

Preliminary Results of Alabama's Red Snapper Reporting Program

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Marine Resources Division



Program Overview - Reporting

Captains of recreational vessels were required to report any harvested red snapper prior to landing fish in Alabama per 220-3-.83-.211ER – “Recreational Reporting of Red Snapper”.

Only one report was required per vessel trip with red snapper.

Anglers could report via smartphone app (“Snapper Check”), online at outdooralabama.com, toll-free telephone number (1-844-REDSNAP), and paper reports provided at select public boat launches.

Required trip information included; number of anglers, number of fish harvested, number dead red snapper discards, vessel registration, county of landing, and type of trip (private or charter).



Program Overview – Report validation

In addition to conducting normal MRIP dockside assignments, Marine Resources Division staff extensively sampled vessels with red snapper during the Florida state water season (May 24–July 14), Alabama and Mississippi state water seasons (July weekends–Fri-Sun) and the federal season (June 1–9).

MRD Conservation Enforcement Officers collected validation data from vessels while on patrol; both on-the-water (if vessel representative indicated return to Alabama) and shore.

Information collected from anglers with red snapper harvest during MRIP assignments was included in the validation data.

Validation data was collected to determine average weight of fish harvested and determine rate(s) of non-reporting.



Results – Alabama Red Snapper Reporting Program Catch

Estimates

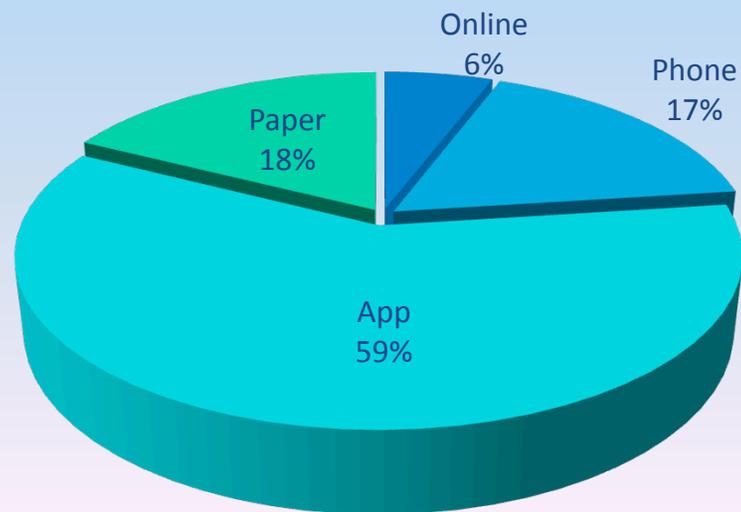
Summary of reported trip information, non-reporting correction factors and landings estimates for the 2014 red snapper season—separated by federal season and state season (Alabama July weekends and Florida 54 day season)

Season	Mode	Reported No. of Anglers	Reported No. of Landed Fish	Landed Fish per Anger	Non-reporting Factor	Adjusted No. of Landed Fish	Mean Weight (lbs)	Estimated Pounds Landed
Federal Season June 1-9	Charter	5,716	10,136	1.77	1.14	11,555	10.76	124,332
	Private	8,247	14,861	1.80	2.16	32,100	8.39	269,317
Florida and AL State Seasons	Charter	796	1,501	1.89	1.50	2,252	5.56	12,518
	Private	1,127	1,681	1.49	3.56	5,984	5.59	33,453
Totals:		15,886	28,179	1.77	--	51,891	--	439,620



Results – Reporting methods

Distribution of reporting methods used to report vessel trips during the 2014 red snapper season



Total reports: 2,685

Note: Data presented in slides does not include data from headboats participating in the NMFS's Southeast Region Headboat Survey.



Results - Biological information

Number of red snapper measured and weighed during 2014 red snapper season

Season	Mode	No. Fish Measured	No. Fish Weighed
Federal Season	Charter	827	827
	Private	1,443	1,447
Florida and AL State Seasons	Charter	34	34
	Private	73	73
Totals:		2,377	2,381

Includes data from MRIP validations.



AL Red Snapper Reporting Program Summary

The smartphone app was the most popular method for reporting red snapper harvests.

Reporting rates for for-hire vessels was very good. Non-reporting rates were higher for private vessel trips and additional outreach will be made prior to the 2015 season to improve reporting compliance.

Minor changes to the validation procedures are being considered including using data from partially validated red snapper trips (i.e. recording vessels with red snapper catches only - number of anglers, fish or biological information will not be collected).

