

Summary and Status of Alabama's Mandatory Red Snapper Reporting Program



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting
Naples, Florida
June 5-8, 2017



From 2009-2013, federal private recreational Red Snapper landings estimated through the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) increased while fishing days were decreasing

	Year				
	2009	2010*	2011	2012	2013
MRIP AL Federal Harvest (LBS)	546,102	207,615	1,401,189	903,404	3,501,431
Days of Federal Season	65	54	48	40	28
% Change in Yr-Yr Harvest	-	-62.0	574.9	-35.5	287.6
% Change in Yr-Yr season Days	-	-16.9	-11.1	-16.7	-30.0
*- Deepwater Horizon oil spill					

Federal season length is determined using prior year MRIP landings data - the 2014 season was projected to be less than 20 days

Alabama recreational anglers were frustrated with the prospect of further reduced access and questioned the MRIP data



In 2014, the AL Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division developed a mandatory reporting system (Snapper Check) to account for recreational Red Snapper landings

Per AL DCNR regulation, the vessel operator/captain of a private or charter vessel with Red Snapper is responsible for reporting Red Snapper prior to landing fish in Alabama

Landing reports can be submitted via smartphone app, online, or paper reports provided at select coastal public access points

Required information on landing report includes:

Date*

Time of report*

No. of anglers

Vessel registration # (state or federal)

No. of RS landed

No. of dead RS discards

Access type - Private or Public

County of landing

Trip length (1 or 2 days - charter trips only)

* - *automatically collected using electronic reporting methods*



Snapper Check drop box and banner flag



A form of a capture-recapture survey is used to estimate level of non-reporting and adjust submitted landings report data

- Dockside survey of vessel trips at public access sites is used to identify Red Snapper vessel trips and collect length and weight information
- Dockside survey information is matched to landing reports by date, vessel registration #, trip data and time
- Ratio estimators (total dockside trips/matched trips) are developed for individual metrics (vessel trips, anglers, harvested fish, etc.)
- Reported metrics are adjusted using the ratio estimators for each metric

Example:

10,000 fish were reported by anglers

200 fish were reported/observed during the dockside survey

80 of the 200 fish from dockside surveys were found on matched angler reports

Final estimate of fish landed = $10,000 \times (200/80) = 10,000 \times 2.5 = \underline{25,000}$



MRIP certification summary:

A summary of the Snapper Check program was submitted to NOAA Fisheries for MRIP certification review

Recommendations from the consultants included incorporation of sample weighting for dockside samples, revised method for calculating the ratio estimator, and requiring headboat vessels to report

Revised Snapper Check protocols have been provided to NOAA Fisheries staff for certification

