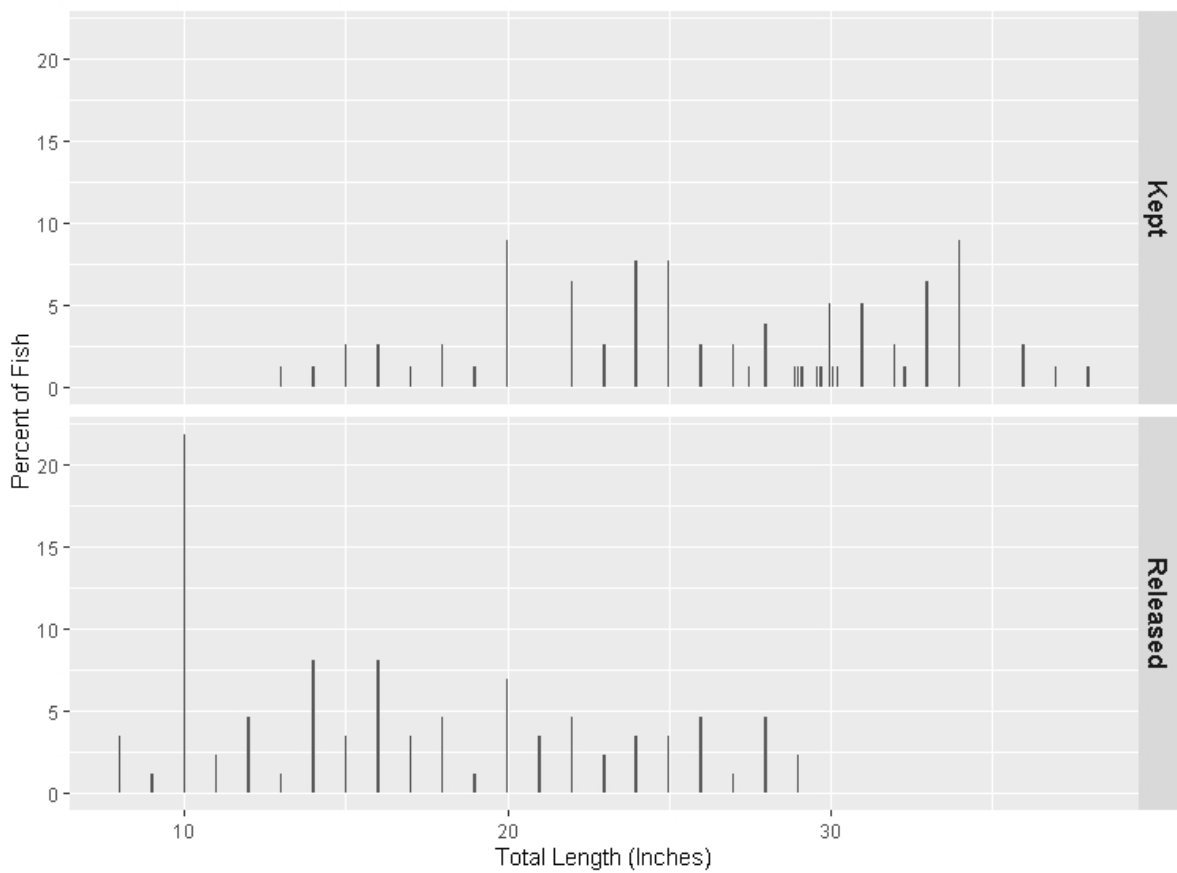




Species reported through MyFishCount during red snapper mini-season

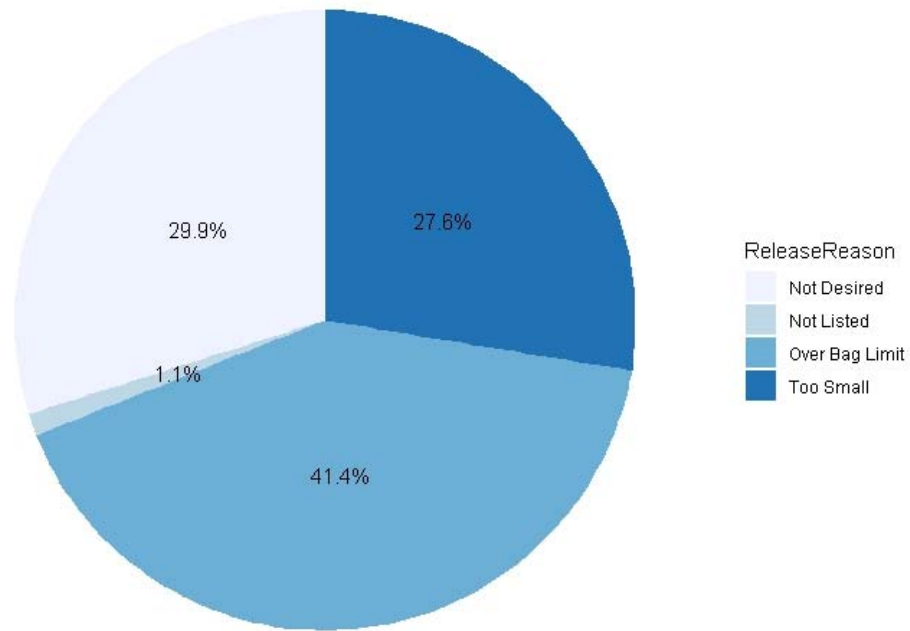
The figure above shows species in addition to red snapper reported during the 2019 Atlantic red snapper mini-season. MyFishCount allows fishermen to report all fish, whether kept or released, during a fishing trip.

Red Snapper Catch and Release Information



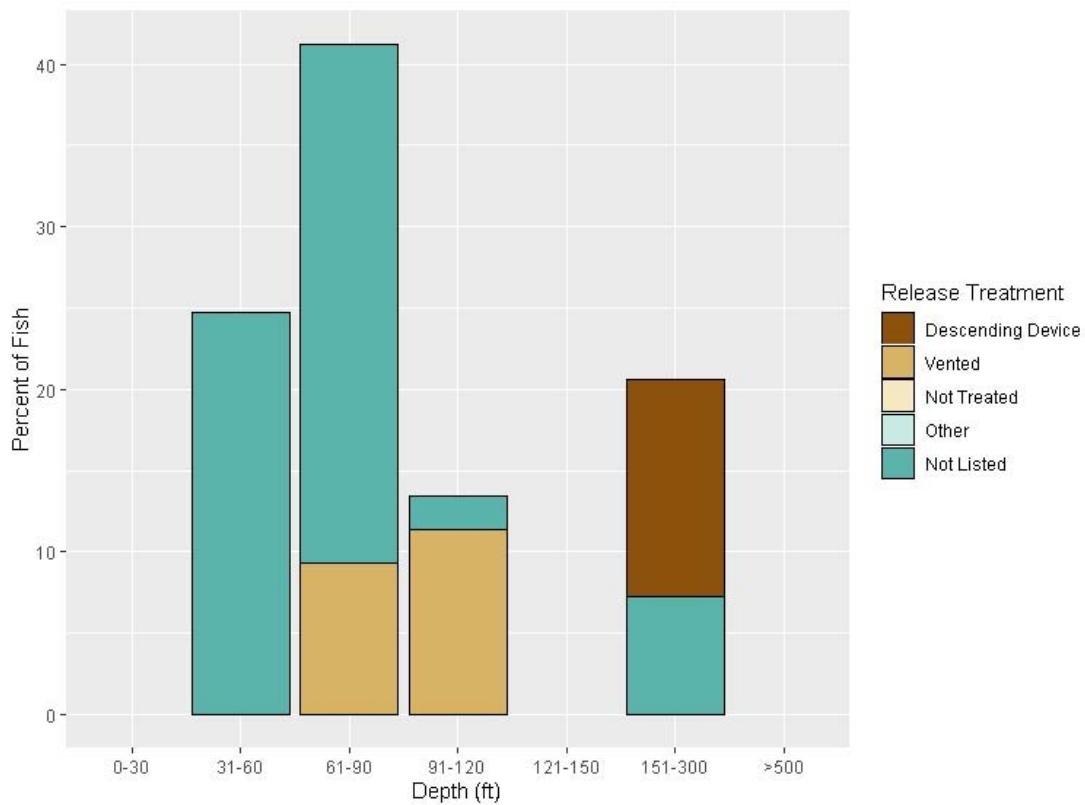
Percent of red snapper kept and released by length

As seen in the figure above, red snapper of all sizes were kept, with fish ranging in length from 13 to 38 inches. The majority of red snapper reported released were under 20 inches. Data on the size of fish released as well as those kept are equally important.



