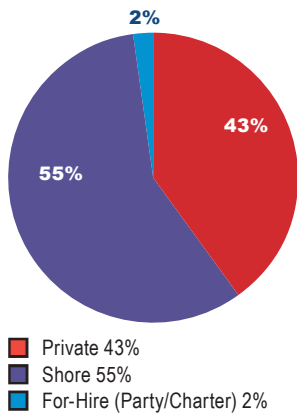




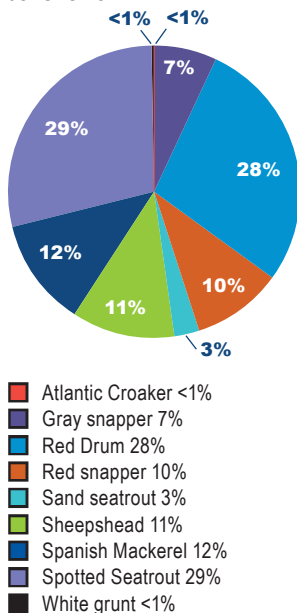
NOAA FISHERIES

FISHING TRIPS BY MODE IN GULF OF MEXICO



PRIMARY TARGET SPECIES

Nearly one-third (29%) of all recreational fishing trips in the Gulf targeted these popular recreational species. Of those trips, the primary target species breakdown is as follows:



Gulf of Mexico Recreational Fisheries

TEXAS • LOUISIANA • MISSISSIPPI • ALABAMA • WEST FLORIDA

Numerous fishing opportunities are available for recreational fishermen throughout the southeast United States. Whether fishing near coastal waters or out in the deep blue waters in the Gulf of Mexico, seasons are open for a multitude of species. Popular fish like king mackerel, vermillion snapper, and dolphin (mahi-mahi) are open year-round, providing fun filled days of fishing and delicious dinners for family and friends. Other species, like greater amberjack and grey triggerfish, have limited open seasons while their populations rebuild to sustainable levels. Additional species, such as blackfin snapper, snowy grouper and banded rudderfish, offer anglers new challenges to their regular fishing day. Whatever your reason or goal, Gulf of Mexico waters are open for recreational fishing all year long.



Angler with king mackerel

POPULAR RECREATIONAL SPECIES

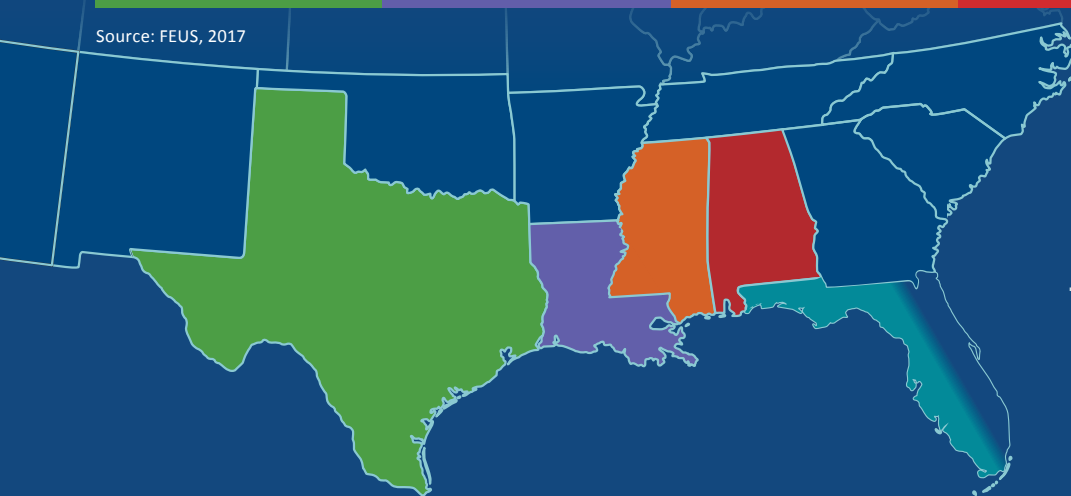
2017 Species	Total Catch (number of fish)	HARVESTED RELEASED	Caught in State Waters	Caught in Federal Waters
Spotted Seatrout	41,678,000		98%	2%
Gray snapper	18,974,000		93%	7%
Sand seatrout	15,261,000		100%	0%
Atlantic Croaker	14,538,000		100%	0%
Spanish Mackerel	14,310,000		98%	2%
Red snapper	12,294,000		34%	66%
Red Drum	10,157,000		98%	2%
Sheepshead	8,853,000		92%	8%
White grunt	8,836,000		49%	51%

*Source: Marine Recreational Information Program, catch estimates calculated using Fishing Effort Survey data.

Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing

TEXAS	LOUISIANA	MISSISSIPPI	ALABAMA	WEST FLORIDA
Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$1.56B	Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$1.87B	Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$624.97M	Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$2.36B	Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: \$7.07B
Total Sales Impacts: \$1.72B	Total Sales Impacts: \$1.90B	Total Sales Impacts: \$504.78M	Total Sales Impacts: \$2.21B	Total Sales Impacts: \$9.14B
Total Jobs: 13,583	Total Jobs: 16,853	Total Jobs: 5,162	Total Jobs: 23,721	Total Jobs: 79,498
Impacts From Fishing Trips Sales: \$376.77M Jobs: 2,973	Impacts From Fishing Trips Sales: \$622.36M Jobs: 5,802	Impacts From Fishing Trips Sales: \$132.28M Jobs: 1,582	Impacts From Fishing Trips Sales: \$910.77M Jobs: 9,676	Impacts From Fishing Trips Sales: \$2.64B Jobs: 25,480

Source: FEUS, 2017



In 2017
2.6 million
 Gulf anglers took
58.6 million
 fishing trips in the Gulf spending
\$13.5 billion
 on trips and durable goods



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Diving Deeper

RED SNAPPER

Red snapper is one of the Gulf’s most iconic species, and perhaps one of the region’s greatest management stories highlighting creative and collaborative solutions. For decades, overfishing of red snapper occurred and the population was depleted to unhealthy levels. In 2007, a new red snapper rebuilding plan was implemented to end overfishing and rebuild this important fish stock. The population then grew rapidly and overfishing of Gulf red snapper ended in 2009. With this success, the total red snapper quota rose from 5 million pounds in 2007 to 15.1 million pounds in 2019—the highest quota ever allowed. In 2018, NOAA Fisheries issued the five Gulf States a two-year Exempted Fishing Permit to pilot state management programs for private recreational anglers. These programs provided the states more flexibility to set fishing seasons, monitor landings, and increase fishing opportunities, thereby expanding economic benefits to the Gulf region. This new management system became permanent in 2020. It is a great example of collaborative management among state and federal agencies, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and constituents.

LEARN MORE

In the Southeast Region, NOAA Fisheries works closely with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the Gulf States States Marine Fisheries Commission and their member states to cooperatively manage recreational fisheries.

For more information visit www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast.