



Data Collection Advisory Panel Meeting 2/13/23

State Specific Private Angler Licensing and Reporting Requirements

Outline

- Background
- Gulf States Program Information
- National Saltwater Angler Registry
- January 2023 Council Meeting



Background

- Recent discussion regarding finding a solution to better identify the population of private recreational anglers who fish in federal waters
 - Creation of federal reef fish permit and concurrent reporting?
- This topic was discussed at the last Joint Council Workgroup meeting and the Council made a motion based on that discussion



Background

Joint Council Workgroup Recommendation: that the Gulf Council consider a federal recreational permit concurrently with ongoing efforts with the Gulf states, to define the universe of recreational anglers. Consider whether this permit should be for all offshore species or focus on reef fish species.

Council Motion: To direct staff to initiate a document that would first review the state specific private angler licensing and reporting requirements that are currently used to define the universe of offshore anglers in each state.



Florida



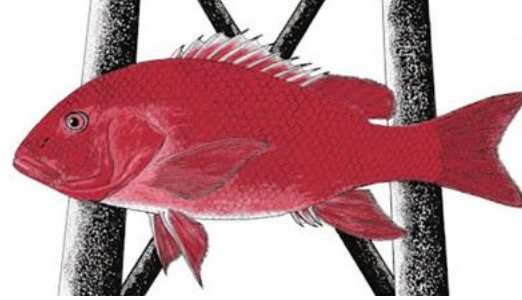
- Saltwater license required plus a no-cost Reef Fish Designation required when targeting or harvesting 13 reef fish species from a private vessel
 - Individuals with the Reef Fish Designation are eligible for selection to receive the mail survey component of the State Reef Fish Survey
- Two survey components
 - Mail survey (monthly effort) and dockside intercepts (monthly CPUE)
- Conducted year-round concurrently with MRIP

Alabama



- Saltwater license required plus Reef Fish Endorsement (annual, \$10)
 - Required for anglers possessing, taking or attempting to take any Gulf reef fish species (31 species)
- Mandatory reporting of Alabama landings with red snapper, gray triggerfish and greater amberjack through Snapper Check
 - Red snapper reporting began in 2014
 - Gray triggerfish and greater amberjack began in 2021
- Voluntary dockside angler intercept survey for biological data and report validation
- Supplemental program to MRIP

Mississippi



- Saltwater license required for anyone to harvest fish in coastal and marine waters in MS
 - No additional license requirement for reef fish
- Mandatory reporting for red snapper through Tails n' Scales
 - Voluntary reporting for gray triggerfish and greater amberjack
- Electronic self-reporting and dockside angler intercepts
- Supplemental program to MRIP

Louisiana



- Saltwater license required plus Recreational Offshore Landing Permit [(ROLP) annual, no-cost]
- ROLP is mandatory when in possession of certain offshore fish species
- Voluntary reporting through LA Creel on several species
 - Weekly phone and email surveys used to estimate effort and dockside angler intercepts for harvest
 - ROLP fishermen contacted more often during red snapper season
- MRIP not used for estimates in Louisiana

- Texas fishing license required plus a Saltwater Endorsement (annual, fee-based)
- Effort and harvest information collected through Texas Creel surveys and through supplemental iSnapper app
- Voluntary angler intercept surveys conducted coast wide at boat-access sites
 - Anglers asked questions on catch and effort
 - Seasonal sampling
 - iSnapper collects data on several reef fish species through angler self-reporting
- MRIP is not used for estimates in Texas

State Requirements

	Gulf States Licensing and Reporting Requirements				
Criteria:	AL	FL	MS	LA	TX
Saltwater license*	X	X	X	X	X
Type of reef fish license**	X	X		X	
Reporting:					
General***				X	X
Reef Fish Specific	X	X	X	X	X
By Vessel	X		X		X
By Angler		X		X	

*Each state has exceptions

**Florida has a Reef Fish Designation, Alabama has a Reef Fish Endorsement, Louisiana has a Recreational Offshore Landing Permit

***FL, AL, and MS use MRIP to estimate landings of several species



Additional Information

- Gulf Council infographics on recreational data collection programs:
<https://gulfcouncil.org/fishery-management-2/fisheries-science/#1600443837565-51656cba-dd1c>
- Florida SRFs: <https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/state-reef-fish-survey/>
- Alabama Snapper Check: <https://www.outdooralabama.com/mrd-fisheries-section/red-snapper-faqs>
- Mississippi Tails n' Scales: <https://dmr.ms.gov/snapper/>
- Louisiana LA Creel: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/lacreel>
- Texas Creel Surveys:
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/didyouknow/coastal/creel.phtml>
- iSnapper: <https://www.hartheresearch.org/project/isnapper-private-sector>
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council:
https://safmc.net/documents/2022/11/sg_a2c_am46optionspaper_dec2022.pdf/



National Saltwater Angler Registry

- The National Saltwater Angler Registry (NSAR) is a list of recreational anglers developed in response to the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act
- NOAA Fisheries uses it, along with other information, to better identify who to survey through the FES
- Individual anglers in Gulf states don't need to register with the NSAR because the license information is shared by each state.
 - Ideally by wave, at least annually



January 2023 Council Meeting

- Discussion on how much information is gathered by vessel vs individual angler
- Do states have enough information currently to share with NMFS or is a federal permit needed that collects new information?
 - Consideration of working with Gulf States Commission and all states to find a solution.
- Office of Science and Technology provided information on how state license data are used to inform MRIP
- NMFS asked the Council to consider goals:
 - Quantify universe of anglers?
 - Use that data to enhance and improve data collection?
 - How can these data be used to inform management decisions moving forward?