Reason for releasing red snapper

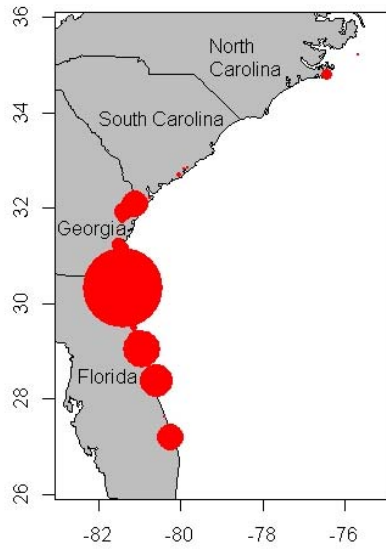
The pie chart above shows the reason for releasing red snapper as reported through MyFishCount. Anglers this season indicated that most fish were released because they were "Over the Bag Limit".



Release treatment of red snapper based on depth

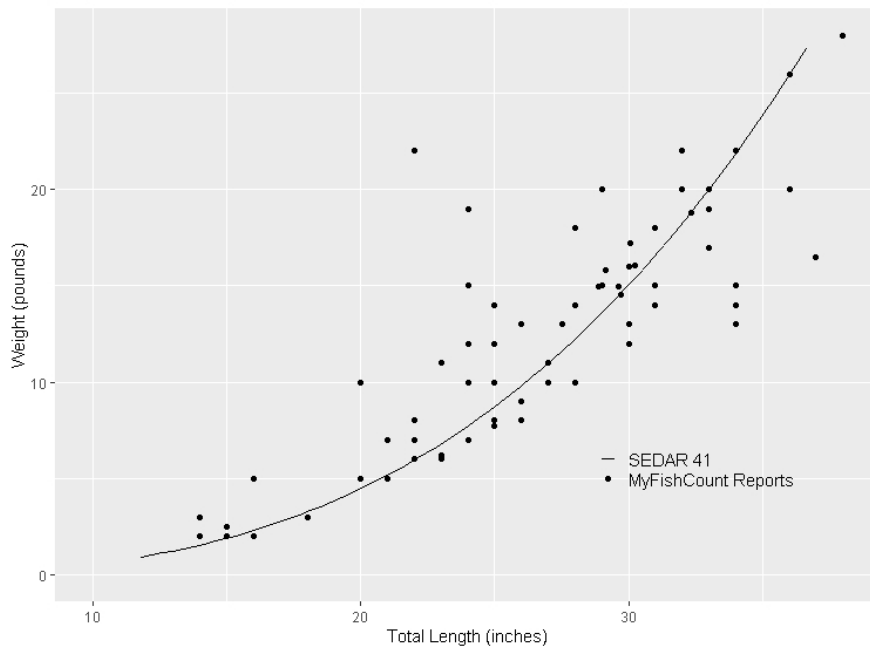
The figure above shows the release treatment of red snapper based on depth. Anglers releasing fish in water with depths of 91-100 feet used venting tools and those releasing fish in depths of 151-300 feet used descending devices. This could be attributed to the fact that fish are more likely to experience and exhibit symptoms of barotrauma when reeled in from depths greater than 90 feet. To learn more about barotrauma and best fishing practices, click the link below.

[MyFishCount Best Practices](#)



Point of origin and relative number of trips taken with catches of red snapper during the red snapper mini-season

Northeast Florida is a hot spot for red snapper fishing. MyFishCount data indicated there are several popular ports in this area.



Lengths and weights reported through MyFishCount compared to red snapper length and weights from the SEDAR 41 stock assessment

The line in this figure represents the average weight at length for red snapper from SEDAR 41 (the last stock assessment for red snapper was updated in 2017). Each point represents a length and weight for red snapper reported by an angler. The SEDAR 41 line falls between the points reported by anglers, indicating the lengths and weights reported by anglers are similar to the lengths and weights from the stock assessment.

Don't forget to log your trips, catches, and releases beyond red snapper mini-season!

You can create your own personal fishing log and share your catch and trip data with fishery scientists and managers by downloading and using the FREE MyFishCount mobile app for private recreational anglers.



Click the above buttons to download the app today!



You can also enter information online!

Report your catch through the MyFishCount website by visiting www.myfishcount.com.

Create a member profile and start logging your catch.

For additional information, visit:

[MyFishCount](http://www.myfishcount.com)

Questions? Concerns?

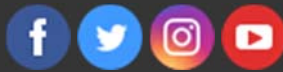
Contact Us:

BeBe Dalton Harrison
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(843)302-8443

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL | WWW.SAFMC.NET



STAY CONNECTED



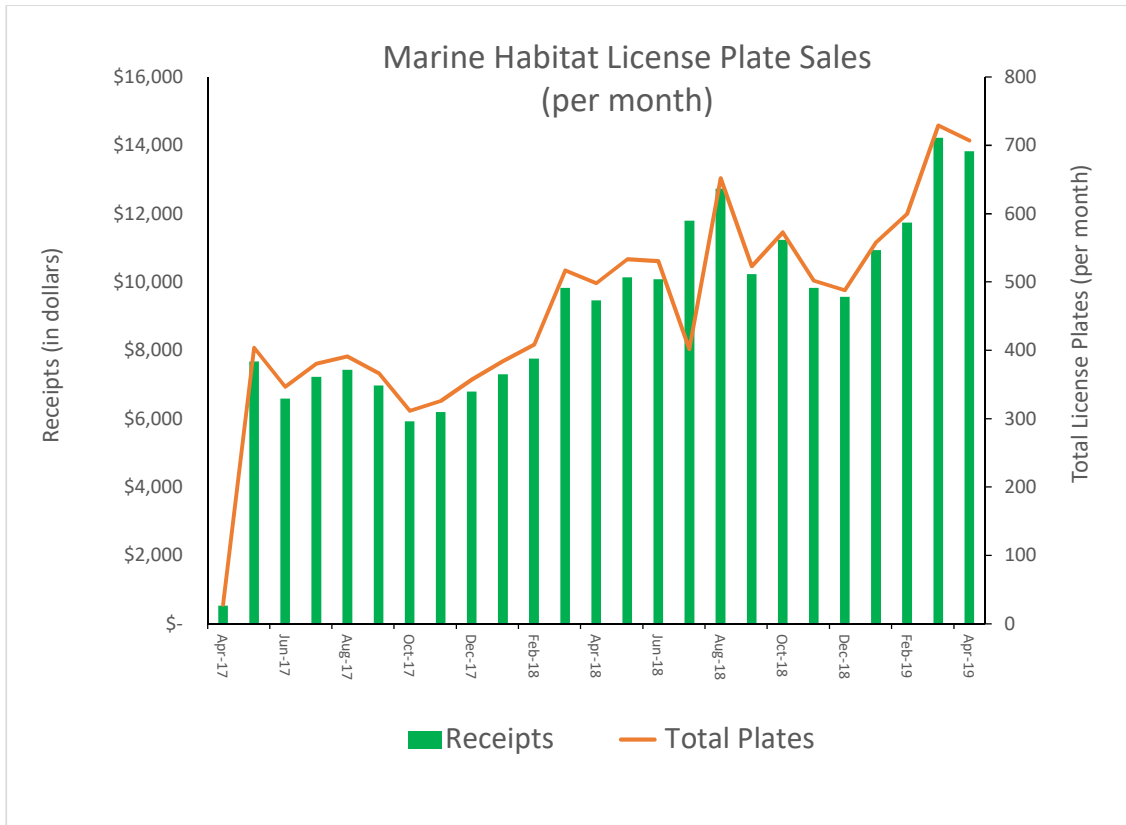


Marine Habitat License Plate Sales Information

| Month/Year | Receipts | # Issued | # Renewed | Total Plates |
|--------------|------------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Apr-17 | \$532 | | | 28 |
| May-17 | \$7,676 | | | 404 |
| Jun-17 | \$6,584 | | | 347 |
| Jul-17 | \$7,224 | | | 380 |
| Aug-17 | \$7,429 | | | 391 |
| Sep-17 | \$6,967 | | | 367 |
| Oct-17 | \$5,919 | | | 312 |
| Nov-17 | \$6,193 | | | 326 |
| Dec-17 | \$6,792 | | | 357 |
| Jan-18 | \$7,297 | | | 384 |
| Feb-18 | \$7,761 | | | 408 |
| Mar-18 | \$9,825 | | | 517 |
| Apr-18 | \$9,465 | | | 498 |
| May-18 | \$10,137 | | | 534 |
| Jun-18 | \$10,079 | | | 530 |
| Jul-18 | \$11,791 | 289 | 113 | 402 |
| Aug-18 | \$12,726 | 314 | 338 | 652 |
| Sep-18 | \$10,230 | 230 | 293 | 523 |
| Oct-18 | \$11,233 | 227 | 346 | 573 |
| Nov-18 | \$9,828 | 212 | 290 | 502 |
| Dec-18 | \$9,569 | 191 | 297 | 488 |
| Jan-19 | \$10,932 | 228 | 330 | 558 |
| Feb-19 | \$11,736 | 264 | 336 | 600 |
| Mar-19 | \$14,222 | 358 | 371 | 729 |
| Apr-19 | \$13,829 | 291 | 416 | 707 |
| Total | \$225,976 | | | 6,798 |

