

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

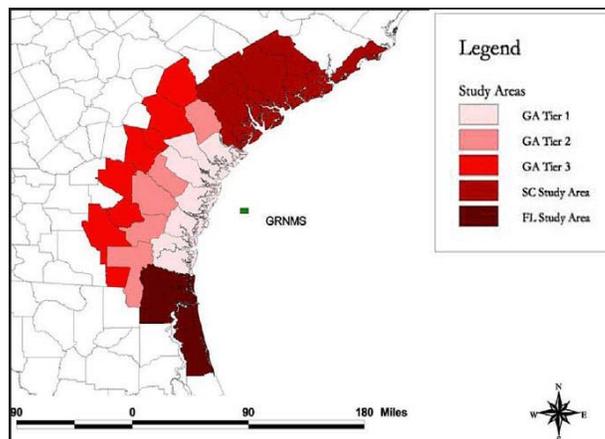
Socioeconomics

Management Issue

Managers need to understand the socioeconomic importance of the resources of Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS or Sanctuary) in order to inform management decisions.

Description

GRNMS managers need better information on the socioeconomic trends in coastal area population growth, development and use in order to project how these changes might impact resource use in the sanctuary. This information will help inform management decisions.



Study area indicating the coastal counties surveyed in a recent socioeconomic assessment. Map credit: ONMS

Questions and Information Needs

- 1) What is the value of fish caught in GRNMS?
- 2) What species are recreational fishermen targeting in the Sanctuary?
- 3) What is the annual catch of targeted species in the Sanctuary?
- 4) What is the size distribution of fish caught in the Sanctuary (by species)?
- 5) What is the level of bycatch for recreational fishing in the Sanctuary?
- 6) What is the average expenditure of a recreational fishing trip to the Sanctuary?
- 7) What other recreational activities take place in the Sanctuary (e.g. private-boat SCUBA diving) and what are the costs/user/day for such activities?
- 8) What is the non-use value of protecting the resources in the absence of extractable activities?

Scientific Approach and Actions

- Conduct a socioeconomic use survey to identify, summarize and characterize existing uses (both extractive and non-extractive)
- Conduct on-water and telephone surveys to identify the level of effort and catch type and quantity (including catch and release)
- Investigate pelagic and bottom fishing effort

Potential Key Partners and Information Sources

Georgia Department of Natural Resources; NOAA Office of Law Enforcement; Fishing clubs/diving clubs/associations; Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Chief Economist; Conservation groups/organizations

Management Support Products

- Draft scientific papers and reports
- Present at scientific meetings, workshops, symposia and conferences
- Develop education and outreach products to inform general public about research area issues

Updated: 5/1/2010

For More Information -- <http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/assessment>

Planned Use of Products and Actions

- Project future trends in human uses of the Sanctuary
- Predict, plan and design appropriate management strategies for human uses of the Sanctuary that could have a significant impact on GRNMS, Georgia and adjacent coastal area resources.

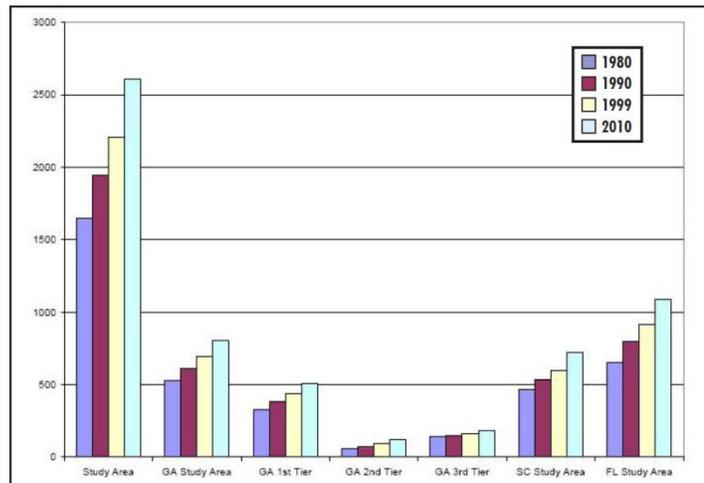
Program References

GRNMS Management Plan

- Strategy RM-4: Maintain and Enhance Monitoring Programs - Activity F: Expand and update socioeconomic assessment.

GRNMS Condition Report

- Questions 4, 6, 8, 10, 13 and 14



Graph indicating projected population growth along the three-tier Georgia coastal counties as compared to neighboring South Carolina and Florida study areas. Graphic credit: ONMS

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