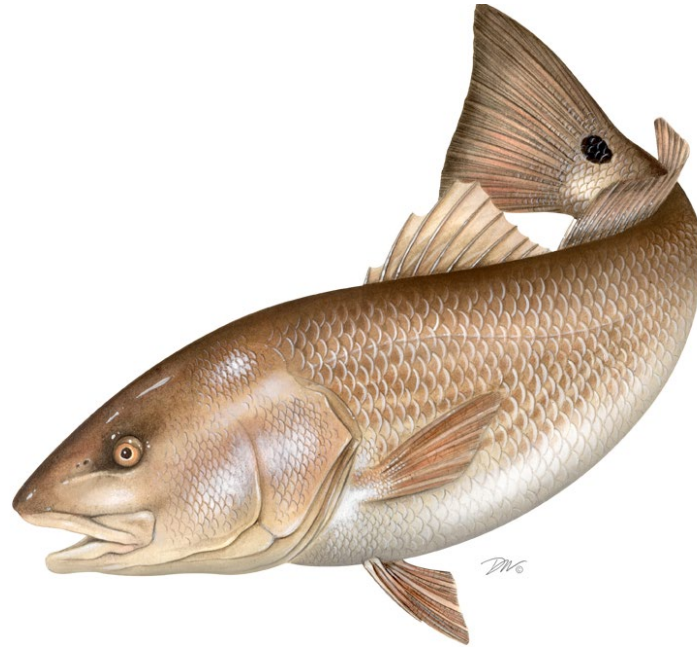


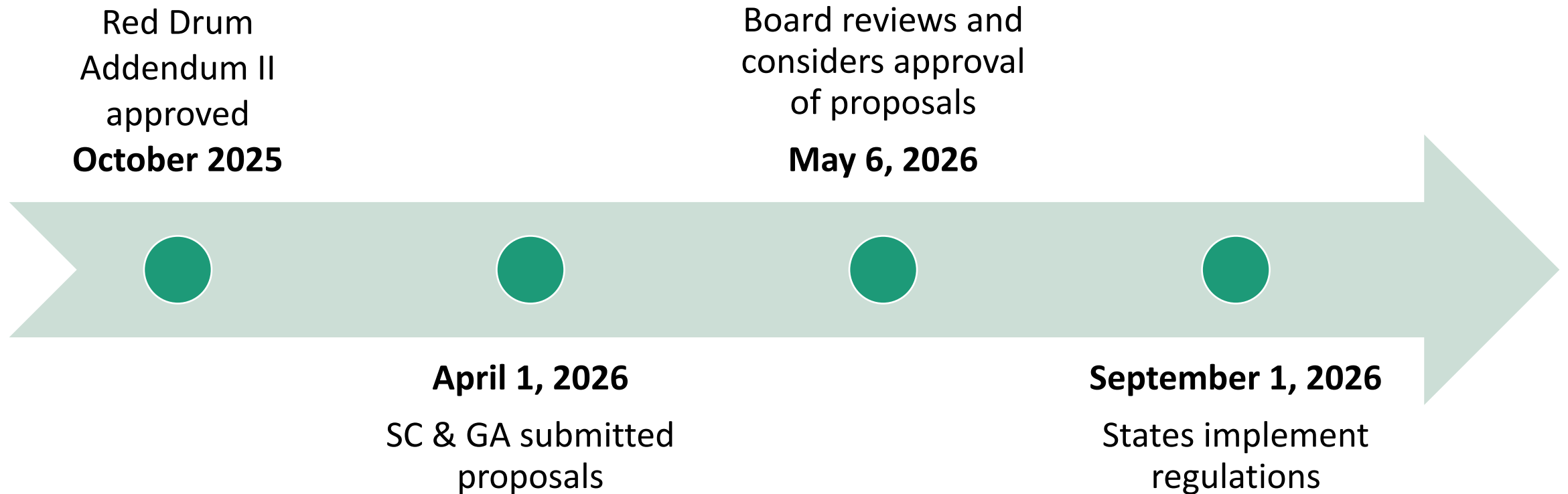
South Carolina and Georgia Proposals for Implementation of Red Drum Addendum II



Sciaenids Management Board
May 6, 2026

- Review Background
- Overview of South Carolina and Georgia's proposals
 - Estimated coastwide reduction
- *Consider approval of the range of options in South Carolina and Georgia's proposals*

Addendum II Implementation Timeline



Addendum II State Proposal Review Process

1. States develop proposals with regulation options
2. Red Drum Technical Committee reviews proposals
 - Ensure data and analysis are technically sound
 - Evaluate proposal based on whether it'll contribute to overfishing of the resource
3. Proposals are presented to and approved by the Board.
4. Once approved, states select one of the options in the proposal to implement



Image credit: Ken Neill

Addendum II states:

- Southern stock state measures are to achieve the threshold and end overfishing (i.e., $F < F_{30\%}$ or 30% SPR under terminal year fishery selectivity patterns), with a target of decreasing fishing mortality such that it is less than the fishing mortality associated with 40% SPR under terminal year fishery selectivity patterns.

Addendum II states:

- Southern stock state measures are to achieve the threshold and end overfishing (i.e., $F < F_{30\%}$ or 30% SPR under terminal year fishery selectivity patterns), with a target of decreasing fishing mortality such that it is less than the fishing mortality associated with 40% SPR under terminal year fishery selectivity patterns.

Catch Reduction Need from 2019-2021 Average F Catch	
$F_{30\%}$	14.4%

South Carolina's Proposal

South Carolina's Methodology

- Estimation of catch reductions from more restrictive regulations summarized in the [April 21, 2025 TC and SAS memo to the Sciaenids Management Board](#).
- Estimation of catch reductions that include a liberalized regulation (e.g., increased maximum size limit), as described in the [August 27, 2025 TC call](#) summary.

