

NASEM Review: MRIP Recreational Fisheries Survey and Data Standards

Meeting 1 – April 17, 2025

Geoff White

ACCSP Director

*Our vision is to be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information
on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners.*

ACCSP Perspectives

- Partner in state conduct of MRIP General Surveys (APAIS & FHS) in Maine to Georgia
- Presentation of MRIP estimates
- Consolidate Atlantic Recreational Data Collection Priorities
- Contribute to Commission and Council stock assessments



ACCSP Perspective on Standards

- MRIP General Survey Conduct
 - Overall support of robust and defensible survey data
 - Adoption of changes to questions of regional importance – within PRA
 - NOAA supported move to electronic data capture in field (staff tablets)
 - Support increased state involvement in estimate review process
 - Support process improvements (MFA, Wave 1 expansion, Discards pilot)
- Design Certification Process
 - Necessary and robust
 - Iterative, time consuming, and evolving
 - Developing documentation is significant task
 - Statistical evaluations require outside expertise
 - Separates design and implementation



Are Standards Clear & Feasible?

- ✓ **For MRIP General Survey - mostly yes**
- ✓ **Primary documentation and PRA handled by NOAA**
- ✓ **3: Data quality**
- ✓ **4: Transition Planning**
- ☐ **5.1: Certification**
- ✓ **5.2: Documentation of MFA funded work**
 - Table of sample sizes
 - PSE of indicator species
- ✓ **6: Process Improvement**
- ☐ **7.2 Precision Standards**
 - Support ranges and color coding
 - Access to wave level data
- For alternate surveys
 - Check with Gulf and Pacific regions



5.2: Annual Reporting (MFA)

Table 8: Metrics from the Modern Fish Act (MFA) Increase in 2023

State	Planned Sample Sized				Realized Sample Sizes					
	Pre-MFA Assignments ¹	MFA Add-on Assignments	Post-MFA Assignments	% Change	Pre-MFA Assignments ¹	Post-MFA Assignments ²	% Change	Pre-MFA Interviews ¹	Post-MFA Interviews	% Change
Maine	243	56	299	23%	228	283	24%	1488	1447	-3%
New Hampshire	192	56	248	29%	184	256	39%	1811	1993	10%
Massachusetts	1169	143	1312	12%	1143	1280	12%	5332	5117	-4%
Rhode Island	602	110	712	18%	534	693	30%	3472	5459	57%
Connecticut	445	106	551	24%	403	534	33%	3274	4324	32%
New York	894	173	1067	19%	901	1094	21%	5042	6096	21%
New Jersey	1037	457	1494	44%	985	1466	49%	4068	8068	98%
Delaware	758	106	864	14%	718	855	19%	3588	2480	-31%
Maryland	678	291	969	43%	684	988	44%	5204	4442	-15%
Virginia	679	257	936	38%	729	913	25%	4335	3055	-30%
North Carolina	1547	239	1786	15%	2095	2288	9%	15875	14254	-10%
South Carolina	386	184	570	48%	379	614	62%	4870	4815	-1%
Georgia	281	135	416	48%	282	410	45%	2377	2711	14%
	8911	2313	11224	26%	9265	11674	26%	60736	64261	6%

¹ Five-year average (2016-2020) which includes both NOAA Fisheries Base and State Add-on Assignments (only in MA,RI,DE,NC,SC)

² Differences between Planned and Realized totals occur due to allocation conflicts (e.g., site/sitegroup/region conflicts, staffing constraints, etc.)

