



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

Finfish Advisory Panel

April 15, 2024 – 6:00PM-8:00PM
(Shipman Building, CRH Brunswick)

- 6:00 Welcome
- 6:05 Approve
- Agenda
 - Draft February 2024 Finfish AP Meeting Summary
- 6:20 CRD Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Unit
- 2024 Boating & Fishing Access Projects
 - Georgia's Offshore Artificial Reef Interactive Map on CRD Website
- 7:00 Review Survey Results from "Georgia Saltwater Anglers' and Captains' Attitudes Toward Saltwater Fishing Issues" relative to Spotted Seatrout and Sheepshead
- 8:00 Adjourn



Georgia Saltwater Fishing Satisfaction Survey

Kathy Knowlton
Finfish Advisory Panel
April 15, 2024

Mission Statement:

To balance coastal development and protection of the coast's natural assets, socio-cultural heritage and recreational resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

2021 Angler & Guide Saltwater Satisfaction Survey

- Survey Conducted by Responsive Management

- **ANGLERS**

- Anglers randomly selected from 230,000 Georgia resident SIP permit holders
- Invited to participate if fished in Georgia saltwaters during 2021
- Telephone and/or online survey
- 2,026 completed interviews
 - 144 Georgia counties (90%)
 - 11 coastal counties = 45% of interviews
- Data cross-tabulated
 - coastal vs noncoastal
 - Avid > 10 days vs less avid ≤ 10 days

- **GUIDES**

- All 194 licensed Georgia resident saltwater guides invited to participate
- 55% (n = 107) completed interviews

Saltwater Fishing Effort by Target Species

	Anglers		Guides	
	2017	2021	2017	2021
Do you typically fish for RED DRUM?	54%	52%	80%	89%
How many DAYS did you fish for RED DRUM in last 12 months?	18	22	64	78

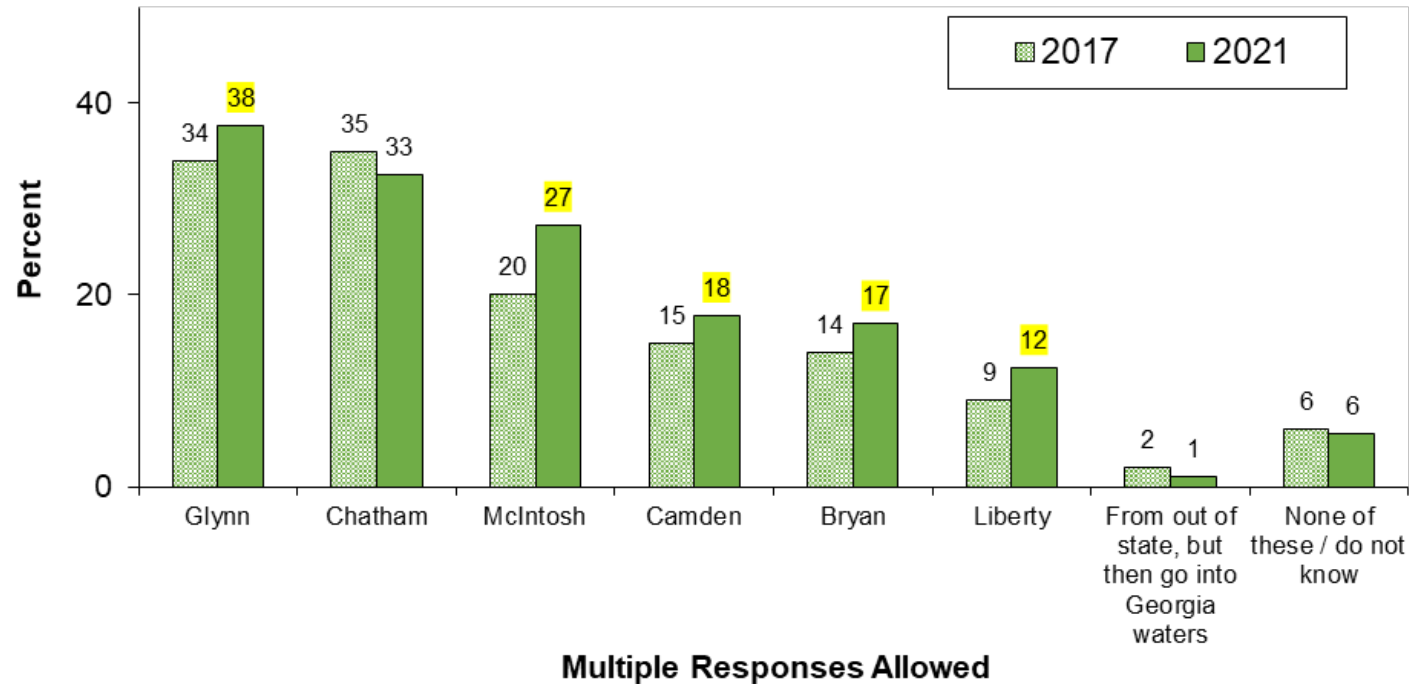
	Anglers	Guides
	2021	2021
Do you typically fish for FLOUNDER?	40%	59%
How many DAYS did you fish for FLOUNDER in last 12 months?	19	62

	Anglers		Guides	
	2017	2021	2017	2021
Do you typically fish for SPOTTED SEATROUT?	49%	59%	78%	83%
How many DAYS did you fish for SPOTTED SEATROUT in last 12 months?	19	22	76	82

	Anglers	Guides
	2021	2021
Do you typically fish for SHEEPSHEAD?	31%	45%
How many DAYS did you fish for SHEEPSHEAD in last 12 months?	15	36

Spotted Seatrout

In which coastal counties do you fish for spotted seatrout or do you depart from to go fishing for spotted seatrout if you use a boat? (Asked of those who typically fish spotted seatrout in Georgia.) (Anglers)

