2026 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON SUMMARY AND GREATER AMBERJACK LANDINGS

Chris Schieble | Reef Fish Committee Meeting | October 27, 2026

2026 Red Snapper Season

- 2026 allocation for private recreational and state charter harvest is 882,439 pounds after payback of 52,148 pounds.
- The private recreational and state charter red snapper season opened on May 1, 2026 as a 7 day/week season, with a 4 fish bag limit, in both state and federal waters.
- The season closed August 9, 2026 and reopened for two weekend only periods on August 27-30, 2026 and September 4-7, 2026.
- The season was open for 109 days.
- 950,476 pounds (107.7%) were harvested by private recreational and state charter anglers during the season.
- The season closed on September 7, 2026.

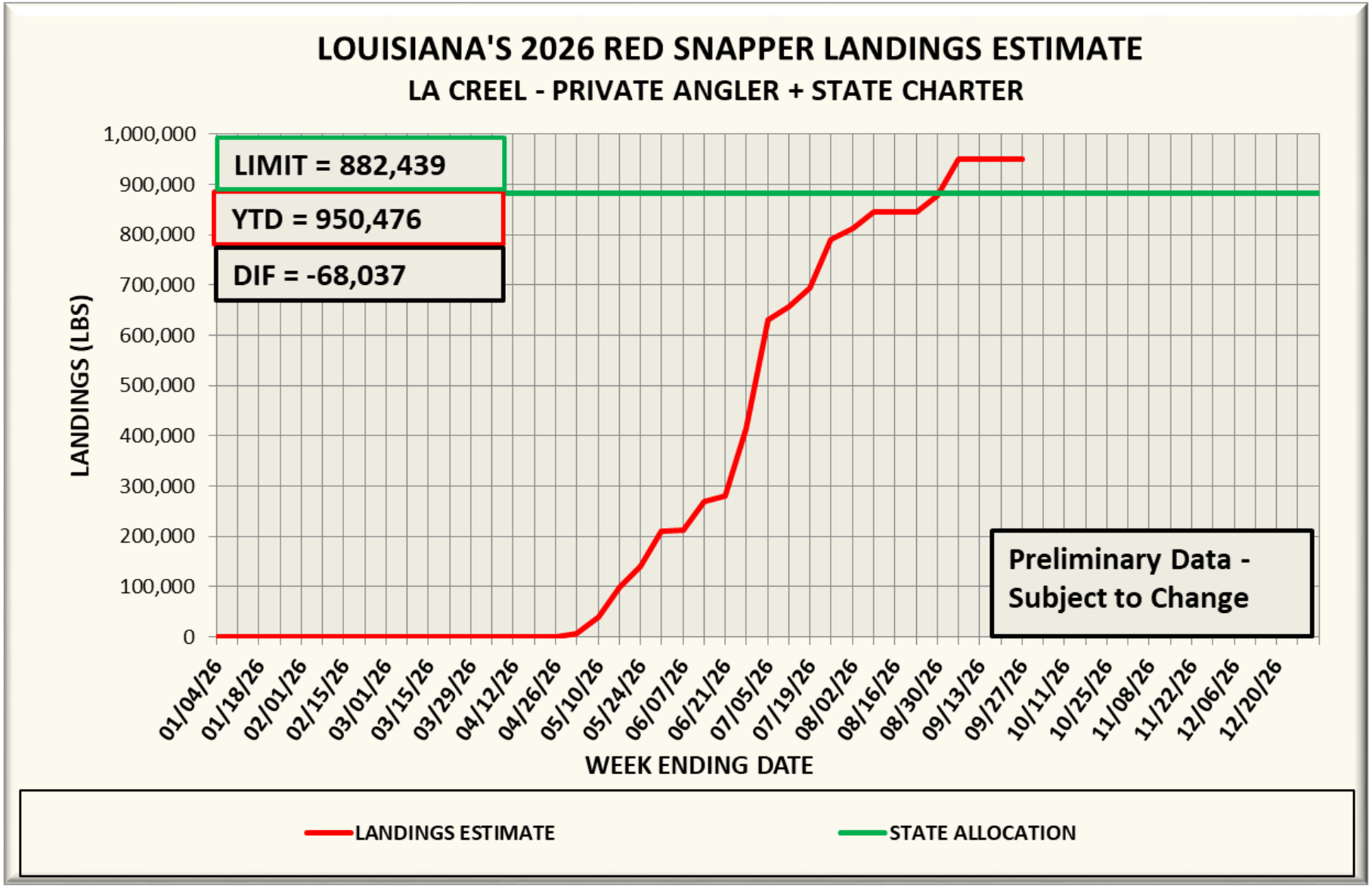
2026 Red Snapper Season

- Harvest by sector:
  - Private Recreational – 871,939 pounds
  - State Charter – 78,537 pounds
  - Federal Charter (not part of allocation) – 71,516 pounds through Oct. 11 (open from June 1 to October 26)