AMRD considers the program successful in this first year and we have a high confidence in the results.



NMFS / AL Program Comparison

Federal MRIP recreational landings estimates for Alabama's private anglers increased dramatically in 2013 compared to 2012 estimates.

The increase coincided with significant changes in MRIP survey protocols.

The federal MRIP survey conducts a small number of dockside interviews and then uses a telephone survey to establish the amount of fishing effort. This information is combined and extrapolated to calculate landings.

The 2014 Alabama red snapper reporting program has provided a second data set from which comparisons to recent MRIP effort and landings estimates can be performed.

In 2014 both programs were conducted simultaneously. The comparisons will be helpful to better understand what impacts the changes in MRIP survey protocols have had on estimating red snapper landings in Alabama.



NMFS / AL Program Comparison

The Alabama Red Snapper Reporting Program estimates that 417,526 pounds of red snapper were landed through June.

The federal MRIP Program estimates that 1,041,121 pounds of red snapper were landed in Alabama through June.

The federal program landing estimates are nearly two and a half times more red snapper than the Alabama Red Snapper Reporting Program. This is a significant difference!

AMRD has installed video cameras at six coastal boat launches. Video data from the cameras were used to count vessel launches and fishermen during the nine day federal season. The video data confirms that the estimates from the Alabama Red Snapper Reporting Program are more accurate than the federal MRIP estimates.



NMFS / AL Program Comparison

Estimated red snapper landings from the Alabama red snapper reporting program and the Marine Recreational Information Program through June 30, 2014

Fishing Mode	Alabama Program (lbs)	Federal MRIP (lbs)
Charter	132,383	85,929
Private	285,143	955,192
Totals	417,526	1,041,121

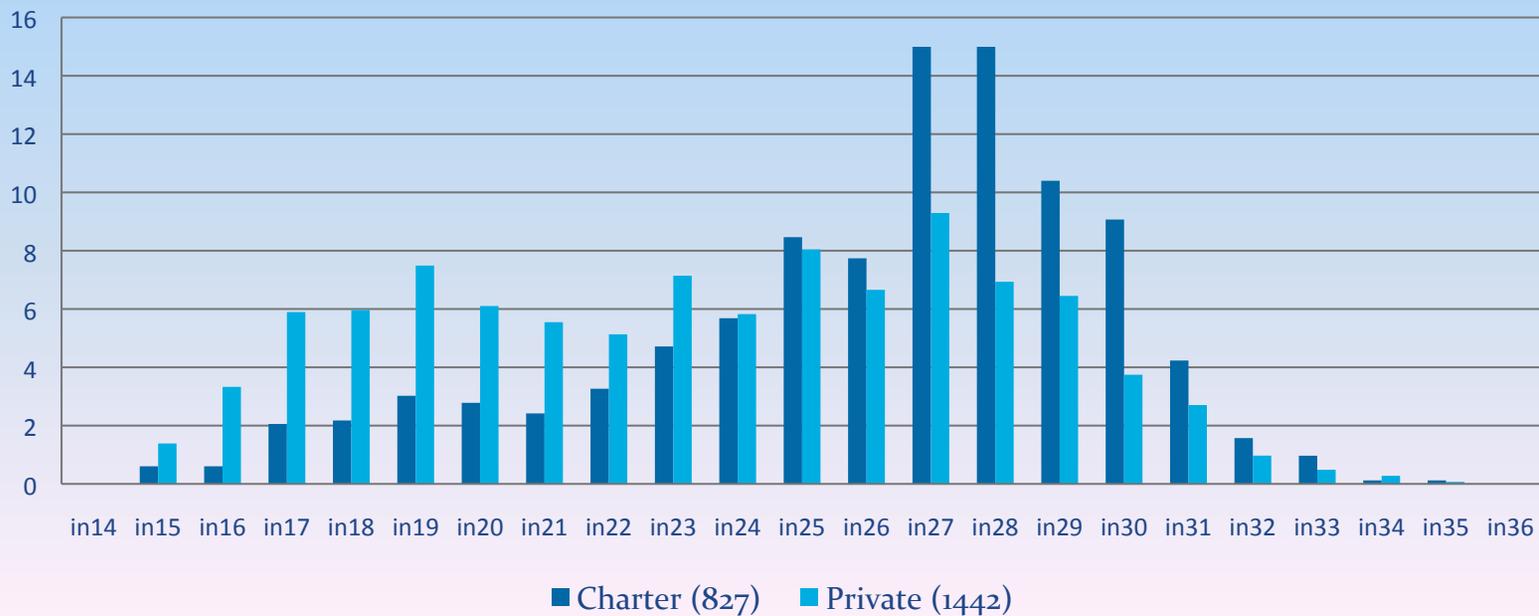


Additional Information



Results - Biological information

Length-frequencies (TL) by mode for red snapper measured during the 2014 federal red snapper season

