2024 Angler Travel and Targeting Summary: Manatee County

Prepared for Manatee County by Ed Camp ([edvcamp@ufl.edu](mailto:edvcamp@ufl.edu)) Assistant Professor University of Florida, and Angela Collins, Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent Manatee and Hillsborough Counties, [abcollins@ufl.edu](mailto:abcollins@ufl.edu)

### How to use this summary

This summary can inform how to **advertise or promote local fishing and fishing-based tourism specifically in Manatee County**. The report describes information about where people come from when they fish Manatee County, and what they fish for. Where people come from (the “origin” of their fishing trip) may help identify advertising locations. The species they fish for, or “target” may inform the photos or text to use in advertisements or other outputs. All data here come from the National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Recreational Information Program. Additional information can be found in the full *Angler Travel and Targeting Report: 2021 Manatee County*, which Angela Collins can provide you.

### Where people come from to fish Manatee County

#### Table 1: Out-of-state angler origins comparison

| Trips to Florida | Prop. | Trips to Tampa Bay | Prop. | Trips to Manatee County | Prop. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Georgia | 0.148 | Not Available | 0.090 | Not Available | 0.119 |
| Alabama | 0.063 | Ohio | 0.079 | Ohio | 0.089 |
| Texas | 0.057 | Michigan | 0.071 | Michigan | 0.077 |
| Not Available | 0.057 | Illinois | 0.070 | Georgia | 0.067 |
| Tennessee | 0.049 | Georgia | 0.058 | Illinois | 0.066 |

**Table 1. The origins of out-of-state angler trips for Florida, the region, and specifically Manatee County, for 2013-2023.**  
**Columns 1-2** show the top 5 out-of-state origins of angler trips throughout Florida state. **Columns 3-4** show the top out-of-state origins for just trips made to the region. **Columns 5-6** show the top out-of-state origins for trips made to just Manatee County. Comparing the columns shows how Manatee County attracts visitors relative to the surrounding region or state. “Not Available” mostly describes visitors from outside the U.S.

#### Table 2: In-state angler origin comparison

| Out-of-county Orig | Prop. | Any Orig. | Prop. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hillsborough | 0.374 | Manatee | 0.466 |
| Polk | 0.167 | Hillsborough | 0.200 |
| Pinellas | 0.104 | Polk | 0.089 |
| Sarasota | 0.088 | Pinellas | 0.056 |
| Pasco | 0.040 | Sarasota | 0.047 |

**Table 2. The origins of Florida resident anglers fishing in Manatee County, for 2013-2023.**  
This table shows where Florida resident anglers come from when they fish Manatee County. **Columns 1 & 2**  show origins of trips in Manatee County by anglers who are **not** residents of Manatee County, and **columns 3 & 4**  show origins of **all** Florida-resident trips in Manatee County. This information can be used to identifying in-state advertising.

### What people fish for in Manatee County

#### Table 3: Proportion of species targeted, comparing county to state

| All Manatee County trips | Prop. | In county trips | Prop. | Out of county trips | Prop. | Out of state trips | Prop. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No Target | 0.525 | No Target | 0.463 | No Target | 0.561 | No Target | 0.620 |
| Spanish mackerel | 0.082 | Common snook | 0.108 | Spanish mackerel | 0.099 | Spanish mackerel | 0.090 |
| Common snook | 0.074 | Red drum | 0.083 | Common snook | 0.055 | Common snook | 0.063 |
| Red drum | 0.061 | Spotted seatrout | 0.055 | Gray snapper | 0.053 | Gray snapper | 0.045 |
| Gray snapper | 0.052 | Gray snapper | 0.051 | Red drum | 0.048 | Sheepshead | 0.041 |

**Table 3. Proportions of species targeted by fishing trips made in Manatee County by anglers from various origins, for 2013-2023.**  
This table shows the top 5 species anglers fish in Manatee County, depending on where they live. **Columns 1-2** shows what anglers fish for in Manatee County regardless of where they come from. **Columns 3-4** shows what Manatee County resident anglers fish for, **Columns 5-6** shows what anglers who live in Florida but not Manatee County fish for, and **Columns 7-8** shows what out-of-state anglers fish for. The information here can be used to fine-tune advertising (photos and text) or informational content for out-of-county or out-of-state anglers.