



SALTWATER ANGLERS ATTITUDES & OPINIONS

2013 SURVEY RESULTS

Earlier this year, we surveyed more than 9,000 saltwater anglers from 22 coastal states as part of our first-ever nationwide survey of saltwater angler attitudes and opinions related to fishing quality and management.

Why?

We want to know what matters to you.

3 Things to Remember

1. Our goal is to provide trusted information.
2. These results deliver on our commitment to the saltwater angling community and...
3. Contribute to the ongoing conversation.



Key Findings

1. Anglers are optimistic about the future.
2. Anglers go fishing for a variety of reasons.
3. Anglers prefer management that protects access and opportunity.
4. Anglers would like management to improve.
5. Anglers support marine conservation.

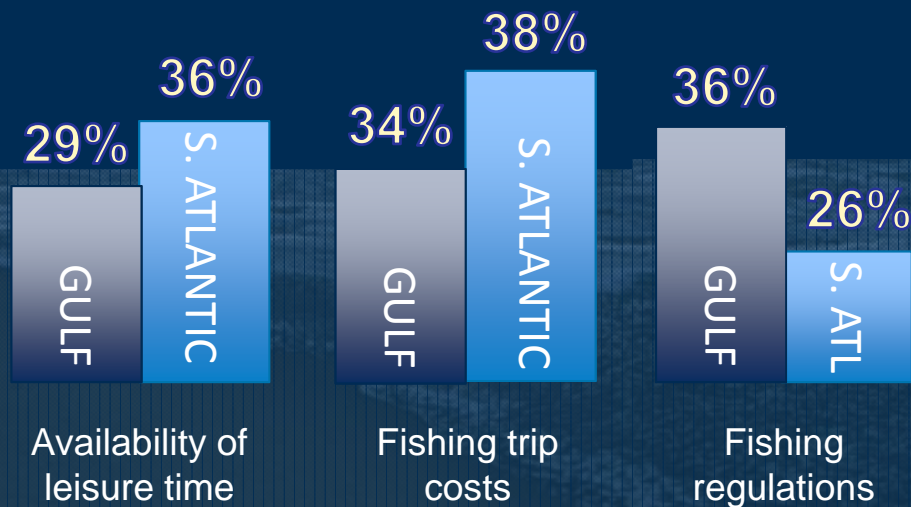
Anglers are optimistic about future fishing opportunities.

81%

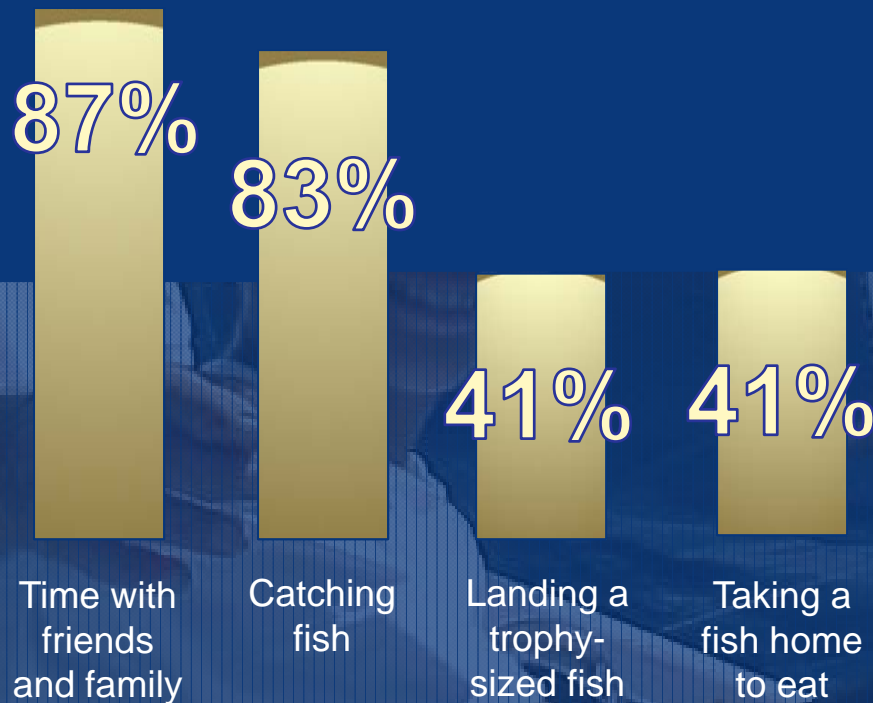
Plan to take the same number or more trips next year as last.