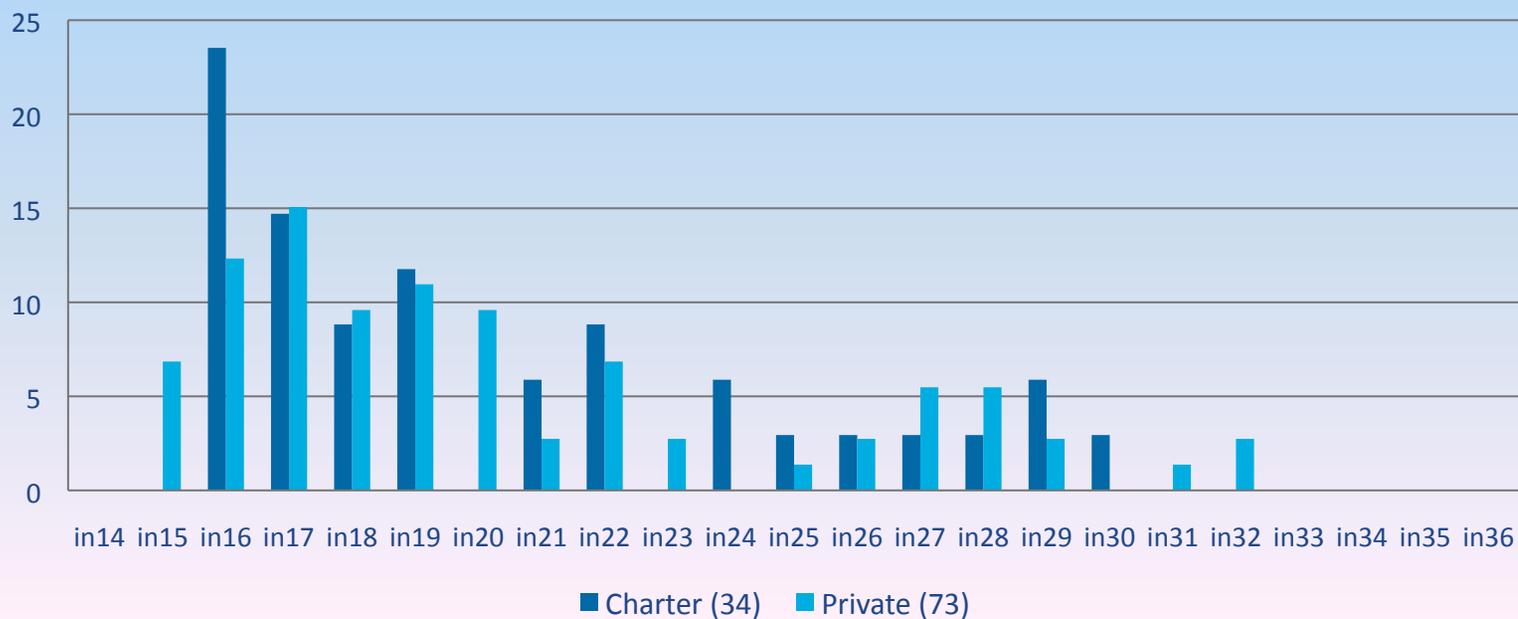


Includes data from MRIP validations. Lengths converted from fork length measurements.



Results - Biological information

Length-frequencies (TL) by mode of red snapper measured during the 2014 states-only red snapper season

