

## RESULTS

The following table shows the top ten species or groups by pounds harvested in 2018 by commercial and recreational anglers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida:

Gulf Coast			Atlantic Coast		
	Species or group	Landings (pounds)		Species or group	Landings (pounds)
1	Food Shrimp*	12,681,273	1	Dolphin	6,840,831
2	Striped Mullet	9,524,197	2	Red Snapper	5,730,373
3	Red Snapper	7,291,087	3	King Mackerel	5,690,853
4	Spiny Lobster	5,623,443	4	Red Drum <sup>+</sup>	4,809,909
5	King Mackerel	5,576,807	5	Bluefish	4,563,406
6	Spotted Seatrout	5,392,867	6	Spanish Mackerel	4,257,570
7	Blue Crab	5,351,436	7	Sheepshead	3,917,183
8	Red Grouper	4,896,486	8	Food Shrimp*	3,627,134
9	Sheepshead	3,996,552	9	Jack Crevalle	3,222,599
10	Spanish Mackerel	3,933,798	10	Little Tunny (Bonito)	3,035,676

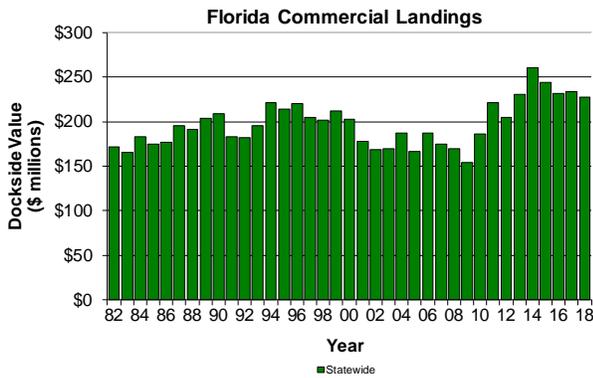
\*No recreational harvest estimate was available, so landings include only the reported commercial harvest. Food Shrimp category reported here includes only White, Brown, and Pink Shrimp species. Rock, Royal Red, and other shrimp species are included with these in the landings estimates below.

<sup>+</sup>Recreational harvest only as commercial harvest is prohibited.

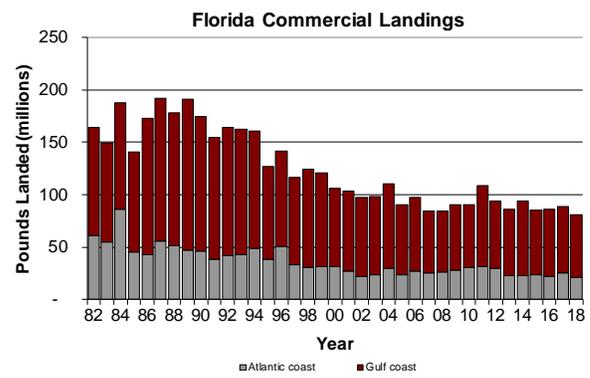
### Commercial Fishery

In 2018, the commercial fishery (not including marine life categories) landed approximately 80.5 million pounds of saltwater products from 169,603 fishing trips with a dockside value of about \$US 226.6 million (Fig. 1a). There were about 43.3 million pounds of finfish (valued at \$US 81.7 million), 14.0 million pounds of shellfish (\$US 77.8 million), 18.0 million pounds of food shrimp (\$US 41.8 million), and 1.6 million pounds of bait shrimp (\$US 7.2 million). In 2018, commercial landings and total number of fishing trips for both coasts decreased (Fig. 1b; Fig. 1c). An increased total of 24.8 million marine life organisms were harvested in 2018 for a value at \$2.6 million (Fig. 1e; Fig. 1f). To sell their catch, commercial fishers are required to possess a Saltwater Products License (SPL). This year, about 6,090 SPL-holders reported landings of wild-caught fisheries products (Fig. 1d).

