

Tab F, No. 6



Data Collection Committee Meeting 2/1/23

State Specific Private Angler Licensing and Reporting Requirements

Outline

- Background
- Gulf States Program Information
- Next Steps in the Gulf?



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

- 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				
<u>Criteria:</u>	AL	FL	MS	LA	TX
Saltwater license*	X	X	X	X	X
Type of reef fish license**	X	X		X	
<u>Reporting:</u>					
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/



Next Steps in the Gulf?

Gulf Council: Additional work is needed to explore a federal recreational angler or vessel permit that aims to better refine the purpose of this effort. Is the aim to refine the universe of offshore private anglers to ultimately improve reporting?

- Is there appetite for delving into the nuances required for this?
- Are there resources available for a federal private angler permit program or is the information collected currently by the Gulf states' programs able to achieve this goal?
 - Consider working with Gulf States Commission and all the states to find a solution. Can the requirements be tailored to better identify the offshore private angling universe or does an entirely new permit and/or program need to be explored?