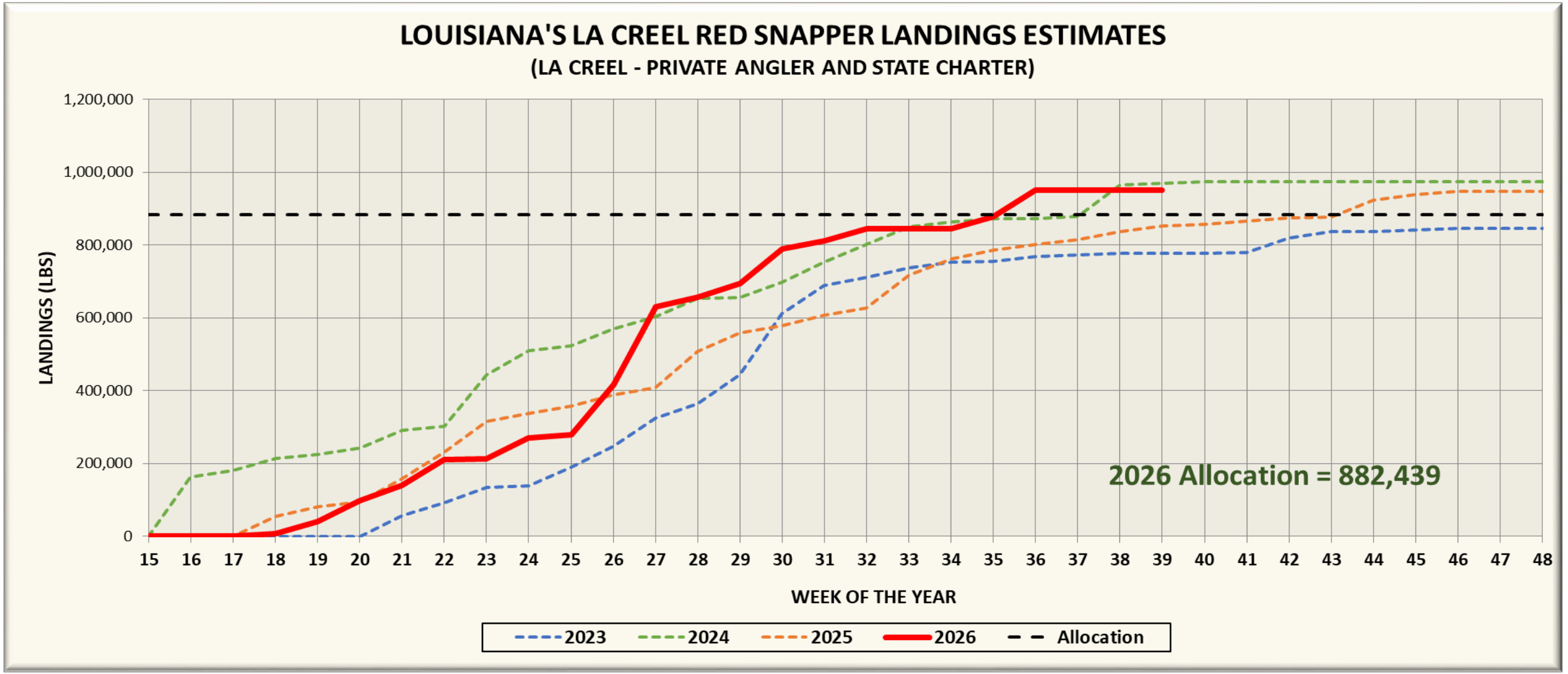




2026 Red Snapper Season

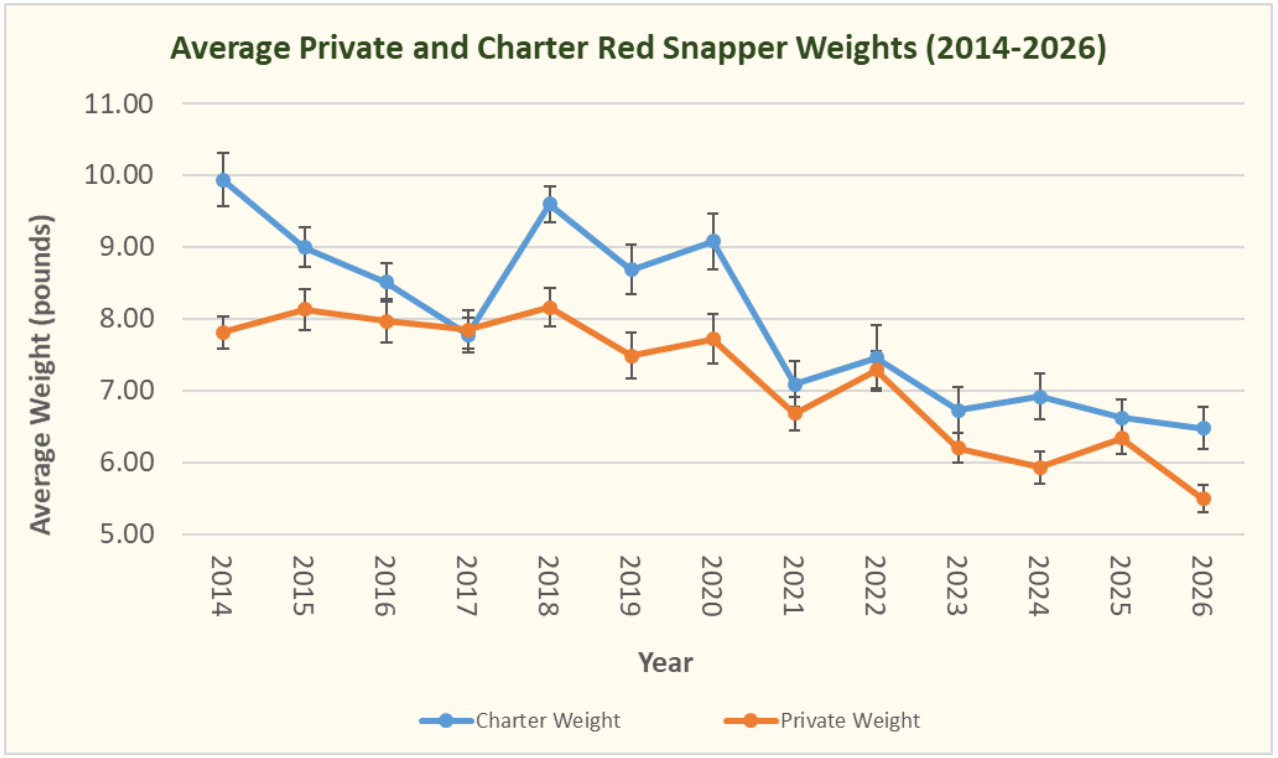


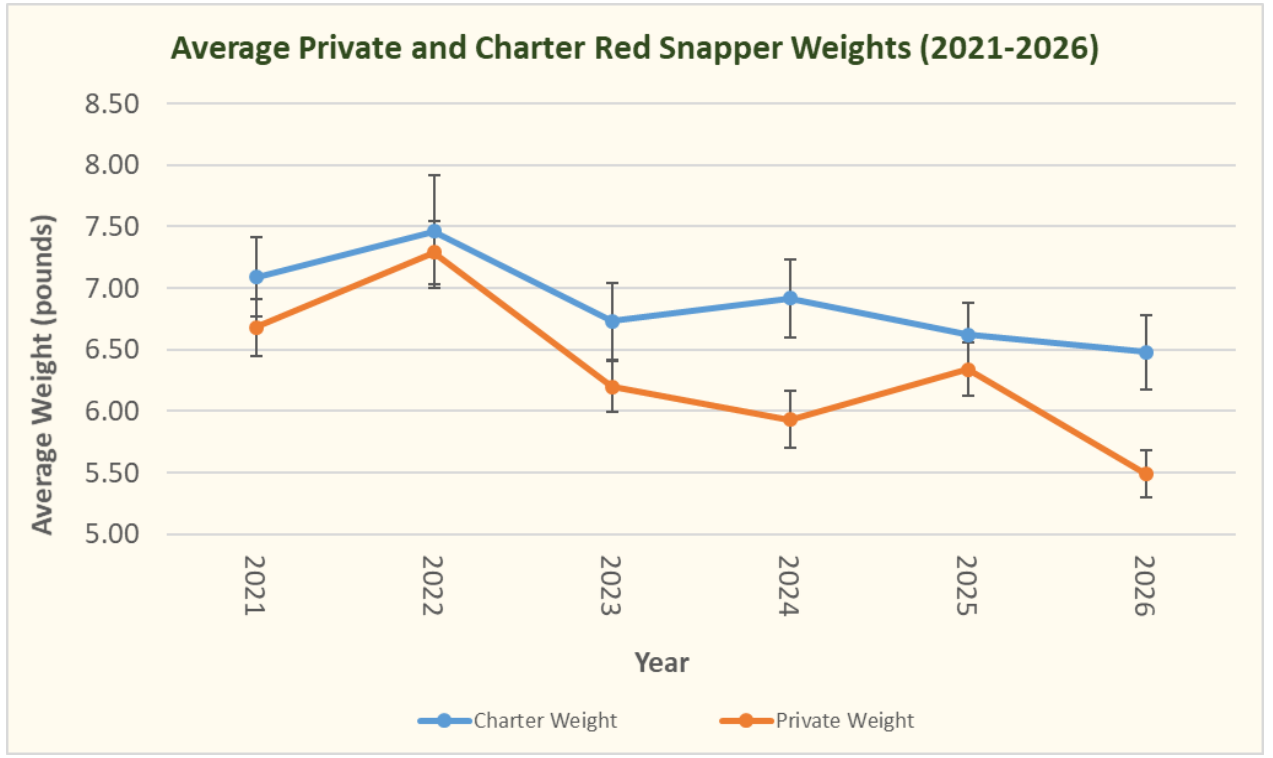
2026 Red Snapper Season



- 2026 Season started the Friday of Week 18
- Memorial Day was Week 22
- July 4th was in Week 27
- Labor Day was Week 37

Red Snapper Weights (2014 – 2026)



