



# Saltwater Fishing Satisfaction Survey

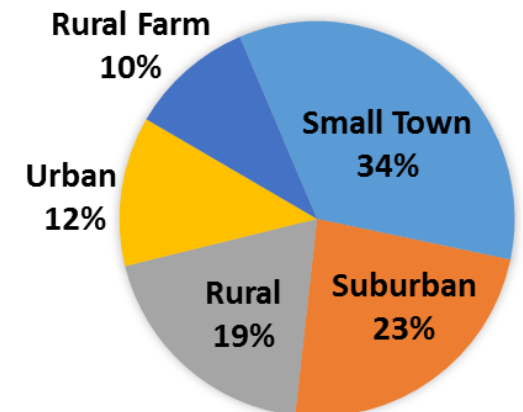
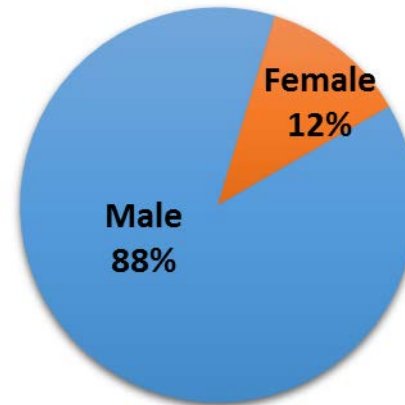
**Kathy Knowlton**

**March 27, 2018**

# Saltwater Angler & Guide Saltwater Fishing Survey

## Resident Saltwater Information Program (SIP) permit holders:

- 210,000 SIP permits/year
- Resident anglers randomly selected & screened for saltwater fishing last 12 months
- Participate in survey = telephone and/or online
- 1,965 completed interviews
  - anglers from 124 Georgia counties
  - 43% from 11 coastal counties

