

# Patterns of annual abundance of red grouper observed in chevron traps set during the MARMAP Survey (1990 – 2008) in the U.S. South Atlantic.

G. Walter Ingram, Jr.<sup>1</sup> and Jessica Stephen<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Mississippi Laboratories

<sup>2</sup>South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

## Introduction and Methodology

Red grouper have been sampled by the MARMAP (Marine Resources Monitoring Assessment and Prediction) program using various gears (gears detailed in previous working paper SEDAR10-DW-05). Indices of abundance from the Chevron trap (1990-2007) was recommended for use in the assessment. Other MARMAP gear types were considered, such as, Florida Antillean trap, hook & line, and vertical longlines, but were thought less likely to provide adequate indices because of low to no sample sizes. Chevron traps were baited with cut clupeids and deployed at stations randomly selected by computer from a database of approximately 2,500 live bottom and shelf edge locations and buoyed (“soaked”) for approximately 90 minutes. Beginning in the 1990s, additional sites were selected, based on scientific and commercial fisheries sources, off North Carolina and south Florida to facilitate expanding the overall sampling coverage. The site expansion has been ongoing, with a few new sites added each year. As a result, the survey has relatively extensive regional coverage.

The CPUE from MARMAP chevron trap data was computed in units of number fish caught per trap-hour. The duration of the time series was 1990–2008. Spatial coverage included areas from Florida through North Carolina.

Fish in many cases are overdispersed as a result of behavior and/or physical oceanographic processes, resulting in catch

data which is not normal. Therefore, samples taken from such overdispersed populations contain many small or zero values and few very large values, and simple estimates of mean abundance from sample data may either be too low if many low values are included or too high if very large values are included. Model-based estimators have been popularized since they may reduce the likelihood of false conclusions about trends in abundance (McConaughey and Conquest 1992). They may also produce estimators with better precision (Pennington 1983, 1996; Lo *et al.* 1992).

One model-based alternative to the arithmetic mean of the sample is the delta-Poisson method. This method is a modification to that presented by Lo *et al.* (1992). The index computed by this method is a mathematical combination of yearly abundance estimates from two distinct generalized linear models: a binomial (logistic) model which describes proportion of positive abundance values (i.e. presence/absence) and a Poisson model which describes variability in only the nonzero abundance data

The delta-Poisson index of relative abundance ( $I_y$ ) can be estimated as

$$(1) \quad I_y = c_y p_y,$$

where  $c_y$  is the estimate of mean CPUE for positive catches only for year  $y$ ;  $p_y$  is the estimate of mean probability of occurrence during year  $y$ . Both  $c_y$  and  $p_y$  can be

estimated using generalized linear models. Data used to estimate abundance for positive catches ( $c$ ) and probability of occurrence ( $p$ ) are assumed to have a Poisson distribution and a binomial distribution, respectively, and can be modeled using the following equations:

$$(2) \quad \ln(c) = \mathbf{X}\beta + \epsilon$$

and

$$(3) \quad p = \frac{e^{\mathbf{X}\beta + \epsilon}}{1 + e^{\mathbf{X}\beta + \epsilon}}, \text{ respectively,}$$

where  $\mathbf{c}$  is a vector of the positive catch data,  $\mathbf{p}$  is a vector of the presence/absence data,  $\mathbf{X}$  is the design matrix for main effects,  $\beta$  is the parameter vector for main effects, and  $\epsilon$  is a vector of independent normally distributed errors with expectation zero and variance  $\sigma^2$ .

The variables  $c_y$  and  $p_y$  can be estimated as least-squares means for each year along with their corresponding standard errors,  $SE(c_y)$  and  $SE(p_y)$ . From these estimates,  $I_y$  can be calculated, as in equation (1), and its variance calculated as

$$(4)$$

$$V(I_y) \approx V(c_y)p_y^2 + c_y^2V(p_y) + 2c_y p_y \text{Cov}(c, p),$$

where

$$(5) \quad \text{Cov}(c, p) \approx \rho_{c,p} [SE(c_y)SE(p_y)],$$

and  $\rho_{c,p}$  denotes correlation of  $c$  and  $p$  among years.