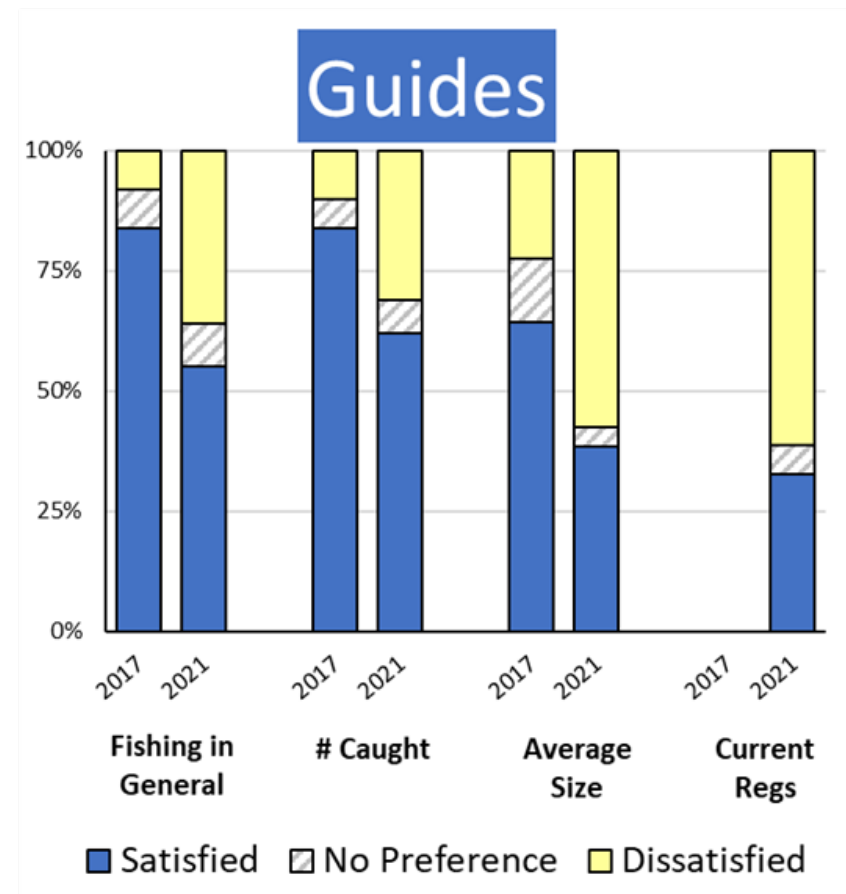
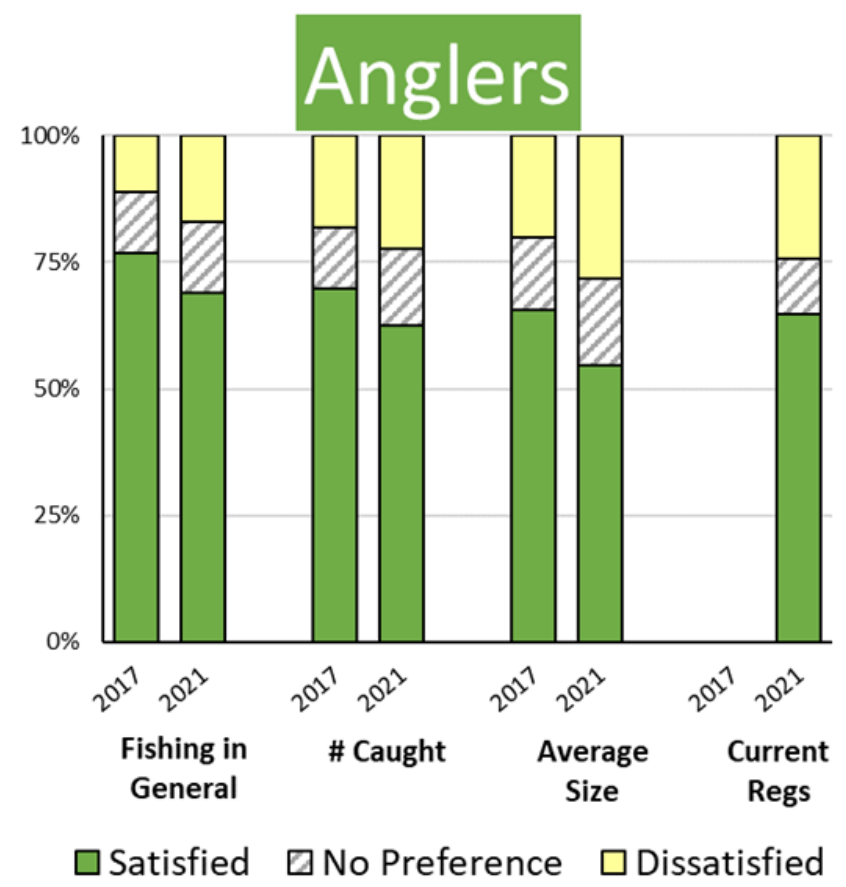


Statistically significant responses for spotted seatrout are highlighted.
Red drum responses indicated the same pattern of decrease or increase in all six coastal counties.

Spotted Seatrout

Average in 2021 (compared to 2017), anglers 8% less satisfied and guides 25% less satisfied.

NOTE: Regulations question not asked of anglers or captains in 2017. New regulations had just gone into effect January 1, 2016.



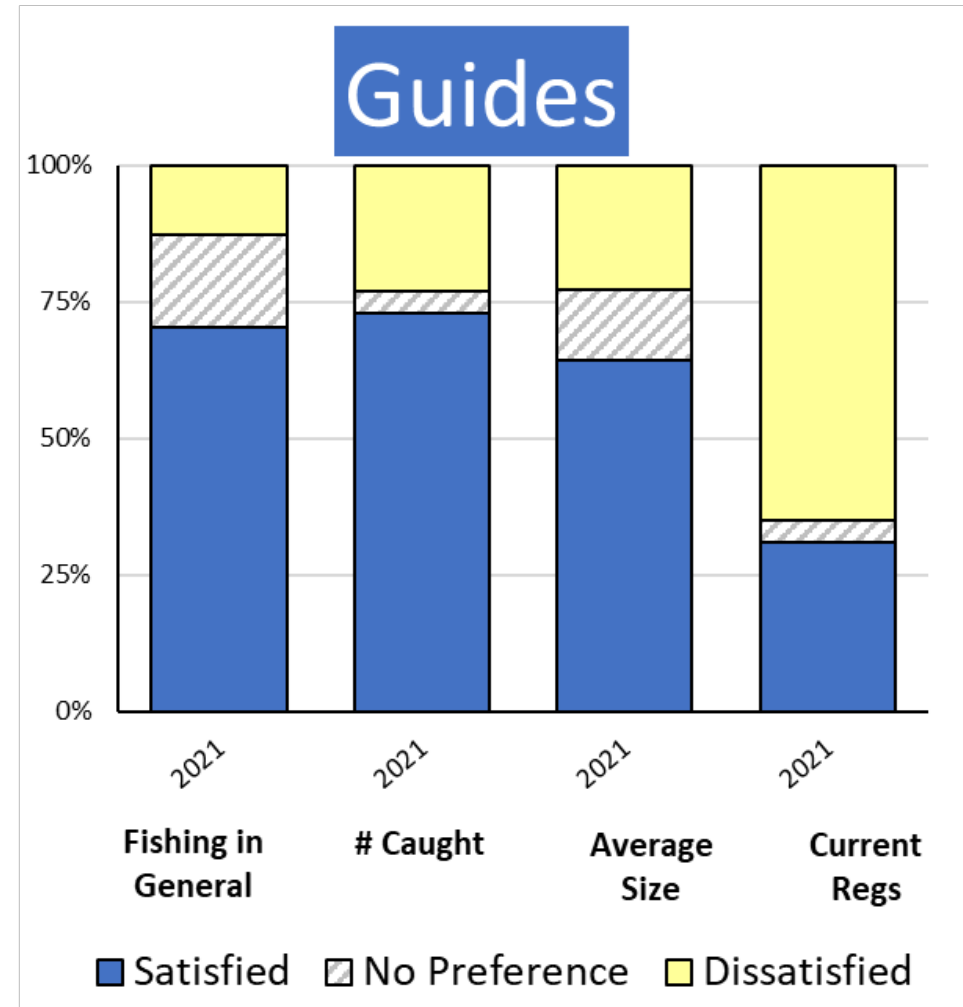
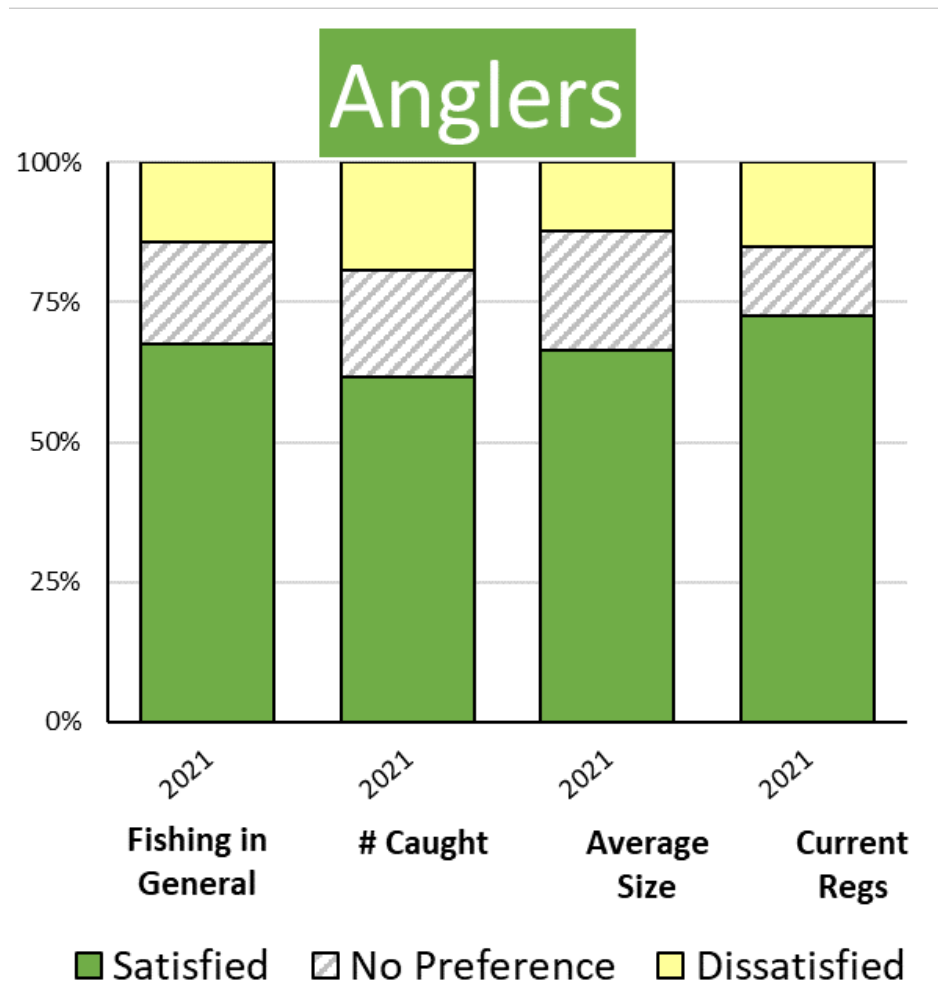
Satisfaction question included stating current regulations were 15 fish per person per day with a 14-inch total length minimum size limit, and year-round harvest.

