

Angler Focus Group Protocol

Objectives of the Focus Group (5 Min.)

Distribute and collect informed consent document.

Recording Marker

Explain that:

- Participation in this focus group is completely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time with consequence
- What we discuss in this session should remain among us. We should not reveal what we discuss outside this group.
- The Extension Service is a collaborative effort of the state of Florida, the local county, and the University of Florida. We do not play any role in the creation or enforcement of laws or regulations about fishing. On the contrary, our goals are educational. We provide information to the public.
- Our goal is to improve the educational programs offered by the Extension Service for anglers in this region. Our objective with this focus group is **NOT** to know what you do personally, but rather to get your perspective about what anglers in this area in general know or do. Therefore, we ask that you think about anglers in general and not your own personal experiences during these discussions.
- We also ask that you actively discuss the topics we mention among yourselves. My role as moderator is like the conductor of a train – to try to guide the discussion so that we cover four important topics. We hope that our presence does not impede or affect your discussions.

Topic One: Species preference and fish handling (20 Min)

Objective: Know what species of fish are most commonly caught and understand what anglers do to protect these species and their habitat

Plastic models of six or seven species of fish commonly caught in the region are shown. The participants are asked to select the three species most commonly caught, in order of frequency. Conduct as a group activity where they reach consensus.

1. Which **three** of these kinds of fish are caught mostly common in this area?
(Moderator to get local names used and indicate which model number to identify by scientific name later)
2. Do anglers commonly release any of these three types of fish when they catch them?

Overall Response Determined by Moderator

Rarely

Sometimes

Often

- a. If **YES**, why do they release them?
 - i. Follow-up: What are the characteristics of this kind of fish that they do not like? Why don't they want them?

- b. If **NO**, do anglers ever release a fish?
 - i. Follow-up: Why would someone release a fish?

- 3. If an angler decides to release a fish, is he likely to be concerned about the fish's well-being – apt to try not to damage the fish? (Be prepared to explain what kinds of injuries can occur if group seems confused)

- a. **Regardless of response, ask participants as a group to use the plastic model of a fish to show how someone would go about releasing a fish.**

Moderator rating of skill in fish release

Low Moderate High

Protective practices observed

Harmful practices observed

4. Do anglers do things to try to protect the fishing grounds, like things to keep the fishing area clean or safe?

- a. Follow-up: What do people do with their trash, for example?

- b. Follow-up: What do people do with used fishing line?

Topic Two: Reasons for fishing (15 Min)

Objective: Understand the importance of fishing for immigrant anglers and their families

1. Why do these anglers like to fish? What are their motivations for fishing?
 - a. Follow-up: Do you think the majority of anglers fish primarily for fun or from necessity?
 - b. Follow-up: How important is it for most anglers to provide fish to their family, neighbors or friends? **(Probe to see if they give away a lot of fish to friends and neighbors and if so what conditions prompt the behavior – e.g., not a species their family likes to consume, big catch, etc.)**
 - c. Follow-up: Do you think a family tradition of fishing plays an important role? **Probe if positive to get at least two or three examples of how tradition influences their motivations for fishing.**