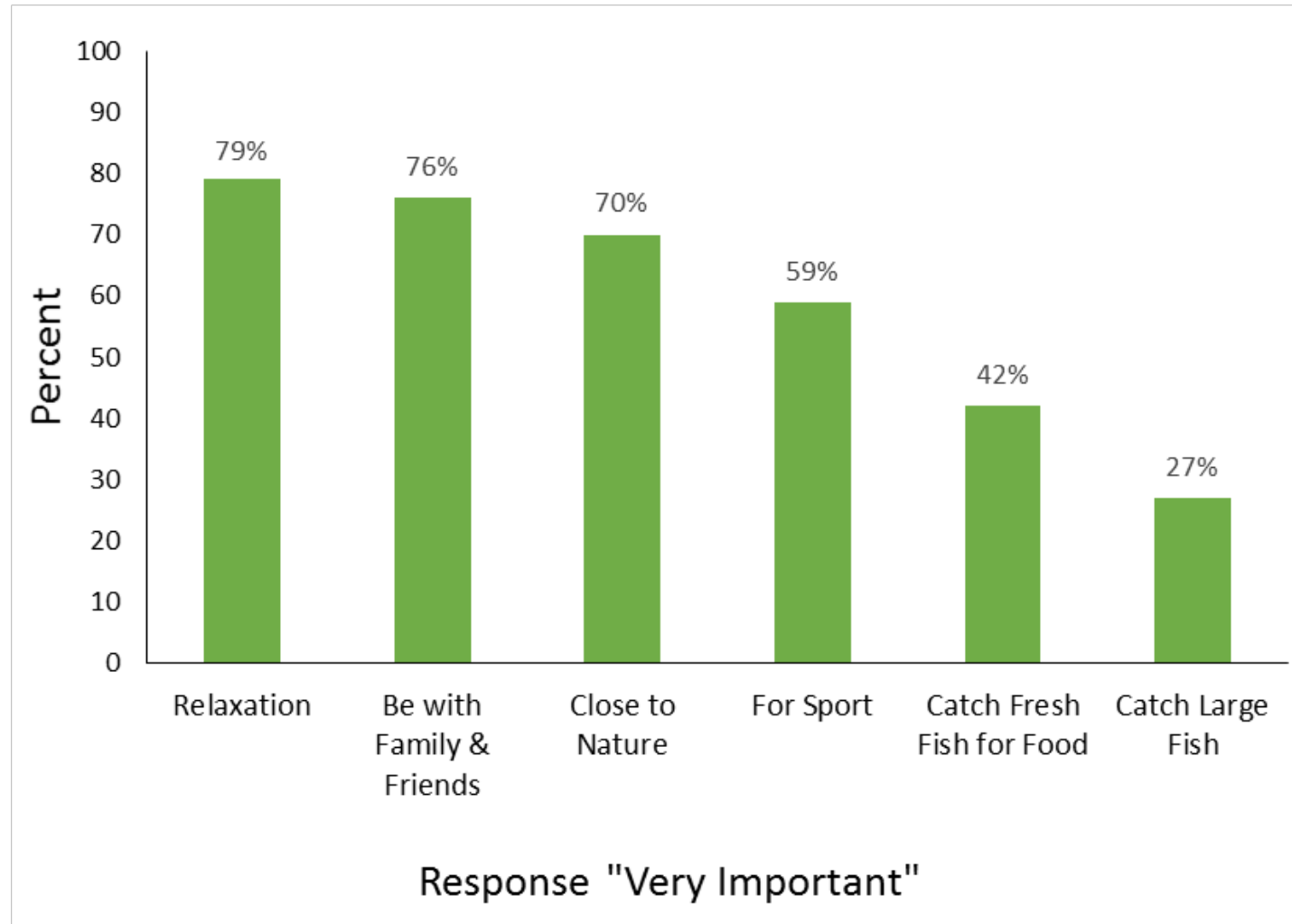


## Resident saltwater fishing guides:

