

RETURN A COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$250

South Carolina Marine Resources Division

**SC Saltwater Economic Impact & Red Drum Fishing Opinion Survey**

You have been randomly selected for a survey regarding red drum (redfish) fishing in South Carolina. We would greatly appreciate it if you would complete this questionnaire and return it as soon as possible in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. The information you provide will be used to estimate saltwater fishing effort and to determine the economic impact of recreational red drum fishing in South Carolina. Also, those returning a completed questionnaire will be **entered in a drawing for \$250, plus a free hat will be given to the first 100 respondents who return a completed questionnaire.** **ALL individual responses will be treated as confidential information.** Please call Ray Rhodes at 843-953-9384 if you desire more details about this survey. **Thank you!**

1. Approximately how many days during the **past 12 months** did you spend doing each of the following types of **saltwater fishing only** in and off of **South Carolina?**  
(Please estimate the number of days for **each type** of saltwater fishing in this table.)

Days of <b>SC saltwater</b> fishing during the <b>past 12 months</b> :	Days
a) From a privately owned boat (e.g., your boat, a friend's boat):	
b) From piers, bridges, or jetties:	
c) From the beach or bank ( <u>not</u> jetties):	
d) On a chartered boat &/or with a fishing guide:	
e) On a headboat (party boat):	
<b>TOTAL DAYS saltwater</b> fishing in/off of South Carolina during the past 12 months (Add lines a, b, c, d, & e):	

2. During the **past 12 months**, approximately how many days have you gone **freshwater** fishing in **South Carolina (SC)** and fishing in other states &/or countries:  
**Freshwater Fishing Days in SC:** \_\_\_\_; **Fishing Days NOT in or off of SC:** \_\_\_\_.
3. When you go **saltwater fishing in South Carolina**, do you typically spend at least one night way from your permanent residence?  
(Circle one) **YES** **NO (GO TO QUESTION 5)**
4. When you make your "typical" overnight trip to go saltwater fishing in South Carolina, is the primary reason for the trip to **go saltwater fishing**?  
(Circle one) **NO** **YES**
5. During the **past 12 months**, approximately how many days did you fish **in South Carolina** where you were **specifically targeting** (attempting to catch) **Red Drum<sup>1</sup>**? \_\_\_\_ Days.  
(ENTER ZERO IF YOU NEVER TARGET RED DRUM.)
6. When you catch Red Drum in South Carolina, what do you usually do with them? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER)
- |    |                                     |    |  |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|--|
| 01 | keep <u>all</u> to eat;             | 04 | tag & release <u>some</u> ; and <u>keep some</u> |
| 02 | <u>release all</u> caught;          | 05 | release some & <u>keep some</u> to eat.          |
| 03 | <u>tag</u> and release <u>all</u> ; |    |  |

(Please continue to the next page.)

<sup>1</sup> Other common names for the "Red Drum" include spot-tail bass, redfish and channel bass.

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7. **IF** you were specifically targeting (attempting to catch) **red drum** during 2004, approximately how much did you typically spend on a one-day red drum fishing **trip** in South Carolina? If you shared expenses with others, only report your share of the expenses.

TYPE OF EXPENSE	PERSONAL EXPENDITURE
Auto/Truck Fuel	\$
Boat Fuel & Oil (Your share)	\$
Meals & drinks: Restaurants & bars	\$
Drinks & food: Convenience/grocery stores	\$
Bait	\$
Ice	\$
Fishing tackle & gear purchased for this trip	\$
Lodging (e.g. motel) or Camping Fees	\$
Charter, headboat, or fishing guide fees	\$
Access & boat launching fees	\$
Other:	\$
Other:	\$

8. Do you own and/or co-own power boats that were **primarily** used for **saltwater recreational** fishing during the past 12 months?:  
(Circle one) **YES** (Go to Question 9)      **NO** (Go to Section B)

9. IF "**YES**", please list the length, horsepower (HP), & make of these boats:

#	Length	HP	Boat Make (Brand)
1.			
2.			

**B.** This section seeks your opinion on a possible way of funding of red drum stocking in South Carolina. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers, and your responses are confidential. Please think carefully about each question and give your best answers.

The Marine Resources Division (**MRD**) is experimenting with the stocking of hatchery raised Red Drum in South Carolina. It is not yet known whether stocking Red Drum will offer long term improvement in the local populations and/or directly benefit you as a recreational angler. Only if the results of the Red Drum stocking research indicate stocking is an appropriate technique for enhancing the stock will MRD recommend that a statewide stocking program be considered. Even if Red Drum stocking is an effective fishery management tool, MRD may also need help funding a comprehensive stocking program. **One possible funding approach would be to establish a Red Drum Stocking Fund and ask SC saltwater anglers to voluntarily make an annual "check-off" contribution to a Red Drum Stocking Fund on their South Carolina tax returns.**

(Please continue to the next page.)



