

# Socioeconomic Assessment of Georgia Offshore Spearfishing



# Dive Charter Interviews

**In September 2007, surveys were completed of businesses and organizations offering scuba diving trips along the Georgia coast. Four charter scuba diving operations and one scuba diving club were interviewed.**

**Survey included:**

- operating profiles**
- preferred diving locations and methods**
- detailed business data (revenue and costs)**
- opinions**

**A total of 10 businesses offering scuba diving charter trips at some point during the past 5 years off the Georgia coast were identified.**

**Of these, 4 currently remain in business. Three are associated with dive shops and one is charter boat only.**

**The 6 others have either gone out of business, moved away from the area, or are dive shops that no longer operate charter trips.**



# Key Findings

**No dive charters made spearfishing trips to GRNMS in recent years and none plan to in the future.**

**A scuba club reported one spearfishing trip (1 day, six divers) a year to GRNMS.**

**A small amount (no more than 1 percent of all fishing) of private boat based spearfishing at GRNMS can be assumed, but has not been documented.**

**The combination of no charter spearfishing activity at GRNMS and the abundant substitution opportunities lead to the conclusion that a prohibition on spearfishing at GRNMS would result in no measurable economic impact.**



# Key Findings

In 2007, dive charters reported a total of 1,747 person days of scuba diving off the Georgia coast.

non-consumptive (no spearfishing) trips	55 percent
Consumptive (spearfishing) trips, and	44 percent
sightseeing/sportfishing	1 percent



# Financial Information

The table below summarizes the revenue and operating costs of the Georgia offshore scuba diving charter fleet as of 2007. Charter operations appear to be a break even business with most stating that they use it to get customers in the dive shop.

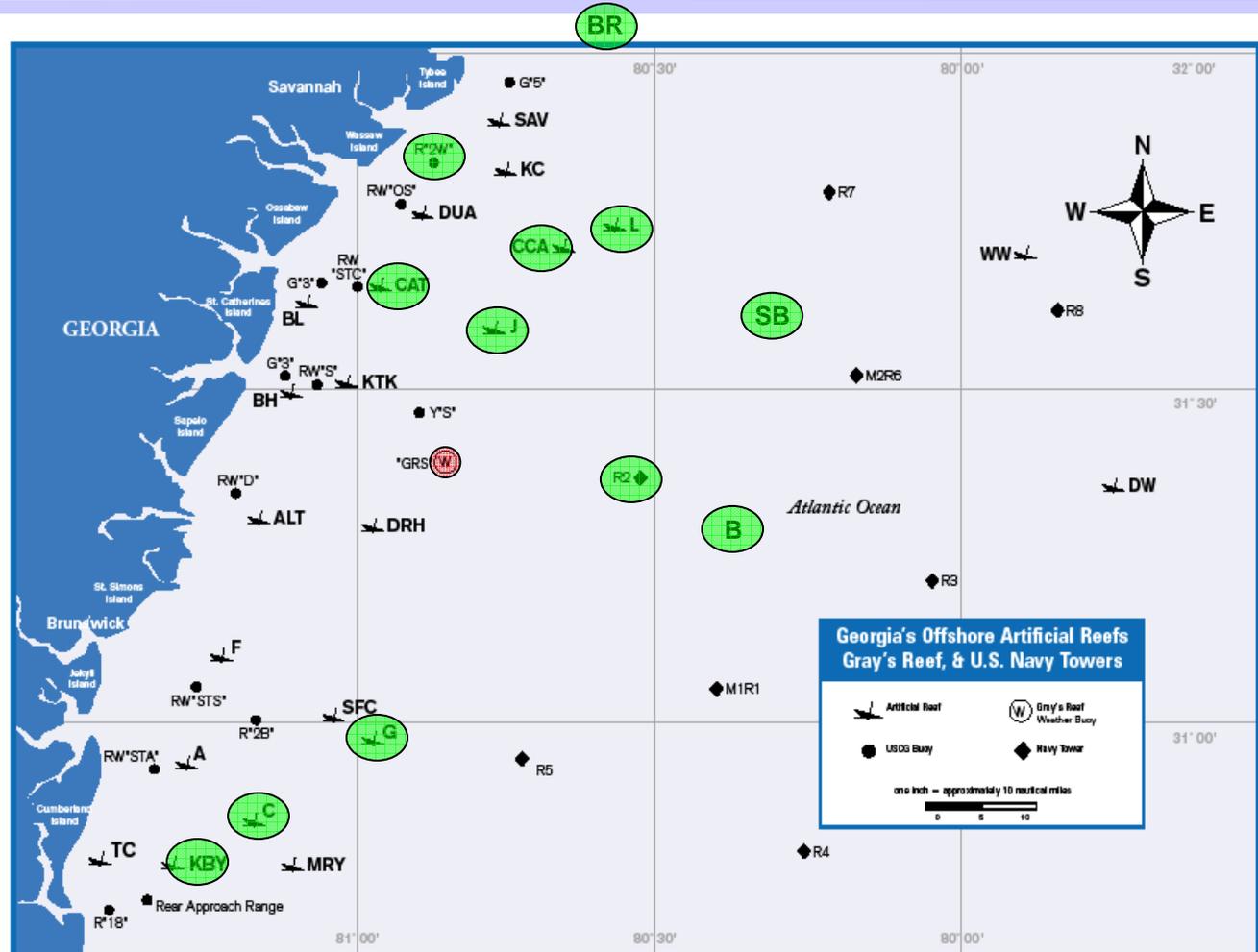
It is important to note that major variable and unexpected costs are not factored in to the table. These variable costs typically include major engine repair or replacement and equipment repair or replacement.

<b>Gross Revenue from Charter Diving</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Operating Costs</b>	
Wages, Salaries and Benefits	3,500
Fuel	21,180
Repair & Maintenance	6,200
Equipment Rental and Leasing	41,920
Dock	7,200
Insurance	6,800
Interest Payments	15,600
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	<b>101,800</b>
<b>Loss from Charter Diving</b>	<b>(1,800)</b>



# Scuba Diving Locations

Area	% of Trips
J	22.2
GRNMS	-
Betsy Ross	0.1
CCA	0.3
Area A	5.8
Snapper Banks	0.2
L	1.1
CAT	0.2
R2W	0.3
G	10.5
C	10.5
KBY	14.0
Unmarked Wrecks	34.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>



14

15



## Comments from Interviews

No GR in two years

Don't plan on going back to GR

Not enough reef at GR, too patchy

Drift dive only at GR, too difficult

The better spots are Snapper Banks and J Reef

Don't trust people diving at GR

Too many sharks at GR

Visibility not reliable at GR

GR is valuable for advertising to out of state

customers, then we take them to better locations

Make no money running dive charter business in GA,

it just gets customers into the store