Final certification review is anticipated to occur late summer 2017

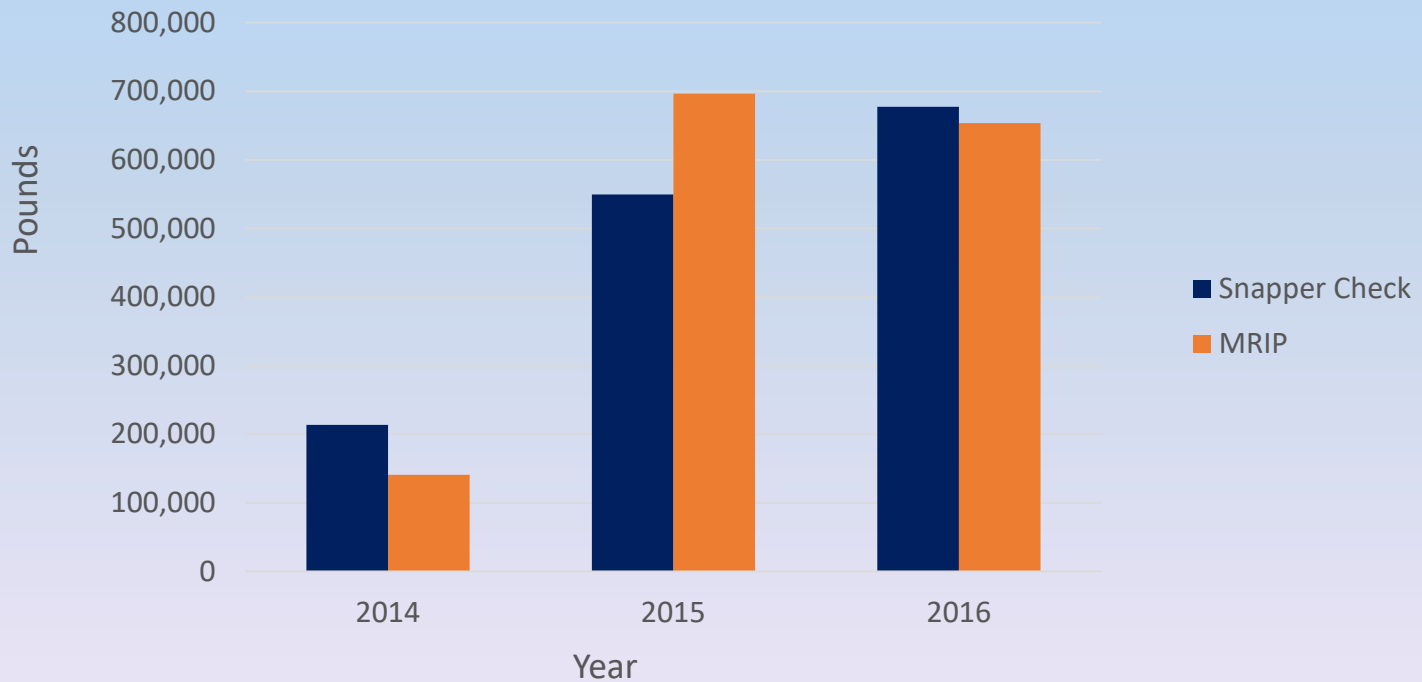


During the 2017 season:

- Snapper Check estimates will be generated with sample weighting procedures recommended by MRIP consultants
- Dockside survey samples are created using a modified MRIP Access Point Angler Intercept Program (APAIS) sample site draw program