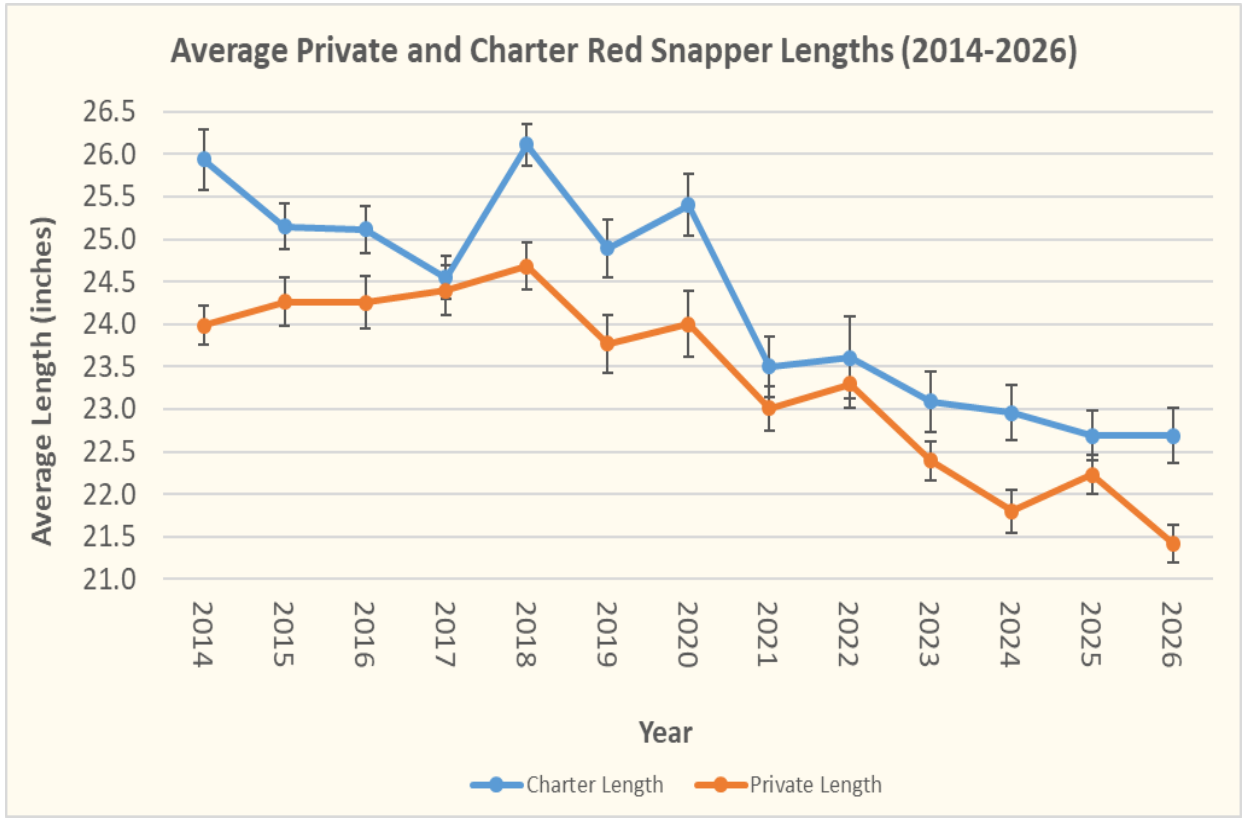


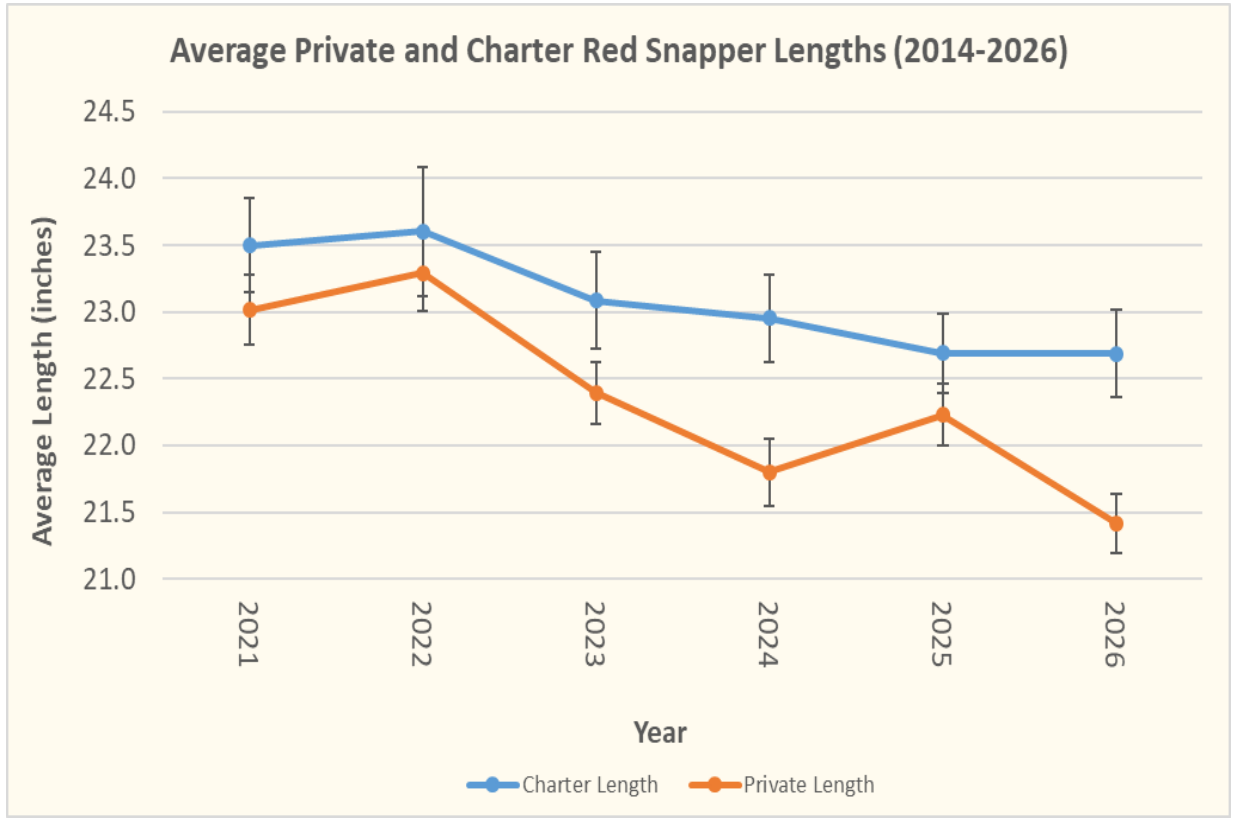
*Weight sampling doubled in 2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Private	7.81	8.13	7.97	7.85	8.16	7.49	7.72	6.68	7.29	6.20	5.93	6.34	5.49
Charter	9.94	9.00	8.51	7.78	9.60	8.69	9.08	7.09	7.46	6.73	6.96	6.62	6.48

Weights are in Pounds
*2026 Data (704 Charter and 1,297 Private weight samples)

Red Snapper Lengths (2014 – 2026)



