ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING IN GEORGIA

UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant received funding from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division to assess the economic contributions of saltwater recreational fishing to Georgia’s coastal economy. A survey was disseminated to anglers to collect saltwater fishing-related expenditure data as well as demographic and geographic data. Results of the study are provided below.

IN 2022, RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING ACTIVITIES...

- Supported 3,217 jobs
- Produced $155.1 million in GDP
- Contributed $310.6 million to Georgia’s economy

These activities include purchasing fishing tackle, such as fishing rods, lines, and lures, while also incurring additional expenses related to transportation and food.

TOP 5 INDUSTRIES (BY EMPLOYMENT) THAT ARE SUPPORTED BY SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING

- Restaurants
- Retail: Sporting Goods
- Commercial Fishing (Bait)
- Retail: Gasoline
- Retail: Alcohol and Beverage
The study revealed that the average saltwater angler is about 54 years old. Most in and out-of-state anglers are white (92%), male (89%), married (85%), live in a family household (93%), have a bachelor’s degree (32%), and have annual household income of $80,000 or more (64%).

Recreational saltwater fishing provides significant economic contributions to Georgia’s coastal economy. The socioeconomic information gathered through this study will be used to inform management practices that support the economic viability of the industry and the overall health of Georgia’s fisheries populations.