

Fisheries Information Network (FIN) Report

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Commission Business Meeting
Gulf Shores, AL
October 17, 2024



Fisheries Information Network

- **2024 ongoing work included:**
 - **Recreational landings sampling**
 - **Commercial Trip Ticket Programs**
 - **Biological Sampling for Ages and Lengths**
 - **GulfFIN Program Administration**
 - **Data Management System Administration**
- **IRA Infrastructure Coordination**
- **At-Sea Observer Expansion Development**
- **Shrimp eLB Coordination**



A person is silhouetted against a bright orange sunset sky, standing on a small boat and holding a fishing rod. The boat is on a body of water with reeds in the foreground.

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- **IRA Infrastructure Agreement:**
- **Convened two workshops in 2024**
 - **Validating recreational fishing effort**
 - **Improving recreational released catch data**
 - **Final workshop in February 2025**
- **RFP published to solicit proposals for projects aimed at advancing recreational data collection efforts, ~\$7M available**

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- **At-Sea Observer Expansion:**
- **Expanding for-hire at-sea observer program into LA and TX**
 - **Collecting biological measurements from released reef fish**
 - **Observe release practices**
 - **Tag key managed species**
 - **Utilized IRA red snapper funding**



A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a person standing in a small boat on a body of water. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and shorts, and is holding a long, thin pole that extends across the water. The background is a bright orange and yellow sunset sky over a line of trees.

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- **Shrimp eLB Early Adopter Project:**
- **Received \$360k in August 2023 to start early adopter program for new effort collecting devices**
 - **Contracted with LGL Ecological Associates**
 - **Currently 204 volunteers**
 - **Completed 90 installations; 3 devices with a fourth being tested soon**
 - **Average cost: \$2,428 per installation; reimbursing cellular fees as well**
 - **Current funding should support 50 more installations**
 - **Additional monies potentially coming soon**

A person is silhouetted against a bright orange sunset sky, standing on a small boat and holding a long pole. The water is calm and reflects the warm light of the setting sun.

2025 Highlights

- **\$7.3M in GulfFIN funding proposed**
 - **Ongoing activities**
 - **Administration of FIN**
 - **Recreational sampling**
 - **Alabama Snapper Check**
 - **Commercial trip tickets**
 - **FIN Data Management System**
 - **Southeast Headboat Survey Port Sampling (based on funding availability)**

2025 Highlights

- **\$6.6M in Inflation Reduction Act funding**
 - **Improving the quality and timeliness of fishery dependent data to assist in managing red snapper**
 - **Improving GSMFC and state data management systems**
 - **Developing improved data import and quality control processes**
 - **Establish GSMFC as the centralized warehouse for FDD**
 - **Re-prioritizing partial funding to support AL/MS Creel transition plan in 2025 and 2026**



Questions???

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