Spotted Seatrout

What percent of LEGAL spotted seatrout do you release?

Spotted Seatrout	Anglers		Guides	
	2017	2021	2017	2021
All/Nearly All	11%	11%	0%	0%
Average	46%	36%	39%	34%
None	19%	32%	6%	6%

Sheepshead



Satisfaction question included stating current regulations were 15 fish per person per day with a 10-inch fork length minimum size limit, and year-round harvest.

Questions?





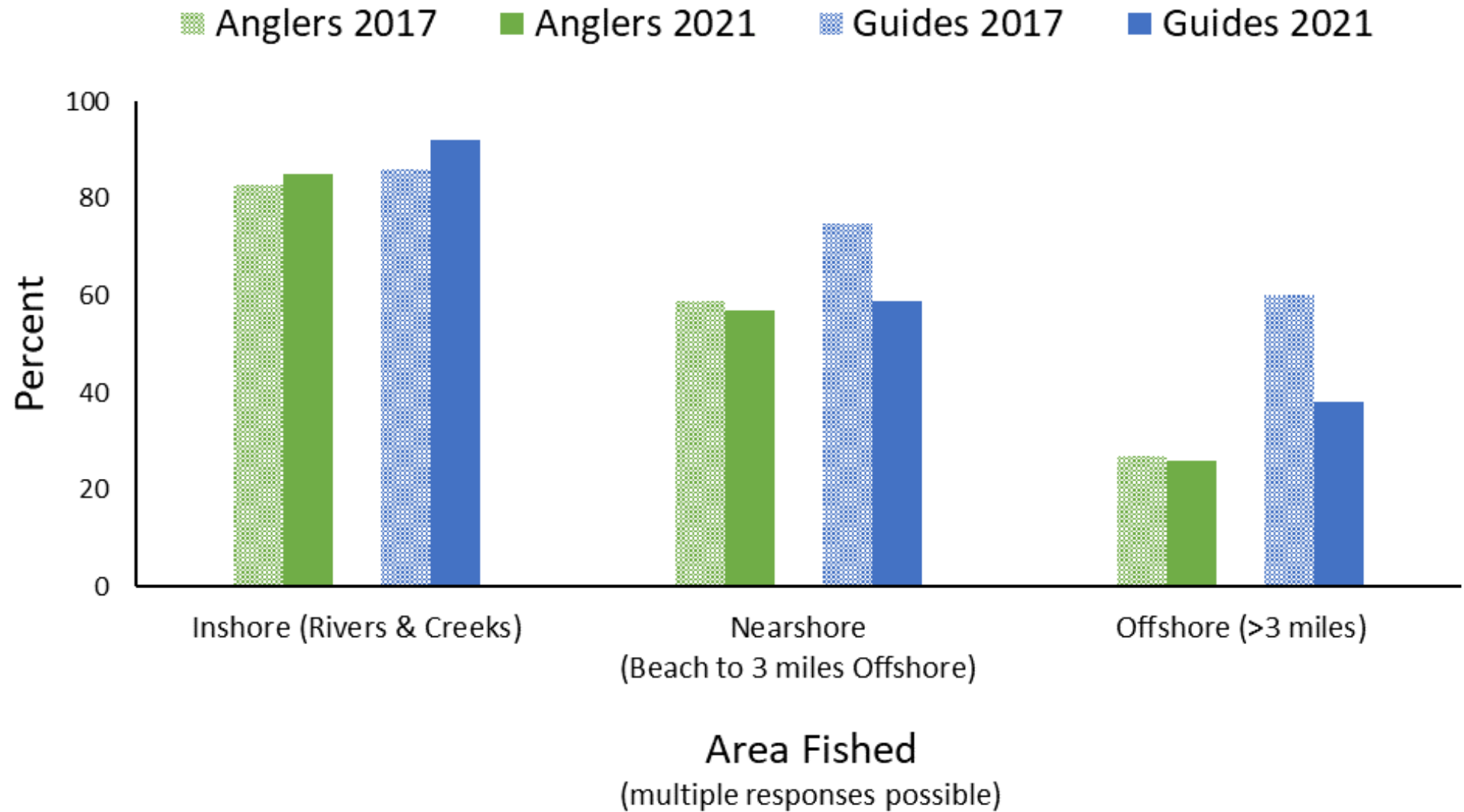
Georgia Saltwater Fishing Satisfaction Survey