Last 12 months

estimated based on \$19/month

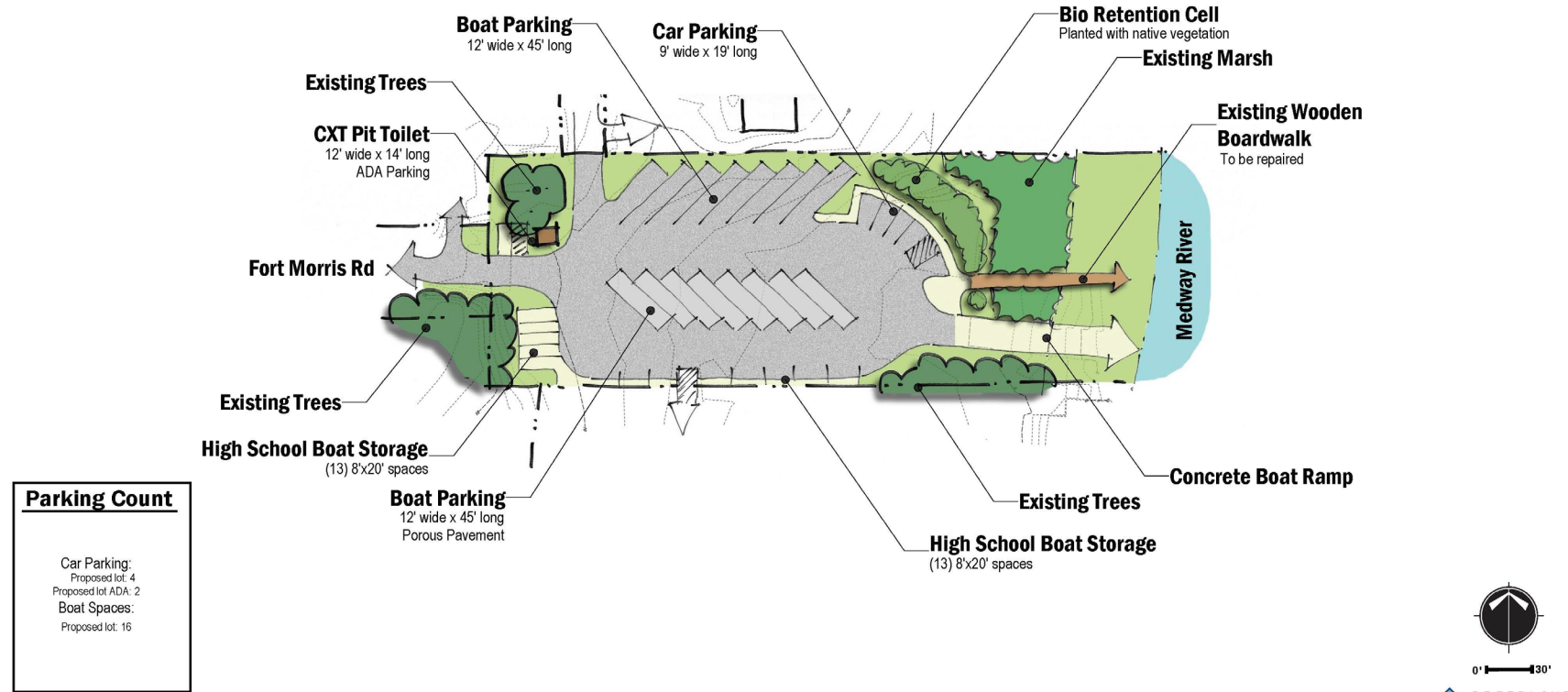




Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Unit

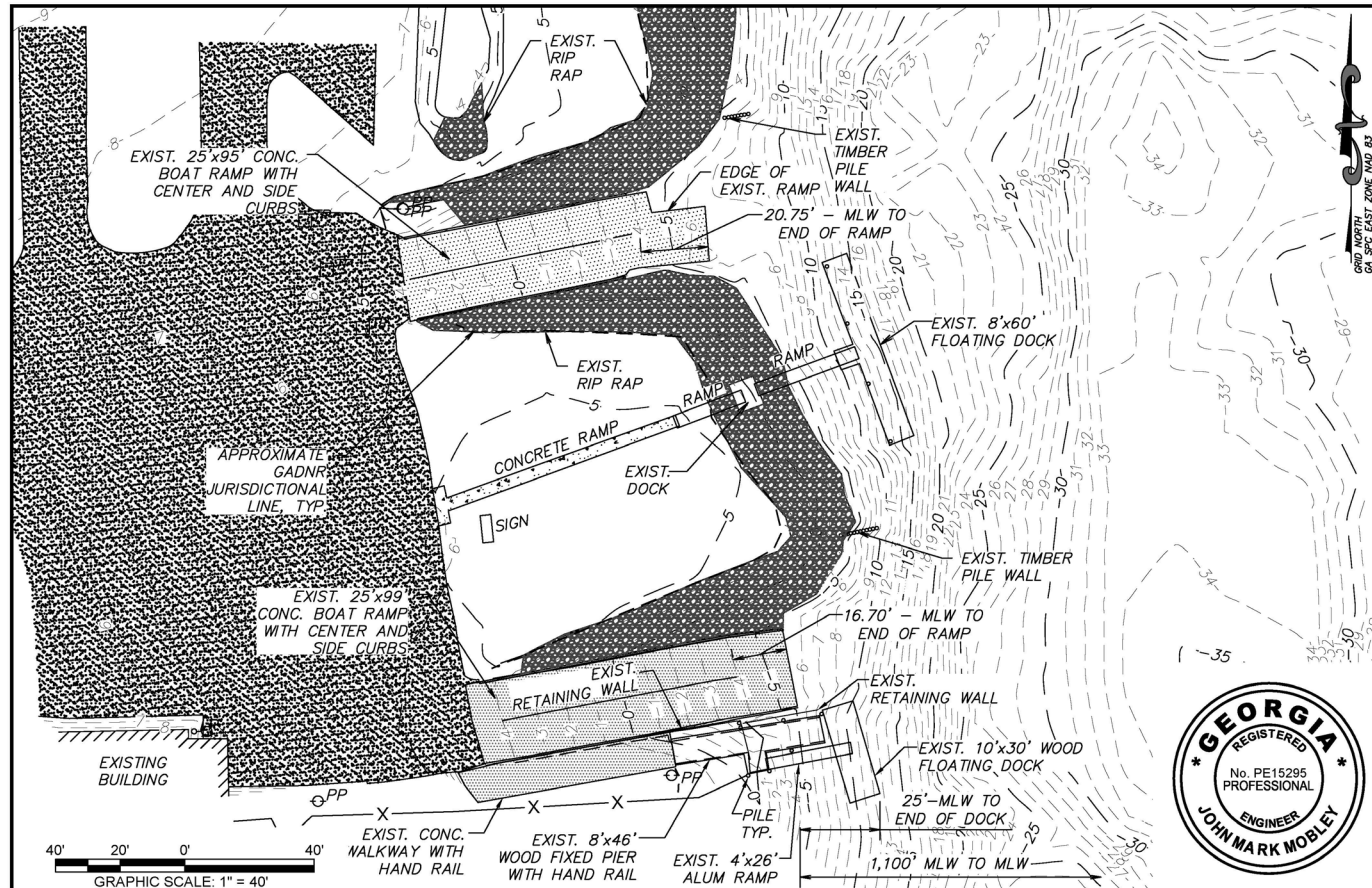


Public Access — Sunbury Boat Ramp Parking Lot



| Parking Count | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Car Parking: | Proposed lot: 4 |
| | Proposed lot ADA: 2 |
| Boat Spaces: | Proposed lot: 16 |

Public Access — Houlihan Park Boat Ramp



EMC ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC.
 10 Chatham Center South,
 Ste 100
 Savannah, GA 31405
 Ph: (912) 232-6533
 Fax: (912) 233-4580
 savannah@emc-eng.com
 www.emc-eng.com