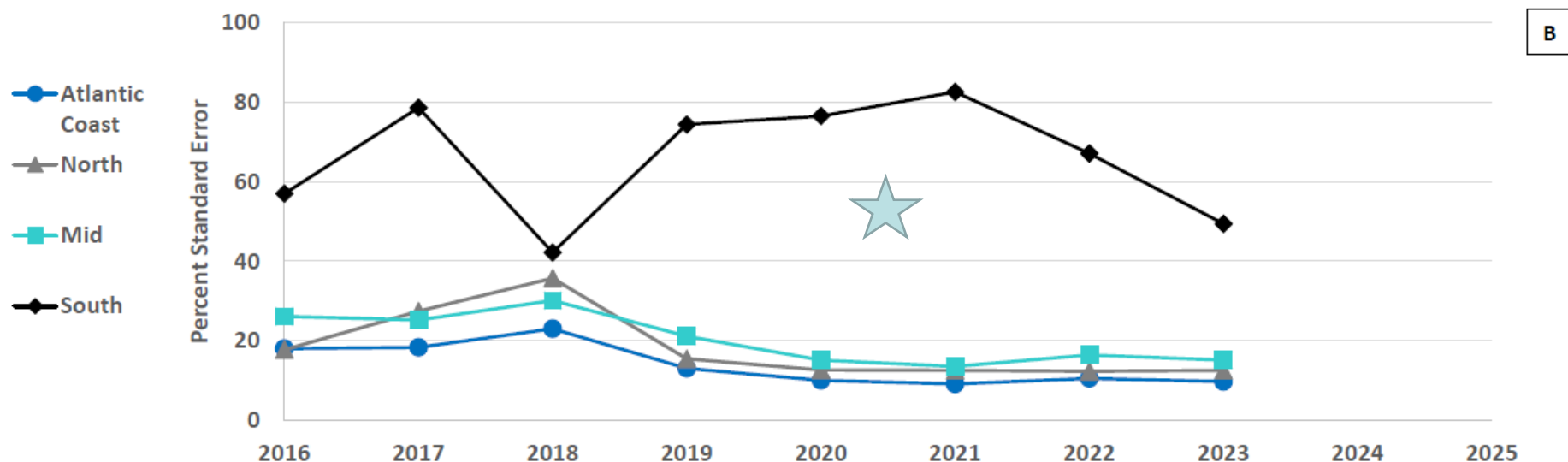
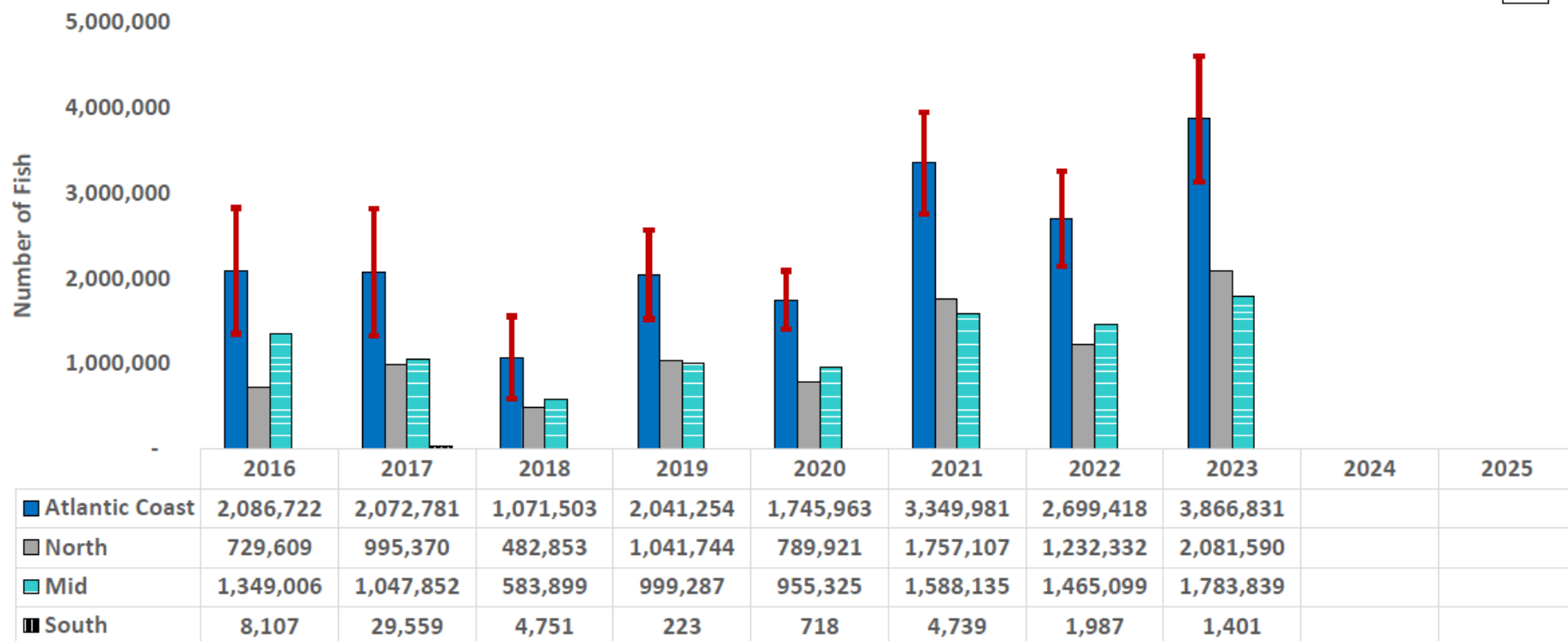
- Note 5 year average from pre-MFA sampling
- This graphic extracted from APAIS 2023 Annual Report
- Sampling controlled for number of assignments, intercepts variable



Figure 10: Trends in Catch PSE for Tautog

Tautog: Harvest (A1 + B1)

