

Marine Sportfish Carcass Recovery Project: (Activity Code 7)

Abstract:

The Georgia Marine Sportfish Carcass Recovery Project takes advantage of the fishing efforts of hundreds of anglers by turning filleted fish carcasses that anglers would normally discard into a source of much needed data on Georgia's marine sportfish. Chest freezers are placed near the fish cleaning stations at selected coastal Georgia locations. Cooperating anglers bag the filleted carcasses with head and tail intact with a completed angler information card, and place them in the freezer. From 1997 through 2007, 898 different anglers have donated 2,825 red drum carcasses to 14 coastal freezer sites to be processed for age estimates.

Narrative:

In the fall of 1997 the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) initiated the Marine Sportfish Carcass Recovery Project. This project takes advantage of the fishing efforts of hundreds of anglers by turning filleted fish carcasses that anglers would normally discard into a source of much needed data on Georgia's marine sportfish. The project is a true partnership of saltwater anglers, marine businesses, conservation groups, and the Coastal Resources Division (CRD).

The approach is simple, yet effective. Chest freezers are placed near the fish cleaning stations at selected locations along the Georgia coast. Each freezer is marked with an identifying sign and a list of target fish species. Inside the freezer is a supply of plastic bags, information cards, and pens. Cooperating anglers can place the filleted carcasses, with head and tail intact, in a bag, drop in a completed angler information card, and then place the bag in the freezer.

Starting in the fall of 1997, the Marine Sportfish Carcass Recovery Project has been in continuous operation for 12 years. Carcass donations were received from 14 active freezer locations across the coast this year. From 1997 through 2008, 898 different anglers have participated in the Marine Sportfish Carcass Recovery Project. Since 1997, a total of 31,422 carcasses have been donated by anglers and processed for information.

Description of Georgia Department of Natural Resources Division's Fishery Independent Red Drum Data 2002 – 2007:

- 1. Collection Number:** a unique identifier assigned to each sampling event consisting of three parts: activity code, date of sampling as yymmdd, and a sequential counter (first sample of the day 001, second 002, ...). If the activity code is a single digit, a leading "0" is **not** required.

Example: 7021215001 would be entered for 7-02/12/15-001

12021215001 would be entered for 12-02/12/15-001

- 2. Activity Code:** identifies which program or project the sampling event is associated with. Activity codes are listed in **L Activity** table in the RECFISH Database.

ActivityCode	Activity
0	Short term projects
1	Interagency Collection
2	Recreational Angler
3	Tagging
4	Red Drum
5	SC Mullet
6	Co-op. Tagger
7	Carcass
8	SFR Sheepshead
9	SFR Whiting
10	SO Short-line Evaluation
11	YOY SO Survey ALTHAM-Summ
12	SO Adult Sacrifice 2002
13	YOY SO Survey WAS
14	MSPHP Survey WAS
15	MSPHP Survey ALTHAM -S&F
16	MSPHP Trawl Monitoring
17	SO Long-line Survey
18	SO Adult H&L Sacrifice 07

- 3. Date:** date of sampling event formatted as mm/dd/yyyy.

- 5. Species:** species code, 3 is red drum.

- 6. SoundSystem:** Major sound system where sampling event occurs. Codes are stored in RECFISH db in **L Sound System** table.

SoundSystem	SoundSystemName	Latitude	Longitude
2	Savannah River		
3	Wassaw	31.93	-80.95
4	Ossabaw	31.84	-81.04
5	St. Catherines	31.71	-81.16
6	McQueen Inlet		
8	Sapelo	31.55	-81.23
9	Doboy	31.38	-81.29
10	Altamaha	31.31	-81.31
11	Hampton River		
12	Village Creek		
13	St. Simons	31.13	-81.43
15	St. Andrew	30.99	-81.43
16	Cumberland	30.71	-81.47
94	Georgia		
95	Florida		
96	South Carolina		
97	North Carolina		
98	Off Shore		
99	Unknown		

9. GearCode: Gear codes.

GearCode	GearType	GearCode	GearType
0	Other	41	Whelk Trawl
1	Gill Net - 1	42	Commercial Shrimp Trawl
2	Gill Net - 1.25	51	Seine 50 x .875
3	Gill Net - 1.5	52	Seine 100 x 1.5
4	Gill Net - 1.75	53	Seine 100 x 2
5	Gill Net - 2	54	Seine 12 x .75
6	Gill Net - 2.25	55	Seine 100 x .875
7	Gill Net - 2.5	81	Cast Net
8	Gill Net - 2.75	82	Hook and Line
9	Gill Net - 2.875	83	Gig
10	Gill Net - 3	84	Spear Gun
11	Gill Net - 3.5	85	Dip Net
12	Gill Net - 4	86	Lift Net
13	Gill Net - 4.5	87	Commercial Crab Trap
14	Gill Net - 4.625	88	Recreational Crab Trap
15	Gill Net - 5	89	Fish Trap
16	Gill Net - 5.5	90	Long Line
17	Gill Net - 6	91	Snapper Reel
18	Gill Net - 8.5	92	Tournament Fish
19	Gill Net - 9	97	2.5 x 400
20	Trammel Net (Nylon) 10 x 2	98	2.5 x 200
21	14 x 2.75	99	2.5 x 600
22	2.875	100	Gill Net - 1.5"; 6'x200'
23	2.875	101	Gill Net - 2"; 6'x200'
24	3.5	102	Gill Net - 2.5"; 6'x200'
25	multi. x 3.5	103	2.5";6'x300'
26	Trammel Net (Mono) 14 x 3	104	2.75" in 14"out; 7'x600'
27	Gill Net - 6.75	105	flat otter trawl; 3.875"
28	Electrofishing	106	flat otter trawl; 3.875"
29	Gill Net - 2.875 (Mono)	107	2.75" in 14"out; 9'x600'
30	Gill Net - 3 (Mono 400 ft.)	108	9'x300'
31	Gill Net - 8	109	semi-balloon trawl; 3.875"
32	Experimental Gill Net	110	15/0 hooks; bottom
40	40' Otter Trawl	111	2.75" in 14"out; 7'x300'

20. FL: fork length (centerline)

21. SexCode: 1 male, 2 female, 3 unknown.

22. VisibleAnnuli: number of rings seen. The first ring is deposited when the fish is 16-18 month old. To place the fish in the appropriate year class 1 year will need to be added.