There were three variables used in the development of the abundance indices: year, latitude (categorical by degree), and depth class [i.e. station depth (ranging from) categorized into 10-m bins]. The submodels of the delta-Poisson model were built using a backward selection procedure based on type 3 analyses with an inclusion level of

significance of  $\alpha = 0.05$ . Both the Binomial submodel and Poisson submodel performance were evaluated using AIC and analyses of residual scatter and QQ plots. Also, the Poisson submodel was developed to take into account any spatial autocorrelation, based on latitude and longitude of chevron trap set. Abundance (number per chevron trap-hour) was modeled using this approach. Initially, length and age frequency histograms were developed to determine which portion of the stock was represented in these analyses, and charts displaying annual distribution of sampling and abundance were developed.

## Results

Figure 1 illustrates the sampling effort and the number of fish observed per trap set. In order to examine effort and fish observations on an annual basis, Appendix 1 may be examined.

Figures 2 and 3 elucidate the size and age, respectively, of fish observed during the survey over the time series. In order to examine year-specific length frequency histograms, Appendix 2 may be examined. During this survey, 586 red grouper lengths and 549 red grouper ages were estimated. Red grouper ranged in length from approximately 240 to 810 mm total length with a mode of approximately 500 mm (Figure 2). In order to examine year-specific age frequency histograms for, Appendix 3 may be examined. Red grouper ranged in age from approximately 2 to 13 years with a mode of approximately 4 years (Figure 3).

Table 1 and Figure 4 summarize the abundance indices resulting from the previously described methods. For detailed results of the model building process, Appendix 4 may be examined. The nominal average non-zero catch rate was relatively close to one fish per trap-hour, indicating

that a presence/absence (i.e. probability of occurrence) model may be more appropriate

than the delta-Poisson model.

## References

- LO, N. C. H., L.D. Jacobson, and J.L. Squire. 1992. Indices of relative abundance from fish spotter data based on delta-lognormal models. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 49: 2515-1526.
- MCCONNAUGHEY, R.A. and L.L. Conquest. 1993. Trawl survey estimation using a comparative approach based on lognormal theory. *Fish. Bull.* 91: 107-118.
- PENNINGTON, M. 1983. Efficient estimators of abundance, for fish and plankton surveys. *Biometrics* 39: 281-286.
- PENNINGTON, M. 1996. Estimating the mean and variance from highly skewed data. *Fish. Bull.* 94: 498-505.