- Headboats participating in NMFS' Southeast Headboat Survey will be required to report via Snapper Check
- The toll-free reporting number will not be available to report landings



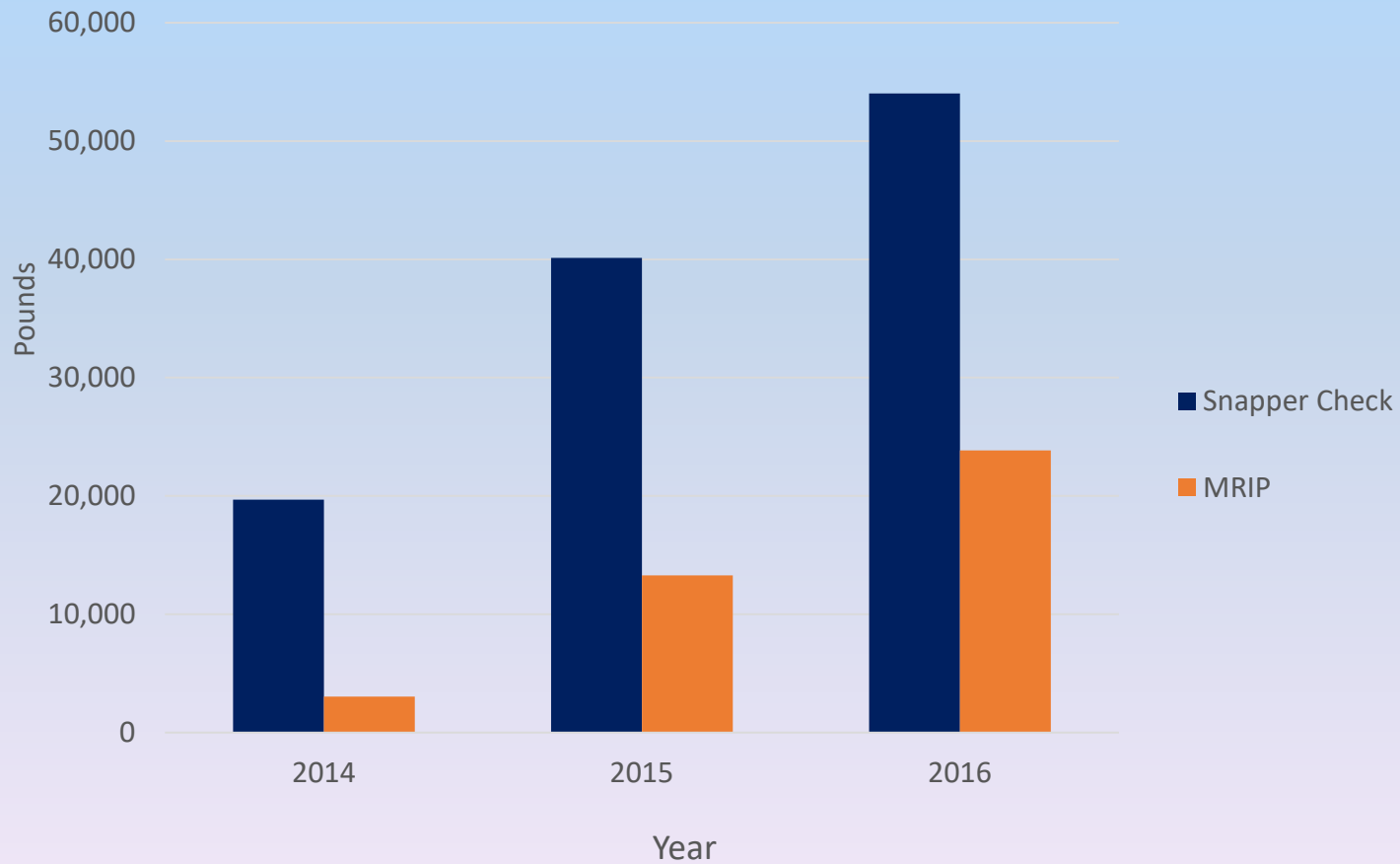
Alabama Federal Season Landings Estimates for Charter Vessels from Snapper Check* and MRIP