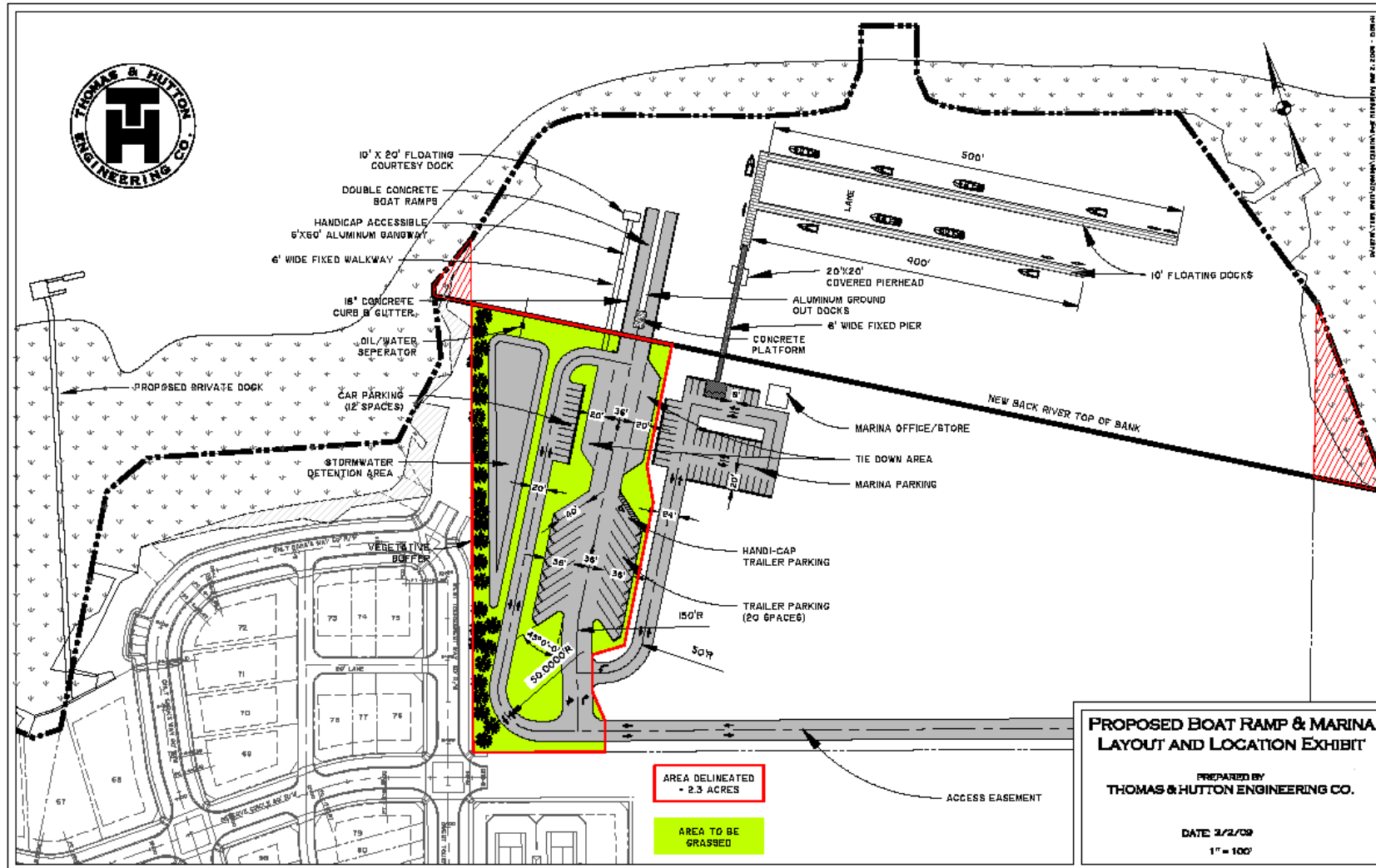
EXISTING CONDITIONS
HOULIHAN PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Prepared for:
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

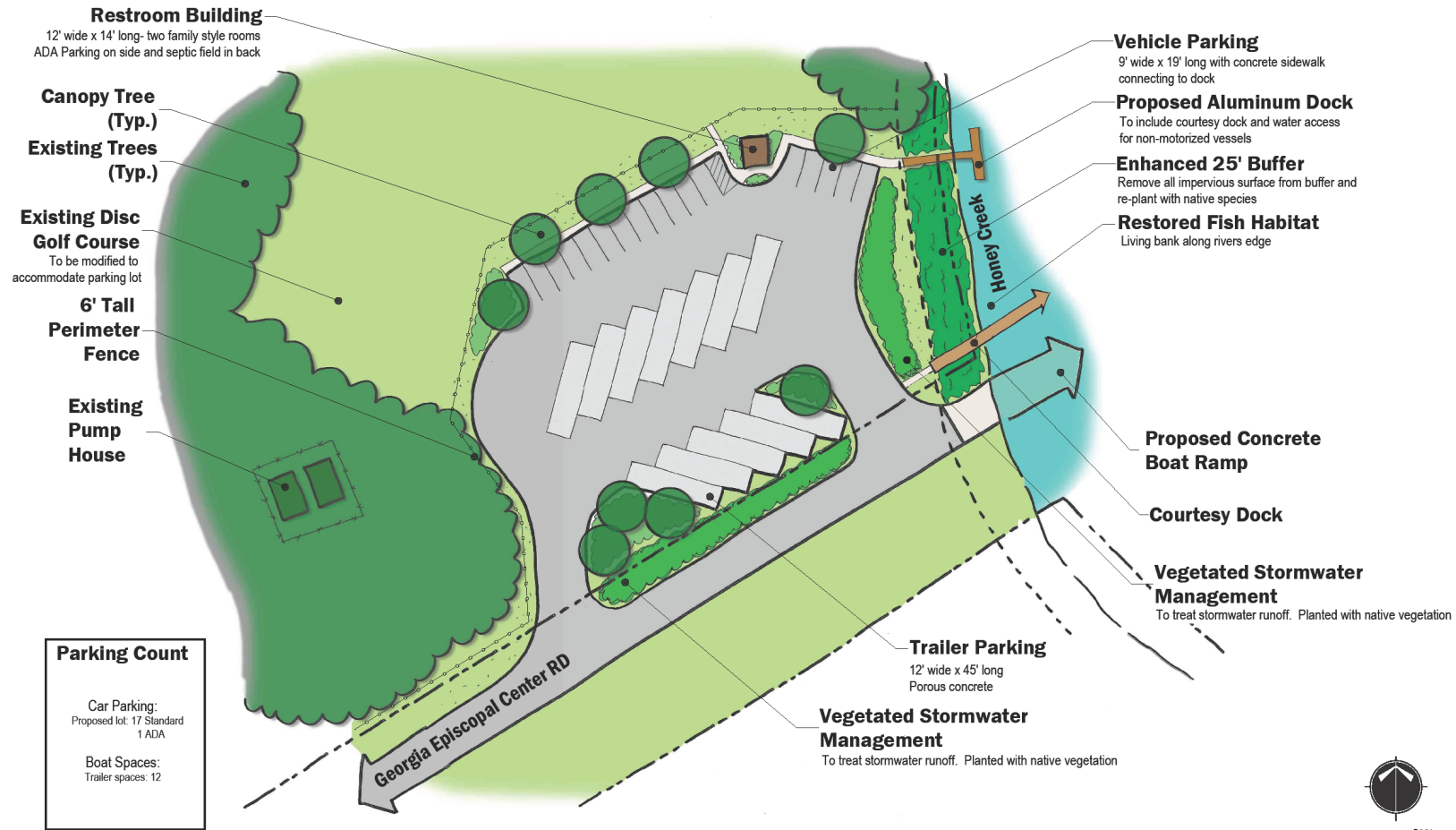
SHEET 1 OF 5

PROJECT NO: 18-2086
 DRAWN BY: CFM
 DESIGNED BY: JMM
 SURVEYED BY: EMC
 SURVEY DATE: NOV. 2018
 CHECKED BY: JMM
 SCALE: 1" = 40'
 DATE: FEBRUARY 2019

Public Access – Hutchinson Island Back River



Public Access — Honey Creek



Georgia Episcopal Boat Access Concept Plans

Concept C 06.25.2019

Marine Habitat License Plate



May 2017 – April 2019 \$225,976
6798 Tags

FY19 (minus May, June and July)
Average 250 issued and 300 renewals
~\$10,000 per month