South Carolina's Methodology

- Estimated catch reductions that include a liberalized regulation (e.g., increased maximum size limit), as described in the [August 27, 2025 TC call](#) summary.
 - To evaluate increasing the upper slot limit above 23" TL, SCDNR used a proxy due to lack of post-2007 data on catch >23" TL:
 1. Estimate reductions from lowering the upper slot to 22" or 21" TL, and
 2. Subtract those amounts when modeling increases to 24" or 25" TL.
 - Estimated a 4.05% (1") and 6.94% (2") loss in reductions, which are added back when evaluating upper slot scenarios
 - Reviewed and recommended by the TC

South Carolina's Proposal

Proposed Option(s)	Bag Limit	Vessel Limit	Minimum Size Limit	Maximum Size Limit	Catch Estimate	Estimated Percent Reduction
Status Quo	2	6	15	23	1,651,575	0.0%
Option 1	1	6	18	25	1,228,757	25.60
Option 2	1	4	18	25	1,204,031	27.10
Option 3	1	2	18	25	1,174,922	28.86
Option 4	2	4	19	25	1,258,693	23.79
Option 5	2	2	18	25	1,205,430	27.01
Option 6	2	2	17	23	1,197,873	27.47

Georgia's Proposal

Georgia's Methodology

- Estimation of catch reductions from more restrictive regulations summarized in the [April 21, 2025 TC and SAS memo to the Sciaenids Management Board](#).
- Estimation of catch reductions that include a liberalized regulation (e.g., increased maximum size limit), as described in the [August 27, 2025 TC call](#) summary.

Georgia's Methodology

- Estimated catch reductions that include a liberalized regulation (e.g., increased maximum size limit), as described in the [August 27, 2025 TC call](#) summary.
 - Proportions of red drum in each size bin from most recent 5-year period with the 14-23" slot (2017-2022) used as base for comparison to gauge changes in catch
 - Compared to data from period when the upper limit of the slot was higher = the 5-year period at the end of the previous 14-27" slot (1996-2001)
 - Reviewed and recommended by the TC

Georgia's Proposal

Option	Bag Limit	Vessel Limit	Minimum Size Limit	Maximum Size Limit	Catch Estimate	Estimated Percent Reduction
Status Quo	5	None	14	23	1,709,947	0.0%
Option 1a	2	None	14	23	1,273,911	25.5
Option 1b	2	6	14	23	1,272,201	25.6
Option 1c	2	4	14	23	1,234,582	27.8
Option 2a	2	None	15	24	1,186,703	30.6
Option 2b	2	6	15	24	1,184,993	30.7
Option 2c	2	4	15	24	1,154,214	32.5
Option 3a	3	None	15	24	1,325,209	22.5
Option 3b	3	9	15	24	1,323,499	22.6
Option 3c	3	6	15	24	1,299,560	24.0
Option 4a	3	None	16	25	1,085,816	36.5
Option 4b	3	9	16	25	1,084,106	36.6
Option 4c	3	6	16	25	1,065,297	37.7
Option 5a	4	None	16	25	1,164,474	31.9
Option 5b	4	12	16	25	1,162,764	32.0
Option 5c	4	8	16	25	1,155,924	32.4

Estimated Coastwide Reduction Achieved

Jurisdiction	Removals		Reduction	Option
	With 2018-2021 Regulations	With Implemented		
South Carolina	1,651,574	1,258,693	23.79%	Option 4
Georgia	1,709,947	1,325,209	22.5%	Option 3a
Florida	4,207,205	3,499,687	16.8%	-
Southern Stock	7,568,726	6,083,589	19.6%	

Estimated Coastwide Reduction Achieved

Jurisdiction	Removals		Reduction	Option
	With 2018-2021 Regulations	With Implemented		
South Carolina	1,651,574	1,174,922	28.86%	Option 3
Georgia	1,709,947	1,065,297	37.7%	Option 4c
Florida	4,207,205	3,499,687	16.8%	-
Southern Stock	7,568,726	5,760,425	24.2%	

Estimated Coastwide Reduction Achieved

Jurisdiction	Removals		Reduction	Option
	With 2018-2021 Regulations	With Implemented		
South Carolina	1,651,574	1,174,922	28.86%	Option 3
Georgia	1,709,947	1,325,209	22.5%	Option 3a
Florida	4,207,205	3,499,687	16.8%	-
Southern Stock	7,568,726	5,999,818	20.7%	

Board Action for Consideration Today

- Consider approval of South Carolina and Georgia's range of options in their respective red drum management proposals to implement Addendum II

Questions?



Image Credit: Ken Neill



Conservation Equivalency Proposal for Management of the Commercial Spot Fishery

*NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY*

Marine Fisheries

ASMFC Sciaenids Management Board Meeting | Chris Batsavage | May 6, 2026



Background

- 2020 TLA for spot triggered at 30% threshold
- Coast-wide management action enacted March 2021
- Required 1% reduction in commercial harvest based on 10-year average
- Annual Commercial Closure every year beginning in 2021:
 - December 10th – April 4th

Department of Environmental Quality



Proposed Alternative Management Option

- Commercial Spot Fishery
- Required 1% Harvest Reduction: 5,126 lb
- Current Closure Period: December 10th – April 4th
 - 16 weeks
 - Projected Harvest Reduction: 5,281 lb
- Proposed Closure Period: January 1st – April 28th
 - 16 weeks
 - Projected Harvest Reduction: 6,940 lb



