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Comments about Puerto Rico's Historical Landings and Biostatistics Data 1988-2006.

As you requested by phone last 5/29/2007, I review the the changes in the Puerto Rico's Commercial Fishery Statistics Program (CFSP) since 1988-2006. During this period I have been the principal investigator of the CFSP. The landings methodology had some minor changes to improve the program. Some changes includes more species common names were added to the report ticket (1995), single trip reports only were accepted (2003). On the other hand, the estimate of the non-reported landings data has been doing thru the correction factor for each year. The trip ticket number to was added at 2004, The landings was voluntarily at the beginning of the Program at 1969 since 2004, when was mandatory by law 278 of November 29th, 1998 and by Puerto Rico's Fishing Regulation 6768.

The biostatistics data has been collected randomly by CFSP port samplers. However, most data is obtained at the most active fishing centers around Puerto Rico. Since 1988-1998, five to six port samplers were collected the data. From 1998-2006, four port samplers and principal investigator collected the data. During the last moon of February and March, thru the years of 1993-2005, two port samplers and principal investigator visited Vieques Island to collect all landings data, however during this time occurred the tiger grouper aggregation that was fished by Vieques commercial fishers. In the mentioned events, commercial SCUBA diving fishers landed yellowfin grouper, and reported to the CFSP personnel that they observed this species aggregation. After 2000, the tiger grouper fishery at Vieques have been not heavily fished as in the past.