

# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison Report

**Gulf Council Meeting  
San Antonio, Texas**



# **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT**

- **Improve state and commission data management systems**
- **Centralize state recreational data at GSMFC**
- **Convene three workshops**
  - **Validating recreational fishing effort estimates**
  - **Improving recreational released catch data**
  - **Develop GulfFIN recreational data standards and warehouse**

# **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT**

- **Infrastructure Agreement:**
  - **Completed three workshops**
    - **Validating recreational fishing effort estimates**
    - **Improving recreational released catch data**
    - **Recreational Data Standards/Warehouse**
    - **Workshop Reports**
      - **All 3 workshop reports published to GSMFC website**

# RED SNAPPER RECREATIONAL RESEARCH

- **Published a request for proposals**
  - **Full proposals were due February 14, 2025**
  - **Received 11 proposals, ~\$14M in research**
  - **Received \$7.5M federal funding**
  - **Steering committee selected 7 projects**
  - **Research projects begin January 1, 2026**

# RED SNAPPER RECREATIONAL RESEARCH

- **The Nature Conservancy—Incorporating Satellite Imagery and Gulf States Recreational Fishery Data to Estimate Private Offshore Recreational Fishing Effort**
- **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and University of South Florida—A Comparative Analysis of For-Hire and Private Recreational Fishing in the Gulf Region: Estimating Reef Fish Discards Using Camera-Based Monitoring**
- **Mote Marine Laboratory—Improving Recreational Fishing Effort Estimates With Shore-Based Cameras**
- **University of South Florida—Determining Congruence Between Discard Rates from At-Sea Observer Discards and Dockside Interviews in the Gulf of America For-Hire Recreational Fleet**

# RED SNAPPER RECREATIONAL RESEARCH

- **Mississippi State University—The disCARD: A Novel, Hybrid Catch Card for Quantifying Reef Fish Discards Across the United States Gulf of America**
- **LGL Ecological Research Associates—Calculating Private Recreational Fishing Effort with Smartphone Mobility Data, Satellite Imagery, and Aerial Surveys**
- **University of South Florida and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission—Using Mobile Phone Tracking to Quantify Recreational Fishing Effort**
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-fisheries-and-gulf-states-marine-fisheries-commission-announce-red-snapper-data>

# **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT**

- **Centralizing state recreational data at GSMFC:**
  - **Published an RFP seeking contractor support**
  - **Selected TH Technology to build Oracle products**
  - **Work started July 15, 2025, will involve state and federal partner input**
  - **Developing system to import, validate, warehouse and disseminate state recreational data**
  - **Provide a more efficient and transparent method for providing access to state recreational data**

# **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT**

- **Benchmarking AL and MS Creel Surveys:**
  - **In 2024 AL and MS tested the LA Creel effort survey methodology, results were encouraging**
  - **In 2025 AL and MS are benchmarking full LA Creel methods (effort and dockside) alongside MRIP survey.**
  - **Preliminary analyses are ongoing**
  - **Results will help states develop a calibration method for long term implementation**

# FOR-HIRE AT-SEA OBSERVER EXPANSION

- **Current program exists in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi**
- **\$1M in new federal monies to support expansion into Louisiana and Texas**
  - **Targeting 75 offshore trips in each state**
  - **Focusing on trips targeting red snapper and other reef species**
  - **Data collection started late May/early June 2025**
  - **Identifying, counting, measuring releases, documenting release practices, tagging priority species, documenting predator interactions**
  - **Completed 25 observed trips in TX, LA has been more difficult**
  - **Biggest obstacle is finding trips with space for an observer**

# QUESTIONS?