Rationale

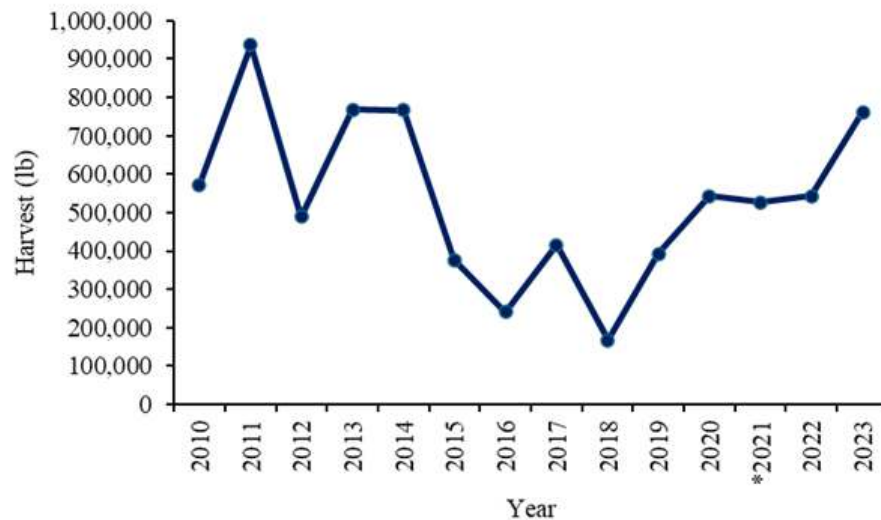


- Fishermen in southern region experiencing progressively shorter spot fishing seasons under current closure period
 - Possibly migrating progressively later
- Concern of increasing regulatory discards in other winter fisheries
- Alternative closure option:
 - Greater projected harvest reduction than current closure period
 - 5,281 lb (current) vs. 6,940 lb (proposed)
 - Reduce disproportionate impact on southern fishermen
 - Potentially reduces regulatory discards
 - Protects adult spawning fish



Description

- Most recent 5-year period (2019-2023) of commercial landings data
 - (available at time of analysis)
- Weekly harvest averages used to determine closure dates
 - (Same methods used to determine current closure period)
- Annual landings from 2020 to 2023 exceeded the average landings from 2010 to 2019 that were used to calculate the 1% landings reduction, despite season closures since 2021
- More conservative option is more likely to achieve a harvest reduction



Annual commercial spot landings in North Carolina for 2010 through 2023. The annual commercial harvest closure from December 10th through April 4th was implemented in December 2021, indicated by an asterisk (*).



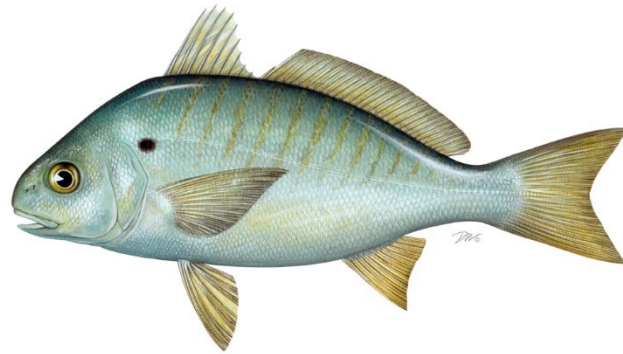


Questions?

Department of Environmental Quality



Review of North Carolina's Spot CE Proposal



Sciaenids Management Board

May 6, 2026

State submits CE
proposal



CE proposal is reviewed by
Plan Review Team, LEC



The AP reviews proposal and
all comments thus far



The Board reviews comments
and decides whether to
approve the proposal

Spot Plan Review Team

- The PRT agreed proposal included all the required information outlined in the CE Guidance Document, including rationale; description of how program meets FMP; review schedule; and monitoring and reporting process.
- The PRT agreed that the proposal demonstrated equivalency to and did not deviate from the standards within the spot FMP.
- The PRT noted that North Carolina's proposed closed season exceeds the required 1% harvest reduction and the reduction achieved by the current closure period.

South Atlantic Advisory Panel

- The South Atlantic Advisory Panel met on April 15, 2026
- Did not express any major concerns about the proposal
- Questions and Comments:
 - One AP member asked whether NC looked at available data in April, noting spot have been showing up earlier in April in recent years -> moving the last day of the closure from April 4th to April 28th could potentially lead to an increase in regulatory discards in that period
 - One AP member expressed support for the proposal because of how it's expected to benefit the fishermen participating in this fishery in the southern area of NC, and reduce regulatory discards in December

Spot Technical Committee and the LEC

- The Spot TC and the LEC reviewed the proposal via email, and did not express any concerns



Board Action for Consideration

- Consider approval of North Carolina's conservation equivalency proposal for its spot commercial season

Discussion and Recommendations on *De Minimis* Provisions by Sciaenids Board Species Plan Review Teams

Sciaenids Management Board

May 6, 2026

- Statement of the Problem
- Discussion and Recommendations
- Potential Next Steps

Definition of *De Minimis*

- *De minimis* provisions in interstate FMPs are meant to reduce the regulatory burden for **states whose measures would have a negligible effect on the conservation of a species**

Statement of the Problem

In recent years, several states have experienced reoccurring issues related to the current definition of *de minimis* for multiple Sciaenids Board species.