**B.1.** Would you personally be willing to make an annual and voluntary contribution of **\$50.00** to a special fund to support<sup>2</sup> a SC Red Drum stocking program? (Please circle ONE response):

a. YES → GO TO Question B.2.

b. NO → SKIP to Question B.3.

**B.2.** By circling "Yes", you think you would annually contribute **\$50.00** to a special fund to support a Red Drum stocking program in South Carolina. We would like to know how sure you are of that. On a scale of "1" to "10", where "1" is "Very Uncertain" and "10" is "Very Certain," how certain are you that you would actually contribute **\$50.00 per year** to a special fund to help support a Red Drum stocking program? (Please circle ONE response.):

VERY  
UNCERTAIN

VERY  
CERTAIN

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**B.3.** By answering "NO" to Question B.1, you believe you would not make an annual contribution of **\$50.00** to help support a Red Drum stocking program in South Carolina. Which of the following best describes your "NO" response to Question B.1? (Please circle the ONE best response for you.)

- I have no interest in Red Drum stocking because I do not normally fish for Red Drum in South Carolina.
- I have some interest in Red Drum stocking, but I would not be interested in making an annual contribution to help support a SC Red Drum stocking program.
- I am willing to voluntarily make an annual contribution, but it would need to cost less than **\$50.00** per year.
- I have no interest in Red Drum stocking because I would prefer to only have wild Red Drum stocks in South Carolina.

**C.** The following questions will provide information that will help us better understand who fishes in South Carolina and to forecast future demand for recreational fishing. Again, **all responses are strictly confidential.**

- What year were you born? 19\_\_\_\_\_
- What is the highest level of education you have completed (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER)?  
 01 -- Some high school      02- High School Graduate  
 03 -- 2-year degree or technical school      04 - Some college  
 05 -- College graduate      06- Professional or Postgraduate Degree  
 (Please continue to the next page.)

<sup>2</sup> IF this funding approach were used, all contributions to this Fund could be used exclusively to help support the stocking of Red Drum in South Carolina. This does not imply that the SC Department of Natural Resources is currently planning to endorse, recommend, or establish such a fund or other new funding approaches. **Those not required to file a SC tax return (e.g. non-residents) could make an annual contribution directly to this Fund.**

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3. What best describes your employment status? (Please check all that apply.)  
☐ Unemployed                      ☐ Employed full-time                      ☐ Employed part-time  
☐ Full-time homemaker                      ☐ Retired                      ☐ Student (full-time)  
☐ Student (part-time)                      ☐ Military (Full-time)                      ☐ Self-employed
4. Are you currently **employed** by and/or own a business related to the **SC recreational fishing industry** (e.g. a fishing guide, tackle shop employee, etc.)? (Circle One): **NO**    **YES**
5. Are you...? (Circle One)    Male                      Female
6. What is your **ethnic background (Check One)**?  
☐ White                      ☐ Black/African-American                      ☐ Hispanic/Spanish  
☐ Asian/Pacific Islander                      ☐ American Indian                      ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Please circle the category below that describes your household's total annual income before taxes in 2003. **(CIRCLE ONE CATEGORY)**  
**01** \$15,599 or under                      **05** \$62,400 - \$77,999                      **09** \$124,800 - \$139,999  
**02** \$15,600 - \$31,199                      **06** \$78,000 - \$93,599                      **10** Greater than \$140,000  
**03** \$31,200 - \$46,799                      **07** \$93,600 - \$109,199  
**04** \$46,800 - \$62,399                      **08** 109,200 - \$124,799
8. When you filed your South Carolina income return (e.g. SC1040) for the 2003 tax year, did you receive a SC state tax refund? (Circle One):  
**YES (Go to Question 8.b.)**    **NO**                      **N/A** - I did not file a SC return (e.g. not a SC resident).
- 8.b. IF "YES",** approximately how much was that refund? (Circle One Category):  
**01:** \$1 - \$100    **02:** \$101 - \$250    **03:** \$251 - \$500    **04:** \$501 - \$1000    **05:** Over \$1000
9. Was this survey completed by the person to whom it was mailed? (Circle One) **YES**    **NO**
10. Your phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ (This phone number will be used to contact you if you win a drawing.)

**THANK YOU FOR GIVING YOUR TIME TO FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. PLEASE PUT IT INTO THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE AND MAIL IT BACK TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** Your name will be entered in our drawing (See the enclosed cover letter for drawing rules). If you do not have a post-paid envelope, please mail to Ray Rhodes, SC Marine Resources Center, PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422-2559. Call Ray Rhodes at 843-953-9384 if you desire additional details about this survey. **THANK YOU!**

☐ Please check this if you would like to receive a summary of the survey results.

☐ Please check this if you would like to receive a free Red Drum hat if you qualify. Again, the **first 100 respondents to return a completed questionnaire** (i.e. all sections are completed) will qualify to receive a free Red Drum hat.

Please print the mailing address you would like us to use if you qualify to receive a hat.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GIVE ANY COMMENTS YOU DESIRE IN THE AREA BELOW.**