Anglers are optimistic about future fishing opportunities.

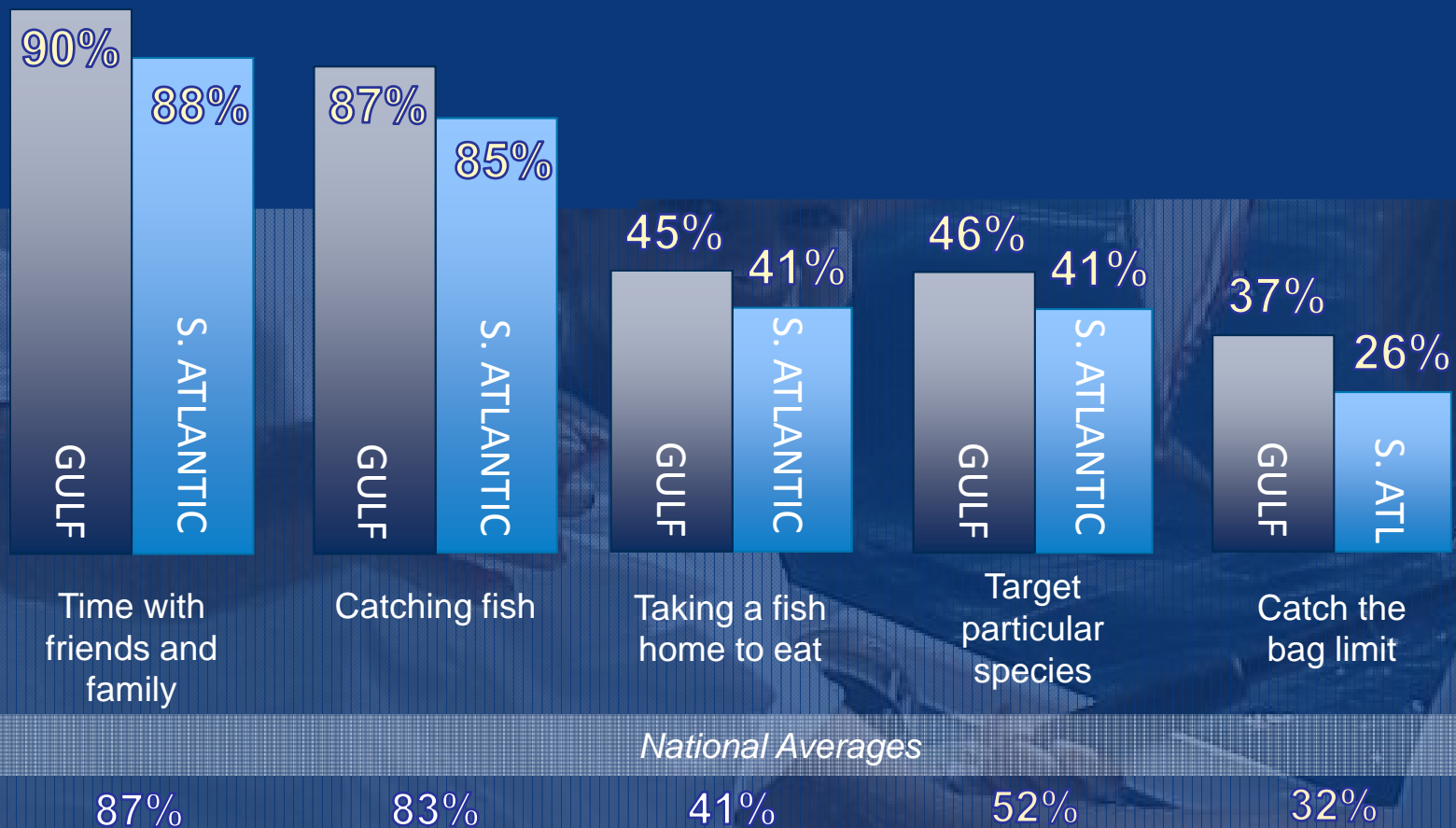
Of those who say they'll take fewer trips next year, they cite:



Anglers fish for a variety of reasons.