Species	Stock	Threshold	# of years averaged	De minimis States (FY2024)
Atlantic croaker	NJ-FL	1%	3	<u>Comm</u> : NJ, DE, SC, and GA <u>Rec</u> : NJ
Black drum	NJ-FL	1%	3	none
Red drum	Northern: NC-NJ Southern: SC-FL	1%	3	NJ, DE
Spot	NJ-FL	1%	3	NJ, GA
Spotted Seatrout	NJ-FL	1%	3	NJ, DE

Statement of the Problem

- States, particularly those on the edge of a species' management area, have had highly variable landings of several Sciaenids species in recent years
 - E.g., NJ and DE have hovered around or have been repeatedly been barely above the 1% threshold in recent years for spot and Atlantic croaker
- In recent compliance reports and Board discussions, states have noted concerns such as:
 - A single year of unusually high landings, averaged with two years of lower landings, have contribute to a state falling just above the 1% threshold
 - High uncertainty in the MRIP estimates being used to calculate *de minimis* for their state
 - Other states in the management area which previously contributed to a majority of coastwide harvest have experienced large declines in landings, disproportionate to states on the edge of the range

Statement of the Problem

Atlantic croaker – Recreational – 1% threshold – 3-Year Average

Year	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
2015	10.0%	3.3%	14.1%	54.2%	6.7%	1.4%	1.8%	8.5%
2016	4.8%	3.0%	12.0%	51.3%	8.3%	1.7%	2.4%	16.5%
2017	1.5%	1.3%	8.7%	56.5%	7.1%	3.3%	2.7%	19.0%
2018	0.3%	0.3%	6.0%	61.3%	6.0%	3.4%	2.1%	20.6%
2019	0.4%	0.6%	4.7%	66.4%	6.3%	5.3%	2.8%	13.6%
2020	0.6%	0.6%	3.5%	61.0%	6.6%	4.8%	2.8%	20.3%
2021	0.3%	1.0%	2.5%	52.5%	10.2%	6.7%	3.4%	23.5%
2022	0.7%	1.0%	2.2%	45.8%	13.1%	7.0%	3.2%	24.1%
2023	1.2%	1.7%	2.2%	31.5%	17.8%	8.7%	4.8%	23.2%
2024	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%	27.0%	18.9%	9.4%	5.2%	25.0%

Statement of the Problem

- These states just above or at the 1% threshold have been requesting *de minimis* despite not technically qualifying for it, in some cases for multiple years in a row
- Concern with whether the current definition is still appropriate and of how meaningful regulations from these states would be on the stock if you take into consideration:
 - The state's relatively low contribution to the coastwide landings, and
 - The administrative burden necessary to implement any new regulations to be in compliance with the FMP for non-*de minimis* states

Statement of the Problem

- Other considerations:
 - Environmental factors contributing to the cyclical nature of recruitment and adult abundance in some of these species
 - Ongoing possible stock expansion
- As a result, it is likely managers will continue to see increased variability and uncertainty in landings and changes in which states qualify for de minimis.

Board Tasking

In August 2025, the Board tasked the PRTs to provide recommendations on:

- Whether the current 1% threshold for a state to be considered *de minimis* is appropriate
- Whether there may be alternative ways to evaluate whether a state is *de minimis*

Summary of Discussion

- PRTs met 4 times between Nov 2025 and April 2026
- Agree the current 1% threshold may not be appropriate for all Sciaenids Board species
- The PRTs don't recommend a one-size-fits-all solution, but discussed several different ways to address this issue
- *Need to evaluate appropriateness on a species-by-species basis, based on species' life history, available assessment information, and other differences in the fisheries*

Summary of Discussion

- In addition, the PRTs recommend:
 - Caution regarding the amount of leeway provided by any definition of *de minimis* that may allow states to remain *de minimis* despite not qualifying for it if there are concerning trends in the stock or a negative stock status
 - Any suggested changes to definition of *de minimis* or the process undergo review by the species' TC

Summary of Discussion

- Memo proposes several possible solutions for the Board's consideration, which fall under two different categories:
 1. Modifications to the current **definition** of *de minimis*
 2. Modifications to the *de minimis* **process**

Summary of Discussion

1. Modifications to the current definition of *de minimis*

A. Number of years of harvest averaged

B. Multiple Thresholds

Summary of Discussion – Potential modifications to definition of *de minimis*

1A. Number of years of harvest averaged

- Could average 5 years of harvest instead of the current standard of 3 years
 - May be appropriate for longer-lived species, if landings data are highly variable, and/or where it's suspected the stock may be undergoing expansion
 - Running theme – should be evaluated on a species-by-species basis

Summary of Discussion – Potential modifications to definition of *de minimis*

1B. Multiple Thresholds

Full <i>de minimis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Average landings for the most recent 3 or 5 years are less than 1%• FMP regulations do not need to be implemented and no monitoring for compliance (if applicable)
Provisional <i>de minimis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Average landings for the most recent 3 or 5 years are between 1% and 3%• Regulations cannot be liberalized, but regulations in FMP would not need to be implemented.
Non-<i>de minimis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Average landings for most recent 3 or 5 years are greater than or equal to 3%• All non-<i>de minimis</i> FMP compliance measures apply. If a state hits this threshold, it cannot request continuance of <i>de minimis</i> or provisional <i>de minimis</i>

Summary of Discussion – Potential modifications to definition of *de minimis*

1B. Multiple Thresholds

- Recommend this approach be used only when there are no major concerns about stock status – e.g., allow more leeway in defining *de minimis* when the stock is doing well
- Approach may not be appropriate for all species

Summary of Discussion – Potential modifications to definition of *de minimis*

Spot – Combined Rec and Comm

Current definition of de minimis

3-year

Year	NJ	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
2015				<1%				<1%	
2016	<1%			<1%				<1%	
2017	<1%	<1%		<1%				<1%	
2018	<1%	<1%		<1%				<1%	
2019	<1%	<1%		<1%				<1%	
2020	<1%			<1%			<1%	<1%	
2021	<1%			<1%			<1%	<1%	
2022	<1%			<1%				<1%	<1%
2023	<1%			<1%				<1%	<1%
2024				<1%				<1%	<1%