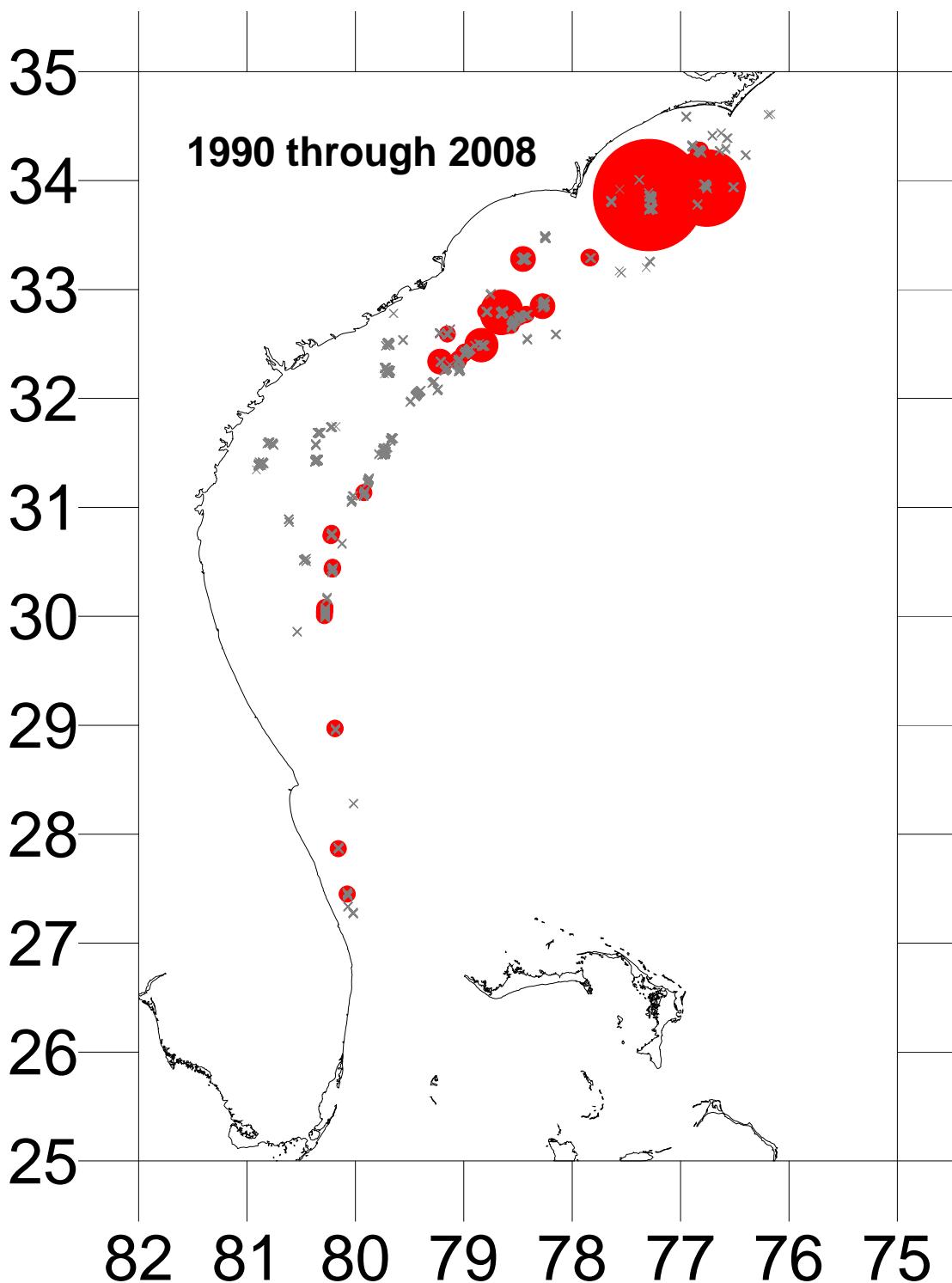


Figure 1. Effort and number of red grouper observed per chevron trap set during the MARMAP Survey (1990 – 2008). Gray crosses represent effort (5662 chevron trap sets). Red circles indicate trap sets where red grouper were observed. The diameters of the circles are linearly related to the number of red grouper observed during each chevron trap set (non-zero range: 1 – 12 red grouper per chevron trap set).

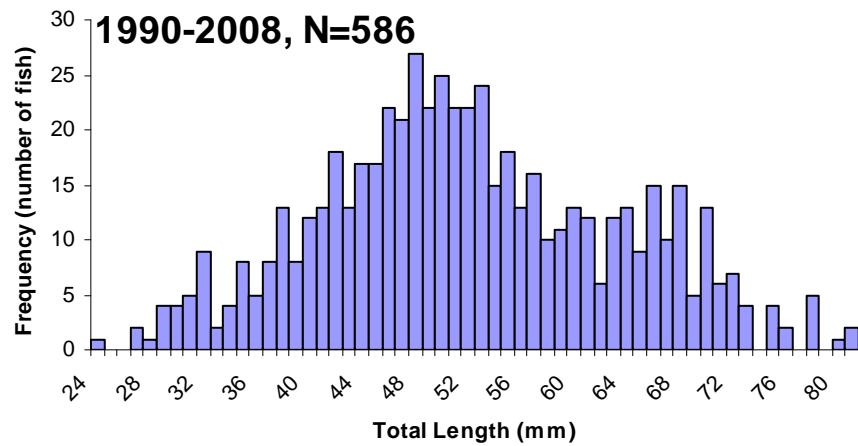


Figure 2. Length frequencies of red grouper observed in chevron traps set during the MARMAP Survey (1990 – 2008).