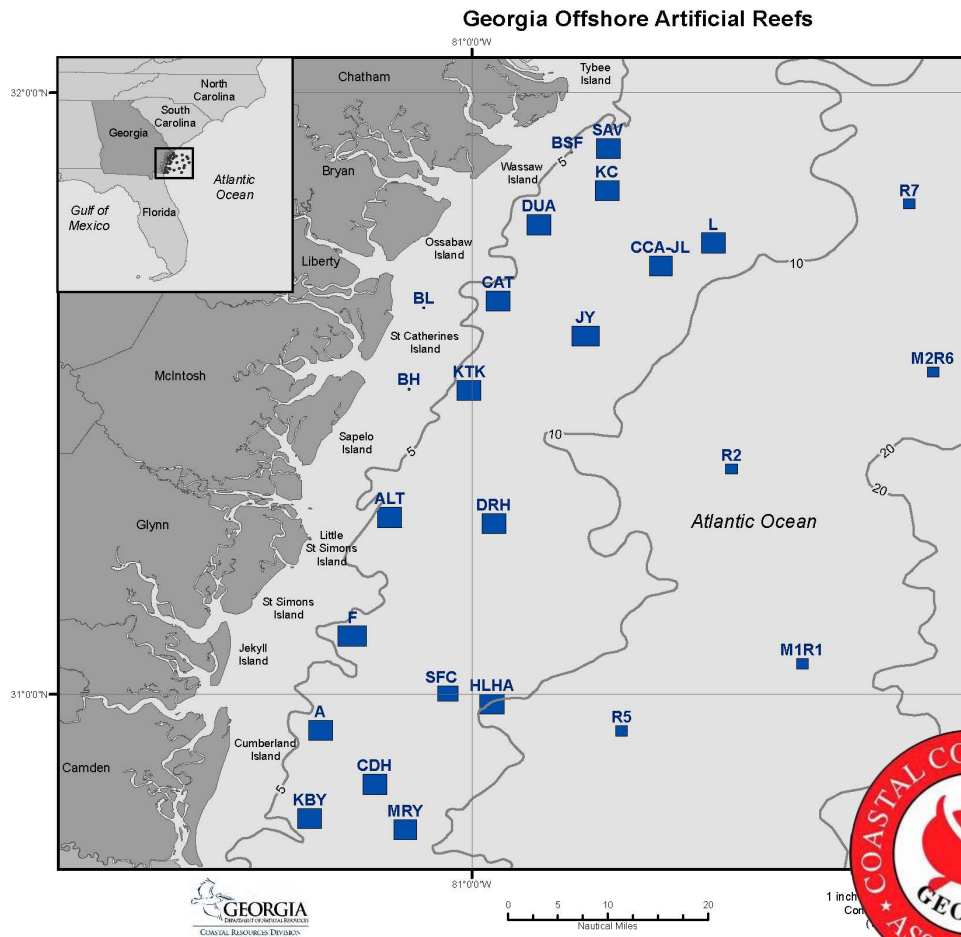
April 291 issued and 416 renewal
~\$13,000 per month

Top 10 Counties

1. Chatham
2. Cobb
3. Glynn
4. Fulton
5. Henry
6. Gwinnette
7. Cherokee
8. Coweta
9. Dougherty
10. Bartow

Offshore Artificial Reef— Pilot Boat Bill Brown

CCA-JL Last Deployment 2003



Length 77'

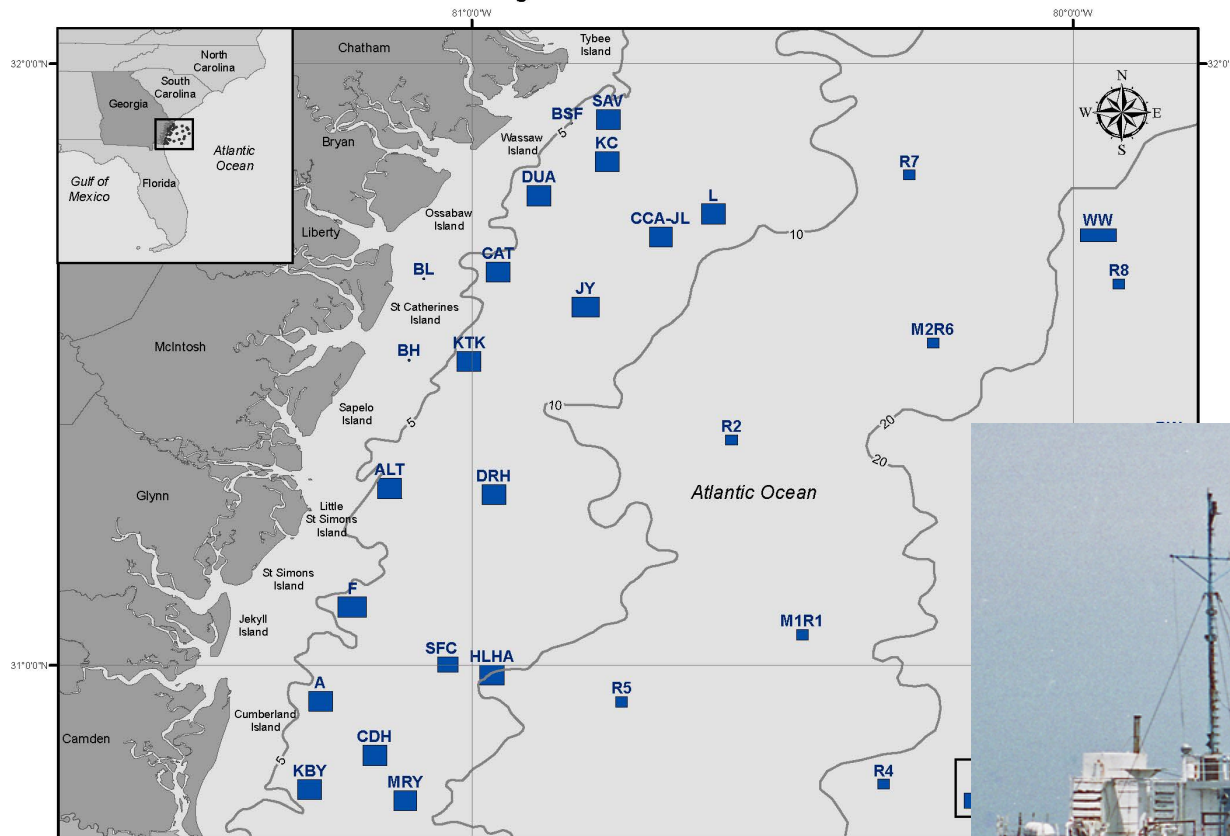
Offshore Artificial Reef— Artic Discoverer

HLHA Last Deployment 2008

DRH Last Deployment 2018

JY Last Deployment 2009

Georgia Offshore Artificial Reefs



Length 180'



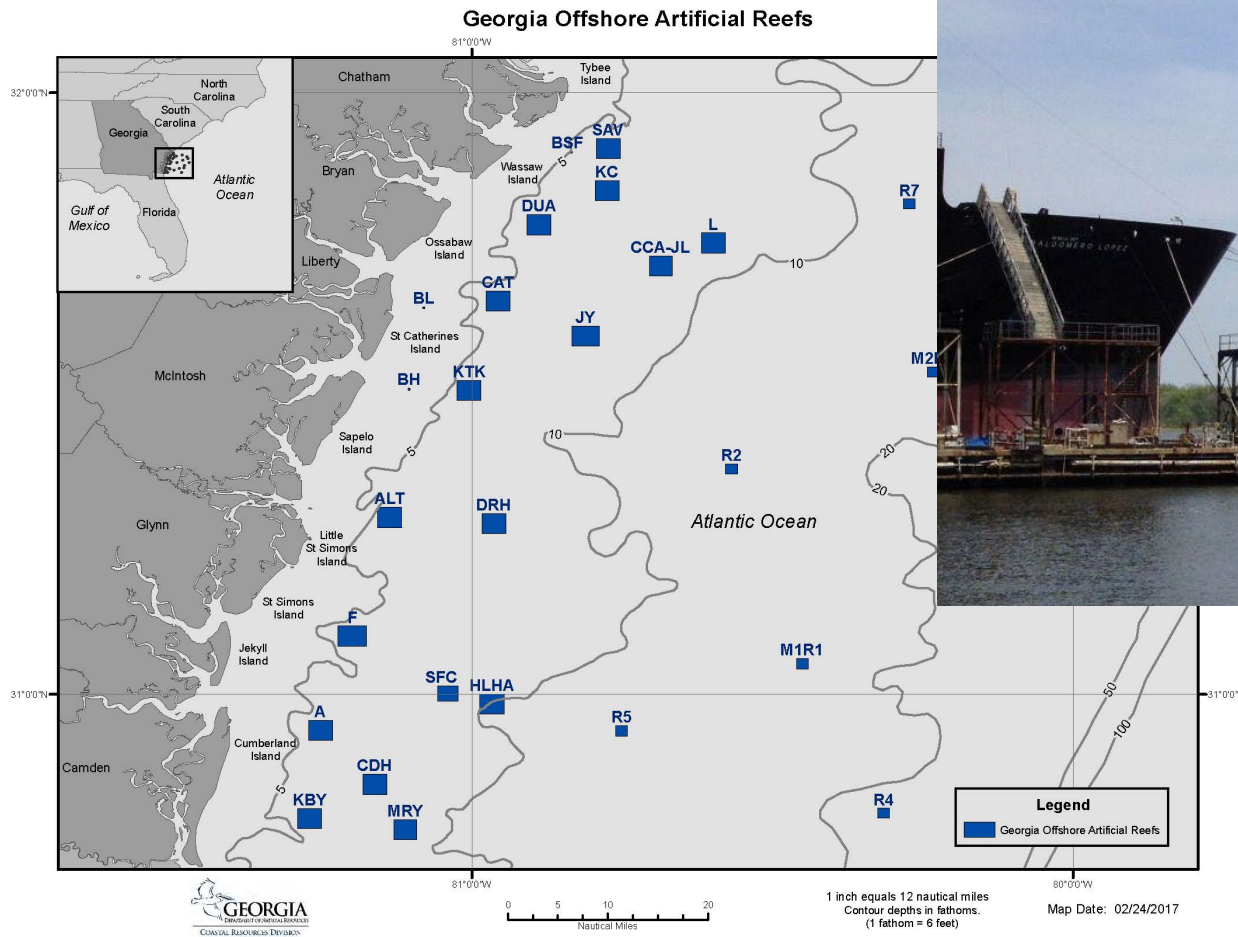
Offshore Artificial Reef— Sun Cruz VII

L Last Deployment 2008

JY Last Deployment 2009



Length 184'





GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Red Drum Escapement and Tagging

Jared Flowers

Mission Statement:

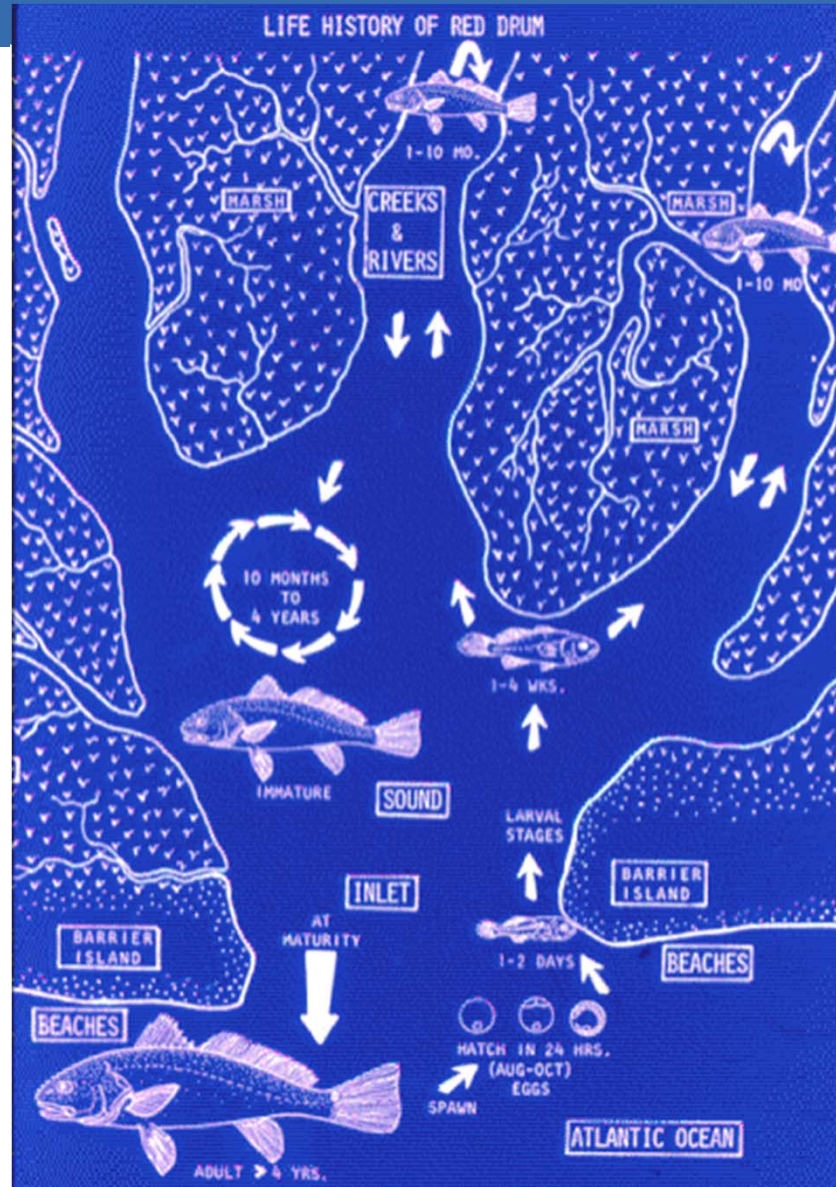
To balance coastal development and protection of the coast's natural assets, socio-cultural heritage and recreational resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Background

- We can sample some life stages of Red Drum:
 - Marine Sportfish Population Survey (MSPHS) samples smaller Red Drum in estuaries
 - Longline survey encounters large adult Red Drum offshore
- There is uncertainty in other life stages
 - Recruitment/YOY
 - Early adult stage when fish leave estuaries and move offshore



Background



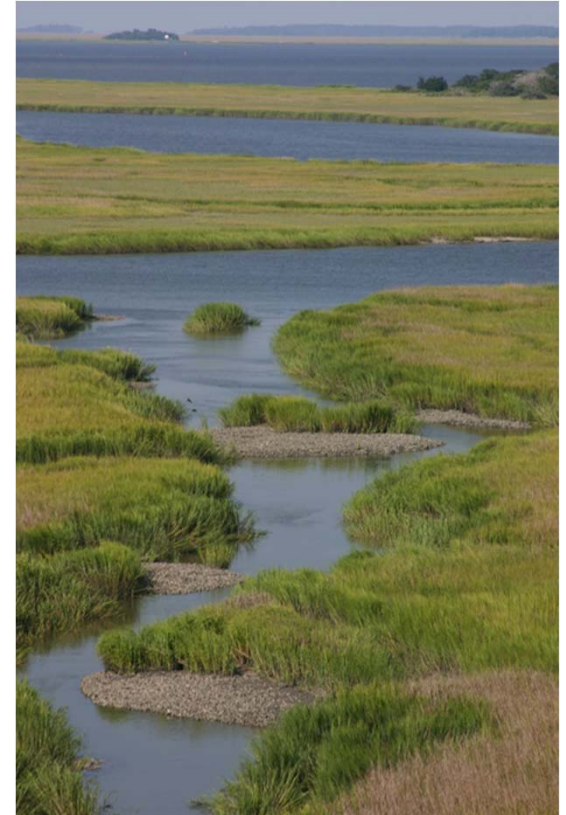
Background



Escapement Project - Questions

Red Drum spend the early part of their lives in estuaries, then leave

- How long do juveniles stay in sounds?
- How many make it out?
- What areas do juvenile Red Drum use in sounds?
- What factors influence movements in sounds?
- What connections are there between movements and fishing activity?



Escapement Project

- Use acoustic telemetry tags
- Detectable by a passive receiver array
 - Arrays in place 24/7
 - Act as “gates” at inlets in sound
 - Wassaw Sound array
 - Georgia Coastal Array and arrays in other states
- Tags are surgically implanted into Red Drum
 - Focus effort on fish approaching and in slot
 - Lifespan of 5-6 years
 - Tagged fish will also get an external tag



Escapement Project

- Acoustic tagging data can provide:
 - Mortality estimates
 - Detailed movement information
 - Greater probability for regional movement information
 - Growth data
 - Information about angler behavior
 - Tag retention information about conventional tags
 - Not fishery dependent
- Why Wassaw Sound?
 - High fishing pressure
 - Existing sampling program
 - Smaller system with discrete outlets