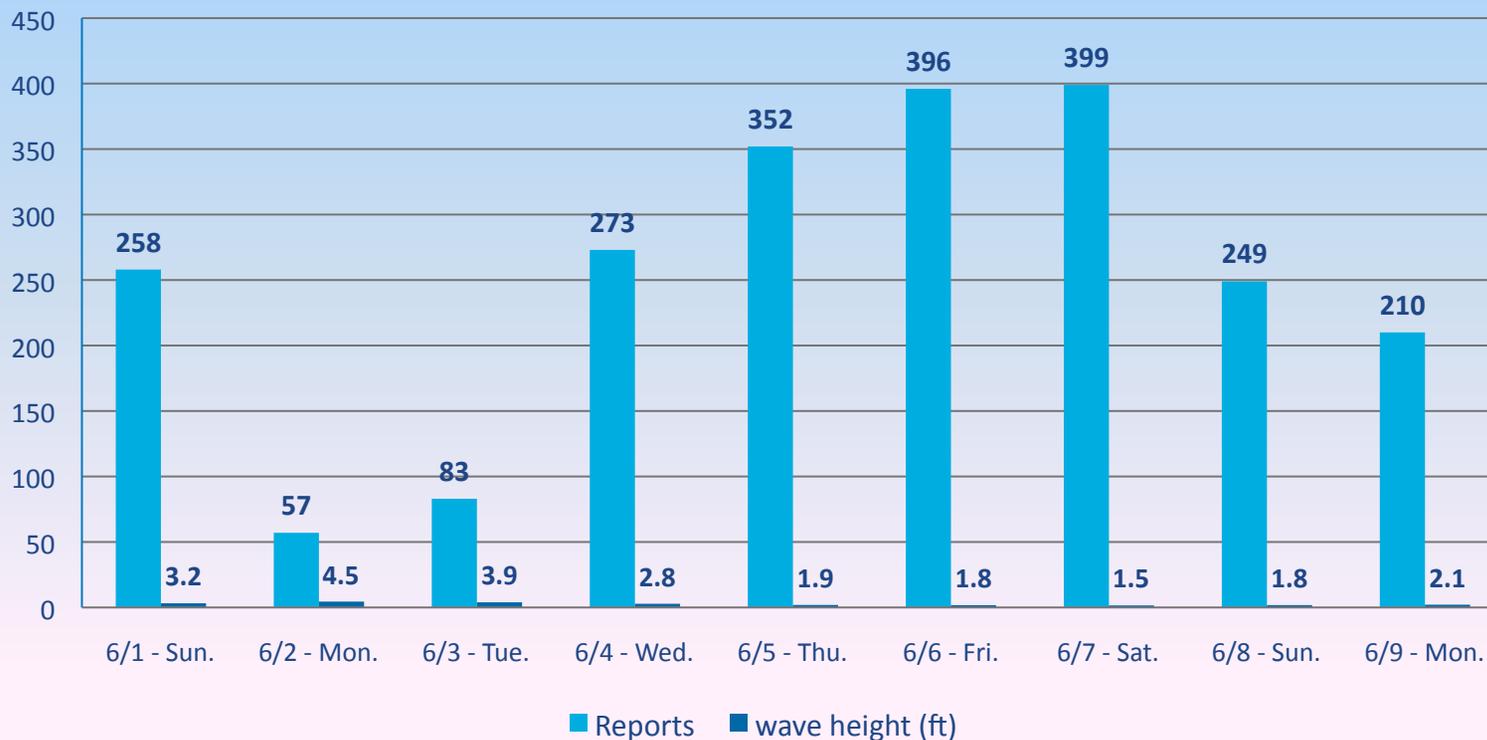


Includes data from MRIP validations.



Results – Trip Reports and weather

Daily reported vessel trips and mean offshore wave height* for the 2014 red snapper season