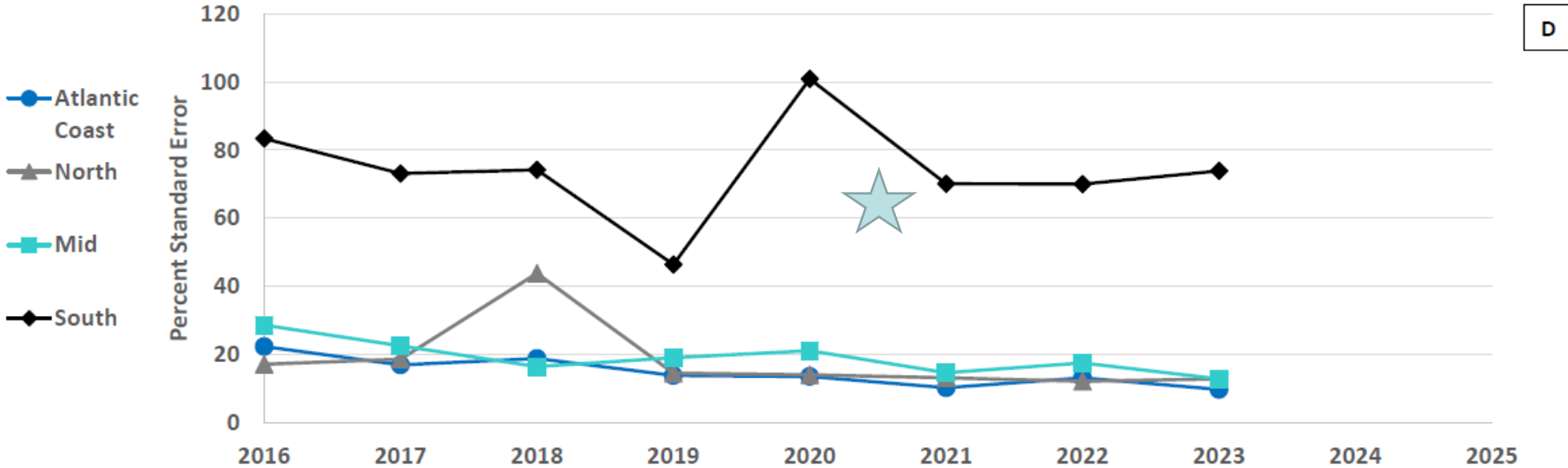
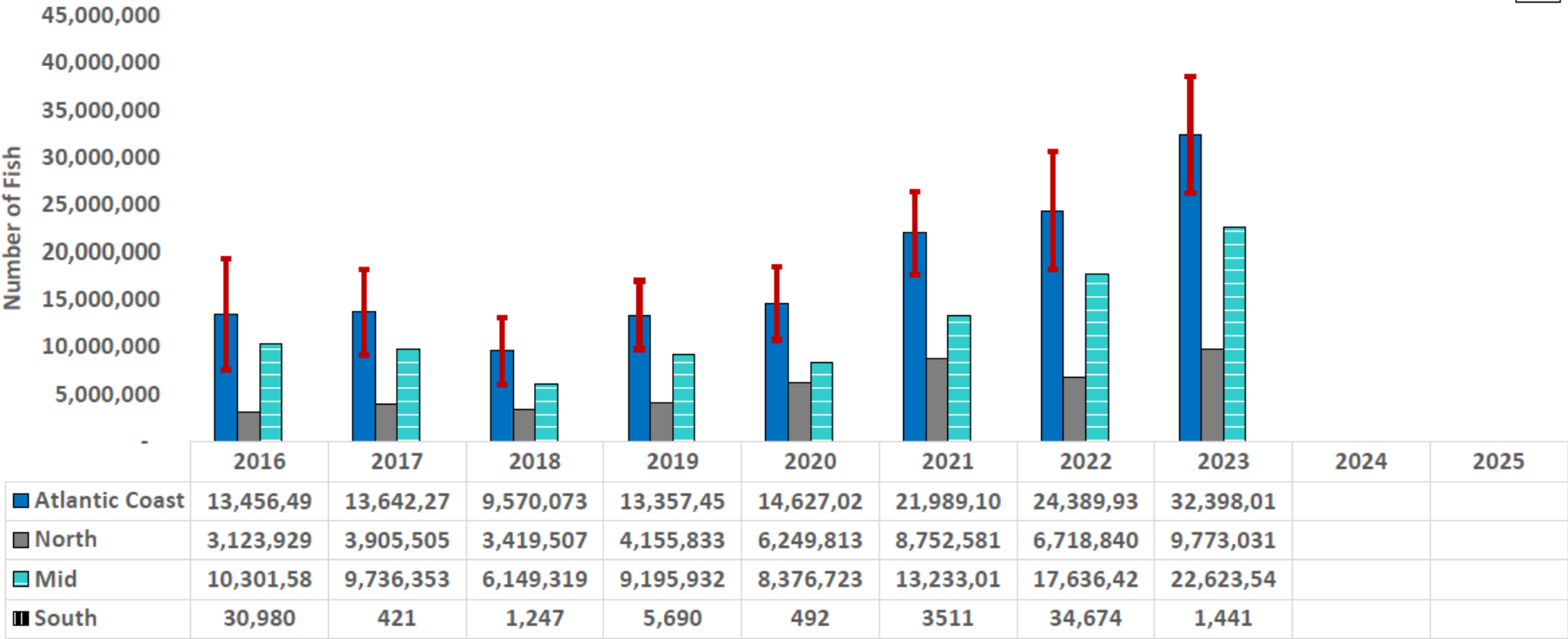
A



B

Figure 10: Trends in Catch PSE for Tautog Tautog: Released Alive (B2)