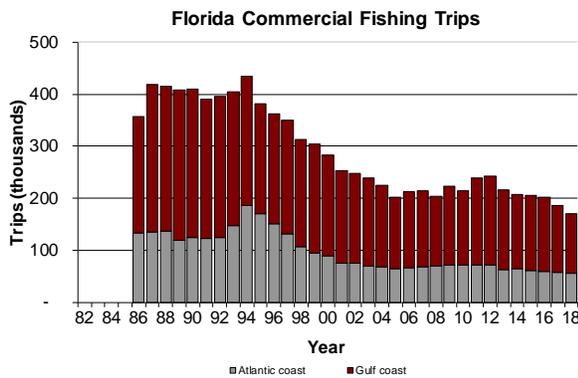
a) Statewide dockside value of commercial landings



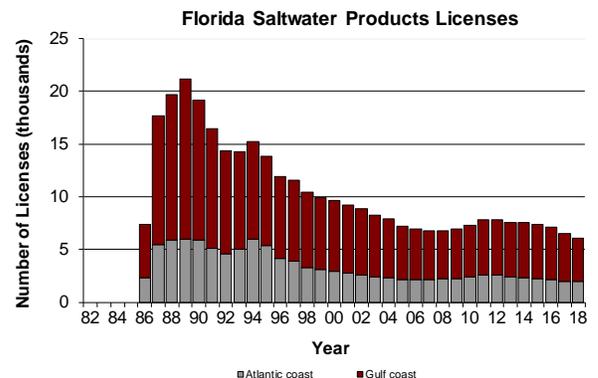
b) Pounds of commercial landings by coast



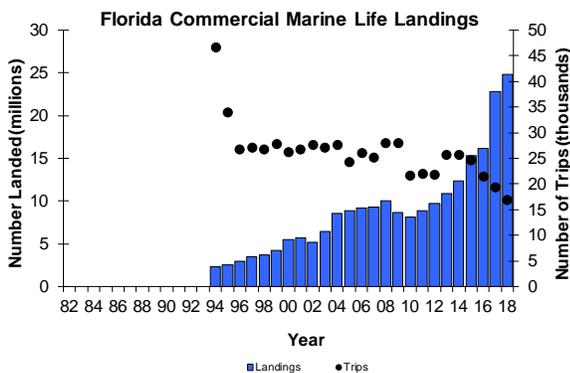
c) Number of commercial fishing trips by coast



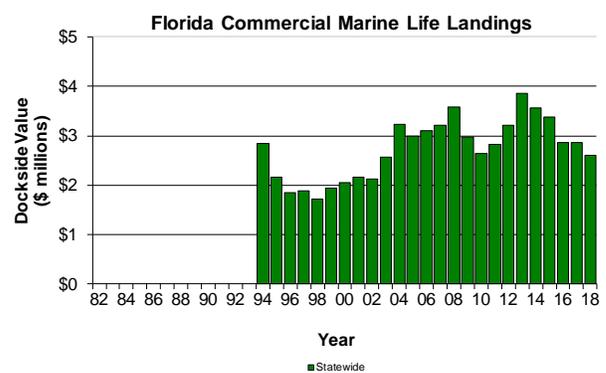
d) Number of Saltwater Products Licenses by coast



e) Marine Life Landings (numbers of organisms) and Trips



f) Statewide dockside value of comm. marine life landings

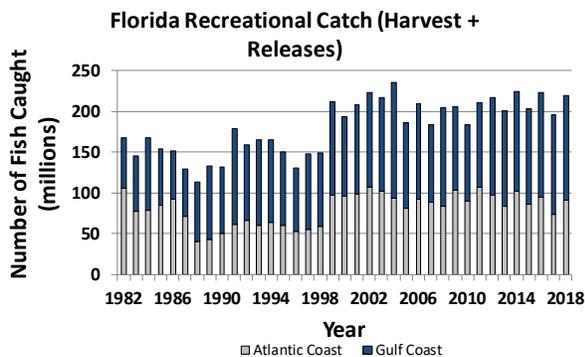


**Figure 1.** The (a) annual ex-vessel value of the food fish/shellfish commercial landings in Florida during 1982-2018, (b) commercial landings of food fish/shellfish made on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of Florida during 1982-2018, (c) annual number of commercial fishing trips reporting food fish/shellfish landings on made on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of Florida during 1986-2018, (d) the annual number of saltwater products license holders reporting landings on made on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of Florida during 1987-2018, (e) the annual number of marine life units landed and the annual number of trips reporting landings in Florida during 1994-2018, and (f) the annual ex-vessel value of the marine life landings in Florida during 1994-2018. Trips and license numbers were not available before 1986 and 1987, respectively, for the food fish/shellfish fishery and before 1994 for the marine life fishery. No landings of aquacultured products, the associated ‘trips’ or SPL license-holders who exclusively landed aquacultured products in a given year are included in these data. Note that the statistics for the marine life component of Florida’s commercial fisheries are not included in panels a-c but are included in panel d.

