

FishSmart...

...For the future of fishing

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Andrew Loftus and Gil Radonski

(aloftus@andrewloftus.com)

(gcrgrmr@earthlink.net)

FishSmart...

...a program to increase the survival of
angler caught and released fish

What's the Problem?

- Release mortality severely impacts recreational fisheries
 - 211 *million* fish released annually by marine recreational anglers.
 - In some recreational fisheries, dead discards may exceed retained catch
- Science-based guidance is needed to drive actions to reduce release mortality

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Putting science into practice

- Assess our state of knowledge
 - Release mortality...what do we know?
 - Management...how is it applied?
 - Best Practices...what are they?
- Implement practices to reduce or manage for mortality

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Develop Information

- Compile information on best release practices for marine species *from existing sources* – don't reinvent the wheel
- Focusing on barotrauma on key species
 - West Coast Rockfish
 - Gulf/Southeast Red Snapper
- Identify gaps in existing knowledge

Communicate Information

- Team with Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation to *interactively* communicate with a wide angler base, enhancing current activist/scientist communication.
- Tap existing regional efforts (e.g., Sea Grant, States, NOAA) to distribute information to anglers.
- Assemble information in a format that motivates anglers and fosters stewardship
- Develop template for materials for partners to use if desired.

Promotion of Best Practices

- Best practices web casts
- National campaign featuring well known fishing identity
- Web presence with dynamic content
- Measure results!!

Engage Industry

- Work with industry to develop the basis for a "*FishSmart Tackle*" program

What's been Done?

FishSmart/Barotrauma Workshop

- Comprehensive review of science and management (www.fishsmart.org)
- General guidelines for the release of saltwater fish
- Specific release guidelines for species caught at greater depths
- Recommendations for improving management of fisheries with high release mortality
- Identify crucial gaps in research impeding ability to improve management

South Atlantic Release Mortality Used in Fishery Management Plan or Models

<u>Species</u>	<u>Release Mortality</u>
Black Sea Bass	15%
Red Drum	8%
King Mackerel	33% headboat; 20% Rec
Red Snapper	For-hire 41%; Rec 39%
Vermillion Snapper	25%
Mutton Snapper	15%
Red Grouper	20%
Black Grouper	20%
Goliath Grouper	None used
Gag Grouper	25%
Spanish Mackerel	None used
Greater Amberjack	20%
Red Porgy	8%

Gulf of Mexico Release Mortality Used in Fishery Management Plan or Models

<u>Species</u>	<u>Release Mortality</u>
Red Snapper (20-40m)	15%
Red Snapper (<40m)	40%
Gag Grouper	11-42%
Red Grouper	10%
Great Amberjack	20%
Vermillion Snapper	10%-60%

Example of Findings:

Management Guidance

- Regional workshops to develop region and species-specific guidance on handling techniques and management strategies
- Conduct exempted fishing permit studies certifying anglers for fishing in closed areas for the purposes of collecting data (e.g., population and research)
- Identify needed changes to the existing legal framework

Example of Findings:

Gaps in Knowledge

Effectiveness of recompression techniques for specific areas/fisheries

- How far down to release fish
- Quantify the impact of different release mortalities for fisheries assessments/catch estimation within season
- Species-specific effects of barotrauma, predation, warm water temperatures and hook mortality.

Communications

- FishSmart website-for program information
- Establish brand identity
- Initiated work with RBFF to integrate into web delivery
- Initiate with ASA *FishSmart* Tackle program
- Develop basis for a "code of practices."

Future: Implementation

- Regional workshops 2012
- Enhanced communications to motivate adoption of Best Practices by anglers
- *FishSmart Tackle Program*



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www.FishSmart.org

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