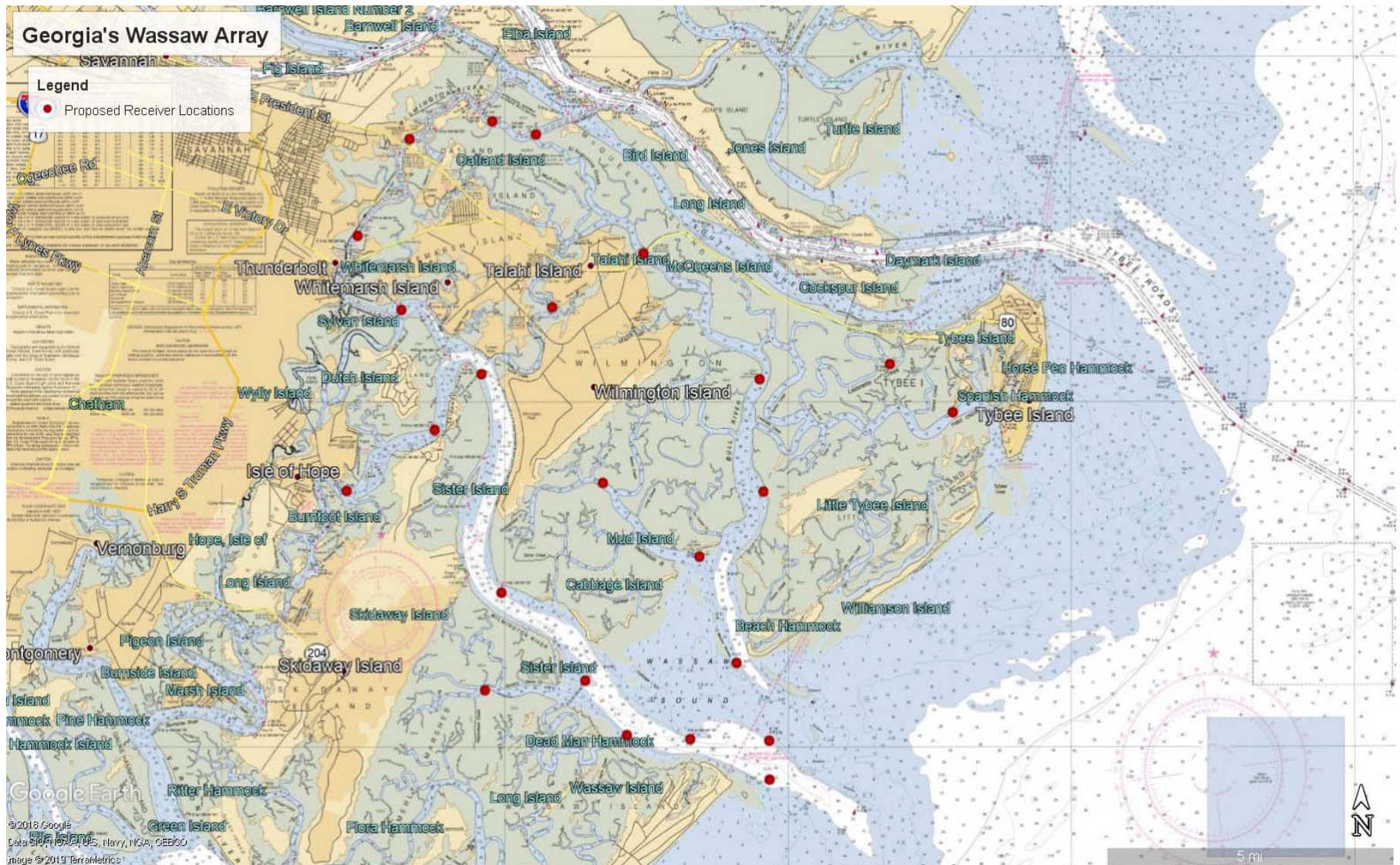


Escapement Project - Goals

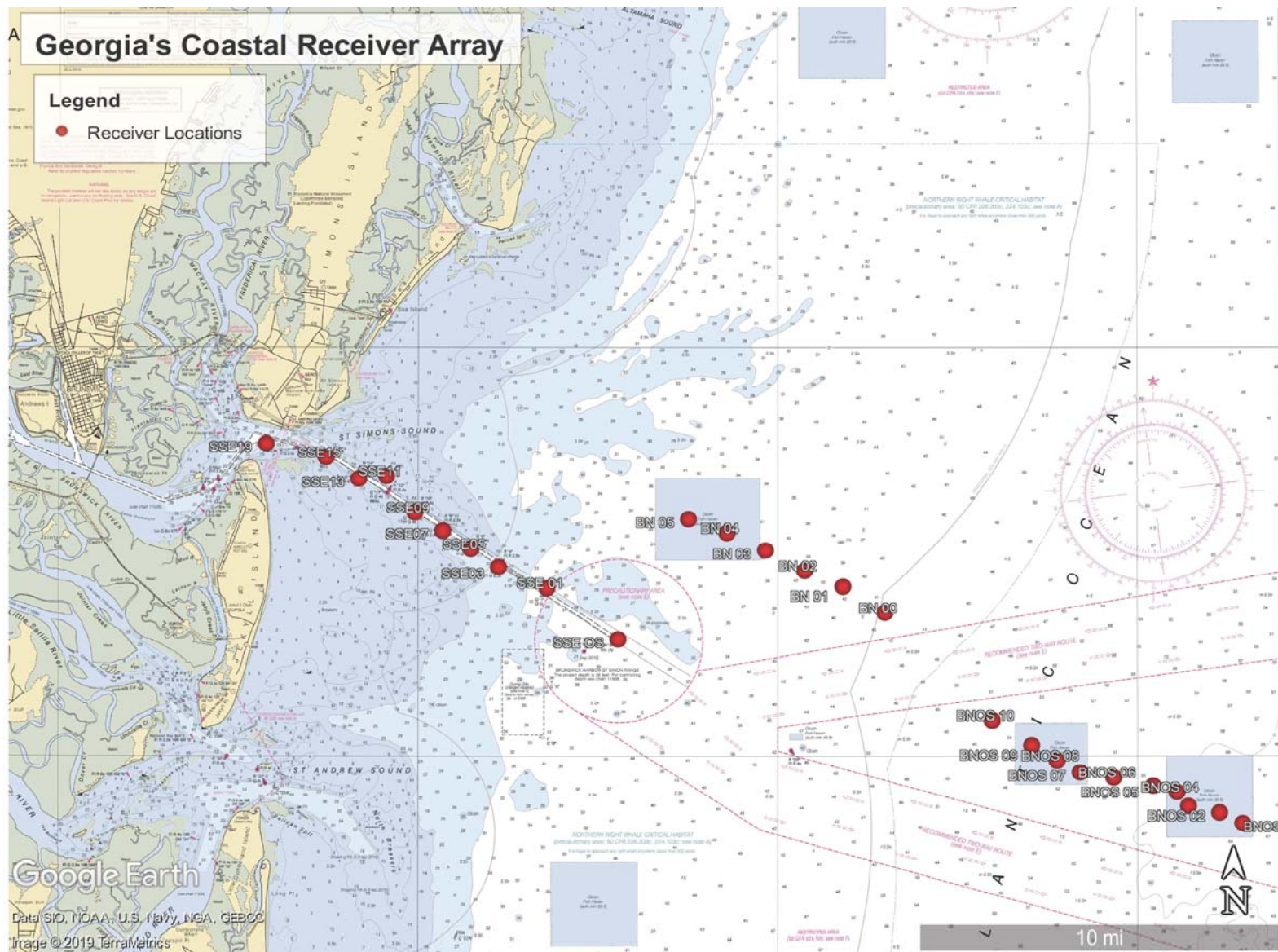
- Learn about Red Drum movement and timing patterns
- Estimate residence time in Wassaw Sound
- Identify mortality sources and estimate mortality rate
- Identify “hot spots” for activity
- Provide information about conventional tag retention
- Independent from angler information



Escapement Project - Goals



Escapement Project – Coastal Array



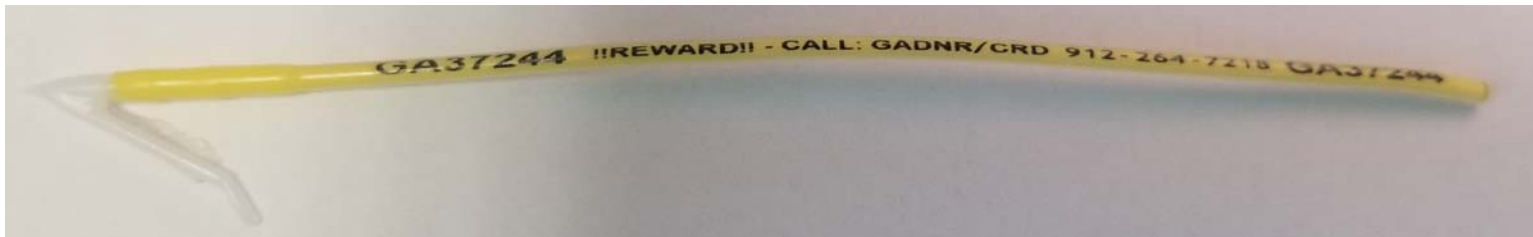
Cooperative Angler Tagging Program - Present

- Program has been ongoing since 1988
- Number of tags released over time has varied
- In recent years large numbers of Red Drum have been tagged
 - 847 in 2017, 1018 in 2018
 - So far in 2019: 678 tagged, 111 returns
- Anglers receive tags and place them in Red Drum
- Fish are caught, then anglers report tags for rewards (hats, shirts, stickers, etc.)