C

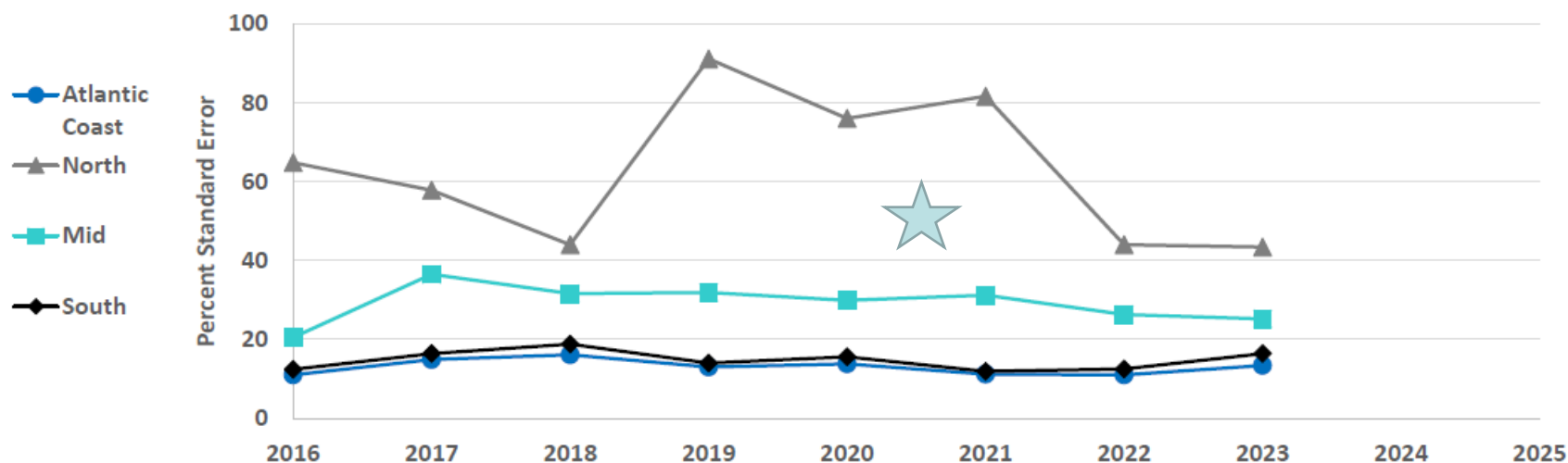
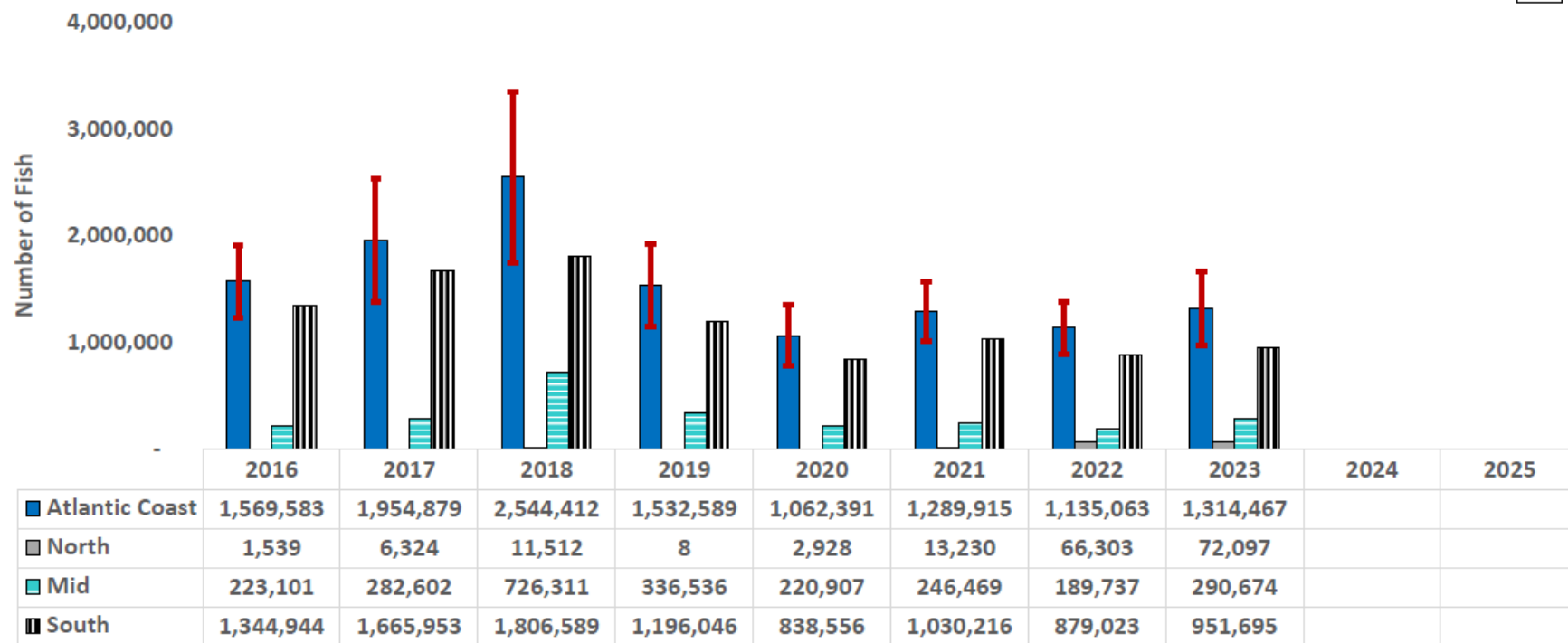


