

U.S. NATIONAL BYCATCH REPORT

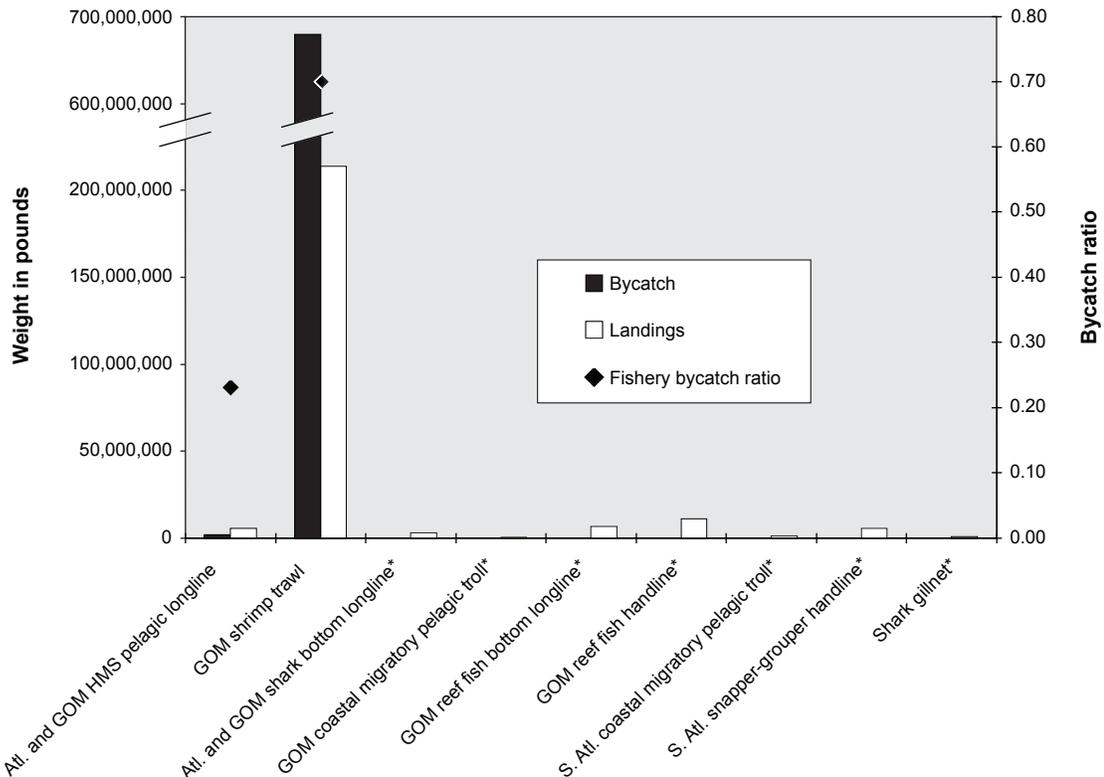


Fast facts:

- A total of 48 commercial fisheries are included in this report for the Southeast Region.
- Landings from all Southeast fisheries were valued at approximately \$756 million in 2005.
- Seventeen FMPs regulate the harvest of federally managed species in the Southeast Region.
- Observer programs are in place for 12 of the 48 fisheries.
- Fish bycatch estimates are available for 9 fisheries and 214 species or species groups.
- Protected species bycatch estimates are available for 10 fisheries and 12 species or species groups.

Fish bycatch and landings by fishery in the Southeast Region

(* indicates bycatch data in number of individuals, no bycatch ratio possible)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bycatch of Southeast Region key stocks in 2005 ^a

Fish and invertebrates	Bycatch estimate ^b	Unit	Bycatch ratio
Bigeye tuna, S. Atlantic	33,000	Pounds	0.08
Black grouper	72,000	Individuals	*
Black sea bass (multiple stocks)	15,000	Individuals	*
Black sea bass, S. Atlantic	10	Individuals	*
Black snapper	10	Individuals	*
Blackfin snapper	300	Individuals	*
Blue marlin, S. Atlantic	54,000	Pounds	*
Blue shark, S. Atlantic	146,000	Pounds	*
Bluefin tuna, W. Atlantic	288,000	Pounds	0.49
Bull shark	1,200	Individuals	*
	157,000	Pounds	*
Cobia (multiple stocks)	3,100	Individuals	*
Cobia, Gulf of Mexico	37,000	Pounds	*
Dolphinfish	4,800	Individuals	*
Dusky shark	2,700	Individuals	*
	571,000	Pounds	*
Gag (multiple stocks)	86,000	Individuals	*
Gag, Gulf of Mexico	7,400	Pounds	*
Gag, S. Atlantic	11,000	Pounds	*
Goliath grouper (multiple stocks)	3,800	Individuals	*
Goliath grouper, S. Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico	72,000	Pounds	*
Gray snapper	45,000	Individuals	*
Gray triggerfish	2,000	Individuals	*
Great hammerhead shark, S. Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico	192,000	Pounds	*
Greater amberjack	266,000	Individuals	*
Gulf sturgeon			*
Hogfish	240	Individuals	*
King mackerel, Atlantic group	270	Individuals	*
King mackerel, Gulf group	380,000	Pounds	*
Lane snapper	3,700	Individuals	*
	1,623,000	Pounds	*
Little tunny	3,000	Individuals	*
	48	Individuals	*
Lemon shark	650	Individuals	*
Mutton snapper	4,500	Individuals	*
Nassau grouper	1,300	Individuals	*