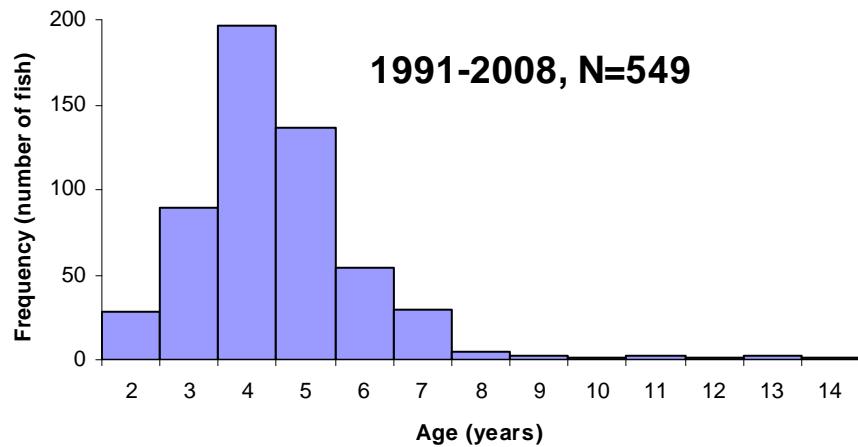


Figure 3. Age frequency of red grouper observed in chevron traps set during the MARMAP Survey (1991 – 2008).

Table 1. Model results for red grouper observed in chevron traps set during the MARMAP Survey (1990 – 2008).

Survey Year	N	Index (number per trap-hour)	Index (scaled to a mean of one)			Nominal Index (scaled to a mean of one)	Nominal Frequency of Occurrence (NFO)	Modeled Frequency of Occurrence (MFO)	CVMFO	LCLMFO	UCLMFO	Modeled Non-Zero CPUE	Nominal Non-Zero CPUE	
			CV	LCL	UCL									
1990	351	0.001	0.047	1.125	0.008	0.289	0.087	0.009	0.002	0.807	0.000	0.009	0.367	0.500
1991	301	0.002	0.119	0.936	0.024	0.581	0.135	0.013	0.007	0.641	0.002	0.023	0.265	0.500
1992	320	0.007	0.455	0.754	0.119	1.743	0.605	0.019	0.009	0.618	0.003	0.029	0.772	1.583
1993	411	0.013	0.865	0.654	0.262	2.854	0.595	0.019	0.013	0.522	0.005	0.037	0.957	1.500
1994	368	0.016	1.105	0.621	0.353	3.461	0.942	0.027	0.019	0.494	0.007	0.051	0.848	1.700
1995	272	0.008	0.516	0.759	0.134	1.986	0.412	0.022	0.011	0.581	0.004	0.036	0.673	0.917
1996	321	0.039	2.607	0.608	0.849	8.010	0.286	0.025	0.061	0.366	0.029	0.122	0.641	0.563
1997	350	0.005	0.323	0.884	0.071	1.476	0.262	0.011	0.005	0.712	0.001	0.021	0.937	1.125
1998	328	0.005	0.330	0.648	0.101	1.078	0.684	0.027	0.009	0.504	0.003	0.023	0.575	1.222
1999	225	0.025	1.698	0.525	0.633	4.556	1.404	0.071	0.039	0.376	0.019	0.081	0.643	0.969
2000	265	0.017	1.128	0.494	0.443	2.873	1.077	0.068	0.045	0.337	0.023	0.086	0.377	0.778
2001	236	0.025	1.696	0.527	0.630	4.567	1.598	0.064	0.045	0.385	0.021	0.094	0.564	1.233
2002	218	0.017	1.157	0.516	0.438	3.055	2.197	0.092	0.031	0.381	0.015	0.066	0.549	1.175
2003	218	0.015	1.018	0.524	0.380	2.727	1.403	0.069	0.033	0.371	0.016	0.068	0.458	1.000
2004	261	0.015	1.026	0.525	0.382	2.754	1.913	0.080	0.024	0.396	0.011	0.052	0.641	1.167
2005	303	0.017	1.147	0.476	0.465	2.830	0.975	0.076	0.038	0.339	0.019	0.073	0.450	0.630
2006	285	0.025	1.697	0.520	0.638	4.516	1.860	0.063	0.028	0.396	0.013	0.060	0.918	1.444
2007	326	0.022	1.507	0.489	0.597	3.800	1.657	0.058	0.027	0.360	0.013	0.055	0.830	1.395
2008	303	0.008	0.560	0.655	0.169	1.850	0.908	0.040	0.012	0.525	0.004	0.033	0.707	1.125