D

Figure 7: Trends in Catch PSE for Dolphin

Dolphin: Harvest (A1 + B1)

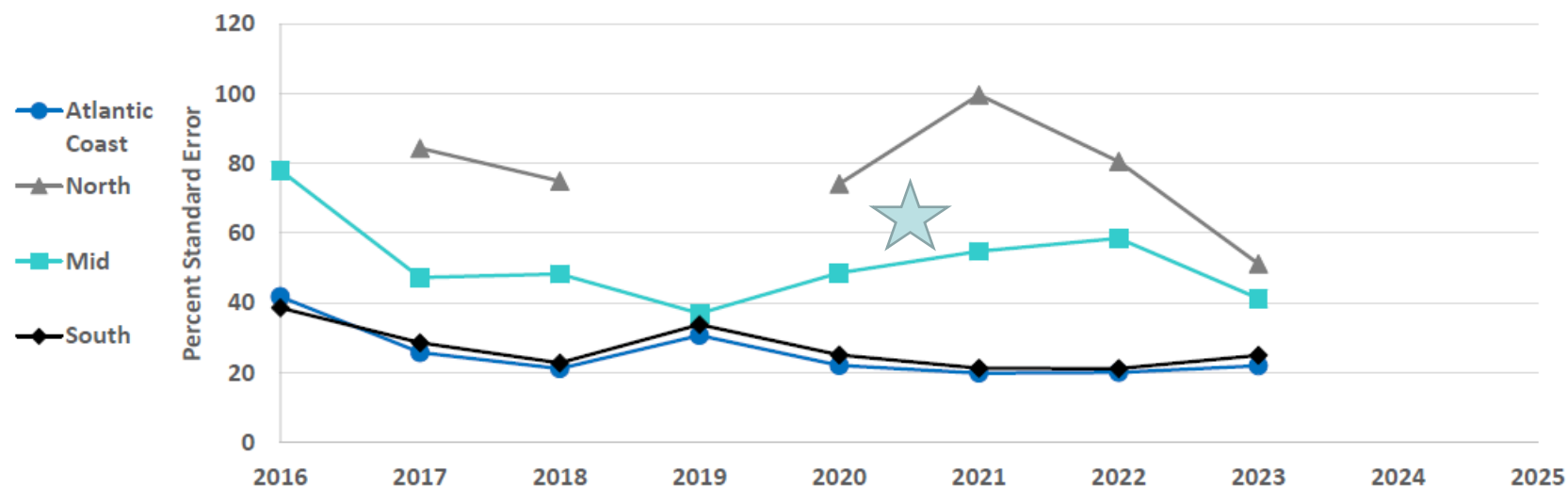
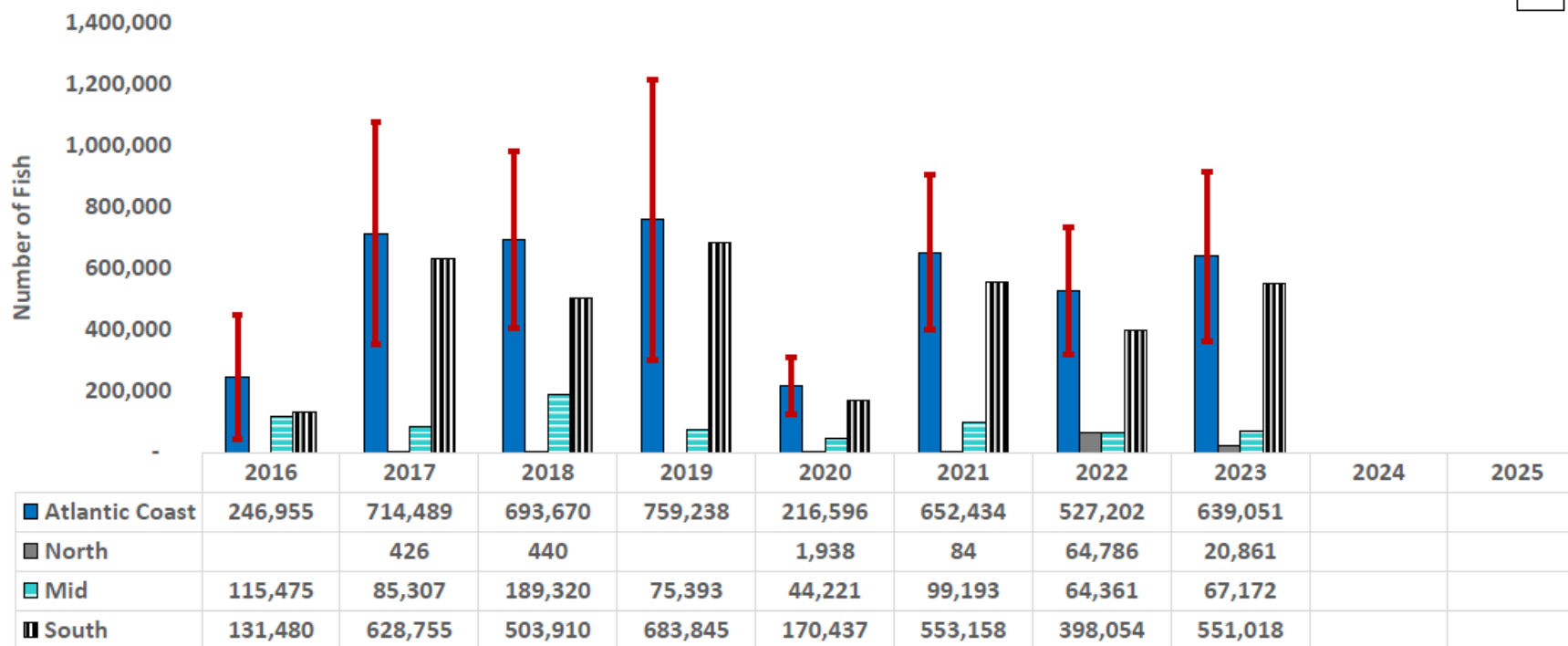
A



