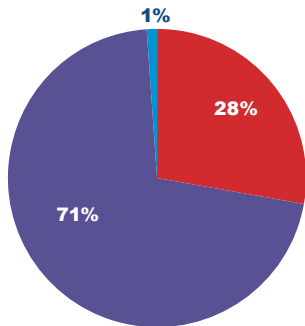




# NOAA FISHERIES

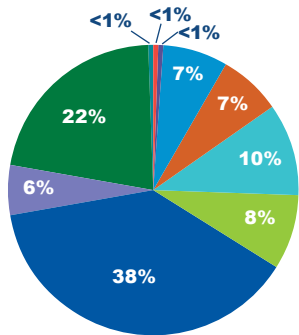
## FISHING TRIPS BY MODE ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COAST



- Private 28%
- Shore 71%
- For-Hire (Party/Charter) 1%

## PRIMARY TARGET SPECIES

A quarter of all recreational fishing trips in the South Atlantic targeted these popular recreational species. Of those trips, the primary target species breakdown is as follows:



- Atlantic Croaker <1%
- Black sea bass <1%
- Bluefish 7%
- King mackerel 7%
- Kingfish (Whiting) 10%
- Mahi Mahi 8%
- Red Drum 38%
- Spanish Mackerel 6%
- Spotted Seatrout 22%
- Yellowtail Snapper <1%

# South Atlantic Recreational Fisheries

NORTH CAROLINA • SOUTH CAROLINA • GEORGIA • EAST FLORIDA

Numerous fishing opportunities for saltwater recreational fishermen are available throughout the southeast United States. Whether fishing near coastal waters or all the way out in the deep pelagic waters of the Gulf Stream, seasons are open for a multitude of species. Popular fish like king mackerel, black sea bass, and dolphin (mahi-mahi) are open year-round, providing fun filled days of fishing and delicious dinners for family and friends. Other fish, like red snapper and golden tilefish, have limited open seasons while those populations rebuild to sustainable levels. Additional species, such as queen snapper and yellowedge grouper, offer anglers new challenges to their regular fishing day. Whatever your reason or angling goal, South Atlantic waters are open for recreational fishing all year long.

## POPULAR RECREATIONAL SPECIES

2017 Species	Total Catch (number of fish)	HARVESTED RELEASED	Caught in State Waters	Caught in Federal Waters
Spotted Seatrout	19,283,000		100%	0%
Bluefish	18,630,000		59%	41%
Kingfish (Whiting)	17,068,000		100%	0%
Atlantic Croaker	14,990,000		100%	0%
Red Drum	12,419,000		99%	1%
Black sea bass	12,145,000		59%	47%
Spanish Mackerel	3,200,000		94%	6%
Mahi Mahi	2,294,000		7%	93%
King mackerel	959,000		33%	67%
Yellowtail Snapper	895,000		84%	16%

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

## Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing

In 2017  
**2.2 million**  
 anglers took  
**77 million**  
 fishing trips in the  
 South Atlantic  
 spending  
**\$7.8 billion**  
 on trips and durable  
 goods

NORTH CAROLINA	SOUTH CAROLINA	GEORGIA	EAST FLORIDA
Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: <b>\$2.6B</b>	Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: <b>\$779.92M</b>	Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: <b>\$295.50M</b>	Fishing Trip and Durable Goods Expenditures: <b>\$4.13B</b>
Total Sales Impacts: <b>\$3.09B</b>	Total Sales Impacts: <b>\$901.60M</b>	Total Sales Impacts: <b>\$341.16M</b>	Total Sales Impacts: <b>\$5.14B</b>
Total Jobs: <b>30,170</b>	Total Jobs: <b>9,803</b>	Total Jobs: <b>3,865</b>	Total Jobs: <b>45,267</b>
Impacts From Fishing Trips Sales: <b>\$2.07B</b> Jobs: <b>21,126</b>	Impacts From Fishing Trips Sales: <b>\$594.24M</b> Jobs: <b>6,875</b>	Impacts From Fishing Trips Sales: <b>\$230.52M</b> Jobs: <b>2,788</b>	Impacts From Fishing Trips Sales: <b>\$1.43B</b> Jobs: <b>14,456</b>

## Species Spotlight

### KING MACKEREL

King mackerel is one of the most iconic sport fish in the South Atlantic. These strong fighters grow to 5 ½ feet long and can weigh up to 100 pounds. They are caught offshore or within a few miles of the coast, making them popular among a wide range of anglers. King mackerel (sometimes called kingfish) are caught using a variety of lures and live baits, and are a species often targeted in numerous fishing tournaments along the coast. These active predators feed on squid and fish and can often be observed jumping or “skyrocketing” up to 10 feet in the air in pursuit of their prey. King mackerel spawn on the outer continental shelf from May through October. Females grow much larger than males—an evolutionary strategy that maximizes the amount of eggs that a female can produce. Female king mackerel can produce 50,000 to several million eggs. King mackerel populations are at healthy levels and are harvested by both commercial and recreational fishermen. Recreational anglers can pursue king mackerel all year long and enjoy a good eating fish (especially popular when smoked) whenever they decide to bring some home.



### 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 [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast)

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Angler with yellowtail snapper