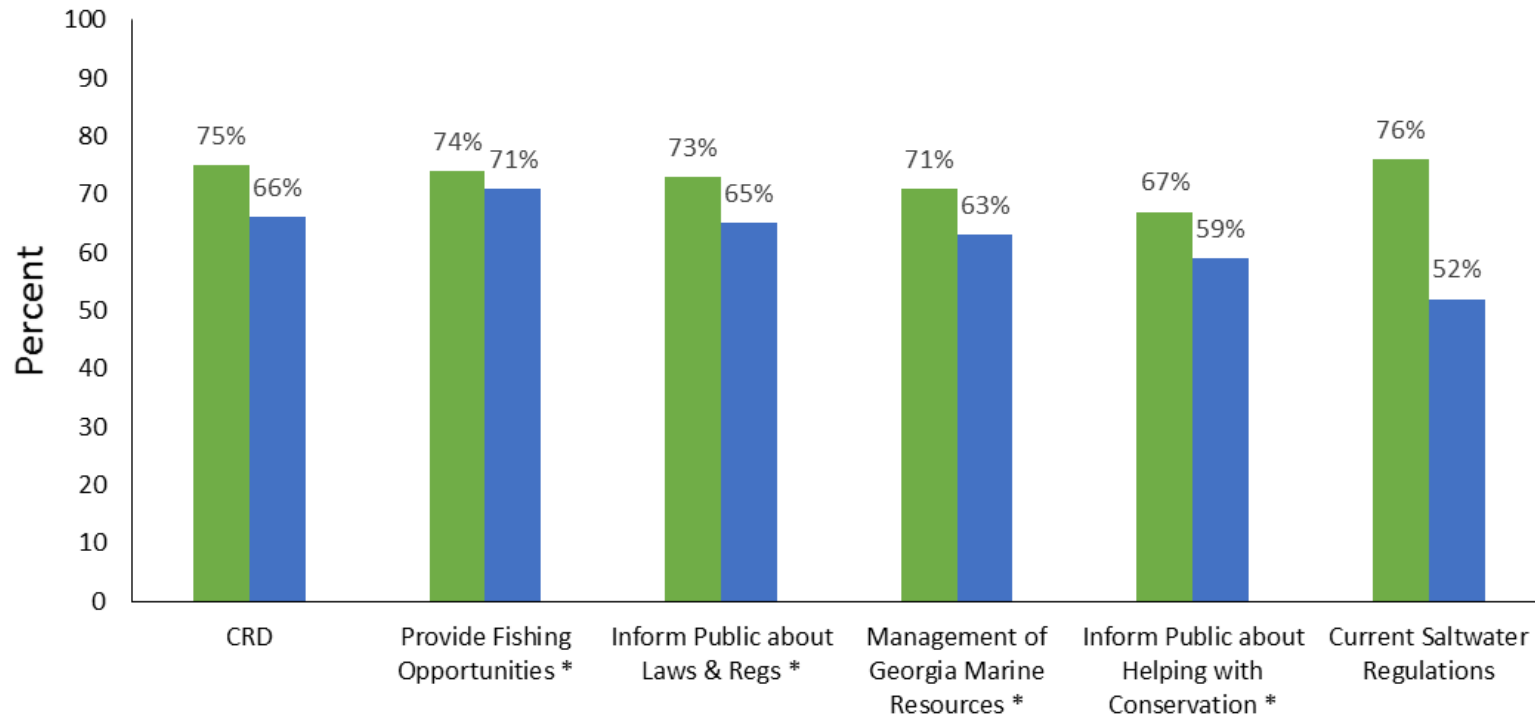
- All 134 invited to participate
- 82 captains (62%) completed interviews

# Why do Georgia saltwater anglers fish?

Anglers more likely to value recreational aspect than successful catch



# Satisfaction with Coastal Resources & Regulations



Satisfaction Level  
(where \* = "Excellent" or "Good" response)

For all slides ■ Anglers ■ Guides



## Regulations

Top reasons for the 13% dissatisfied **anglers**

- Regulations *too strict*
- Not like current regulations

Top reason for the 39% dissatisfied **guides**

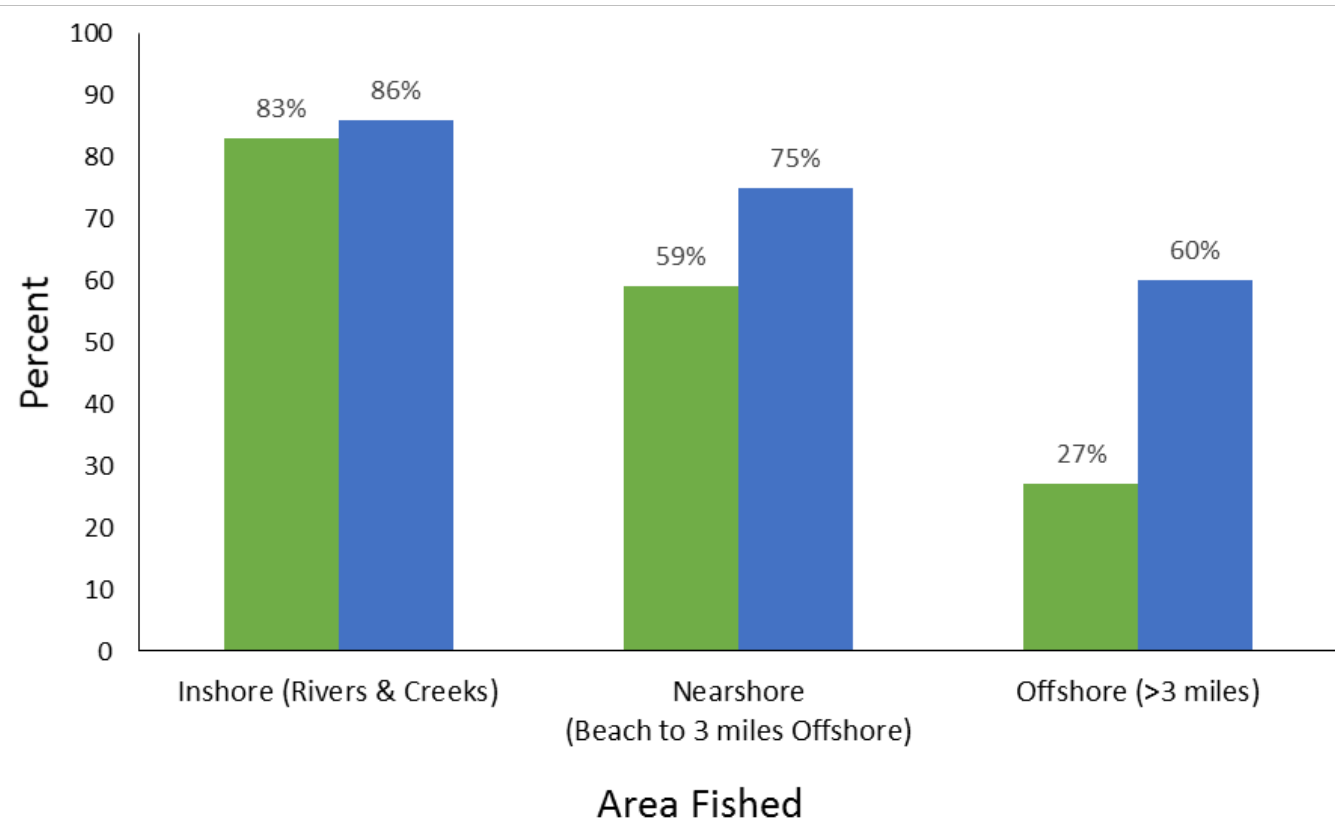
- Regulations *not strict enough*

# Areas Fished

## Inshore & Nearshore Satisfaction

Anglers 87%

Guides 81%



## Offshore Satisfaction

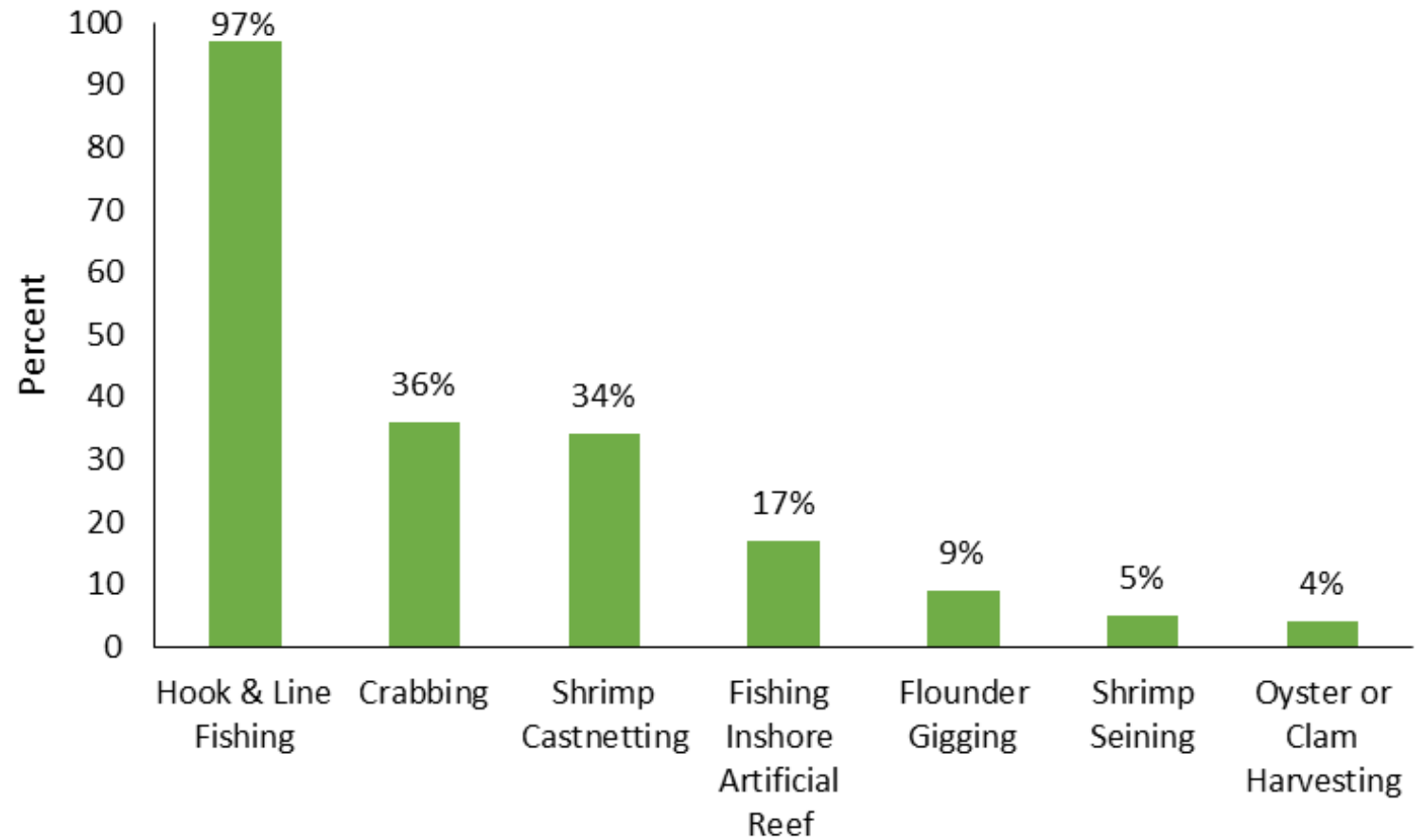
Anglers 58%

Guides 48%

# Inshore & Nearshore Fishing

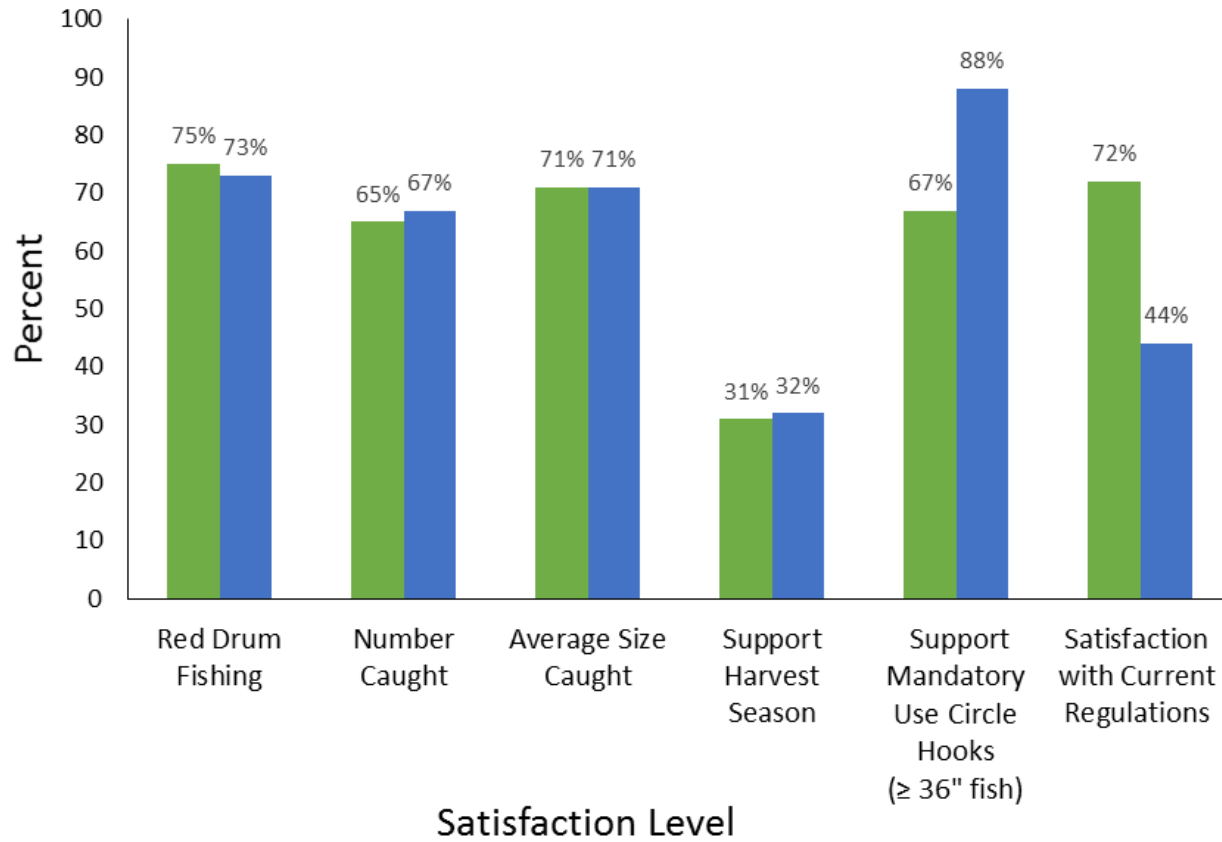


**Average number days with  
any saltwater fishing activity = 25 days**



**Saltwater Fishing Activities**

# Red Drum Fishing



What percent of legal red drum do you release?

Anglers 57%

Guides 67%



Current Regulations  
 Anglers top choice  
 Guides top choice

Slot Size

Current Regulations 14"-23"  
 Anglers top choice 14"-25"  
 Guides top choice 15"-23"