5-year

Year	NJ	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
2015				<1%				<1%	
2016				<1%				<1%	
2017				<1%				<1%	
2018	<1%			<1%				<1%	
2019	<1%	<1%		<1%				<1%	
2020	<1%	<1%		<1%				<1%	
2021	<1%	<1%		<1%				<1%	
2022	<1%			<1%				<1%	
2023	<1%			<1%				<1%	
2024				<1%				<1%	

Summary of Discussion – Potential modifications to definition of *de minimis*

Spot – Combined Rec and Comm

Multiple thresholds

3-year

5-year

Year	NJ	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
2015			≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2016	<1%		≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2017	<1%	<1%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2018	<1%	<1%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2019	<1%	<1%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2020	<1%		≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	<1%	≥3%
2021	<1%		≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	<1%	≥3%
2022	<1%		≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	<1%
2023	<1%		≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	<1%
2024	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	<1%

Year	NJ	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
2015			≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2016			≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2017			≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2018	<1%		≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2019	<1%	<1%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2020	<1%	<1%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2021	<1%	<1%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2022	<1%		≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2023	<1%		≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	≥3%
2024			≥3%	<1%	≥3%	≥3%	≥3%	<1%	

Summary of Discussion – Potential modifications to the *de minimis* process

2. Modifications to the *de minimis* process

A. Codify # of years before a state can no longer request *de minimis*

B. States remain non-*de minimis* or *de minimis* for X number of years

Summary of Discussion – Potential modifications to the *de minimis* process

2A. Codify the number of years before a state can no longer request *de minimis* status

- **Recommendation if the Board wishes to consider this option further:** If a state does not qualify for *de minimis* for a number of years (non-consecutive) within a specific time frame (e.g., if a state's landings are above the threshold for *de minimis* in 3 out of the last 4 years), the state would no longer be able to request *de minimis* unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- **Purpose:** Officially establishes process, no longer just a recommendation from PRT, and states would know expectations ahead of time

Summary of Discussion – Potential modifications to the *de minimis* process

2B. States remain non-*de minimis* or *de minimis* for X number of years

- **Recommendation if the Board wishes to consider this option further:**
 - Once a state is officially no longer *de minimis*, establish a set # of years before the state can qualify for *de minimis* again, regardless of their landings.
 - Once a state moves from non-*de minimis* to *de minimis*, state could automatically be able to remain *de minimis* for a set # of years.
- **Purpose:** to increase stability for states that have a history of moving in and out of qualifying for *de minimis*

Summary of Discussion – Additional Considerations

3A. Splitting *De Minimis* by Sector

- Recommended for further consideration on species-by-species basis
- Longstanding recommendation by the Spot PRT

Summary of Discussion – Additional Considerations

Spot – Recreational

3-Year Average

5-Year Average

Year	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
2015							<1%	
2016	<1%						<1%	
2017	<1%	<1%					<1%	
2018	<1%	<1%					<1%	
2019	<1%	<1%					<1%	
2020	<1%	<1%					<1%	
2021	<1%	<1%					<1%	
2022	<1%	<1%					<1%	
2023	<1%						<1%	
2024							<1%	

Year	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
2015							<1%	
2016							<1%	
2017							<1%	
2018	<1%						<1%	
2019	<1%	<1%					<1%	
2020	<1%	<1%					<1%	
2021	<1%	<1%					<1%	
2022	<1%	<1%					<1%	
2023	<1%						<1%	
2024							<1%	

Summary of Discussion – Additional Considerations

Spot – Commercial

3-Year Average

5-Year Average

Year	NJ	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
2015	<1%						<1%	<1%	<1%
2016	<1%						<1%	<1%	
2017	<1%	<1%					<1%	<1%	
2018	<1%	<1%					<1%	<1%	
2019	<1%						<1%	<1%	
2020							<1%	<1%	
2021							<1%	<1%	
2022							<1%	<1%	
2023							<1%	<1%	
2024							<1%	<1%	

Year	NJ	DE	MD	PRFC	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
2015	<1%						<1%	<1%	<1%
2016	<1%						<1%	<1%	
2017	<1%						<1%	<1%	
2018	<1%						<1%	<1%	
2019	<1%						<1%	<1%	
2020	<1%						<1%	<1%	
2021	<1%						<1%	<1%	
2022	<1%						<1%	<1%	
2023							<1%	<1%	
2024							<1%	<1%	

Summary of Discussion – Additional Considerations

3B. Splitting *De Minimis* by Stock

- Recommended to continue to be considered on a species-by-species basis
- Generally, if a species has two or more stocks which are managed separately, *de minimis* should similarly be evaluated at the stock level

3C. Consideration of Total Removals when Determining *De Minimis*

- Total removals would allow for a more complete picture of each state's potential impact on fishing mortality
- Could currently only be considered in combination with splitting *de minimis* by sector, for the recreational sector

Possible Next Steps

- Overall, the take-aways from the PRTs are:
 - Any option(s) the Board wishes to explore further should be examined on a species-by-species basis
 - The species technical committee would need to provide input on any new definition of *de minimis* related to conservation of the species
- The PRTs are looking for direction from the Board on how to proceed.
- Possible next steps
 - Task a PRT/TC to explore an option or options and provide species-specific recommendations
 - Wait for each PRT to meet for FMP Reviews to discuss issue
 - Initiate an addendum for one or more Sciaenids Board species
 -?

Questions?