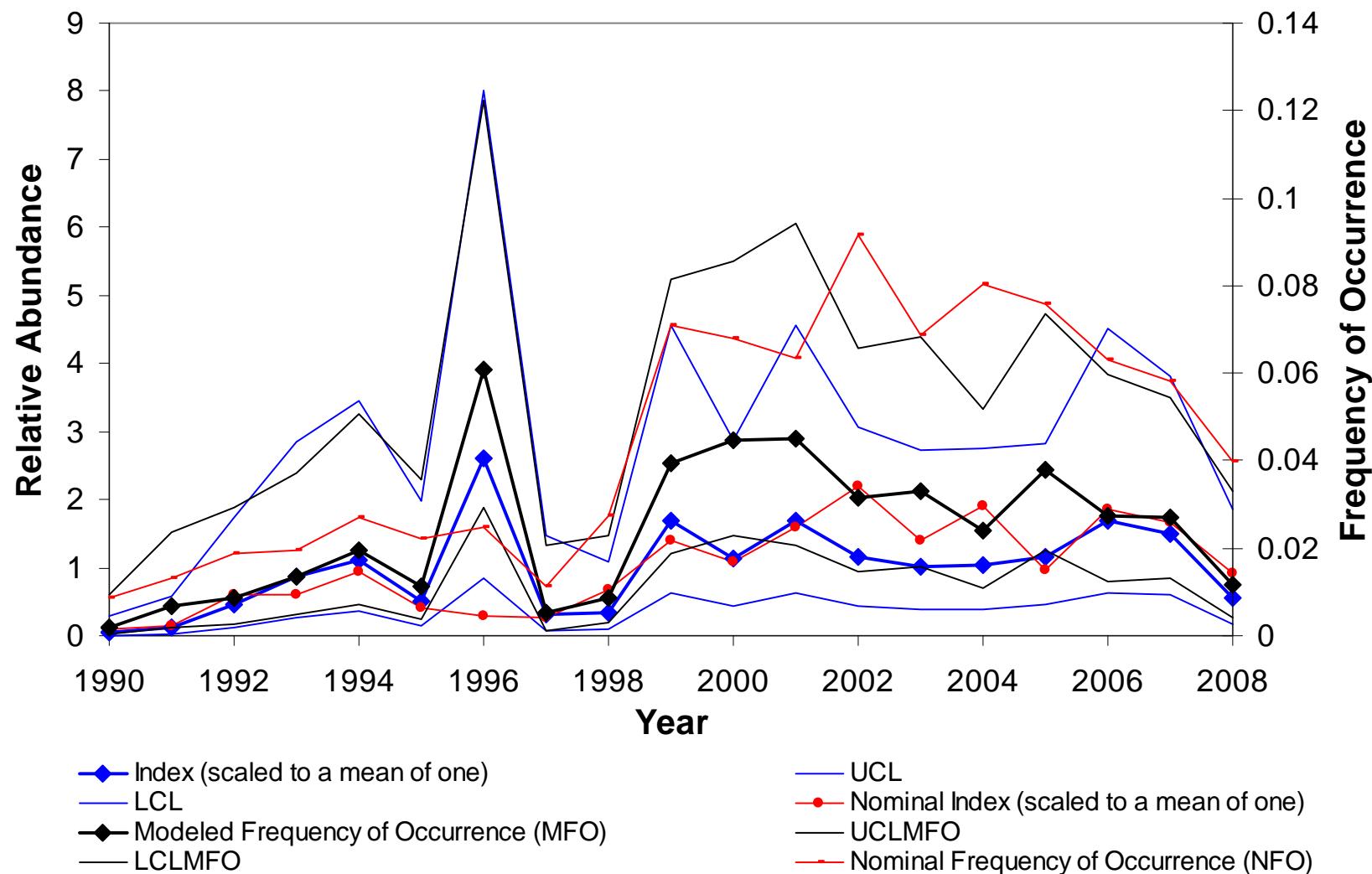