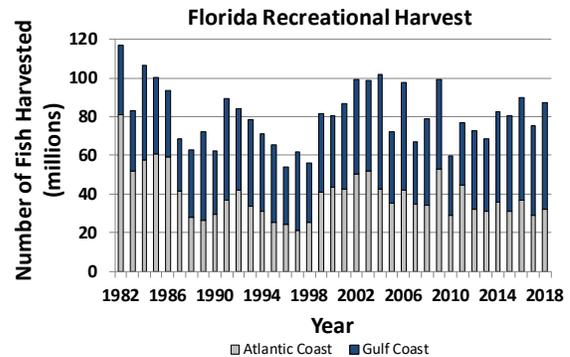
## Recreational Fishery

During the 2018–2019 fiscal year (July through June), the commission issued 428,163 Saltwater Fishing licenses to Florida residents, 230,538 Saltwater Shoreline Fishing licenses to Florida residents, 521,995 Saltwater Fishing licenses to non-residents, 208,452 combination annual licenses for freshwater and saltwater fishing or hunting, 18,174 five-year or lifetime saltwater fishing licenses, 63,618 other combination licenses that included saltwater fishing (Lifetime Sportsman and Gold Sportsman) for a total of 1.47 million licenses (McIntyre 2019). During calendar year 2018, anglers made 82.5 million trips, caught 219.7 million fish, and kept 87.1 million fish that had an estimated minimum landed weight (weights are not available for all species) of 56.4 million pounds (Fig. 2a-d). The total number of estimated fish caught by anglers has been variable but stable with a long-term upward shift in catch having started around 1999 and lasting through 2018 (Fig. 2a). Harvest trends decreased overall from 1982-1998, then increased to a variable but stable trend through 2018 (Fig. 2b). Estimated harvest in weight for available species has decreased overall in trend for the timeseries (Fig. 2c), but note that weights are not available for all fishes landed by anglers. The number of trips increased in trend from 1982-2004, then decreased slightly through 2016, before increasing slightly in 2017/2018 (Fig. 2d).

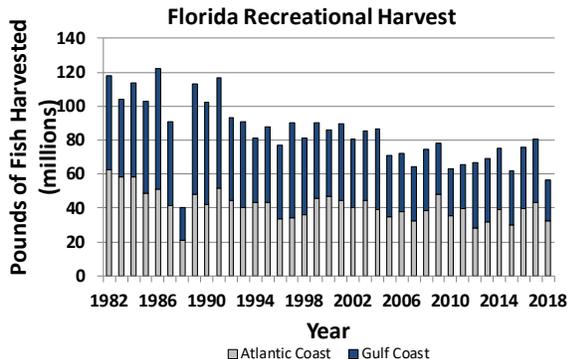
a) Total recreational catch (harvested and released fish)



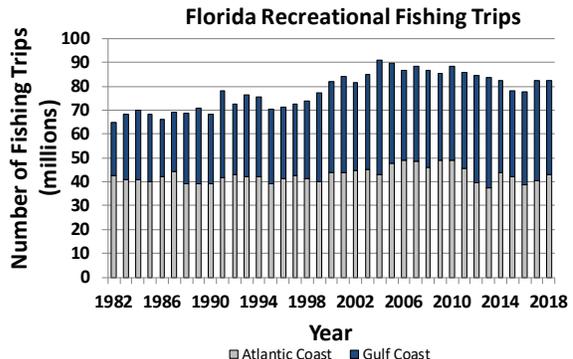
b) Number of fish harvested recreationally



c) Minimum pounds of fish harvested recreationally



d) Number of recreational fishing trips



**Figure 2.** The (a) estimated total recreational catch made on both coasts of Florida during 1982-2018, (b) estimated number of fish harvested by anglers on both coasts of Florida during 1982-2018, (c) the minimum weight of the harvest by anglers (weights are not available for all fishes landed by anglers) on both coasts of Florida during 1982-2018 and (d) the estimated number of trips taken by anglers fishing along both coasts of Florida during 1982-2018.

