

Size frequency distribution of greater amberjack from dockside sampling of
commercial landings in the Gulf of Mexico 1986-2003 (TIP data set)

by

Guillermo A. Diaz

National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Dr.
Miami, FL 33149

Sustainable Fisheries Division contribution SFD-2005-016

Table 1 shows the number of fish sampled from commercial landings by state and year. Around 70% of all landings sampled occurred in FL. From 1984 to 1987 only landings in LA were sampled. Landings from this state were consistently sampled until 1997. FL landings were regularly sampled from 1990. Landings from the other Gulf states were rarely sampled.

Table 1: Number of greater amberjack sampled from commercial landings by state and year.

Year	TX	LA	MS	AL	FL	Total
1984		146				146
1985		260				260
1986		124				124
1987		37				37
1988		52			1	66
1989		196			14	210
1990	13	259			355	627
1991		225			234	459
1992	104	488			347	939
1993	59	223	23		447	752
1994	17	326	6		653	1,002
1995	22	247			472	741
1996	37	185			321	543
1997	9	130			455	594
1998	1	1	2		602	606
1999	3	6	14		813	836
2000			1		822	823
2001		4			441	445
2002		24	3		763	790
2003		19	1	62	497	579
2004	1	21		8	288	318
Total	266	2,973	50	70	7,538	10,897

The same information by gear type is presented in Table 2. Gear types longline and handline accounted for 89% and 10.6% of the total number of fish sampled, respectively. Landings from longline gear were not sampled during 1989. That same year, samples were taken from landings reported from gillnet. It is recommended to investigate if the samples reported from gillnet are actually from longline

because no landings were reported from gillnet in 1989.

Table 2: Number of greater amberjack sampled from commercial landings by gear type and year.

Year	Gillnet	Handline	Longline	Total
1984		133	13	146
1985		179	81	260
1986		109	15	124
1987		25	12	37
1988		49	17	66
1989	60	150		210
1990		580	47	627
1991		424	35	459
1992		865	74	939
1993		692	60	752
1994	1	961	40	1,002
1995		692	49	741
1996		510	33	543
1997		555	39	594
1998		504	97	601
1999		690	146	836
2000		707	116	823
2001		387	58	445
2002		728	62	790
2003		493	86	579
2004		241	72	313
Total	61	9,674	1,152	10,887

Figure 1 shows relative size frequency distribution for greater amberjack by gear type (longline and handline) by year. Landings from longline gear tend to have higher proportion of larger greater amberjack than landings from handline gear.

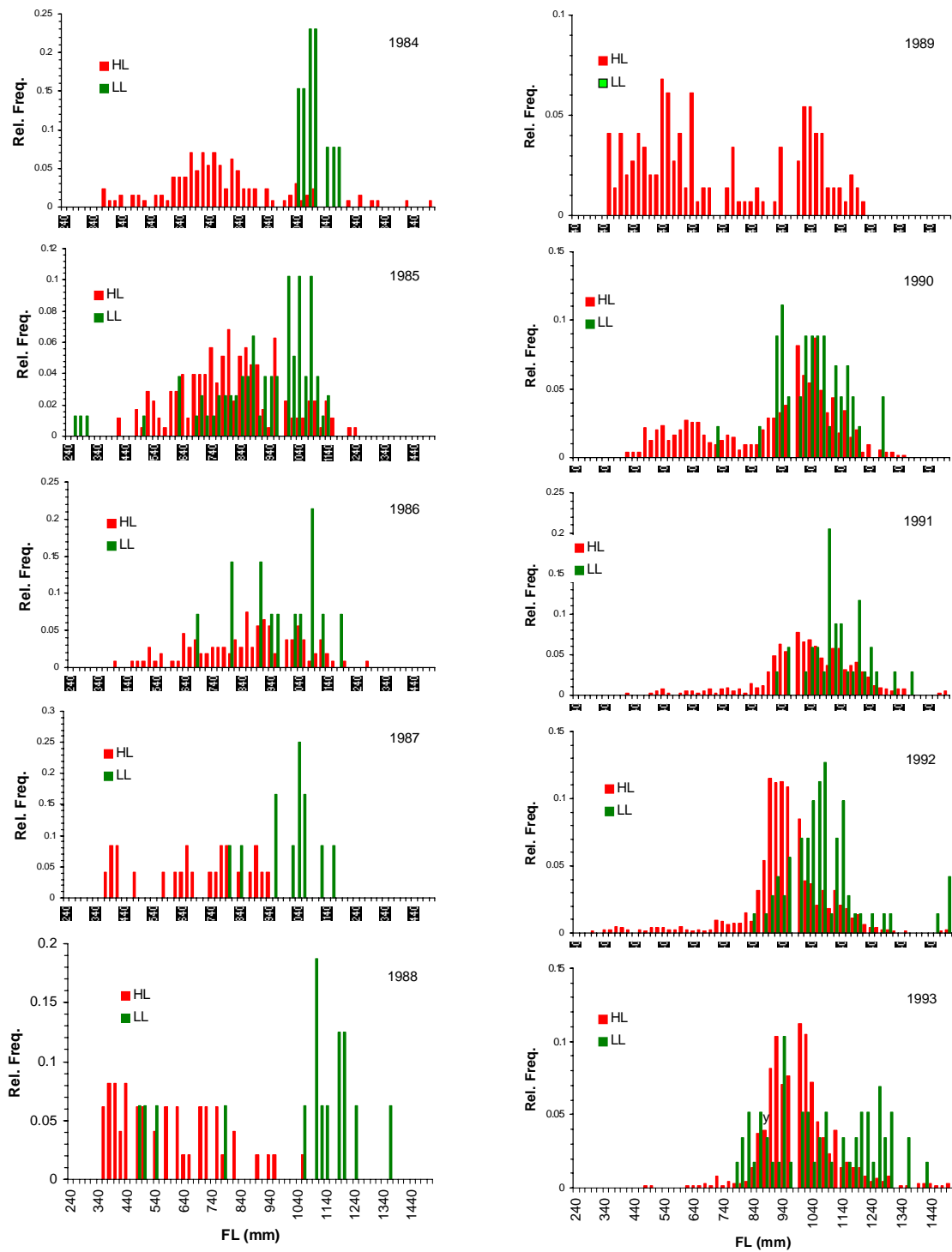


Figure 1: Relative size frequency distribution of greater amberjack sampled from longline (LL) and handline (HG) gears.

Figure 1 (continued)