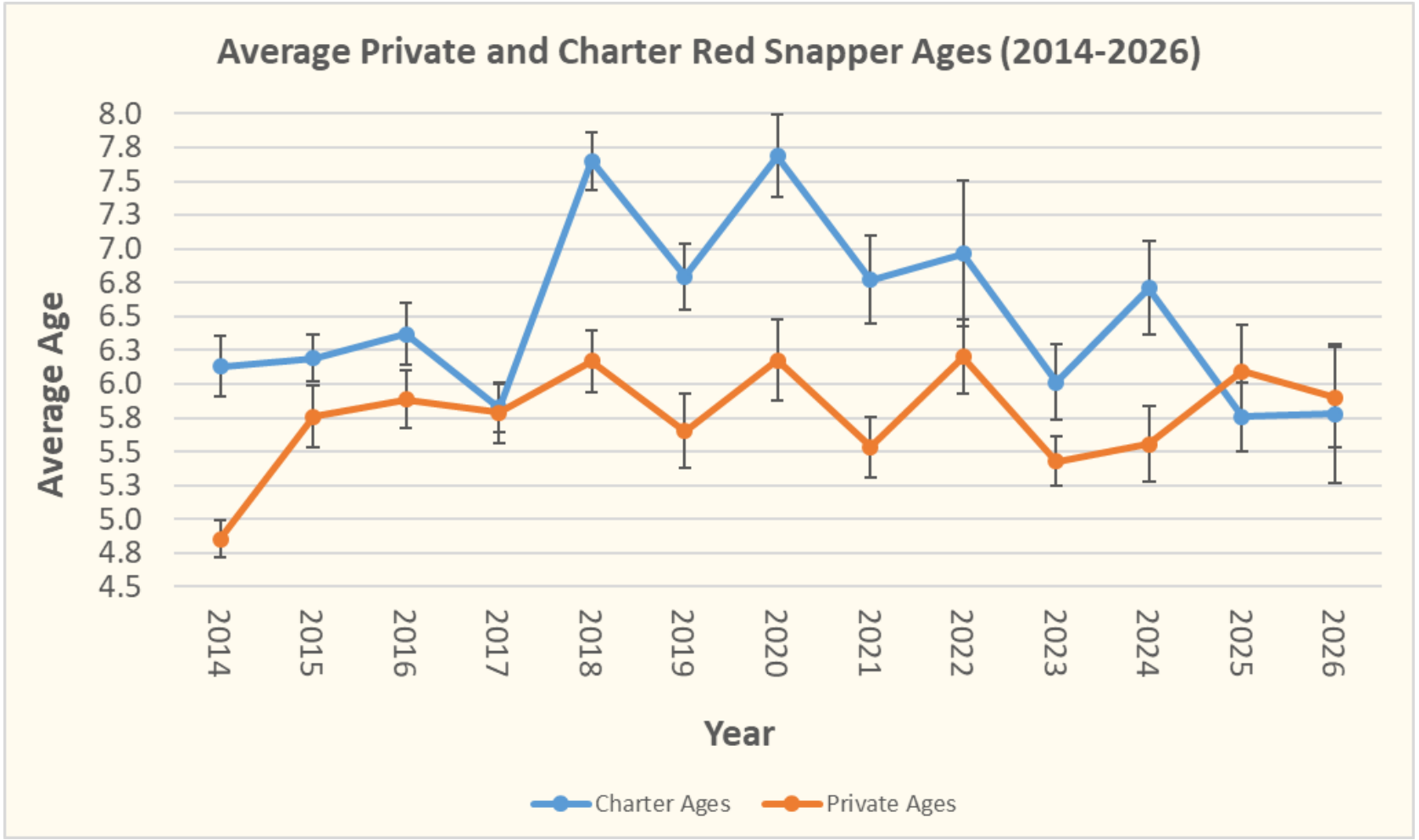


*Length sampling doubled in 2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Private	24.0	24.3	24.3	24.4	24.7	23.8	24.0	23.0	23.3	22.4	21.8	22.2	21.4
Charter	25.9	25.1	25.1	24.5	26.1	24.9	25.4	23.5	23.6	23.1	23.0	22.7	22.7

Lengths are in Inches Total Length
*2026 Data (704 Charter and 1,297 Private length samples)

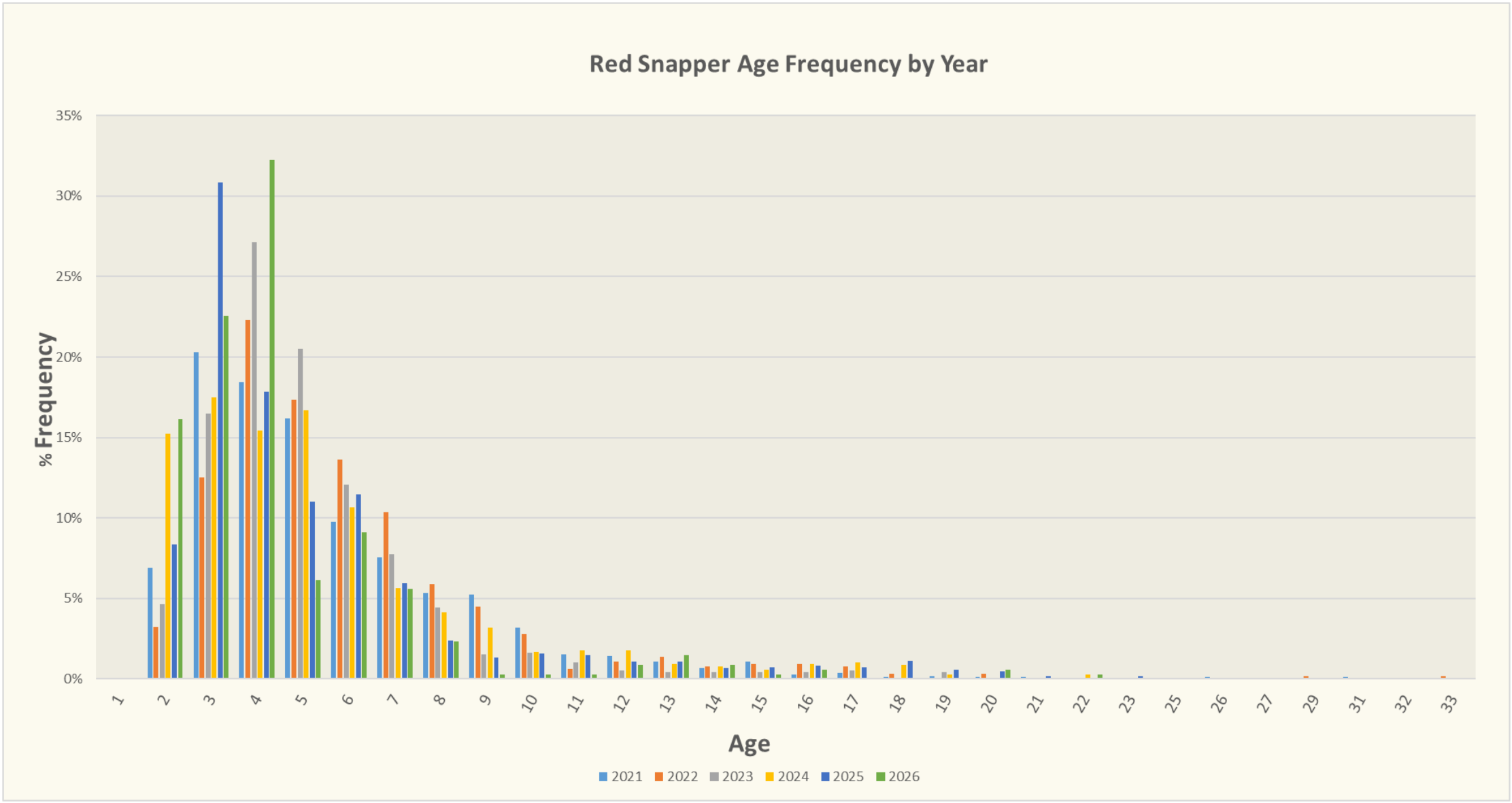
Red Snapper Ages (2014 – 2026)