* - Sample weighting procedure recommended by MRIP consultants is not included in Snapper Check estimates.



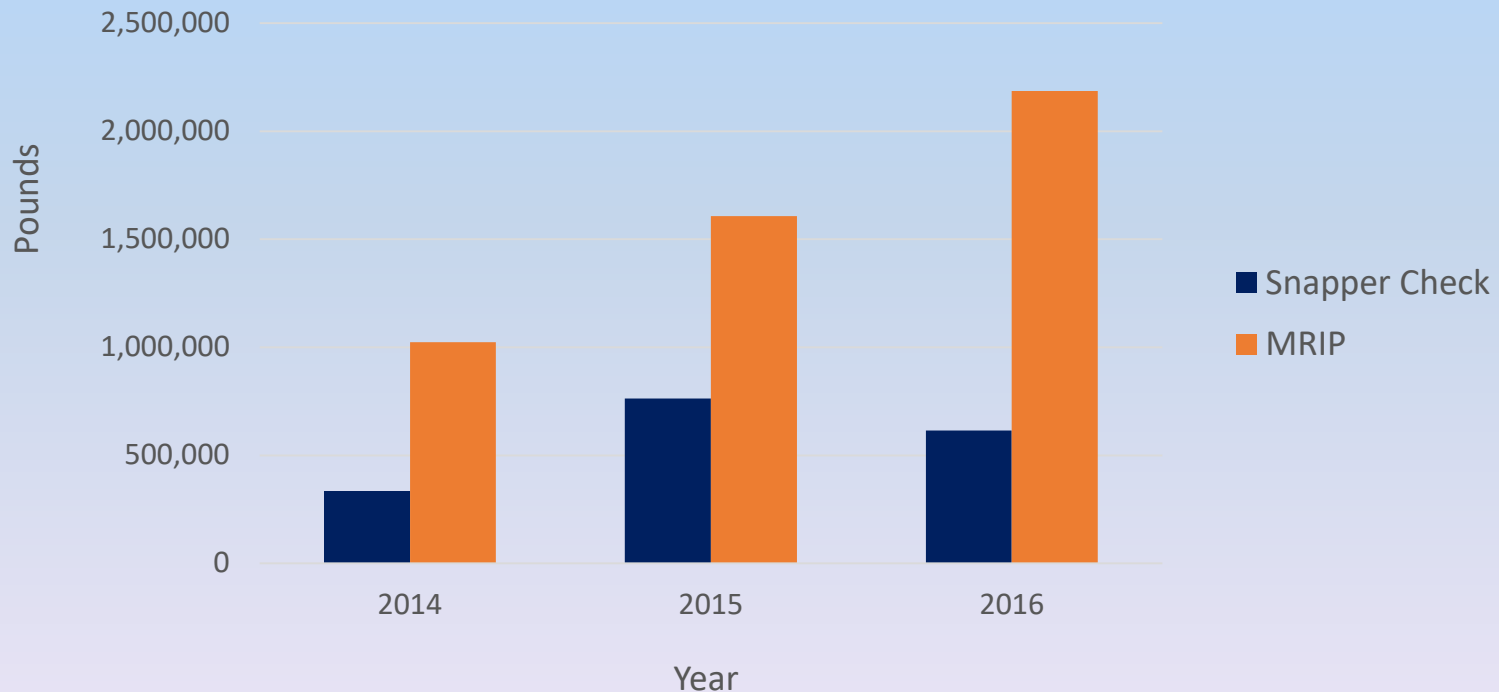
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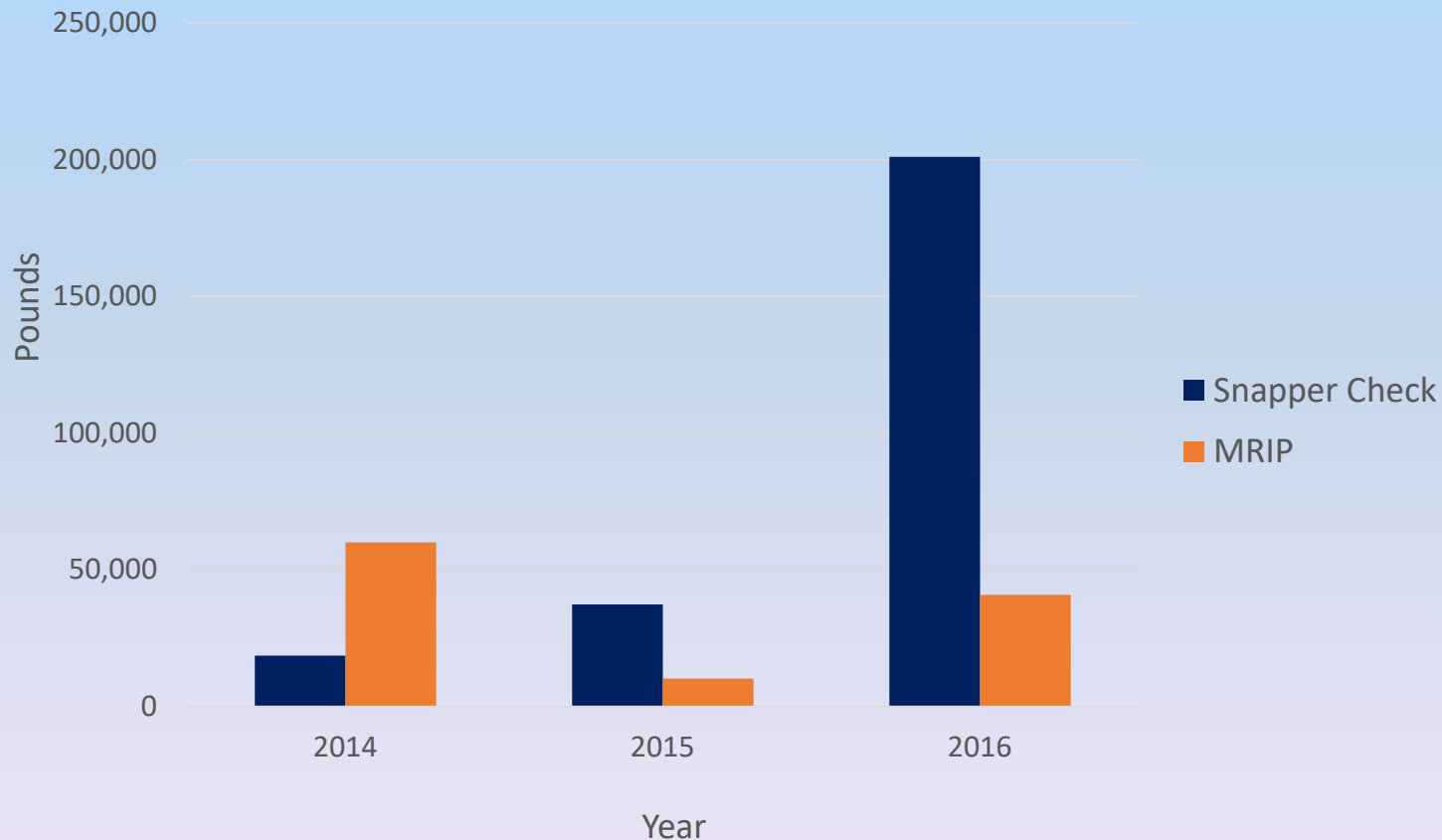
Alabama Federal Season Red Snapper Landings Estimates for Private Vessels from Snapper Check* and MRIP