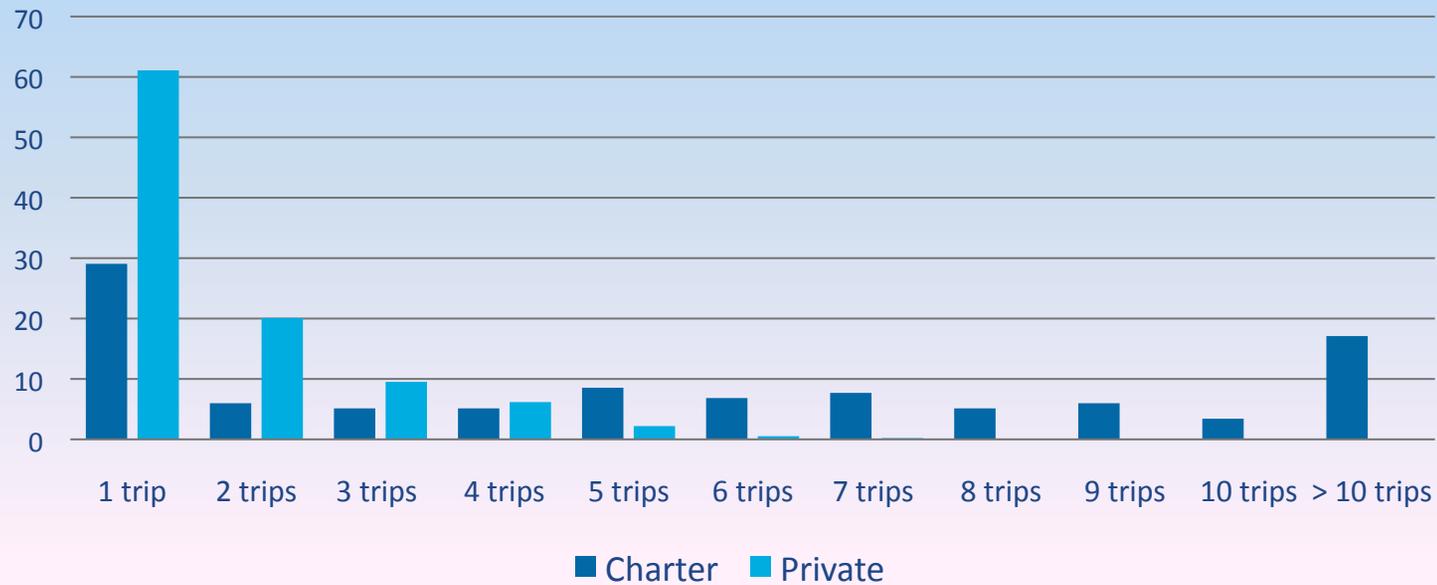


* - Mean daily wave height data were derived from hourly observations for the National Data Buoy Center's buoy, #42012, located approximately 14 miles south of Orange Beach, AL.



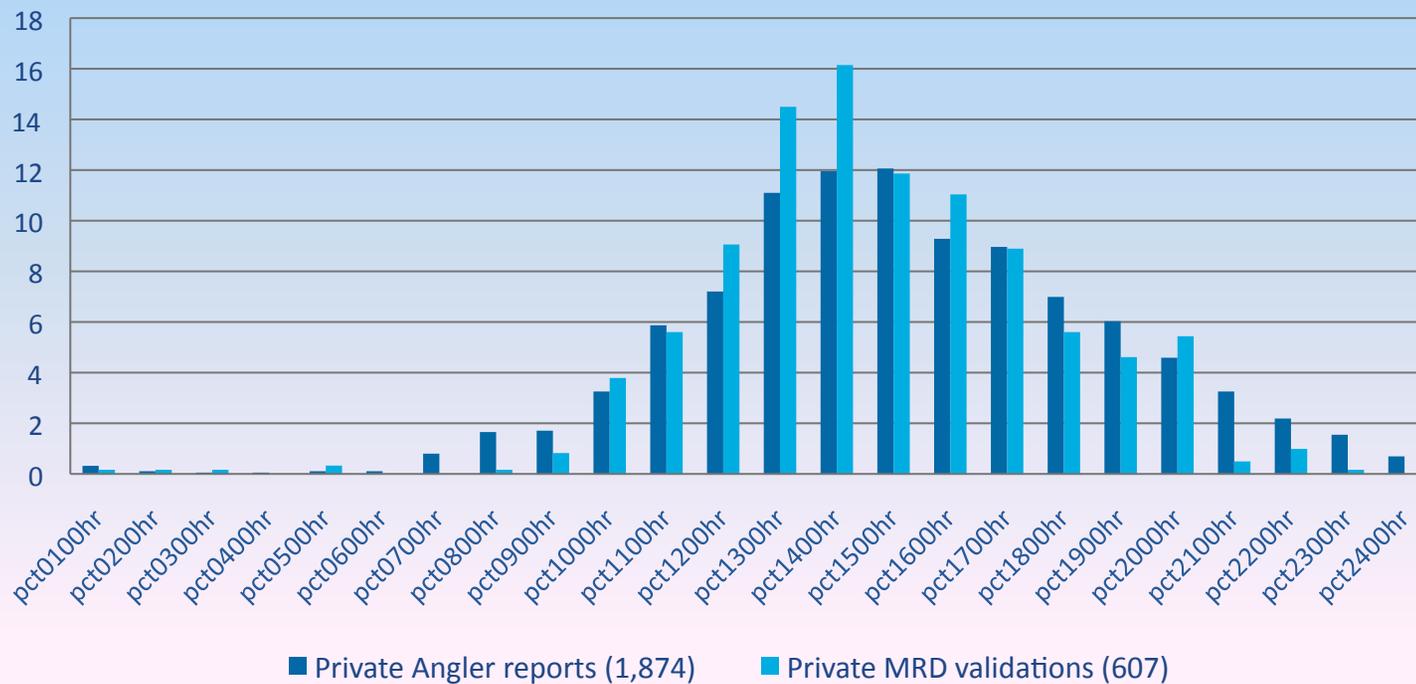
Results – Trips per vessel

Percent of reporting vessels by number of trips completed during the 2014 federal red snapper season