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Private	4.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	6.2	5.7	6.2	5.5	6.2	5.4	5.6	6.1	5.9
Charter	6.1	6.2	6.4	5.8	7.6	6.8	7.7	6.8	7.0	6.0	6.7	5.8	5.8

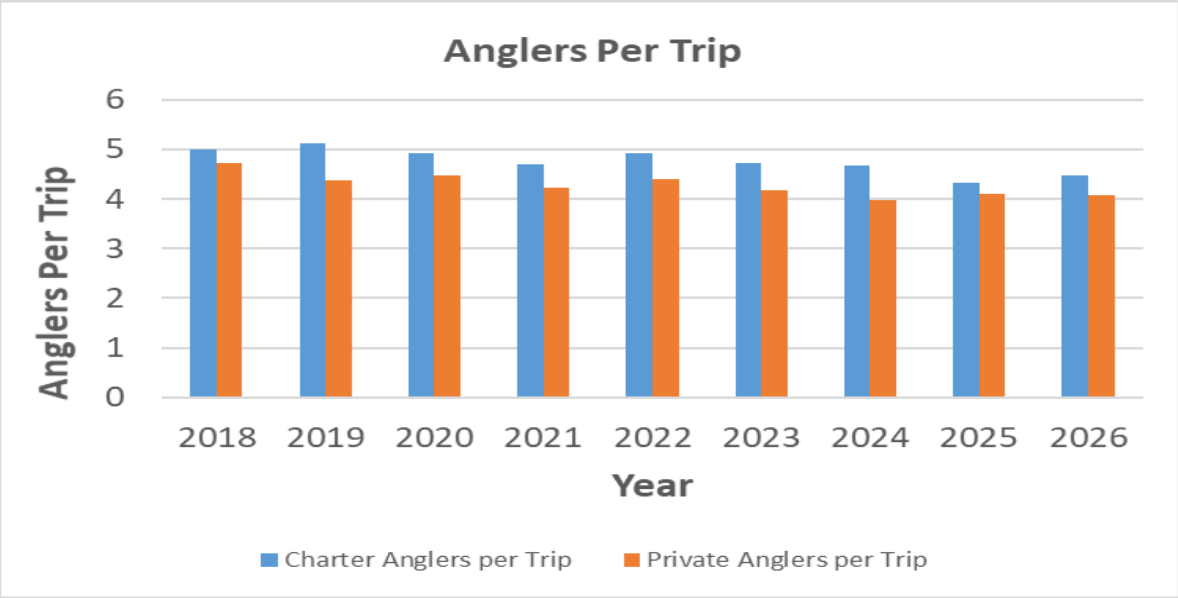
*June 1 used as birthday and fractional ages calculated based upon edge codes
*2026 ages processed included 191 charter age samples and 336 private samples (about 50% processed)