Anglers fish for a variety of reasons.





Fishing is about both access and opportunity.

Anglers would like management to provide:

High quality areas

Diversity of fish species

Availability of abundant fish



Fishing is about both access and opportunity.

Anglers prefer management strategies that preserve fishing opportunities:

Minimum sizes

Artificial habitats

Bag limits

Closed areas

Shorter seasons

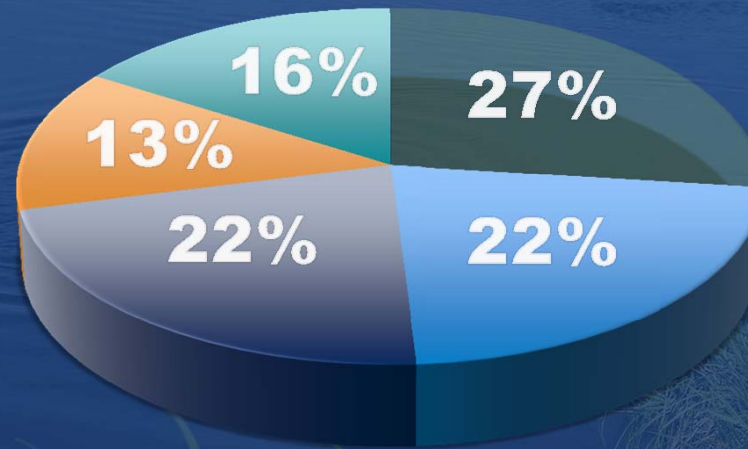
Gear restrictions



Fishing is about both access and opportunity.

We asked Gulf anglers...

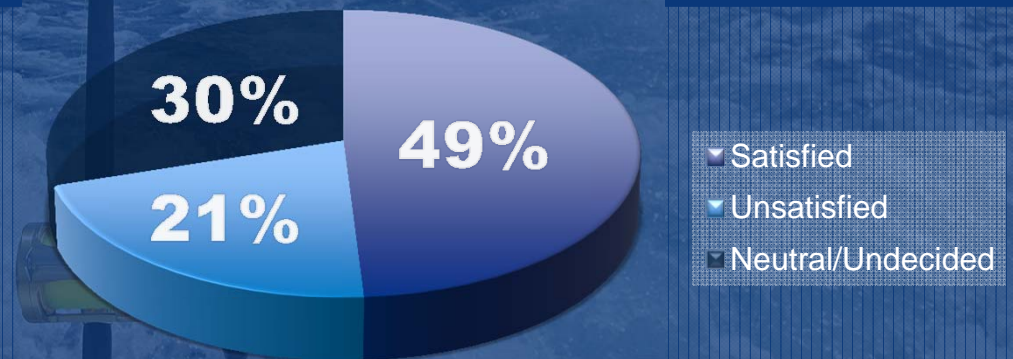
Should managers divide the recreational harvest limit among private and for-hire sectors.



- Do not prefer at all
- Slightly prefer
- Somewhat prefer
- Strongly prefer
- Unsure

Management can improve.

- ✓ Provide more fish.
- ✓ Better incorporate angler input in decision-making.
- ✓ Use high-quality data in assessments.
- ✓ Enforce regulations.
- ✓ Ensure consistent state/fed regulations.
- ✓ Make regulations simpler.



Do harvest limits provide enough fish?

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- ✓ Make regulations simpler.

84% Important to have my voice heard.