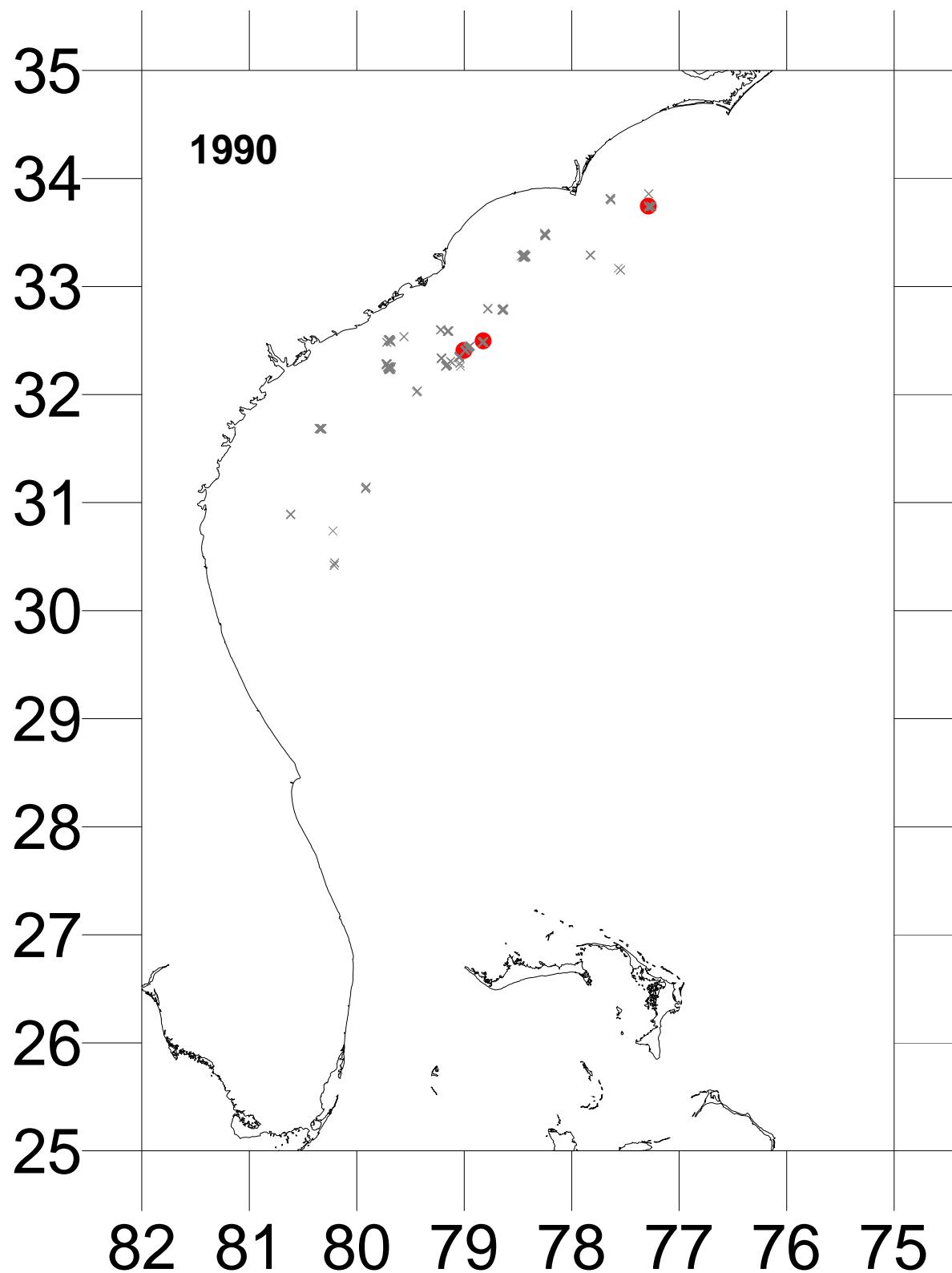