Kathy Knowlton
Finfish Advisory Panel
February 28, 2024

Mission Statement:

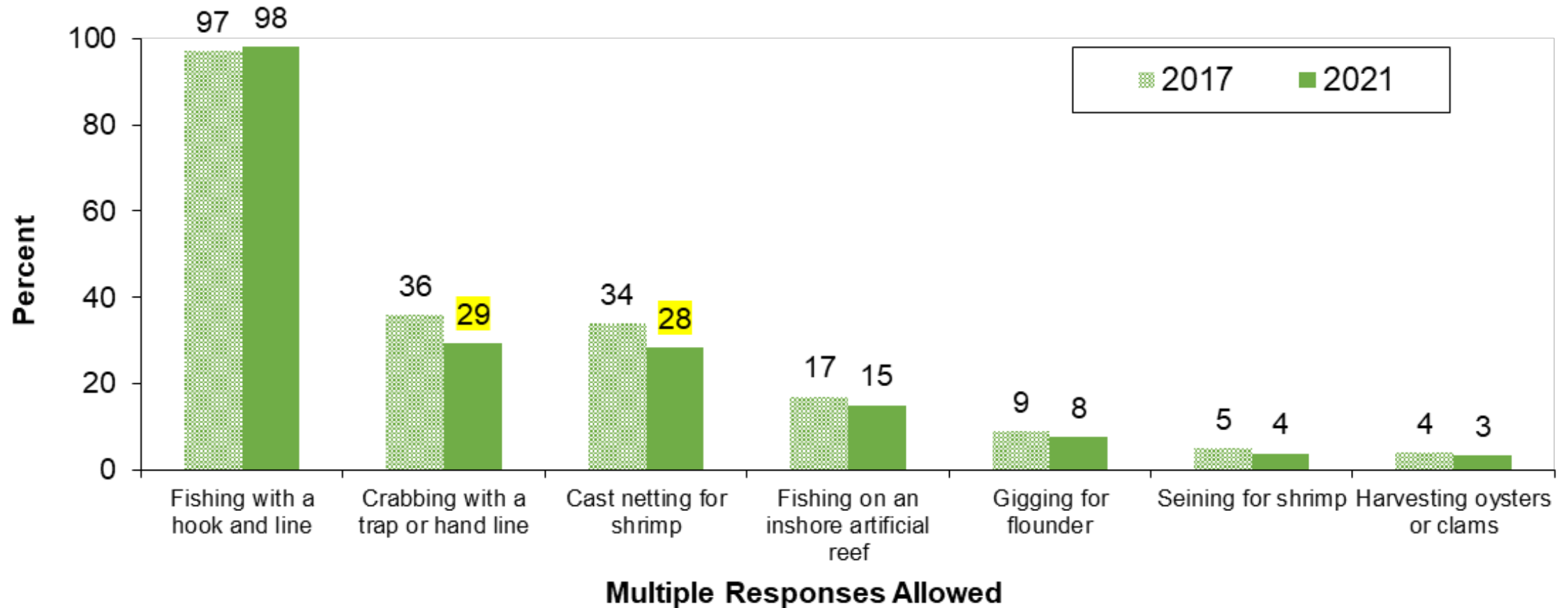
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Area Fished

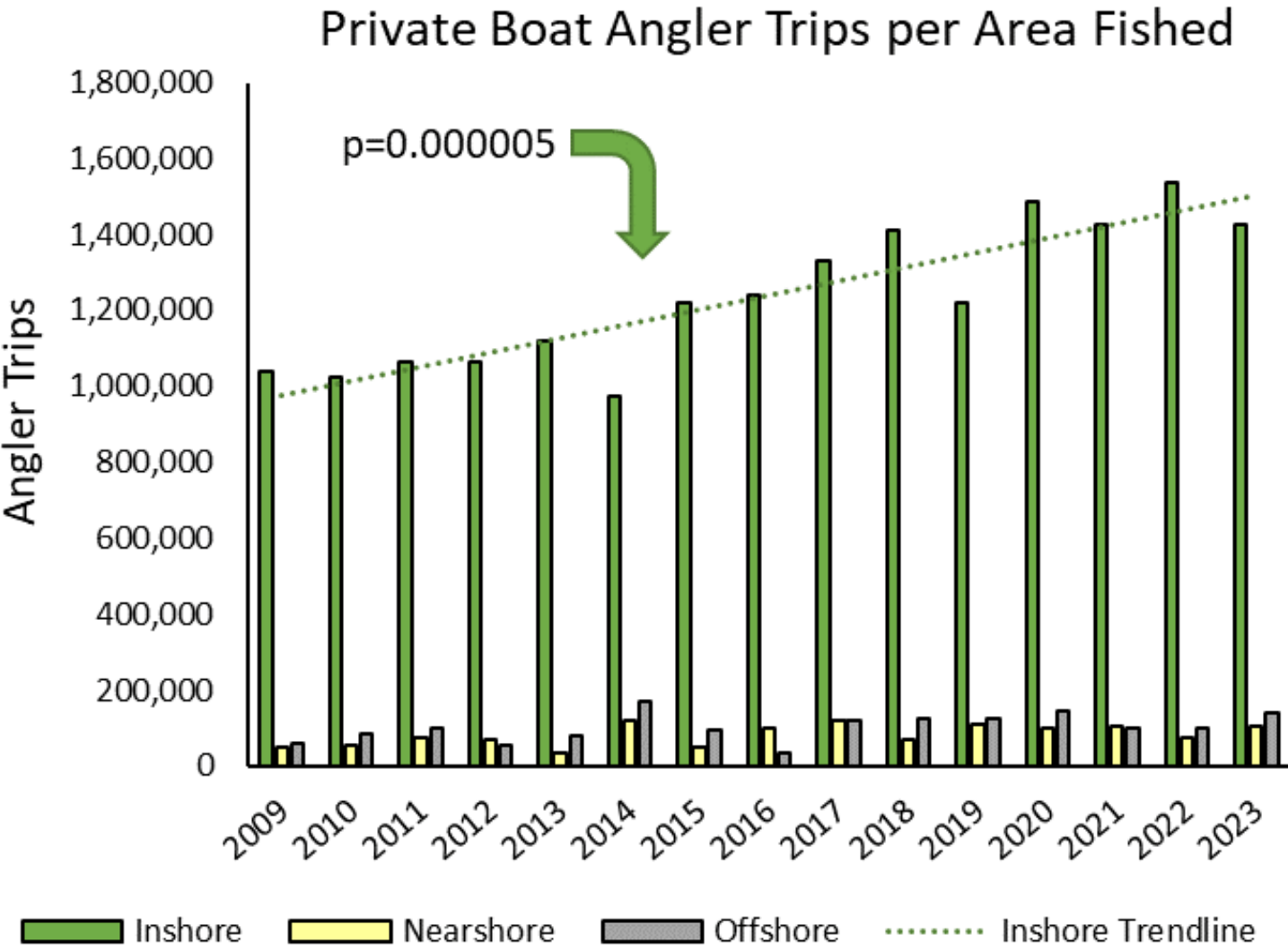


Saltwater Fishing Activities

Which of the following saltwater fishing activities did you do during [year] in Georgia's inshore and nearshore waters? (Anglers)