29% Satisfied my perspective is adequately considered.

Management can improve.

Top 3 issues where anglers were most DISSATISFIED with current management:

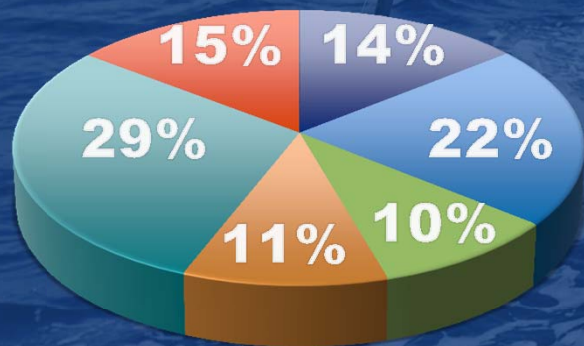


1. Adjusting regulations in a timely manner to address changing fishery conditions.
2. Ensuring consistency between state/federal regulations.
3. Incorporating stakeholder interests in policy-making.

1. Ensuring harvest limit provides enough fish for anglers.
2. Ensuring consistency between state/federal regulations.
3. Incorporating stakeholder interests in policy-making.

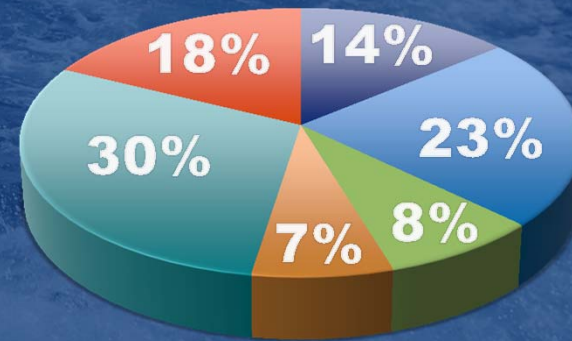
Management can improve.

How satisfied are you that managers use high-quality data in assessments?



GULF OF MEXICO

- Extremely satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Not satisfied at all
- Neutral
- Unsure

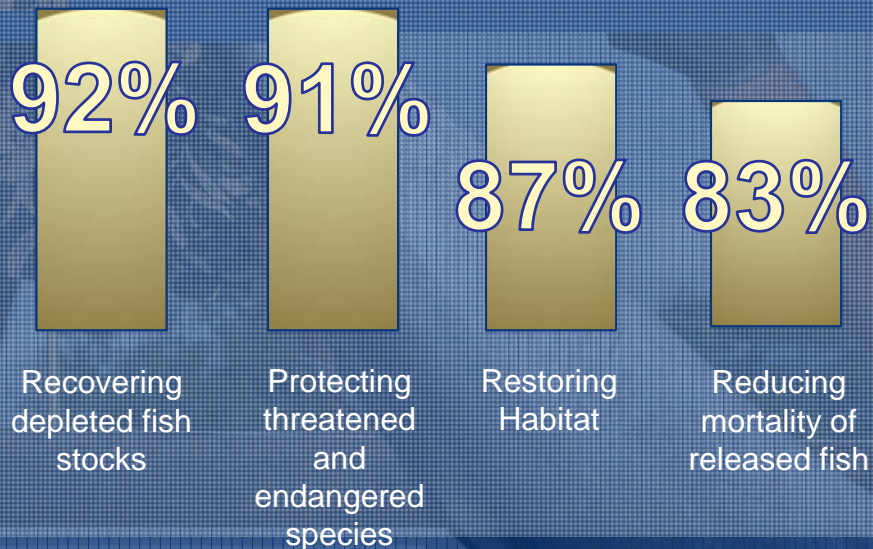


SOUTH ATLANTIC

Anglers support marine conservation.

95% Believe it's important to ensure high quality fishing for future generations.

Support for conservation goals.