Creel Limit

Current Regulations  
 Anglers top choice  
 Guides top choice

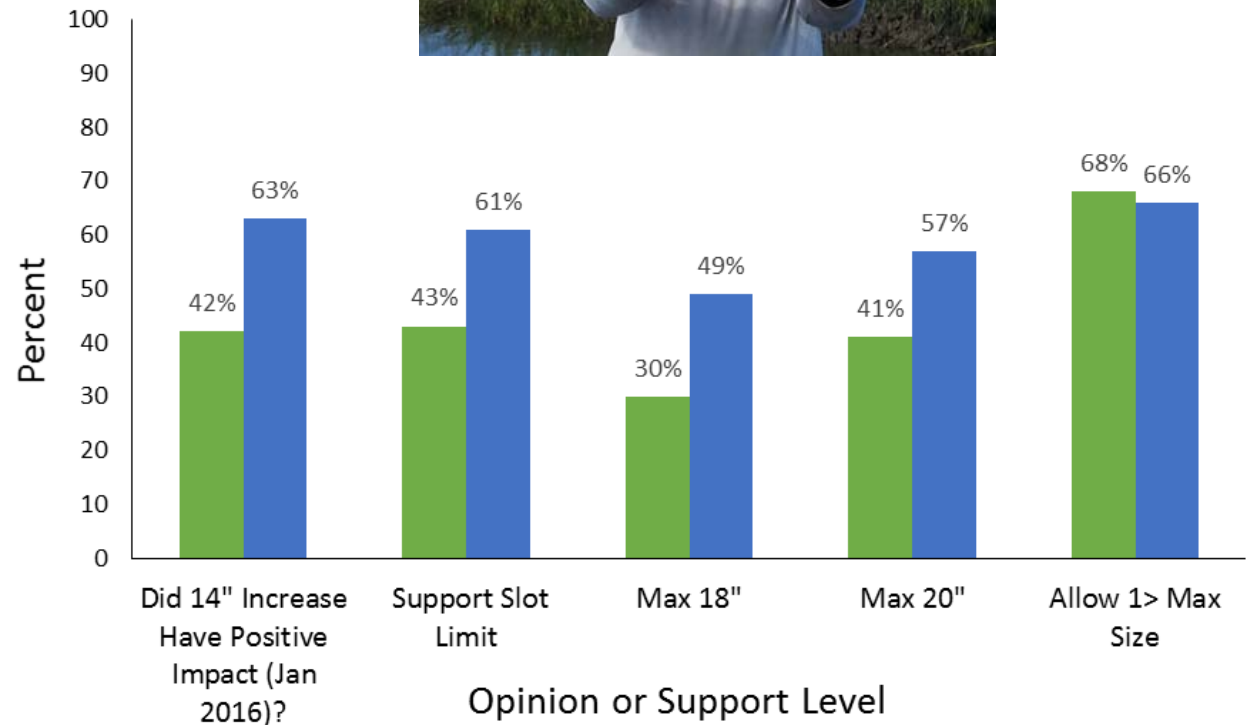
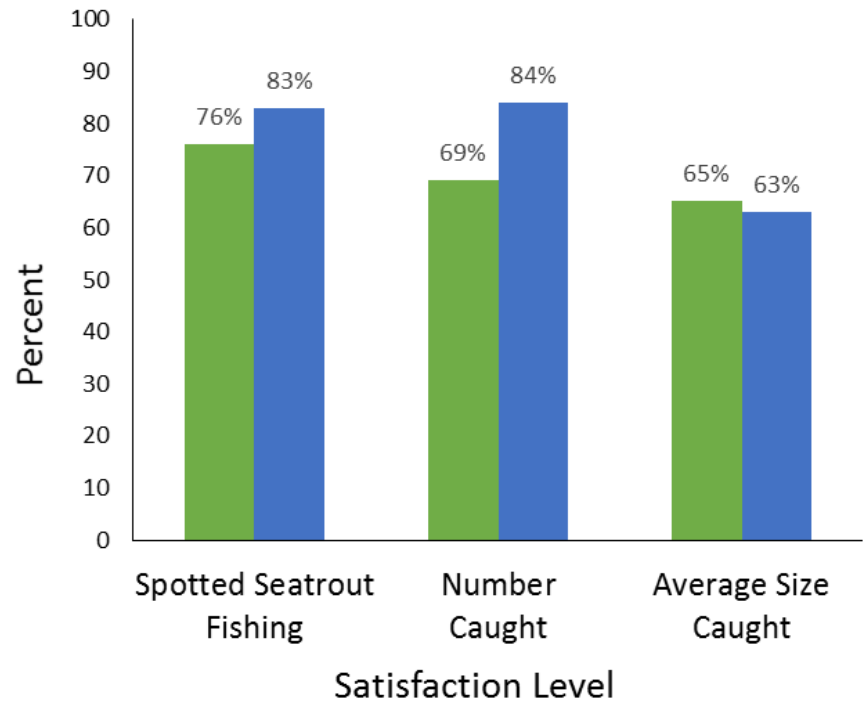
Current Regulations 5 fish  
 Anglers top choice 56% = 5 fish  
 Guides top choice 51% = 2 or 3 fish

# Spotted Seatrout Fishing

What percent of legal trout do you release?

Angler 46%

Guides 39%





# Saltwater Fishing Survey Summary

Georgia saltwater anglers primarily fish for relaxation and to be with family & friends.

There is very high satisfaction among anglers and guides for inshore & nearshore fishing.



Anglers are satisfied with:

- CRD & current saltwater fishing regulations (~75%)
- Red drum fishing, average size caught & current regulations (72%-75%)
- Spotted seatrout fishing, number & average size caught (65%-76%)

For many topics, guides were similarly satisfied, including:

- CRD as well as red drum & spotted seatrout fishing & catch

# Saltwater Fishing Survey Summary



To read the full report go to [coastalgadnr.org/AnglerAndGuideSurvey](https://coastalgadnr.org/AnglerAndGuideSurvey)