Figure 4. Model results for red grouper observed in chevron traps set during the MARMAP Survey (1990 – 2008).

## Appendix 1:

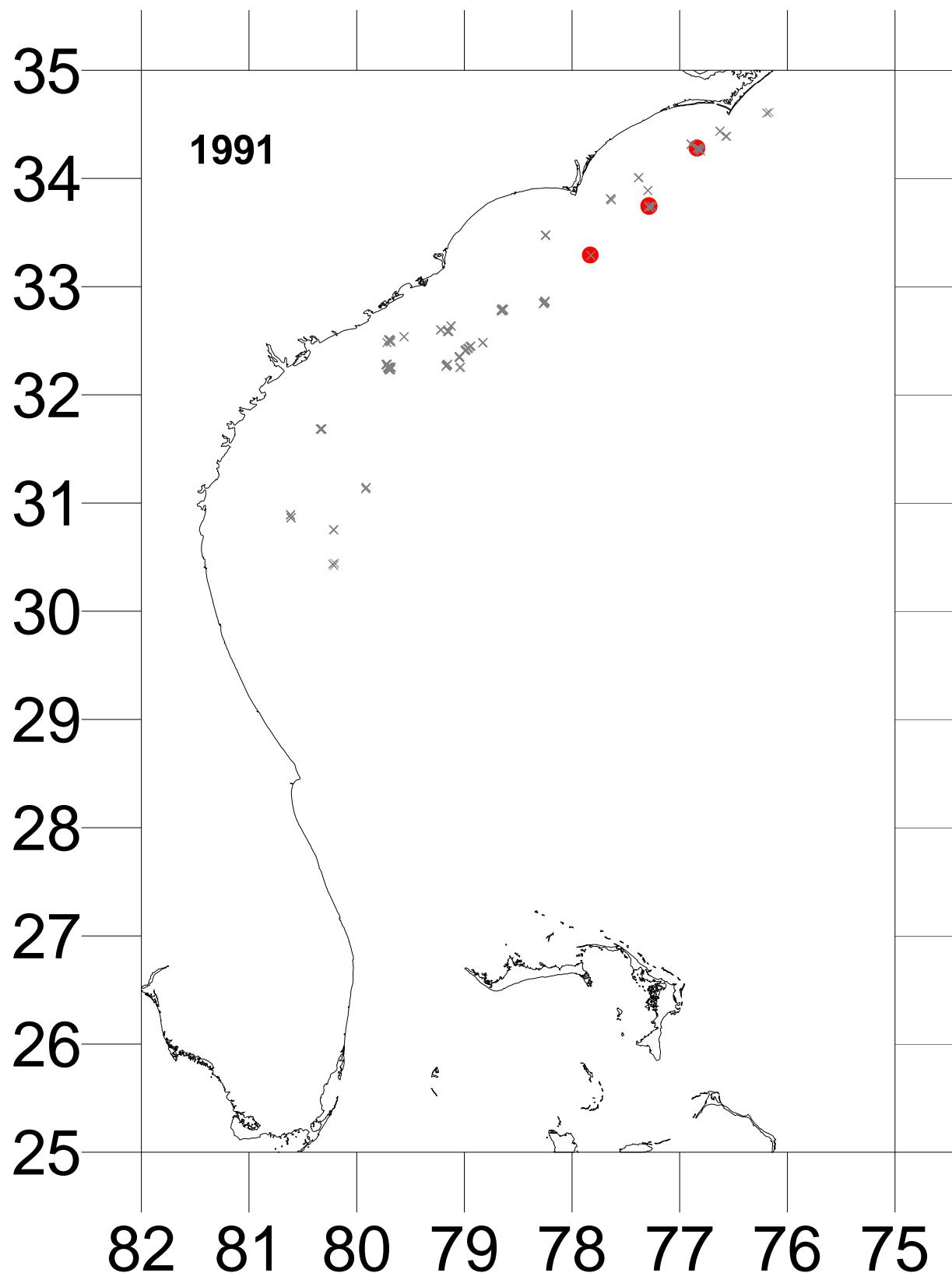
### Effort and number observed from MARMAP chevron trap survey for the U.S. South Atlantic (1990 – 2008).

Yearly effort and number of red grouper observed per chevron trap set during the MARMAP Survey (1990 – 2008). Gray crosses represent effort; red circles indicate trap sets where red grouper were observed. The diameters of the circles are linearly related to the number of red grouper observed during each chevron trap set (non-zero range: 1 – 12 red grouper per chevron trap set). Under each chart, the effort (i.e. number of chevron trap sets) and the range of non-zero observations are reported.