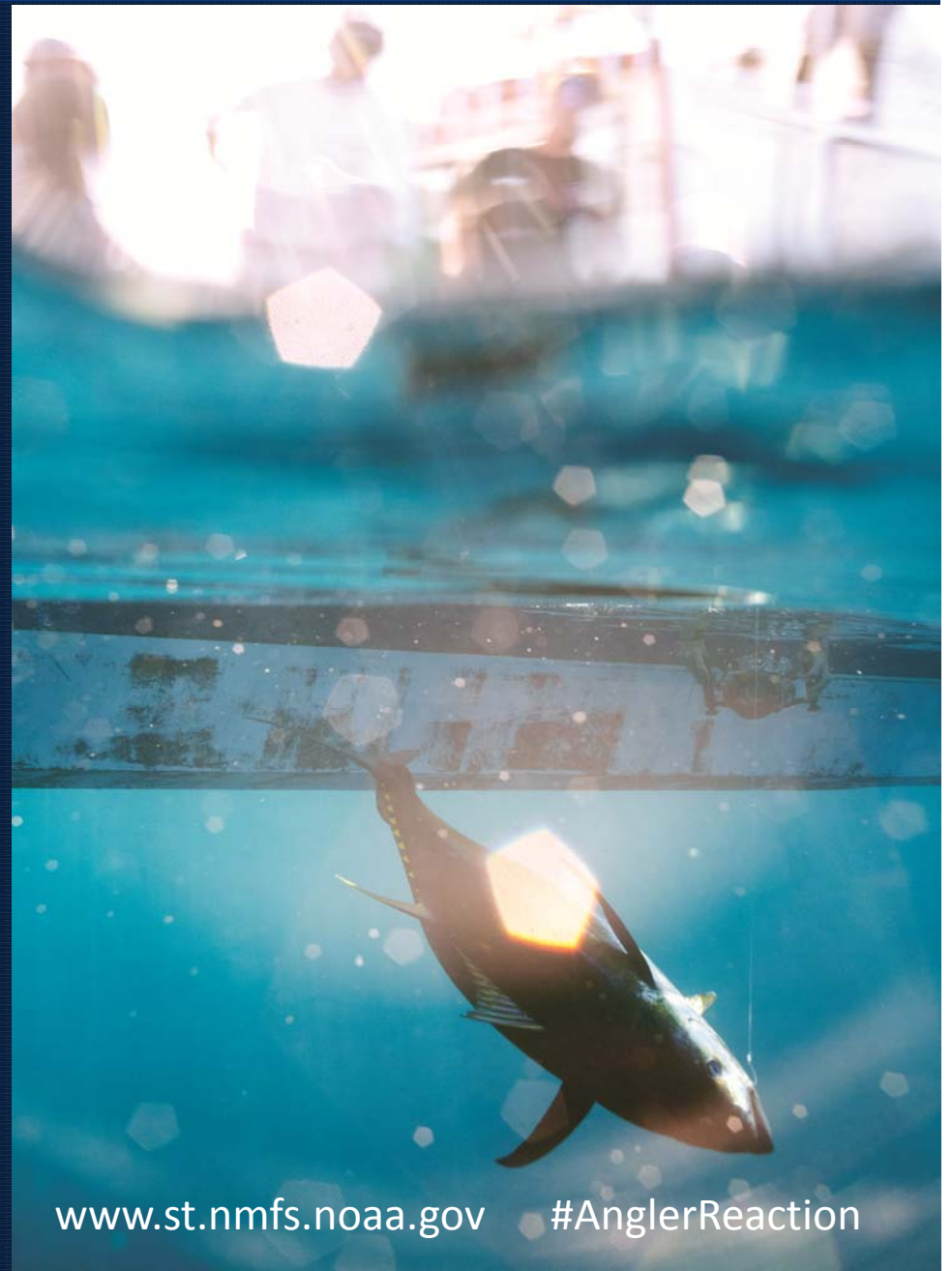


To Be Continued...

Regional results and more in-depth analysis forthcoming.

What are we missing? Share your thoughts and keep the conversation going @

- 2014 Saltwater Fishing Summit
- Online on Facebook and Twitter
- Regional rec fishing coordinators



www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov #AnglerReaction