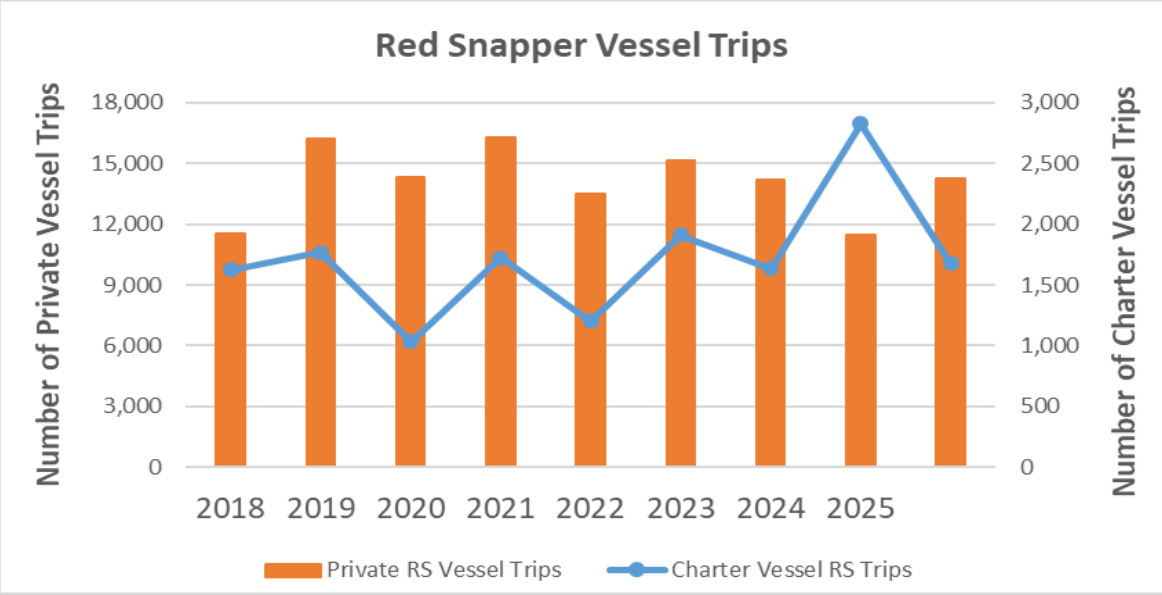
Red Snapper Age Distribution (2021 – 2026)



*June 1 used as birthday and fractional ages calculated based upon edge codes

Red Snapper CPUE (2018 – 2026)





Mode	Year	Average Anglers Per Boat Trip	Estimated Targeted Angler Trips	Estimated Boat Trips
Charter	2018	4.99	8,104	1,624
Charter	2019	5.13	9,058	1,766
Charter	2020	4.92	5,084	1,034
Charter	2021	4.69	8,082	1,723
Charter	2022	4.93	5,917	1,201
Charter	2023	4.72	9,011	1,910
Charter	2024	4.67	7,636	1,634
Charter	2025	4.33	12,220	2,824
Charter	2026	4.48	7,516	1,677
Private	2018	4.73	54,665	11,546
Private	2019	4.38	71,059	16,215
Private	2020	4.49	64,115	14,289
Private	2021	4.22	68,790	16,303
Private	2022	4.41	59,700	13,524
Private	2023	4.17	63,040	15,124
Private	2024	3.98	56,506	14,192
Private	2025	4.09	46,865	11,453
Private	2026	4.07	58,011	14,244

LA Recreational Red Snapper Seasons History

Year	Open Date	Close Date	Structure	Re-Open Date	Re-Close Date	Structure	Total Days	Allocation (lbs.) (Over, Under, or Payback)
2018	May 25	July 8	Daily - 2 Fish	July 13	August 12	Weekends - 2 Fish	60	743,000 (6,286 Under)
2019	May 24	September 3	Weekends - 2 Fish	September 27 November 28	November 24 December 31	Weekends - 2 Fish Daily - 2 Fish	109	816,439 (31,901 Over)
2020	May 22	August 10	Weekends - 2 Fish	September 4	September 7	Daily - 2 Fish	41	784,332 (31,901 Payback) (7,073 Under)
2021	May 28	September 6	Weekends - 2 Fish	September 24	December 31	Daily - 4 Fish	146	816,233 (6,943 Over)
2022	May 27	September 18	Weekends - 3 Fish	October 7	October 14	Daily - 4 Fish	62	809,315 (6,943 Payback) (7,404 Under)
2023	May 26	December 31	Daily - 3 Fish 4 Fish - July 17	N/A	N/A	N/A	220	934,587 (69,934 Under)
2024	April 15	July 7	Daily - 4 Fish	July 12 August 19	August 18 October 6	Weekends - 4 Fish Daily - 4 Fish	151	934,587 (39,632 Over)
2025	May 1	November 16	Daily - 4 Fish	N/A	N/A	N/A	200	894,955 (39,632 Payback) (52,148 Over)
2026	May 1	August 9	Daily - 4 Fish	August 27 September 4	August 30 September 7	Weekends - 4 Fish	109	882,439 (52,148 Payback) (68,037 Over)

- Weekend Seasons are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and include the Mondays of Memorial Day and Labor Day, and July 4 (on whatever day it may fall), unless the season closed prior to any of those days.
- Over harvests, Paybacks, and Under harvests are noted.

Greater Amberjack

Greater Amberjack Recreational Landings (LA Creel)

Recreational Greater Amberjack Landings in Numbers of Fish			
Year	Total	Private	Charter
2014	7,591	7,135	456
2015	12,282	9,012	3,270
2016	8,696	6,627	2,069
2017	404	288	116
2018	10,223	5,898	4,325
2019	5,924	4,258	1,666
2020	2,434	1,529	905
2021	2,535	1,556	979
2022	834	611	223
2023	1,287	966	321
2024	1,312	673	639
2025	534	124	410
2026*	1,649	1,187	462

Recreational Greater Amberjack Landings in Pounds			
Year	Total	Private	Charter
2014	208,521	195,995	12,526
2015	385,308	282,722	102,586
2016	277,026	211,115	65,912
2017	22,792	16,248	6,544
2018	355,872	205,315	150,557
2019	245,401	176,387	69,014
2020	72,978	45,844	27,134
2021	98,920	60,718	38,202
2022	25,171	18,441	6,730
2023	45,199	33,926	11,273
2024	68,060	34,912	33,148
2025	18,488	4,293	14,195
2026*	47,953	34,519	13,434