Cooperative Angler Tagging Program - Enhancements

- Current program provides information, but can be improved
 - Lack information about return rates
 - Lack information about retention
- Add high reward tags to learn about return rates
 - \$100 reward
 - Subset of tags deployed by CRD personnel
- Add double tags to learn about retention
- Make a greater outreach effort to alert the public about tags and the tagging program as a whole
- Similar expanded study conducted in the early 1990's



Combined Tagging Efforts

- Acoustic tags provide:
 - High resolution movement data
 - Fishery independent data
 - Detail information about behavior in Wassaw Sound
 - Longer potential tag life-span
- Conventional tags provide:
 - A large number of tags available throughout the state
 - Direct fishery information
- Data can be combined and analyzed to help improve estimates of fishing mortality
- Can compare results with previous Georgia studies

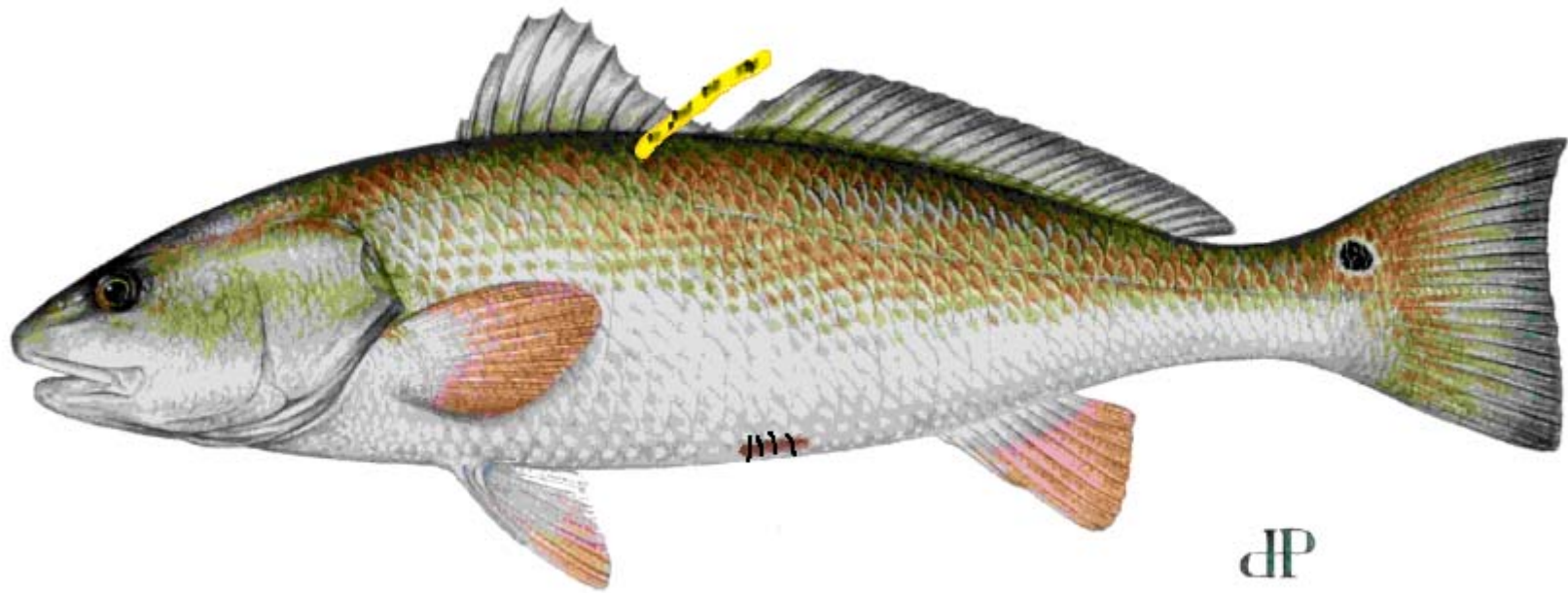
Conclusion

Overall, the escapement program can:

- Fill in some of the data gap between juvenile, estuarine and adult, offshore life stages
- Address several research and monitoring needs listed in the state Red Drum FMP
- Provide estimates of fishing mortality
- Provide information to answer state management questions
- Potentially provide information about offshore and interstate movement



Questions?



Management Background

- 1957 Prohibition of the use of gill nets in Georgia's estuarine waters (except for American Shad and diamondback terrapins)
- 1986 14-inch minimum-size limit and only 2 fish over 32-inches
- 1989 Daily creel limit of 10, with 2 over 32-inches
Moratorium on harvest of Red Drum in EEZ
- 1991 Daily creel limit reduced to 5 fish, with 1 over 27-inches
- 1993 Slot size limit established between 14 and 27-inches, 5 fish daily creel
- 2002 Slot size limit changed to 14-23 inches, 5 fish daily creel

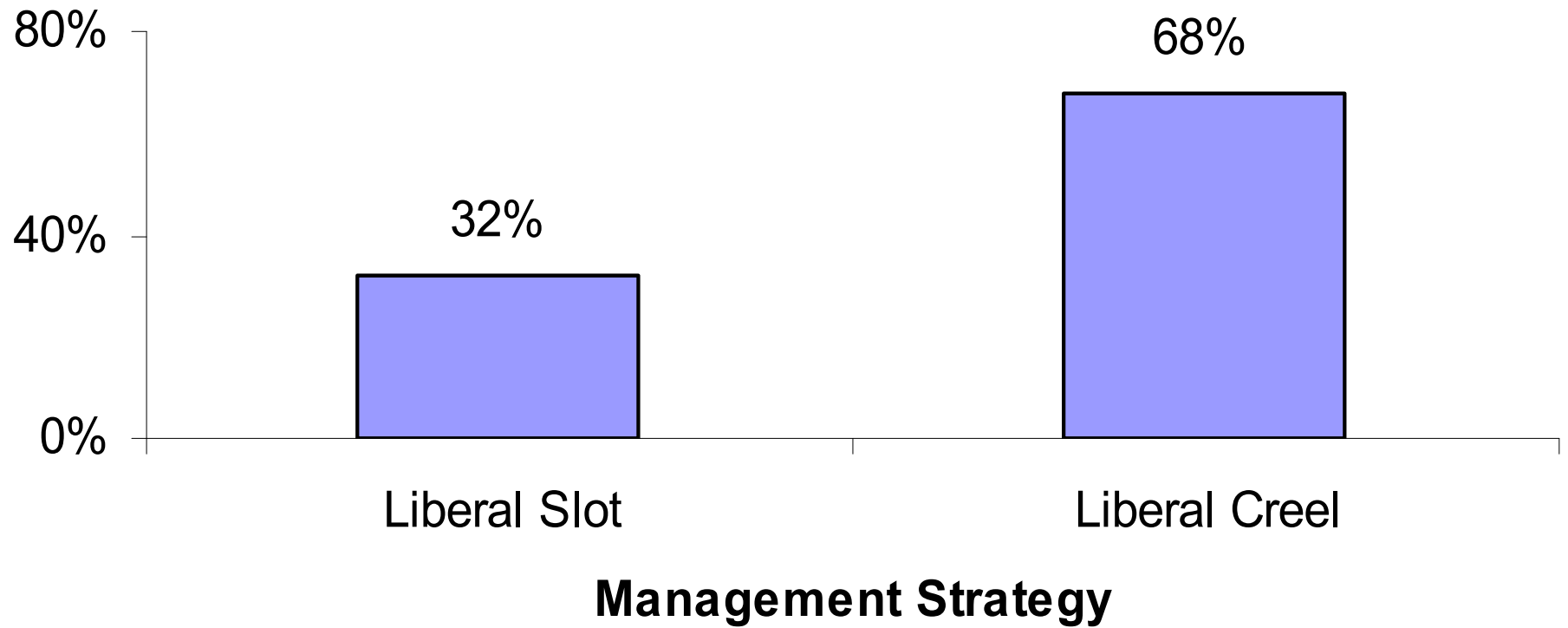
Slot Regulations and SPR Estimates

Table 20. Static Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) for range of bag limits for the southern region (SC through FL), with (a) increasing minimum size and (b) decreasing maximum size (Vaughan and Carmichael 2001).

| (a) | | Increasing minimum size limit (maximum size = 27") | | | | | |
|-----------|------|--|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bag Limit | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 1 | 39.7 | 39.5 | 39.4 | 40.3 | 40.7 | 41.0 | 41.5 |
| 2 | 32.1 | 32.6 | 33.5 | 34.9 | 36.0 | 36.8 | 37.4 |
| 3 | 28.7 | 29.5 | 31.2 | 32.7 | 33.9 | 34.8 | 35.6 |
| 4 | 26.8 | 27.8 | 29.8 | 31.4 | 32.8 | 33.9 | 34.7 |
| 5 | 25.7 | 26.9 | 28.9 | 30.8 | 32.1 | 33.2 | 34.0 |

| (b) | | Decreasing maximum size (minimum size limit = 14") | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| Bag Limit | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 1 | 56.8 | 54.5 | 52.2 | 49.6 | 47.0 | 44.1 | 39.7 |
| 2 | 52.8 | 49.9 | 46.9 | 43.7 | 40.6 | 37.1 | 32.1 |
| 3 | 50.8 | 47.6 | 44.3 | 40.8 | 37.4 | 33.8 | 28.7 |
| 4 | 49.7 | 46.3 | 42.8 | 39.2 | 35.6 | 31.8 | 26.8 |
| 5 | 49.1 | 45.6 | 42.0 | 38.3 | 34.6 | 30.8 | 25.7 |

Respondents' Management Strategy Preference



1st Choice Distributions by Red Drum Fishing Days