## Trend Analyses

We continue to remind readers that these trend summaries are **not stock assessments**. These summaries, our annual reviews of species information from a variety of programs, are an attempt to provide managers with a timely synopsis of recent changes in catch, effort, catch rates, and recruitment for a large number of species or groups, especially those for which stock assessments are not conducted. Thus, a cautionary note contained in this year's document may be dispelled with additional information in future years.

We summarize the most recent 10 years of data (2009-2018) for the annual number of trips made, number of intercepted trips made by anglers who had caught or targeted the species/group, number of FIM sets, landings, catch rates, and encounter rates for 88 species/group listed in Table 1 (Appendix A). The "status" of the species/group is presented in Table 1, with an overview in Figure 3. As with the previous reports, the catch rates for most of the categories were neither 'increasing' nor 'decreasing'. Categories were deemed 'stable' if the catch rates varied without trend. The 'stable' label includes a variety of conditions. Some categories were considered to be stable because the catch rates were similar every year over the last five years. In contrast, other categories, such as rock shrimp, were also considered stable even though their landings and catch rates were highly variable.

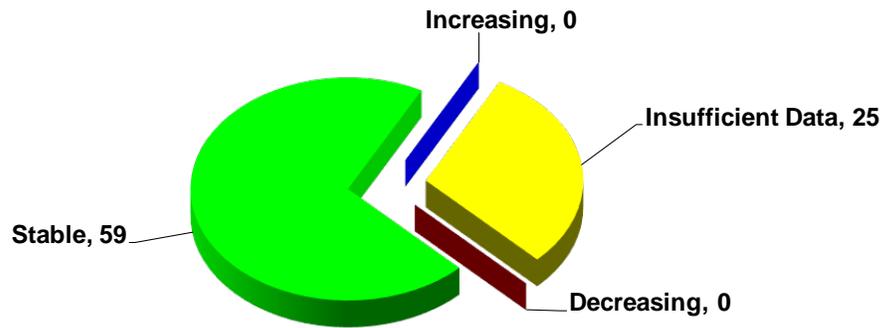
On the Atlantic coast, zero species or groups were judged to be 'increasing' this year (Fig. 3, Table 2). Last year, two species or groups were judged to be 'increasing'. Zero species or groups were judged this year to be 'decreasing'. Last year, one species or group was judged to be 'decreasing'.

Three species or groups (finfish: Blue Runner; invertebrates: sponge; food shrimp: Pink Shrimp) on the Gulf coast were judged as 'increasing' this year (Fig. 3, Table 2). There were three species or groups on the Gulf coast (finfish: Tilefishes; invertebrates: oysters; invertebrates: squid) judged to be 'decreasing' this year.

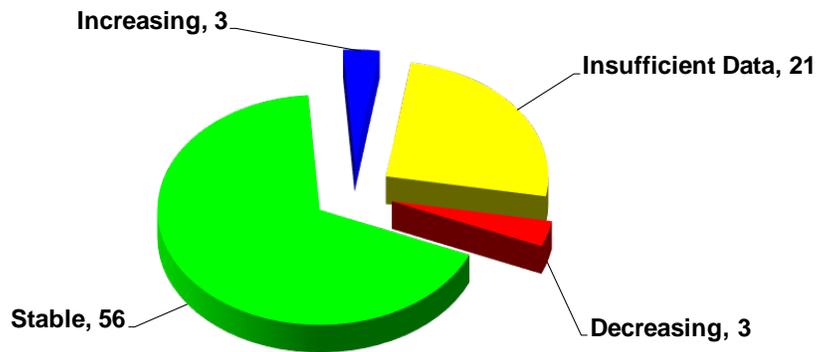
The results illustrate that the status of a category can change from one year to the next as additional data accumulate and more thorough analyses are conducted (Table 2).

The trend evaluations indicate that the one species/groups judged as 'decreasing' this year in Florida waters had been in this category for the last six years (Gulf: invertebrates: oysters). There are indications of declines in commercial oyster landings on the Gulf coast from 2013-2018. However, this may not reflect the overall abundance of oysters on Florida's Gulf coast due to the commercial oyster fishery being highly regulated.

### Atlantic coast Trends 2018



### Gulf coast Trends 2018



**Figure 3.** Trends in Florida’s fisheries in 2018 (data series from 2009-2018). See Table 1 for a complete list of species/groups or Table 2 for lists of only ‘increasing’ or ‘decreasing’ species/groups.