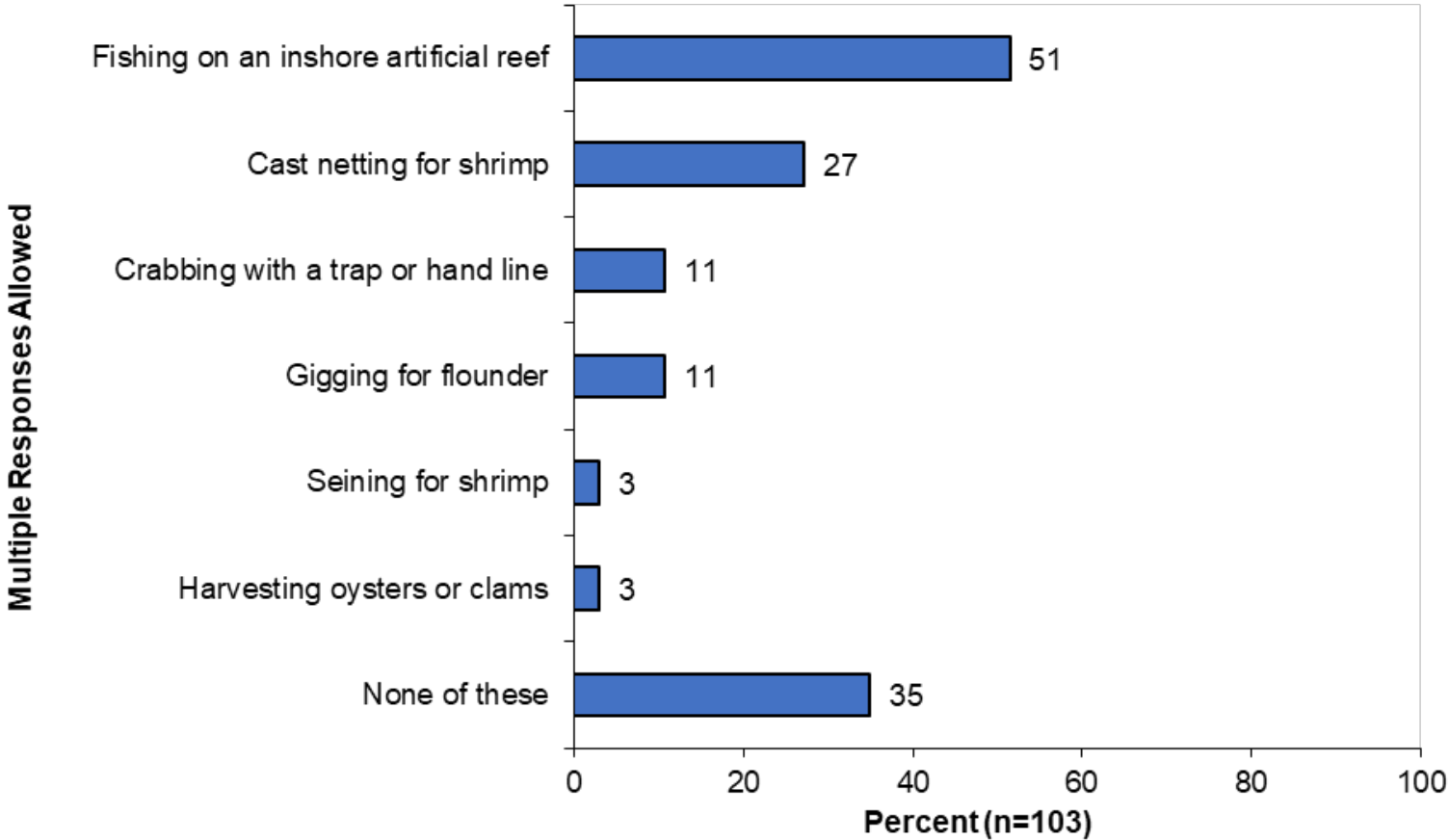


Angler Saltwater Fishing Effort in Georgia



Charter Saltwater Fishing Effort in Georgia

During 2021, other than hook and line fishing, are there other activities you took customers on in Georgia in inshore or nearshore waters? (Captains)



