

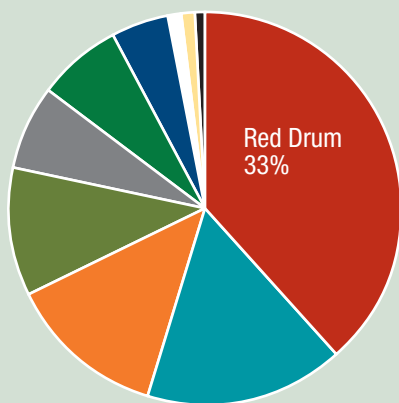
Saltwater Recreational Fisheries in the

South Atlantic

**Fishing Trips
in the South
Atlantic:
53% Shore
44% Private
3% For-Hire**

Primary Target Species

These 10 popular species were targeted in about a third (32%) of all recreational fishing trips in the South Atlantic. Of those trips, the primary target species breakdown is as follows:



- Spotted Seatrout 14%
- Kingfish (Whiting) 11%
- Mahimahi 9%
- Spot 6%
- Spanish Mackerel 6%
- Bluefish 4%
- Atlantic Croaker 1%
- Yellowtail Snapper 1%
- Black Sea Bass <1%

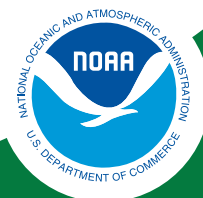
Source: Marine Recreational Information Program

In the South Atlantic Region, thriving recreational fisheries support vibrant coastal economies. With 100 species of fish available to saltwater recreational fishermen at any time of year, many unexplored recreational opportunities await anglers in the Southeast United States. While some species like blueline tilefish, greater amberjack, and shallow water groupers have specific seasons, many others like mackerels, dolphinfish (mahimahi), wahoo, and black sea bass can be caught year-round along the Atlantic coast. NOAA Fisheries partners and collaborates with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and state agencies to manage fisheries in the South Atlantic.

Popular Recreational Species in the South Atlantic

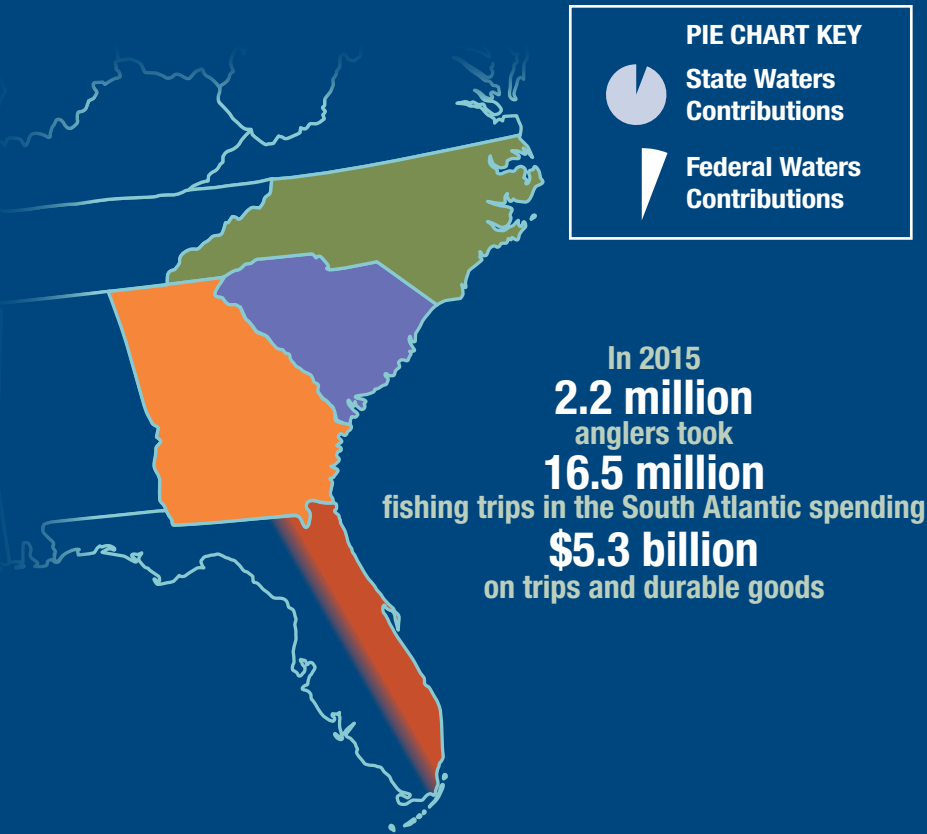
2015 Species	Total Catch NUMBER OF FISH	Harvested / Released		CAUGHT IN STATE WATERS	CAUGHT IN FEDERAL WATERS
		Harvested	Released		
Kingfish (Whiting)	6,845,079			>99%	<1%
Spot	6,486,574			>99%	<1%
Atlantic Croaker	5,353,793			99%	1%
Spotted Seatrout	5,085,264			>99%	<1%
Bluefish	4,903,716			99%	1%
Black Sea Bass*	3,512,511			50%	50%
Red Drum	2,587,007			98%	2%
Yellowtail Snapper*	1,609,160			53%	47%
Mahimahi	1,218,973			8%	92%
Spanish Mackerel	1,006,175			90%	10%

