



EXPLANATION OF RESEARCH

Title of Study: Exploring the Knowledge and Experiences of Florida Anglers as a Source of Local Ecosystem Information

Principal Investigator: Christopher Crowder

Other Investigator(s): Geoffrey Cook

Faculty Supervisor: Geoffrey Cook

Special Note: This work is not affiliated with FWC, NOAA, or SAFMC in any fashion nor is being used to make regulatory decisions.

You are receiving this email as you were randomly selected from the FWC fishing license database. You are being invited to take part in a research study. Whether you take part is up to you.

We invite you to take part in a research study because you are a person that utilizes Florida's fishing resources and/or are interested in the health of local marine ecosystems. Our main goal is to make sure sport fish populations along the east coast of Florida are healthy and sustainable as well as promoting the best possible fishing experience in the Florida. We are asking you to be in this research study because your contribution will assist in the understanding Florida's fish population as well as knowledge and opinions of the people that utilize Florida's fishing resource.

We expect that you will be in this research study for no more than 30 minutes. You will be asked to answer a series of questions related to your thoughts and opinions on the current status of Florida's fishing resources and how they are managed. We do not expect any direct benefits to you due to your participation.

You must be 18 years of age or older and either someone who fishes in the state of Florida or a community member interested in marine ecosystem health to take part in this research study.

Please do not include your name or other information that could be used to identify you in your survey responses. We do not collect any personal information about you directly from the survey, but we may use your zip code and age from the FWC database in our analysis. Your name, phone number, and specific address is not used in any fashion and will not be shared.

All data collected in this study will be stored for at least 5 years after study closure, per UCF policy.

Study contact for questions about the study or to report a problem: If you have questions, concerns, or complaints: *Christopher, Graduate Student in Department of Biology, Christopher.crowder@ucf.edu* or *Geoffrey Cook, Faculty Supervisor, Department of Biology Geoffrey.cook@ucf.edu*. You may also contact UCF Angler Science at *UCFAnglerScience@ucf.edu*, which will be received by one of the study investigators listing above.

IRB contact about your rights in this study or to report a complaint: If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or have concerns about the conduct of this study, please contact Institutional Review Board (IRB), University of Central Florida, Office of Research, 12201 Research Parkway, Suite 501, Orlando, FL 32826-3246 or by telephone at (407) 823-2901, or email *irb@ucf.edu*.



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