Saltwater Fishing Effort by Target Species

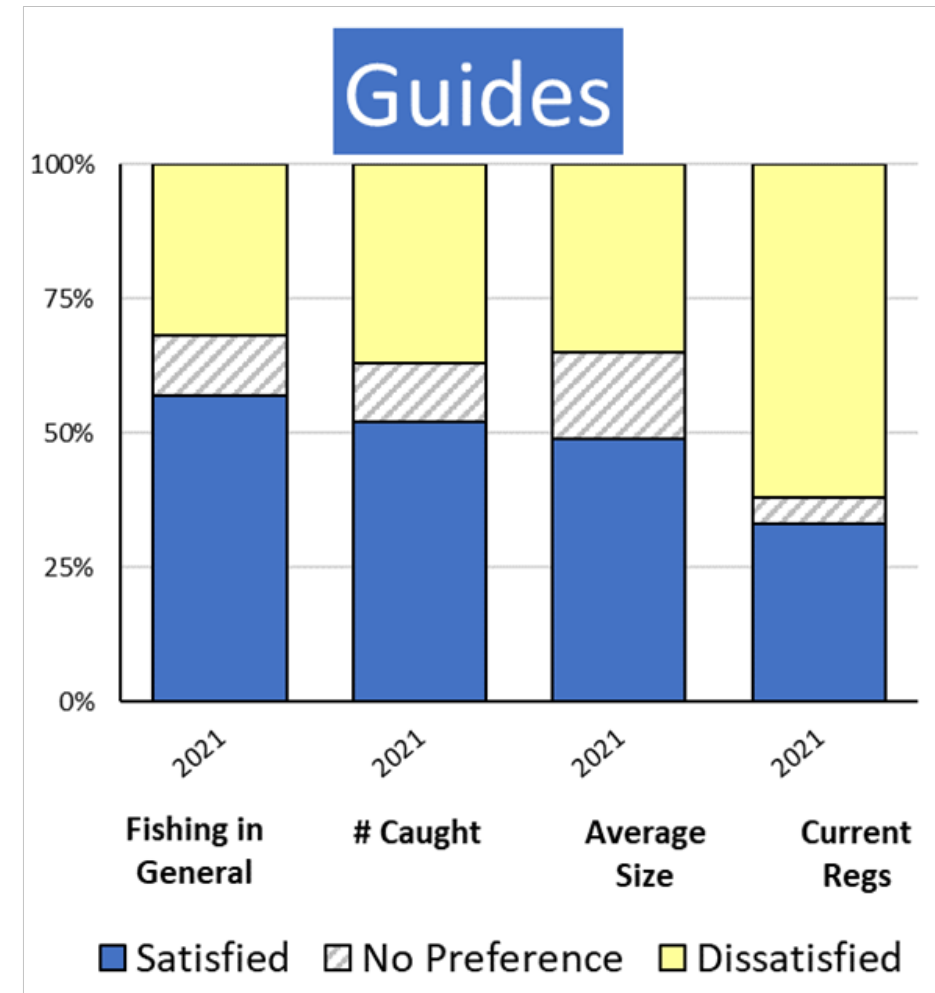
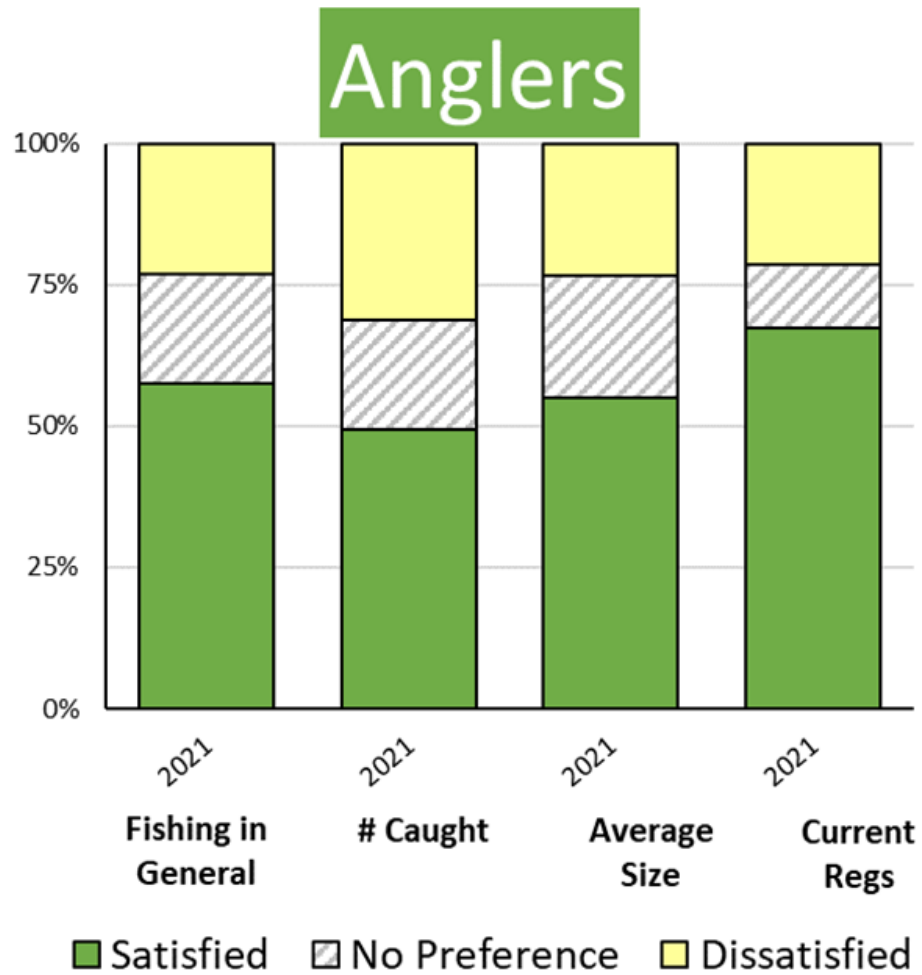
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Do you typically fish for SHEEPSHEAD?	31%	45%
How many DAYS did you fish for SHEEPSHEAD in last 12 months?	15	36

Flounder



Satisfaction question included stating current regulations were 15 fish per person per day with a 12-inch total length minimum size limit, and year-round harvest.

Flounder

When fishing for flounder, did respondents use H&L, Gig or Both?

	<u>Gig Only</u>	<u>H&L Total</u>
Anglers	4%	96% (78% + 18%)
Captains	2%	98% (90% + 8%)

(Where H&L Total = “H&L only” added to “use both methods”)