Image credit: Ken Neill



**Atlantic States
Marine Fisheries**
COMMISSION

Atlantic Croaker Stock Assessment Update

Sciaenids Management Board

5/6/2026

- Last Board update Annual 2025 Meeting
- Population being assessed as two stocks with a split in central NC
- SAS completed assessment workshop March 2-6, 2026
 - Timing delayed several months from original schedule in October 2025
 - Delay led to delay of subsequent timeline milestones as well as reinitiation of spot assessment
- SAS met virtually for final model review April 17 & 24, 2026
- SAS now completing report writing

Remaining Timeline



Spot Assessment Timeline

*Contingent on the completion of Croaker Peer Review

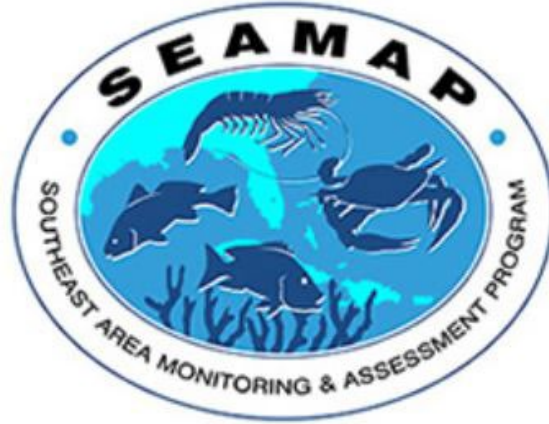
- July 2026: Spot Data Due/Data Review
- Fall 2026: Spot Assessment Model Development
- December 2026: Spot Assessment Workshop
- Late Winter 2026/2027: Draft Spot Assessment Report
- April 2027: Review Spot Assessment with TC
- June 2027: Spot Peer Review Workshop
- Annual Meeting 2027: Present Spot Assessment to Sciaenids Board

- Last presented to the Board at Summer 2025 meeting
- Spot TLA was not triggered and management action was no longer required
- The Board agreed with the TC's recommendation to maintain current regulations
- **Should an updated TLA be completed for Spot this year?**



Atlantic States
Marine Fisheries
COMMISSION

Questions?

