



Return 'Em Right

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Commission Business Meeting

October 17, 2024



Goals

- Reduce post-release mortality
- Increase the health of fisheries
- Improve angler experiences

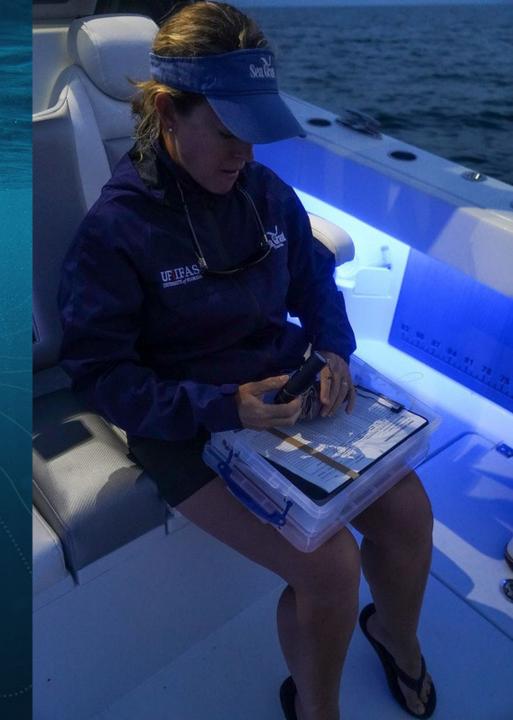
Objectives

- Provide tools and training
- Measure prevalence of use and trends
- Validate mortality rates and effectiveness of release treatments



Studies

- Four collaborative studies to assess impacts of release methods on survival
- Wide geographic range
- High priority reef fish species
- Anticipated completion in 2024



Monitoring

- Gulf At-sea Observer Program
 - Completing 3rd year FL, AL, MS
 - 1,152 for-hire recreational trips observed
 - Coordinating expansion in LA and TX
- State reef fish validation surveys
 - >3,500 trips surveyed
- Southeast Region Headboat Survey
 - Completing 2nd year
 - 8,955 trips reporting information



Outreach & Education

- Collaboration with FL Sea Grant
- 15-min online training course
- Complimentary descending devices
- Over 38,000 Gulf reef fish anglers
- Publishing the Best Release Practices
 Manual for Reef Fish

https://training.returnemright.org/



Next Steps

- Expand and enhance data collection in Gulf
- Complete research studies
- Finalize at-sea database and build out more
- Follow-up human dimensions survey 2024
- Awareness of best release practices