B

Figure 7: Trends in Catch PSE for Dolphin
Dolphin: Released Alive (B2)

C




D

Presentation of MRIP public queries

- Provide alternate location to access same data
- Developed in coordination with NOAA
 - Sharing updated queries with GSMFC
- Follows data presentation Standard 7
 - PSE ranges
 - Calendar and Fishing Years
 - Can query by detailed wave, mode, and distance from shore



Data Distribution - Public Queries



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WAREHOUSE CODES

DATAACCESS INFO

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ACCSP Recreational Reports Descriptions


The ACCSP Data Warehouse includes recreational catch and effort information collected under the NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). Queries for 1981-2017 now contain estimates resulting from the full application of both the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) and Fishing Effort Survey (FES) calibration. Beginning in 2018 wave 1, all catch estimates in shore and private/rental boat modes are calculated using effort based on the FES. MRIP queries including calibration comparisons to prior data presentations may be accessed by [clicking here](#).


MRIP Effort Estimates

Fishing effort, the number of times people went fishing, is estimated as the number of angler fishing trips taken in a given timeframe. This includes how many people are fishing, where people are fishing, and how often people go fishing. The MRIP effort survey is used with adjustment factors from the APAIS catch survey to derive an overall estimate of recreational fishing effort. Beginning in 2018, the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) through the US Mail is used to survey shore and private anglers and the For-Hire Survey (FHS) covers headboat and charter boat captains.

MRIP Catch Estimates

Catch is the species and number of fish caught, kept, and/or discarded during recreational fishing trips. This is estimated by expanding the number of fish observed during the MRIP APAIS dockside intercept survey by the effort estimates. In other words, the fish seen on intercepted trips (APAIS) are expanded by the total number of trips (effort) to estimate the number of fish caught on all trips. Catch can be queried by species, state, year, Wave, distance from shore, and fishing mode.





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MRIP Recreational Effort:

Click Here to Get Data

Reset to Defaults

COMMON PARAMETERS

OPTIONAL PARAMETERS

Select Trip Start/End Year and spatial options

* Start Year

2016

* End Year

2024

* Spatial

Coast

Region

State

* Fishing Year

Calendar Year (January 1 - December 31)

* Summarize By:

Annual (January 1 through December 31)

Cumulative (January 1 through December 31)

State(s)

ME

NH

MA

RI

CT

NY

NJ

DE

MD

VA

NC

SC

GA

FL


AL

MS

LA

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MRIP Recreational Catch:

Click Here to Get Data

Reset to Defaults

COMMON PARAMETERS

OPTIONAL PARAMETERS

Select Trip Start/End Year, and spatial options

* Start Year2016

* End Year2024

* Spatial

CoastRegionState

* Fishing Year

Calendar Year (January 1 - December 31)

* Summarize By:

Annual (January 1 through December 31)Cumulative (January 1 through December 31)

Region(s)

North AtlanticMid AtlanticSouth AtlanticGulf of MexicoUnknown

Note: No species selection will return data for all species. This may take a few minutes due to the volume of data.

bass+ Add

Row text contains

Species

BASS, BLACK SEA (167687)

BASS, STRIPED (167680)

BASS, BANK SEA (167690)

BASS, BLACKEAR (167851)

BASS, LANTERN (167852)

BASS, LARGEMOUTH (168160)

BASS, LONGTAIL (167800)

BASS, ROCK SEA (167691)

BASS, SCHOOL (167846)

1 - 2



Data Distribution - Public Queries

► MRIP Recreational Catch: Cumulative (January 1 through December 31) for 2016 to 2024 for select Regions