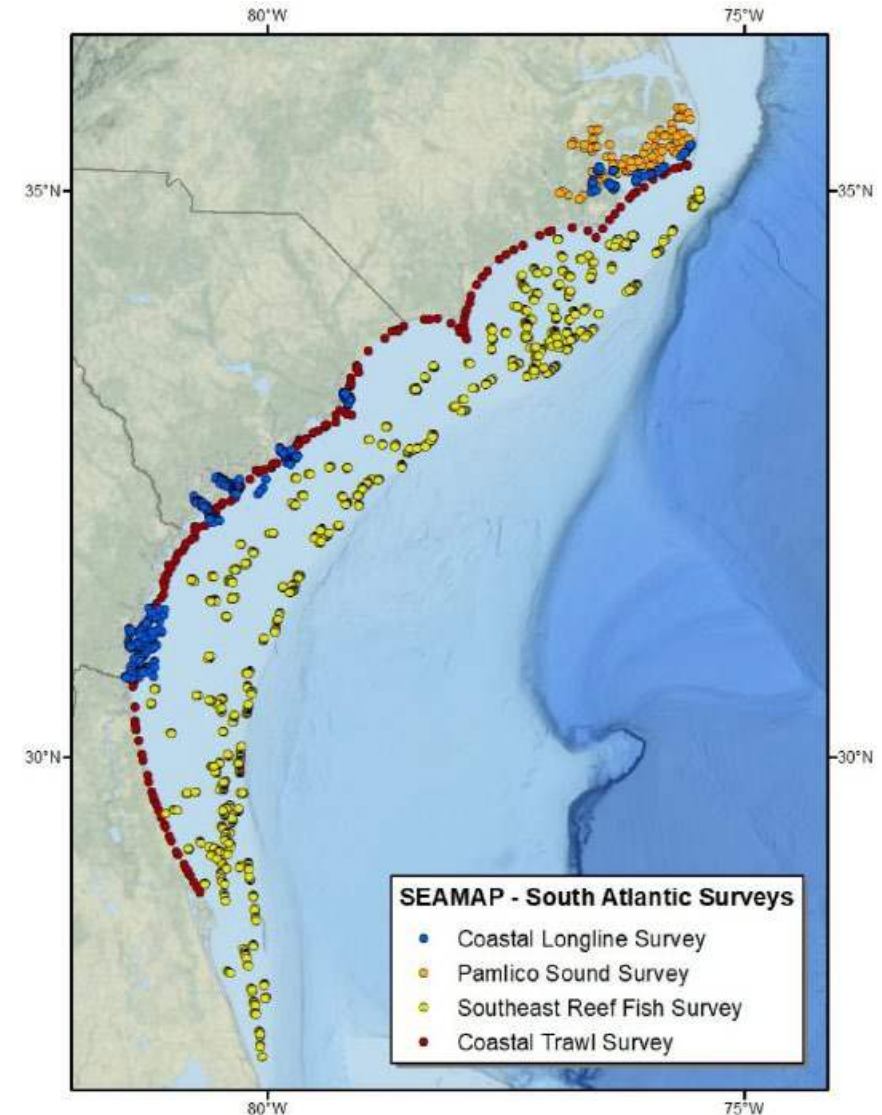


SEAMAP Strategic Plan

Sciaenids Fishery Management Board

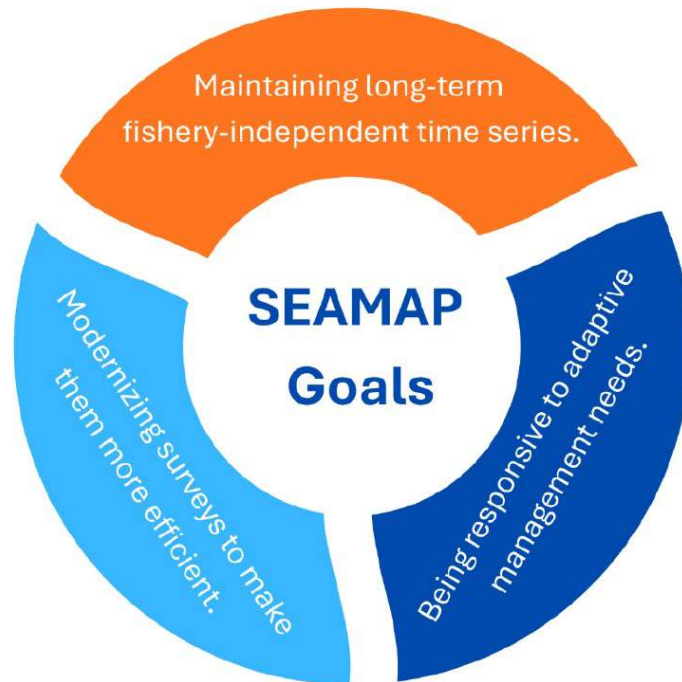
May 6, 2026

- Partners: Atlantic, Gulf, and Caribbean
- Current Surveys: Coastal Trawl, Reef Fish State Longlines, Pamlico Sound*



- **Goals**

- Maintain Long-Term Survey Time Series
- Modernize Surveys for Efficiency
- Respond to Adaptive Management Needs



The Southeast Area
Monitoring & Assessment
Program

SEAMAP
Strategic Plan
2026 - 2030



- **Survey Expansion**
 - Reef Fish Survey north of Hatteras and south to Florida Keys
- **Proposed New Surveys**
 - Nearshore Live Bottom Habitat
 - Cobia Hook&Line or Surface Video
 - Ichthyoplankton
- **Program Enhancements**
 - Bottom Mapping Low Relief Habitats
 - Combining Longline Surveys Data
 - Trap-Video and Trawl Sampling Comparisons

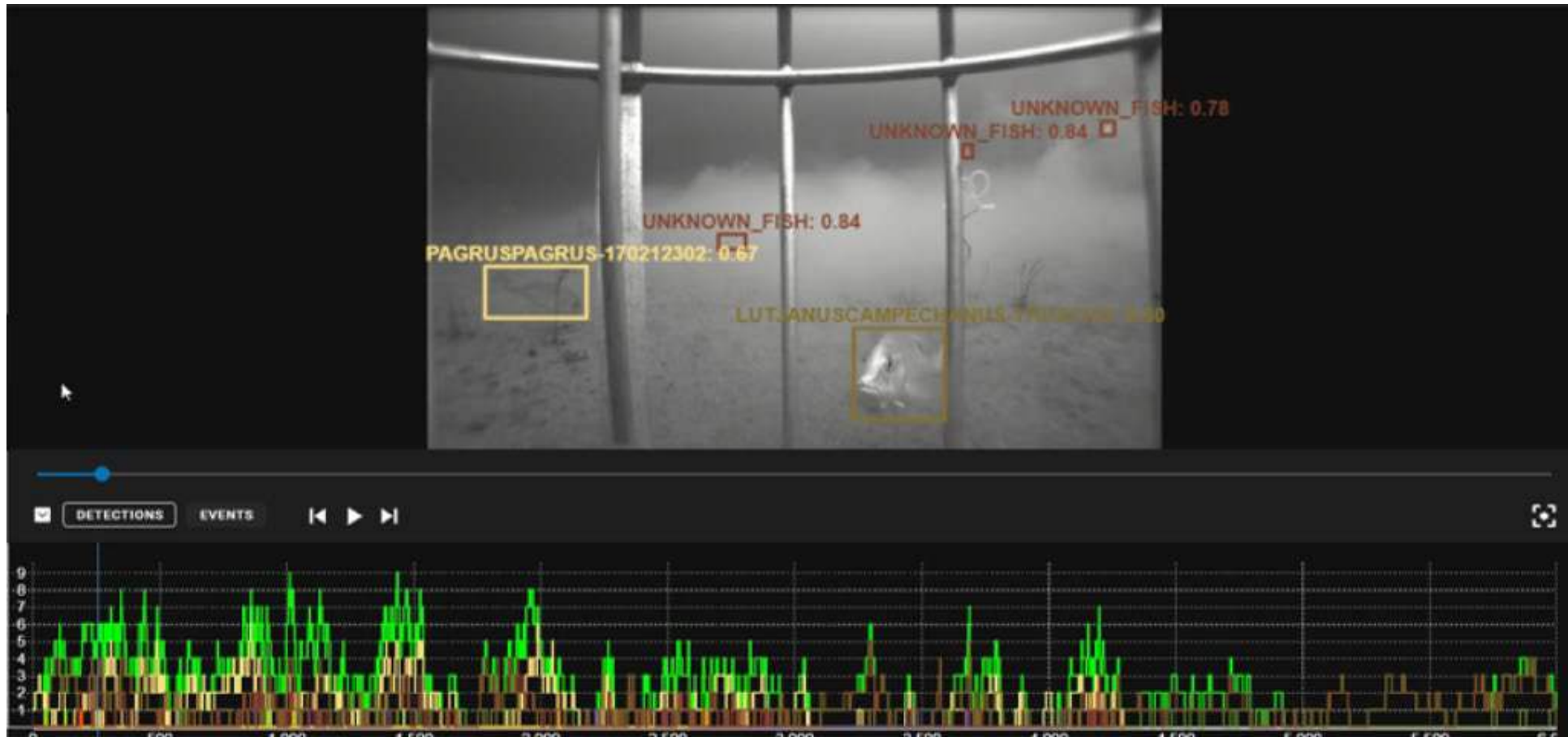


The Southeast Area
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Program

SEAMAP Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030



- Machine Learning for Trap-Video Surveys
 - Automated Species Identification and Abundance Metrics