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Alabama State Season Red Snapper Landings Estimates from Private Vessels from Snapper Check* and MRIP

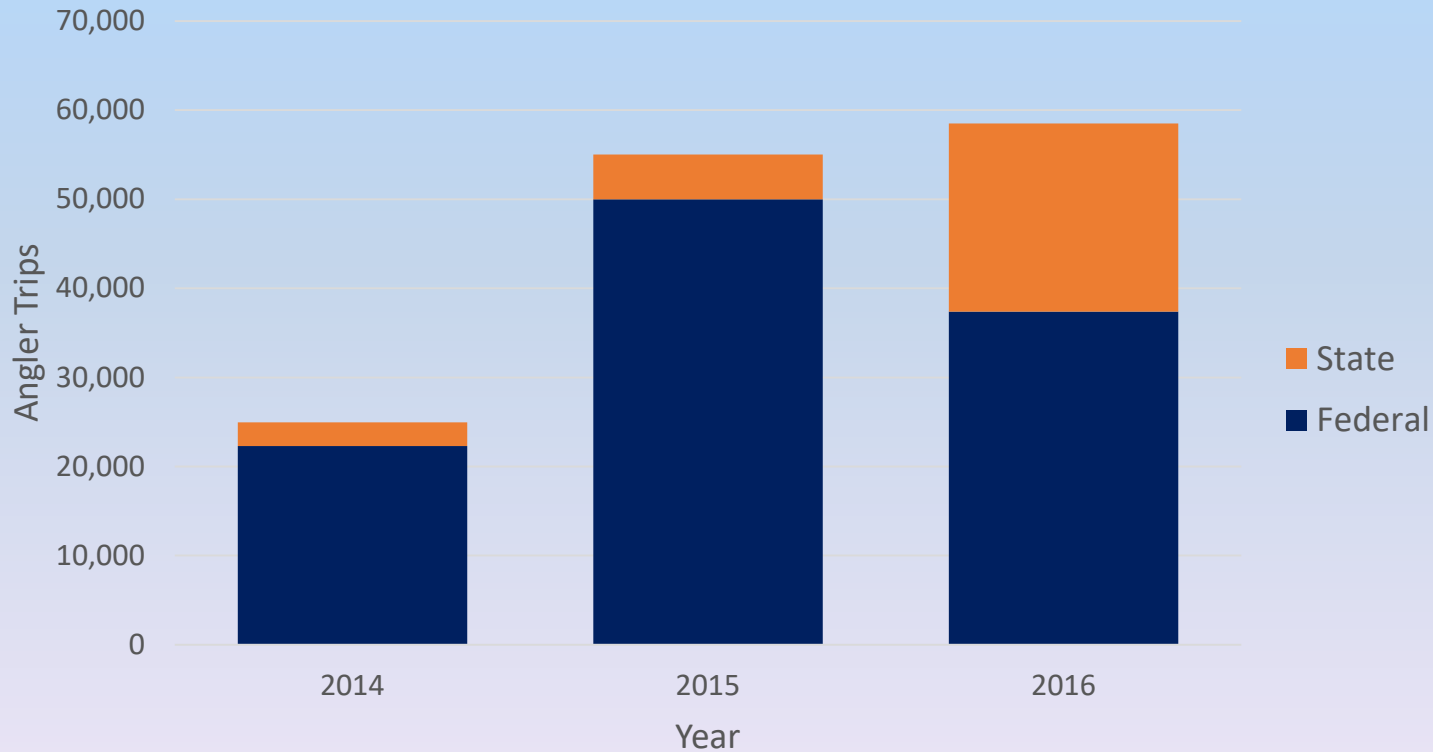


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What effect has the short federal season had on fishing effort?

Alabama Federal and State Season Red Snapper Private Vessel Angler Trips from Snapper Check*



* - Sample weighting procedure recommended by MRIP consultants is not included in Snapper Check estimates.



QUESTIONS?