Of those that fish with both, what percent of time do those respondents fish for flounder with H&L vs gig?

Mean H&L = 91% Gig = 9%

Demographics

Top 3 responses by anglers:

- Residence: small city/town (34%/37%), suburban area (23%/22%), & rural area (not farm 19%/21%)
- Highest level education: college (26%/24%), some college/trade school (25%/23%), & high school (18%/20%)
- Total household income (before taxes): ≥\$120K (24%/26%), \$60-79K (15%/12%) & \$40-59K (15%/12%)
- Race/ethnic background: Caucasian (87%/86%), African-American (5%/6%) & Hispanic/Latino (3%/2%)

Median Age Anglers 49/54 years Guides 51/48 years

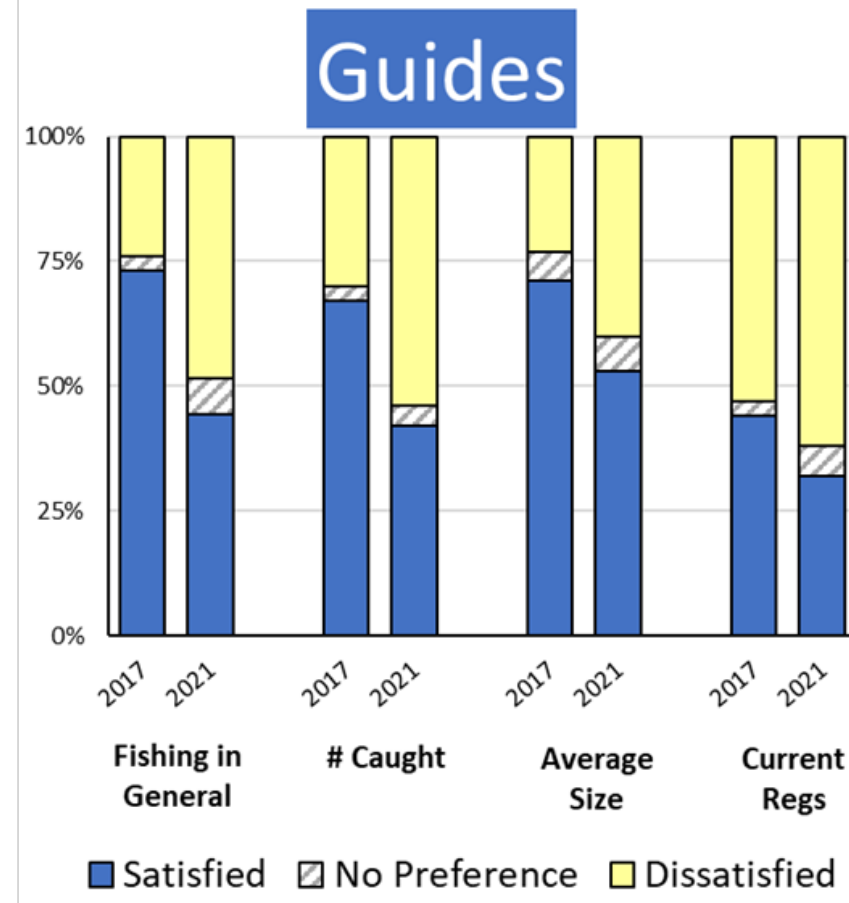
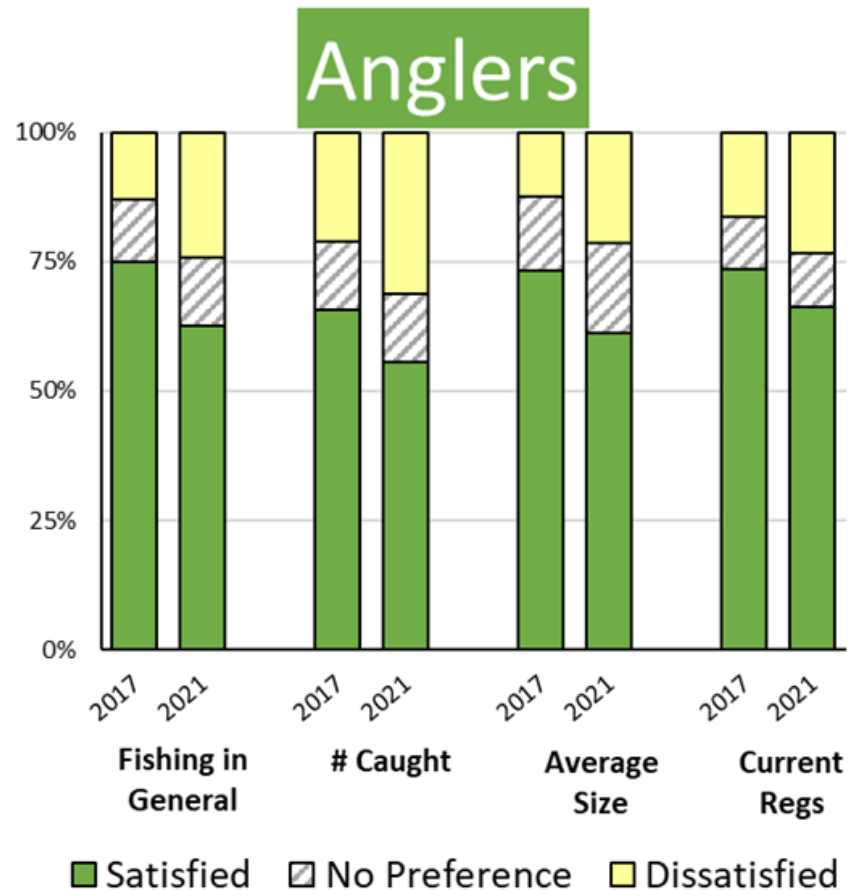
Gender Anglers: 88%/87% male & 12%/13% female
 Guides: 96% male & 4% female