Results - Validation data

Percent frequency of private vessel report submissions and validations by hour for the 2014 red snapper season

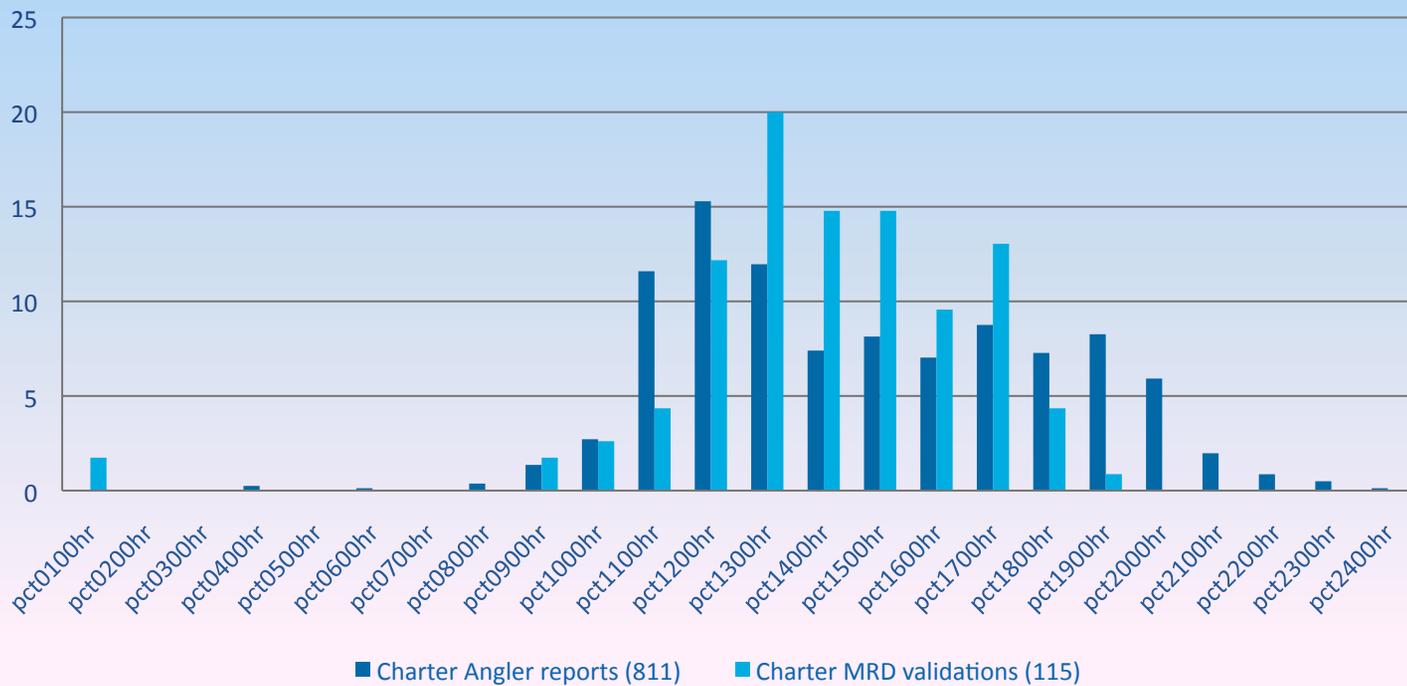


Includes data from MRIP interviews.



Results - Validation data

Percent frequency of charter vessel report submissions and validations by hour for the 2014 red snapper season



Includes data from MRIP validations.



The Alabama Marine Resources Division would like to thank all anglers who supported this program.

This program was primarily funded through a grant received from the Marine Recreational Information Program.

Alabama Marine Resources Division staff will continue to collaborate with MRIP staff to determine how to incorporate knowledge gained from this project into the MRIP survey design in order to develop more accurate estimates of harvest which are used to establish season lengths.