Fish and invertebrates	Bycatch estimate ^b	Unit	Bycatch ratio
Red drum (multiple stocks)	47,500	Individuals	*
Red drum, Gulf of Mexico	406,000	Pounds	*
Red drum, S. Atlantic	4	Individuals	*
Red grouper (multiple stocks)	862,000	Individuals	*
Red grouper, Gulf of Mexico	51,000	Pounds	*
Red grouper, S. Atlantic	6,400	Pounds	*
Red porgy, S. Atlantic	33,000	Individuals	*
Red snapper (multiple stocks)	2,570,000	Individuals	*
Red snapper, Gulf of Mexico	713,000	Pounds	*
Sailfish (multiple stocks)	440	Individuals	*
Sailfish, West Atlantic	22	Individuals	*
Sandbar shark	4,900	Individuals	*
	149,000	Pounds	*
Scalloped hammerhead shark, S. Atlantic	139	Individuals	*
Scalloped hammerhead shark, S. Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico	117,000	Pounds	*
Scamp	37,000	Individuals	*
Shortnose sturgeon			*
Silk snapper	17	Individuals	*
Silky shark	34	Individuals	*
	42,000	Pounds	*
Smalltooth sawfish	61	Individuals	*
Snowy grouper	2,700	Individuals	*
Spanish mackerel	62,000	Individuals	*
Spanish mackerel, Gulf group	3,561,000	Pounds	*
Speckled hind	10,400	Individuals	*
	6,800	Individuals	*
Spinner shark	8	Individuals	*
Warsaw grouper	7,900	Individuals	*
White grunt	7,200	Individuals	*
White marlin, S. Atlantic	38,000	Pounds	*
Wreckfish	38	Individuals	*
Yellowedge grouper	1,900	Individuals	*
Yellowfin grouper	640	Individuals	*
Yellowtail snapper	410,000	Individuals	*

^a Total # of key stocks for Southeast = 82; in some cases estimates are only available at the species (or species group) level and cannot be assigned to the appropriate key stock. Therefore, there are fewer than 82 bycatch estimates listed in this table. A full list of Southeast Region key stocks is included in Section 4.2. (Note: bycatch estimates of rare-event species may incorporate data from a range of years.)

^b Estimates have been rounded.

^c Bycatch estimates from the 2002 shrimp fishery biological opinion (NMFS 2002). Since that time, effort in the shrimp fishery, and presumably bycatch, has decreased dramatically.

* Indicates landings were not available for a species (or species is not landed, as for protected species), bycatch was not observed, or was observed but no estimate is available, or bycatch and landings were in different units, so no bycatch ratio could be developed (fish). Please see Section 4.2 for further information.

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Bycatch reduction success stories (2005 to present):

- Bycatch reduction devices to reduce finfish bycatch are required in all Southeastern shrimp fisheries.
- Turtle excluder devices (TEDs) have been required in all shrimp trawls (with limited exceptions) since the mid-1990s. TEDs allow for release of an estimated 97% of the turtles caught in shrimp trawls.
- Gear regulations in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery for Highly Migratory Species have reduced interactions with endangered and threatened sea turtles, while closures are utilized to reduce interactions with undersized swordfish and other species.
- Mesh size in the back panel of black sea bass pots has been increased to 2 inches to reduce bycatch of undersized black sea bass.
- Requirements for buoy lines on black sea bass pots have been modified to reduce takes of protected species.
- Harvest limits and time and area closures have resulted in bycatch reductions in some fisheries.

Bycatch of Southeast Region key stocks in 2005^a
(continued from previous page)

Protected species	Bycatch estimate (individuals) ^b
Green sea turtle ^c	659
Kemp's ridley sea turtle ^c	4,222
Leatherback sea turtle ^c	537
Loggerhead sea turtle ^c	5,209
Bottlenose dolphin, western North Atlantic coastal	105
Pilot whale, long- and short-finned	70
Risso's dolphin, western North Atlantic	46
Spotted dolphin, pantropical, western North Atlantic	6

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