Years Saltwater Angler Mean 20/21 years Median 16/15 years

Years Saltwater Guide Mean 15/12 years Median 13/8 years

Red Drum

Average in 2021 (compared to 2017), anglers 10% less satisfied and guides 21% less satisfied.



Satisfaction question included stating current regulations were 5 fish per person per day with a 14- to 23-inch slot limit, and year-round harvest.



Boating and Fishing Access Update

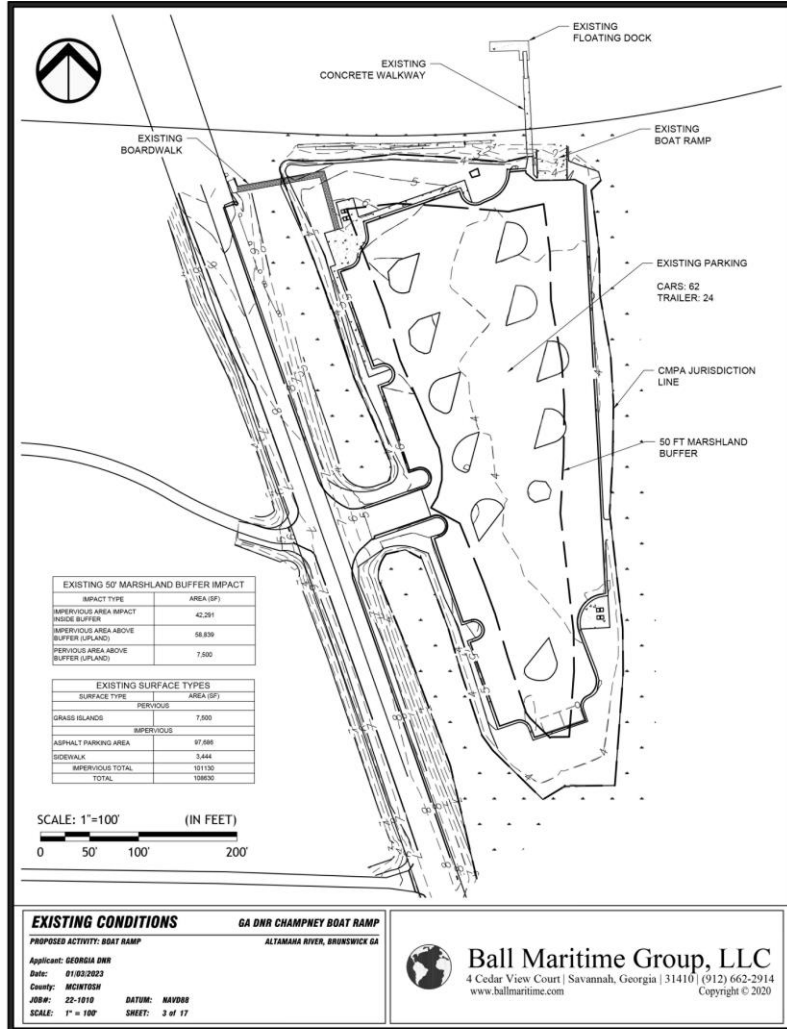
Paul Medders

Habitat Enhancement and Public Access

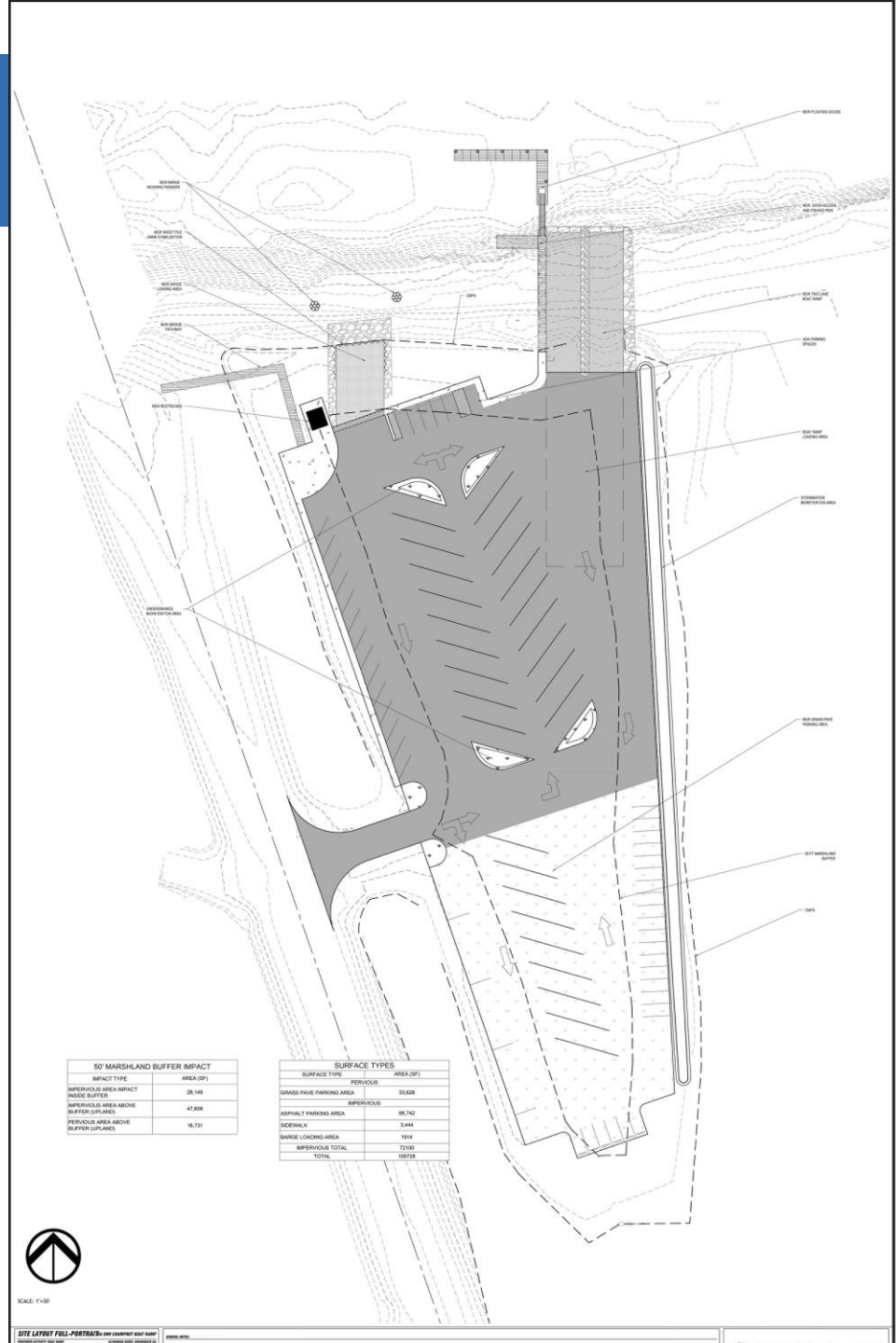
Village Creek



Champney



P:\22-1919 DNR CHAMPNEY BOAT RAMP\600 CADDSHEETS\PERMITS\EXISTING CONDITIONS.DWG -- Plotted: 10/20/23 3:50 PM By: MACK HOWELL





Side Scan Sonar Mapping



Online map links

- <https://coastalgadnr.org/>
- <https://coastalgadnr.org/HERU>
- <https://coastalgadnr.org/HERU/offshore>
- <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=15ea1c780dcc4352a4c9ad01646b87b8>
- <https://coastalgadnr.org/offshorereefs>
- <https://coastalgadnr.org/HERU/downloads>
- <https://coastalgadnr.org/sites/default/files/crd/Reefs/Guide%20to%20Georgia's%20Offshore%20Artificial%20Reefs%20Jan2022.pdf>
- <https://coastalgadnr.org/>
- <https://coastalgadnr.org/RecreationalFishing>
- <https://coastalgadnr.org/FishingMaps>
- <https://gcmp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=fd7440b5642c449ead8086a9f6303d80>

How Side-Scan Sonar Works

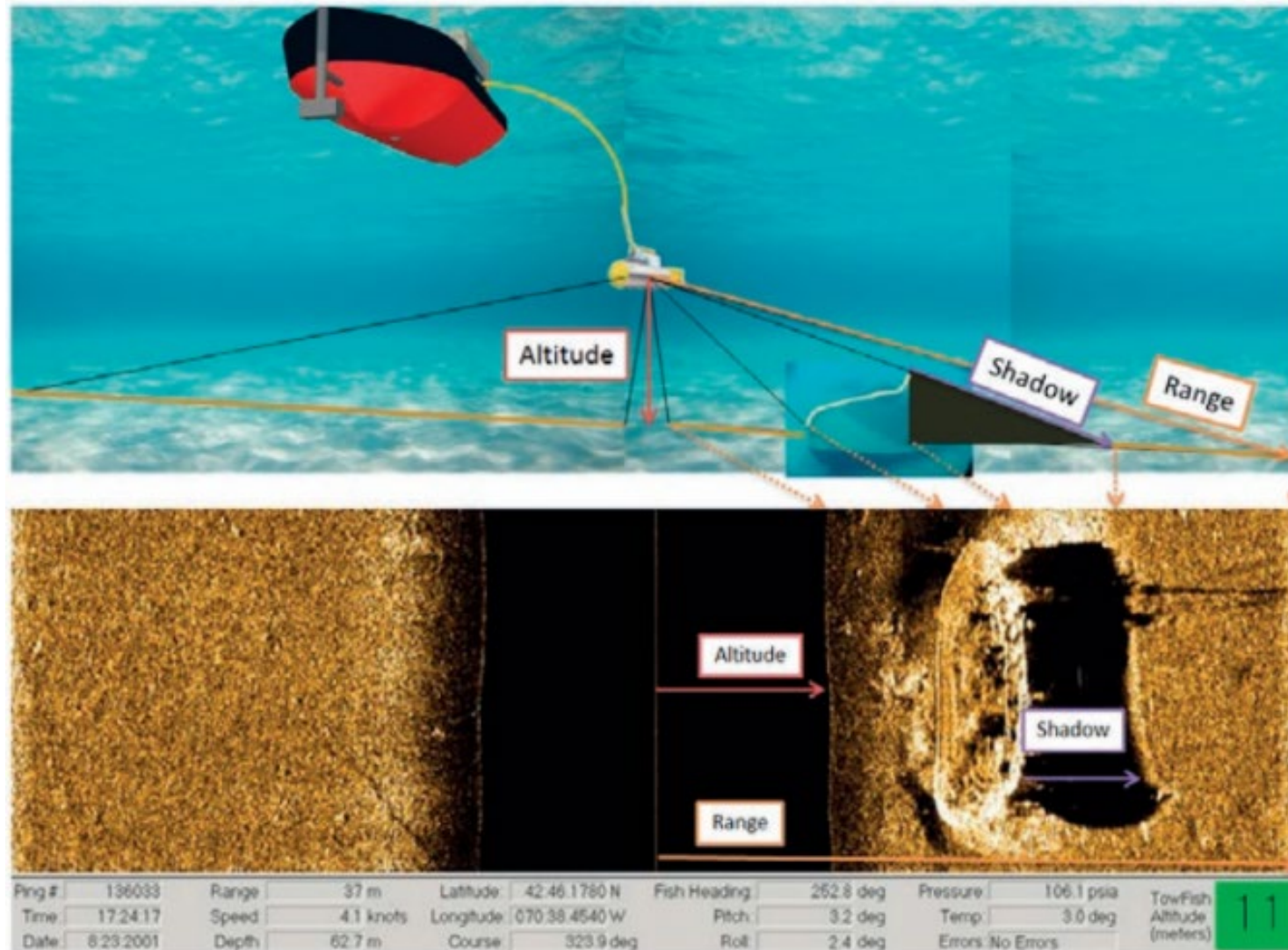


Photo credit Huibert-Jan Lekkerkerk,
Hydro International

Side Scan Mapping at GA's Offshore Reefs

- Nearshore Reefs Mapped through grant to the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
- Offshore Reefs being mapped by CRD with a Klein 4k Survey system
 - For mapping can cover 200m wide swath
 - 4-5 kt survey speed
 - 2x2 nautical mile reef in ~16h