Survey Data Uses



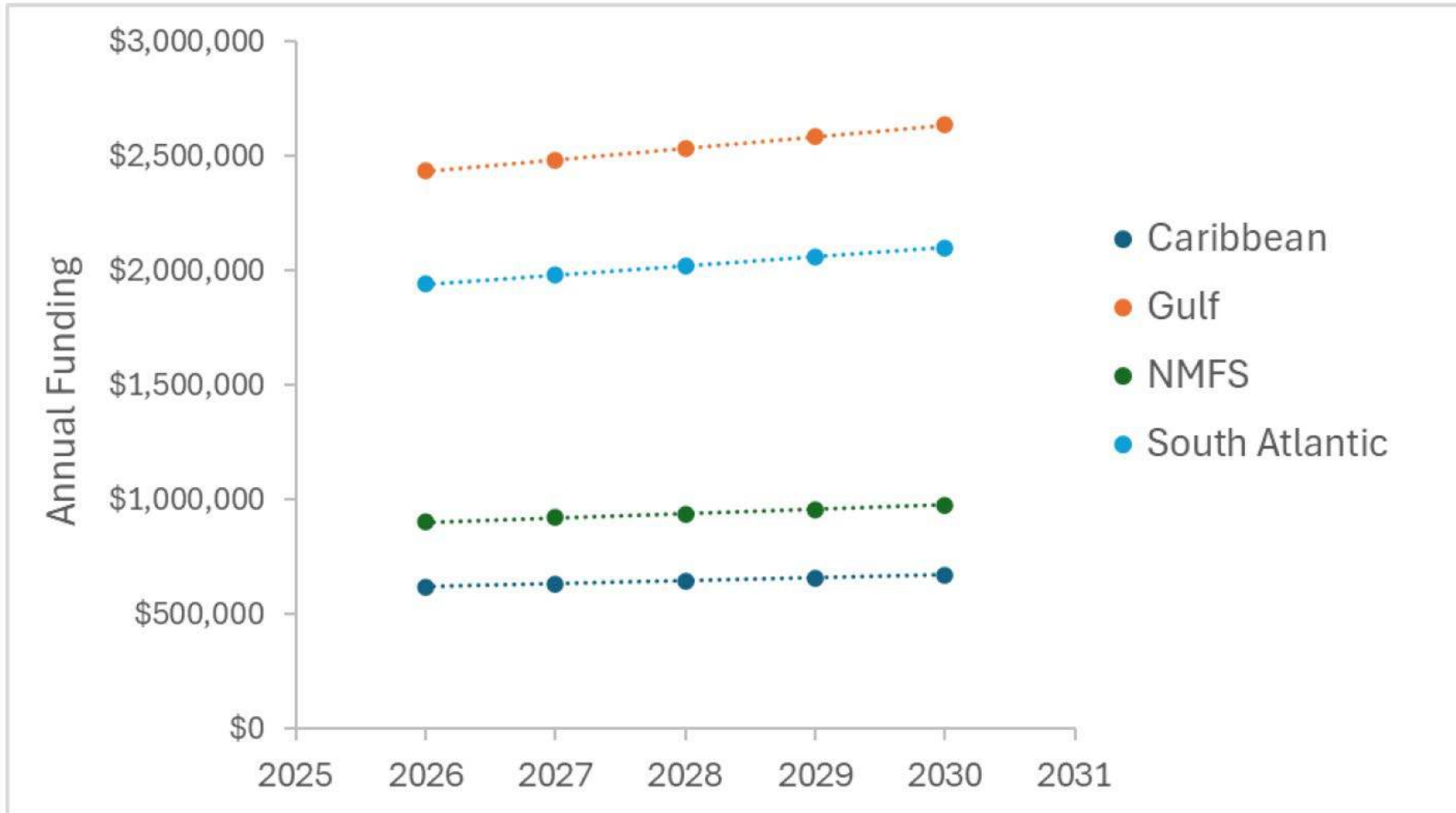
Use Type	Coastal Trawl	Southeast Reef Fish	Pamlico Sound	Coastal Longline
Federal Management	2	13	0	6
Regional Management	6	2	7	2
State Management	4	0	14	3
Data Requests	75	60	25	5

	Species	NC PSS	NC CLL	SERFS	CTS	SC CLL	GA CLL
ASMFC	Atlantic Croaker	2017			2017		
	Atlantic Menhaden				2025		
	Bluefish	2025			2025		
	Cobia				2020		
	Horseshoe Crab				2024		
	Red Drum		2024			2024	2024
	Spanish Mackerel				2022		
	Spot	2017			2017		
	Summer Flounder	2025					
	Weakfish	2019			2019		
	Atlantic blacknose shark					2010	2010
	Atlantic blacktip shark					2020	
	Atlantic red snapper			2021			
	Atlantic sharpnose shark					2013	2013
	Black seabass			2023			
	Blueline Tilefish			2025			



- Economic Value and Congressional Outreach
 - Coastal fisheries \$12B economic impact, 40,000 jobs (NC-GA)
\$41B impact, 160,000 jobs (FL, both coasts)
- SEAMAP Budget Trends and Status: \$5.1 - \$6.7M annually







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– South Atlantic!**