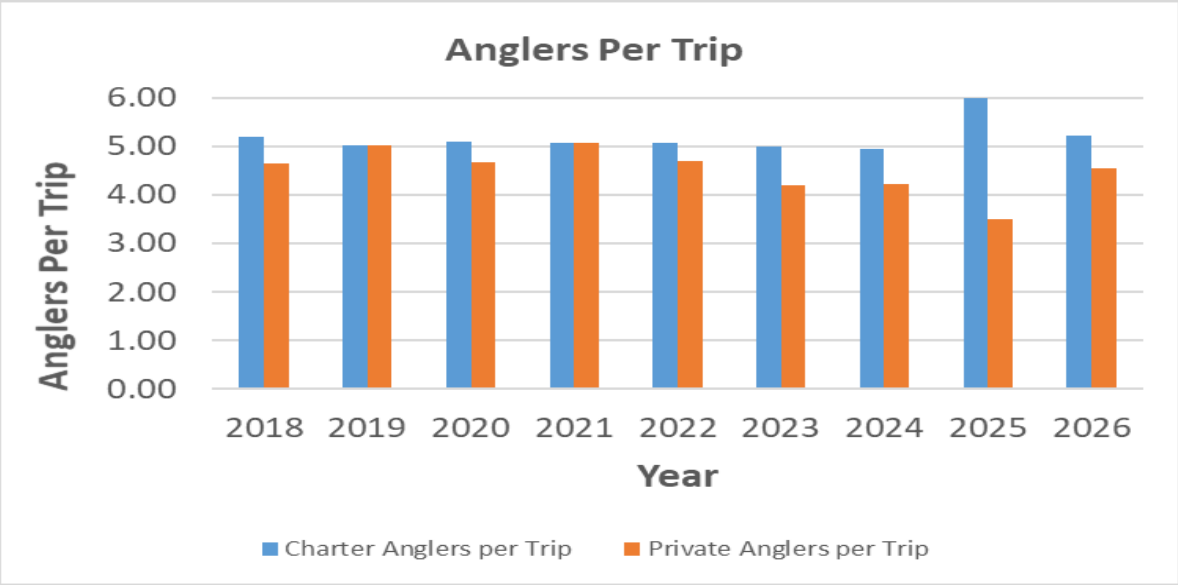
*2026 Landings through October 11, 2026

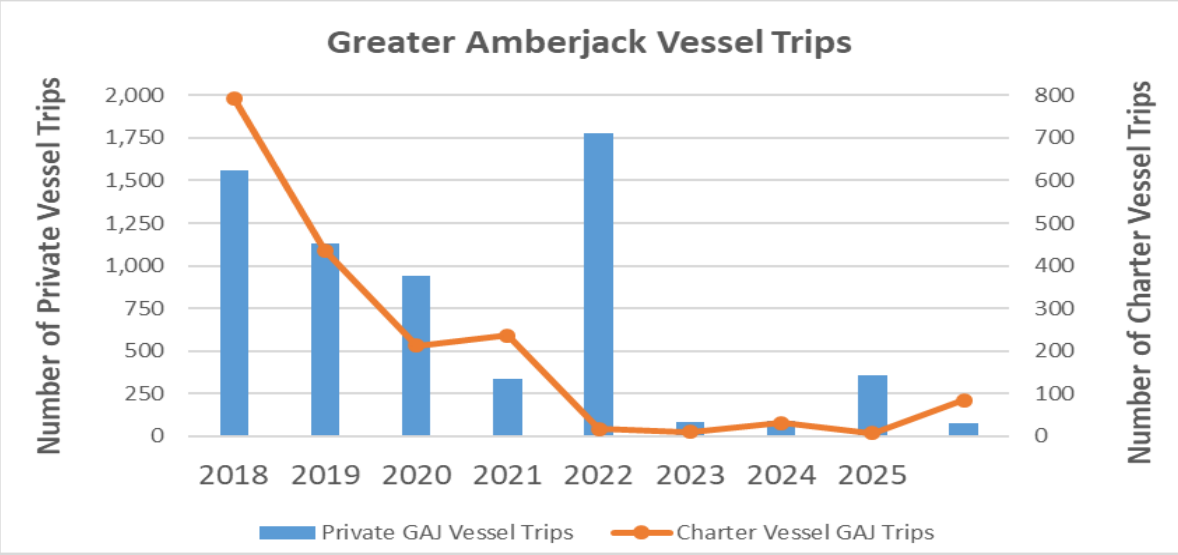
Greater Amberjack Weekly Landings

Greater Amberjack Weekly Landing Estimates (LA Creel)					
			Landings (# of Fish)		
Week	Begin Date	End Date	Charter	Private Angler	Total
36	8/31/2026	9/6/2026	0	991	991
37	9/7/2026	9/13/2026	100	0	100
38	9/14/2026	9/20/2026	289	174	463
39	9/21/2026	9/27/2026	64	0	64
40	9/28/2026	10/04/2026	9	0	9
41	10/05/2026	10/11/2026	0	0	0
42	10/12/2026	10/18/2026			

Year	Week	Mode	Trips Intercepted with GAJ
2026	36	Private	9
2026	37	Charter	6
2026	38	Charter	6
2026	38	Private	1
2026	39	Charter	4
2026	40	Charter	1

Greater Amberjack CPUE (2018 – 2026)





Mode	Year	Average Anglers Per Boat Trip	Estimated Targeted GAJ Angler Trips	Estimated Boat Trips
Charter	2018	5.19	4,117	793
Charter	2019	5.02	2,187	436
Charter	2020	5.11	1,083	212
Charter	2021	5.06	1,201	237
Charter	2022	5.06	87	17
Charter	2023	5.00	49	10
Charter	2024	4.94	154	31
Charter	2025	6.00	39	7
Charter	2026	5.18	439	85
Private	2018	4.65	7,273	1,563
Private	2019	5.02	5,678	1,131
Private	2020	4.68	4,394	939
Private	2021	5.06	1,701	336
Private	2022	4.68	8,339	1,780
Private	2023	4.19	337	80
Private	2024	4.21	373	89
Private	2025	3.50	1,256	359
Private	2026	4.50	328	73

Questions

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