

# Marine Fisheries Outreach and Education

Using funds from Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) grants and the sale of saltwater fishing licenses, the FWC's Division of Marine Fisheries Management, Outreach and Education Subsection promotes the conservation of Florida's marine resources by educating anglers about catch-and-release, habitat conservation, ethical angling, environmental stewardship, fisheries research and the public's role in fisheries management. This work is achieved through a variety of statewide programs, several of which are listed below.

## Aquatic Education Programs



**Kids' Fishing Clinics:** Statewide events that teach youth the vulnerability of Florida's marine resources, demonstrate basic fishing skills at hands-on stations and provide a positive fishing experience.

**Women's Fishing Clinics:** Statewide events that teach women basic saltwater fishing skills through hands-on skill stations, explain the role of anglers in fisheries management, demonstrate fisheries conservation techniques and offer an on-site fishing opportunity.



**Aquatic Species Collecting Workshops:** Partnership with the Florida Marine Science Educators Association (FMSEA) to conduct workshops for educators that teach best-management practices for collecting and holding aquatic organisms used for educational purposes.

**Marine Field Activities Program:** Program designed to introduce teachers and students to field activities that scientists utilize to collect marine resource information used to manage marine fisheries.



## Angler Outreach Programs

**Angler Interactions:** Staff engage anglers at fishing shows, outdoor events and club meetings; disseminate fisheries information; answer questions; promote habitat conservation, resource stewardship and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program; and explain the role of anglers in fisheries management.



**Hatchery Outreach:** Informs saltwater anglers of the role of stock enhancement in managing Florida's marine resources and how SFR funding contributes. Hatchery fishing events provide the public with an opportunity to catch marine sport fish, give instructions on basic fishing skills and teach participants to be ethical anglers and stewards of natural resources.

**Saltwater Angler Recognition Programs:** Entice anglers to target multiple species and learn more about Florida's marine resources while fishing. Participants provide photos of their catch and receive recognition for their achievements.

**Grand Slams** - Win prizes for catching three specific fish species in a 24-hour period; there are nine Grand Slam categories

**Saltwater Fish Life List** - Challenge to catch as many different fish species as possible

**Reel Big Fish** - Recognizes anglers for extraordinarily-sized catches



**Florida Saltwater Fishing Records:** Partnership with the International Game Fish Association to present awards to anglers for catching record-sized fish, including 76 marine species in both conventional and fly fishing categories.



To learn more about FWC's Saltwater Angler Recognition Programs, visit [MyFWC.com/AnglerRecognition](https://myfwc.com/anglerrecognition). For more information about Marine Fisheries Outreach and Education Programs, please contact the Division of Marine Fisheries Management at (850) 487-0554.