Sources: Marine Recreational Information Program and the *Southeast Fisheries Science Center



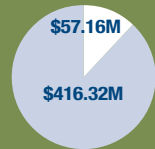
**NOAA
FISHERIES**

2015 Economic Impacts in the South Atlantic

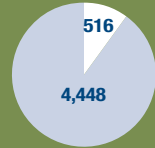


NORTH CAROLINA

Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$1.39B
 Total Sales Impacts: \$1.45B
 Total Jobs: 14,163
 Sales Impacts from Fishing Trips: \$473.48M

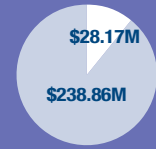


Jobs from Fishing Trips: 4,965

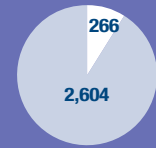


SOUTH CAROLINA

Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$629.49M
 Total Sales Impacts: \$675.56M
 Total Jobs: 6,900
 Sales Impacts from Fishing Trips: \$267.02M



Jobs from Fishing Trips: 2,870

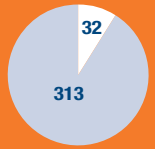


GEORGIA

Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$131.84
 Total Sales Impacts: \$142.29M
 Total Jobs: 1,433
 Sales Impacts from Fishing Trips: \$37.33M

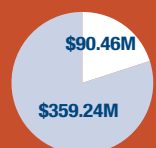


Jobs from Fishing Trips: 345

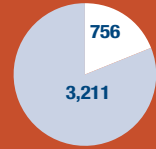


EAST FLORIDA

Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$3.13B
 Total Sales Impacts: \$4.02B
 Total Jobs: 35,523
 Sales Impacts from Fishing Trips: \$449.70M



Jobs from Fishing Trips: 3,968



Sources: Fisheries Economics of the United States 2015, Marine Recreational Information Program

Mahimahi

Mahimahi remains one of the most prized game fish available to recreational anglers in the South Atlantic. From their acrobatic fights, to delicious table fare, this pelagic fish is an angler favorite. Mahimahi are prolific spawners, grow quickly, and have short life spans, which has helped sustain the population throughout its range. Since populations have remained relatively constant over the past decades, Annual Catch Limits have remained high, with a 2017 quota of 13.8 million pounds for the South Atlantic. This has offered anglers continued opportunities to fish without closed seasons and allowed generous bag limits of 10 fish per person. Recent recreational landings, along with anecdotal information from fishermen, indicate a noticeable decrease in the number of mahimahi being caught in the South Atlantic. NOAA Fisheries will work with state partners and fishermen to monitor this change in order to determine the cause and ways to address this trend.



DIVING DEEPER

LEARN MORE

In the South Atlantic Region, NOAA Fisheries works closely with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and their member states. For more information visit NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region website.

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