Cumulative (January 1 through December 31) for 2016 to 2024 for select Regions



Go

1. Primary Report ▾

Rows 20 ▾

Actions ▾

Last Refresh: 21-FEB-2025 – Data thru December 31, 2024



1 - 18 of 18

Estimate Status	Year ▾	Coast	Region	Common Name	Sci Name	Harvest (A+B1) Numbers	PSE Harvest (A+B1) Numbers	Harvest (A+B1) Weight (lb)	PSE Harvest (A+B1) Weight	Released Alive (B2) Numbers	Released Alive (B2) Lower 95% Confidence Limit	Released Alive (B2) Upper 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch (A+B1+B2) Numbers	Total Catch (A+B1_B2) Lower 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch (A+B1_B2) Upper 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch PSE
Final	2024	Atlantic Coast	Mid Atlantic	BASS, BLACK SEA	Centropristis striata	2,120,834	10.90	3,262,899	10.60	20,165,783	16,569,014	23,762,552	22,286,617	18,661,030	25,912,204	8.3
Final	2024	Atlantic Coast	Mid Atlantic	BASS, STRIPED	Morone saxatilis	1,185,018	10.20	10,080,911	11.40	9,926,481	7,708,508	12,144,454	11,111,498	8,868,309	13,354,688	10.3
Final	2023	Atlantic Coast	Mid Atlantic	BASS, BLACK SEA	Centropristis striata	3,542,492	11.60	5,335,811	12.60	26,604,458	21,650,708	31,558,207	30,146,950	25,124,468	35,169,432	8.5
Final	2023	Atlantic Coast	Mid Atlantic	BASS, STRIPED	Morone saxatilis	2,051,042	9.70	18,584,882	10.90	16,812,310	12,825,103	20,799,517	18,863,352	14,870,357	22,856,346	10.8
Final	2022	Atlantic Coast	Mid Atlantic	BASS, BLACK SEA	Centropristis striata	3,481,526	12.50	5,706,876	12.20	25,673,095	21,496,596	29,849,594	29,154,621	24,868,892	33,440,350	7.5
Final	2022	Atlantic Coast	Mid Atlantic	BASS, STRIPED	Morone saxatilis	2,710,561	10.00	27,608,473	11.70	17,911,357	13,066,693	22,756,021	20,621,918	15,731,224	25,512,612	12.1
Final	2021	Atlantic Coast	Mid Atlantic	BASS, BLACK SEA	Centropristis striata	3,869,687	10.40	6,122,071	10.10	24,354,141	19,580,730	29,127,553	28,223,829	23,411,101	33,036,556	8.7
Final	2021	Atlantic Coast	Mid Atlantic	BASS, STRIPED	Morone saxatilis	1,566,774	9.20	13,032,843	10.80	15,682,259	11,717,156	19,647,361	17,249,032	13,259,676	21,238,389	11.8



Data Distribution - Public Queries

* Summarize By: ?

- ☒ Annual (January 1 through December 31)
- ☐ Cumulative (January 1 through December 31)

- ☒ South Atlantic
- ☐ Gulf of Mexico
- ☐ Unknown

No unselected species found.

1 - 1

Click Here to Get Data

Reset to Defaults ↺

Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select Regions

Q

Go

1. Primary Report

Rows20

Actions

Last Refresh: 21-FEB-2025 – Data thru December 31, 2024

↗

1 - 5 of 5

Estimate Status	Year	Coast	Region	Common Name	Sci Name	Harvest (A+B1) Numbers	PSE Harvest (A+B1) Numbers	Harvest (A+B1) Weight (lb)	PSE Harvest (A+B1) Weight	Released Alive (B2) Numbers	Released Alive (B2) Lower 95% Confidence Limit	Released Alive (B2) Upper 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch (A+B1+B2) Numbers	Total Catch (A+B1_B2) Lower 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch (A+B1_B2) Upper 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch PSE
Final	2024	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	17,410	33.20	468,983	35.20	130,128	78,098	182,158	147,538	94,330	200,746	18.4
Final	2023	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	42,156	29.50	862,522	29.20	258,676	157,275	360,077	300,832	196,467	405,196	17.7
Final	2022	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	71,760	23.20	1,502,042	22.40	148,678	88,939	208,417	220,438	152,605	288,271	15.7
Final	2021	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	70,504	25.20	1,422,785	23.60	191,624	104,489	278,759	262,128	168,108	356,148	18.3
Final	2020	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	89,099	29.00	2,191,319	28.20	166,934	106,731	227,138	256,034	177,247	334,820	15.7

1 - 5 of 5



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Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select States



Go

1. Primary Report

Rows 20

Actions

Last Refresh: 21-FEB-2025 – Data thru December 31, 2024



1 - 20 of 20

Estimate Status	Year	Coast	Region	State	Common Name	Sci Name	Harvest (A+B1) Numbers	PSE Harvest (A+B1) Numbers	Harvest (A+B1) Weight (lb)	PSE Harvest (A+B1) Weight	Released Alive (B2) Numbers	Released Alive (B2) Lower 95% Confidence Limit	Released Alive (B2) Upper 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch (A+B1+B2) Numbers	Total Catch (A+B1_B2) Lower 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch (A+B1_B2) Upper 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch PSE
Final	2024	Atlantic Coast	Mid Atlantic	VIRGINIA	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	47,020	31.10	1,427,684	30.50	146,443	0	343,058	193,464	0	392,158	52.4
Final	2024	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	GEORGIA	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	2,464	85.60	62,232	90.00	9,258	0	18,566	11,721	1,544	21,899	44.3
Final	2024	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	NORTH CAROLINA	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	5,073	34.60	142,124	36.10	24,662	4,795	44,529	29,735	9,570	49,900	34.6
Final	2024	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	SOUTH CAROLINA	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	1,481	57.40	37,951	67.70	41,507	13,521	69,492	42,988	14,930	71,045	33.3
Final	2023	Atlantic Coast	Mid Atlantic	VIRGINIA	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	81,824	34.20	2,467,557	38.10	141,956	37,618	246,294	223,780	105,794	341,766	26.9
Final	2023	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	GEORGIA	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	11,368	56.00	212,679	55.60	28,894	3,013	54,776	40,263	11,538	68,988	36.4
Final	2023	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	NORTH CAROLINA	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	629	53.10	12,523	51.30	32,590	6,720	58,459	33,218	7,305	59,132	39.8
Final	2023	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	SOUTH CAROLINA	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	4,129	61.90	87,486	64.90	39,864	8,142	71,587	43,993	11,831	76,156	37.3

Cobia by state and year



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Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select Regions

Q Go 2. Detail Report Rows 20 Actions Last Refresh: 21-FEB-2025 -- Data thru December 31, 2024 1 - 15 of 15

Estimate Status	Report Name	Data Range	Fishing Year	Year	Coast	Region	Common Name	Sci Name	Harvest (A+B1) Numbers	PSE Harvest (A+B1) Numbers	Harvest (A+B1) Weight (lb)	Harvest (A+B1) Weight (kg)	PSE Harvest (A+B1) Weight	Released Alive (B2) Numbers	PSE Released Alive (B2)	Released Alive (B2) Lower 95% Confidence Limit	Released Alive (B2) Upper 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch (A+B1+B2) Numbers	Total Catch (A+B1_B2) Lower 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch (A+B1_B2) Upper 95% Confidence Limit	Total Catch PSE
Final	Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select Regions	January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024	Calendar Year (January 1 - December 31)	2024	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	GROUPER, RED	Epinephelus morio	21,367	34.40	144,026	65,330	34.80	68,539	28.8	29,850	107,228	89,906	48,495	131,317	23.5
Final	Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select Regions	January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024	Calendar Year (January 1 - December 31)	2024	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	GROUPER, BLACK	Mycteroperca bonaci	3,738	61.00	39,436	17,888	56.90	6,648	52.6	0	13,502	10,386	2,203	18,569	40.2
Final	Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select Regions	January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024	Calendar Year (January 1 - December 31)	2024	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	GROUPER, GAG	Mycteroperca microlepis	9,173	28.90	143,298	65,000	29.80	156,273	26.1	76,330	236,216	165,446	85,351	245,542	24.7
Final	Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select Regions	January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023	Calendar Year (January 1 - December 31)	2023	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	GROUPER, GAG	Mycteroperca microlepis	37,981	36.70	520,976	236,313	41.10	107,584	20.0	65,411	149,756	145,565	95,351	195,779	17.6
Final	Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select Regions	January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023	Calendar Year (January 1 - December 31)	2023	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	GROUPER, RED	Epinephelus morio	20,147	50.60	124,586	56,512	49.30	283,234	20.2	171,096	395,372	303,381	189,212	417,549	19.2
Final	Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select Regions	January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023	Calendar Year (January 1 - December 31)	2023	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	GROUPER, BLACK	Mycteroperca bonaci	2,825	71.20	27,857	12,636	69.20	12,935	52.6	0	26,270	15,760	1,860	29,660	45.0
Final	Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select Regions	January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022	Calendar Year (January 1 - December 31)	2022	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	GROUPER, GAG	Mycteroperca microlepis	10,684	37.90	150,840	68,421	42.00	180,240	20.1	109,233	251,248	190,924	119,450	262,399	19.1
Final	Annual (January 1 through December 31) for 2020 to 2024 for select Regions	January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022	Calendar Year (January 1 - December 31)	2022	Atlantic Coast	South Atlantic	GROUPER, BLACK	Mycteroperca bonaci	10,499	59.70	123,615	56,071	58.60	13,175	84.9	0	35,099	23,675	0	48,778	54.1

Note 3 species of grouper at year / Region level have PSE above recommended use



How do the standards affect data use?

Management of numerous Commission and SAFMC species uses MRIP estimates as best scientific information available, which necessitates using estimates with $PSE > 50$ which is in conflict with MRIP Data Standards recommendation



How do the standards affect data use?

Fisheries management will continue to need estimates at greater detail (such as wave, fishing mode, and distance from shore) to evaluate mode management, fishing seasons, and in season monitoring.





Process Improvement:

MRIP data collection in unsampled waves

For-Hire Telephone Survey (FHTS)

- Possible with existing staff and budget
- **Maryland through Georgia 2025**

Fishing Effort Survey (FES) – Private anglers

- Dependent upon funding and FES contract scope
- **Potential for 2026 – NC, SC, GA**

APAIS Dockside Intercepts

- Dependent upon increased staffing & funding
- Developing criteria based on level of effort
- Supports for-hire logbook methodology
- Unknown implementation
- **South Carolina 2025**