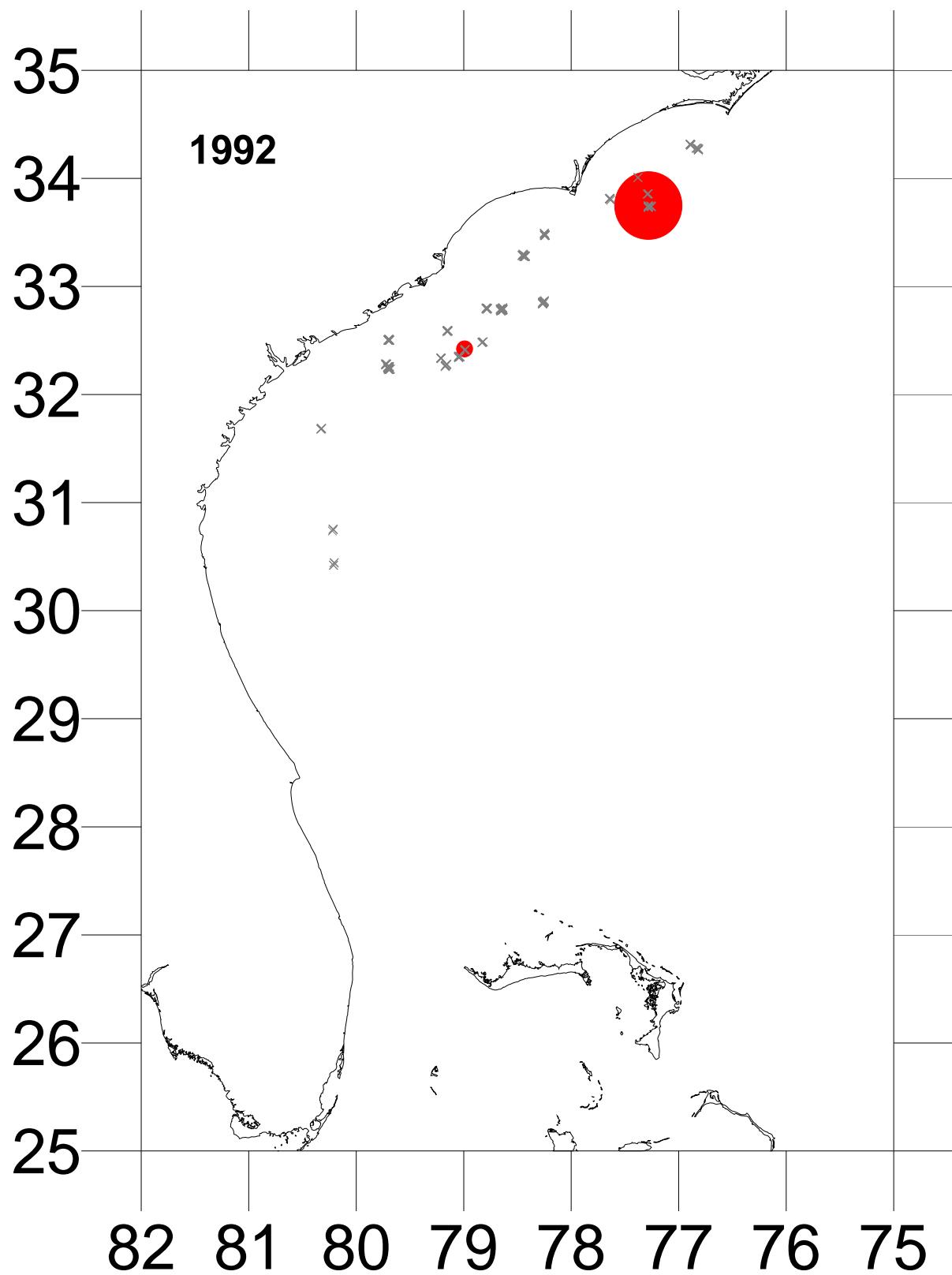
Effort: 351 chevron trap sets

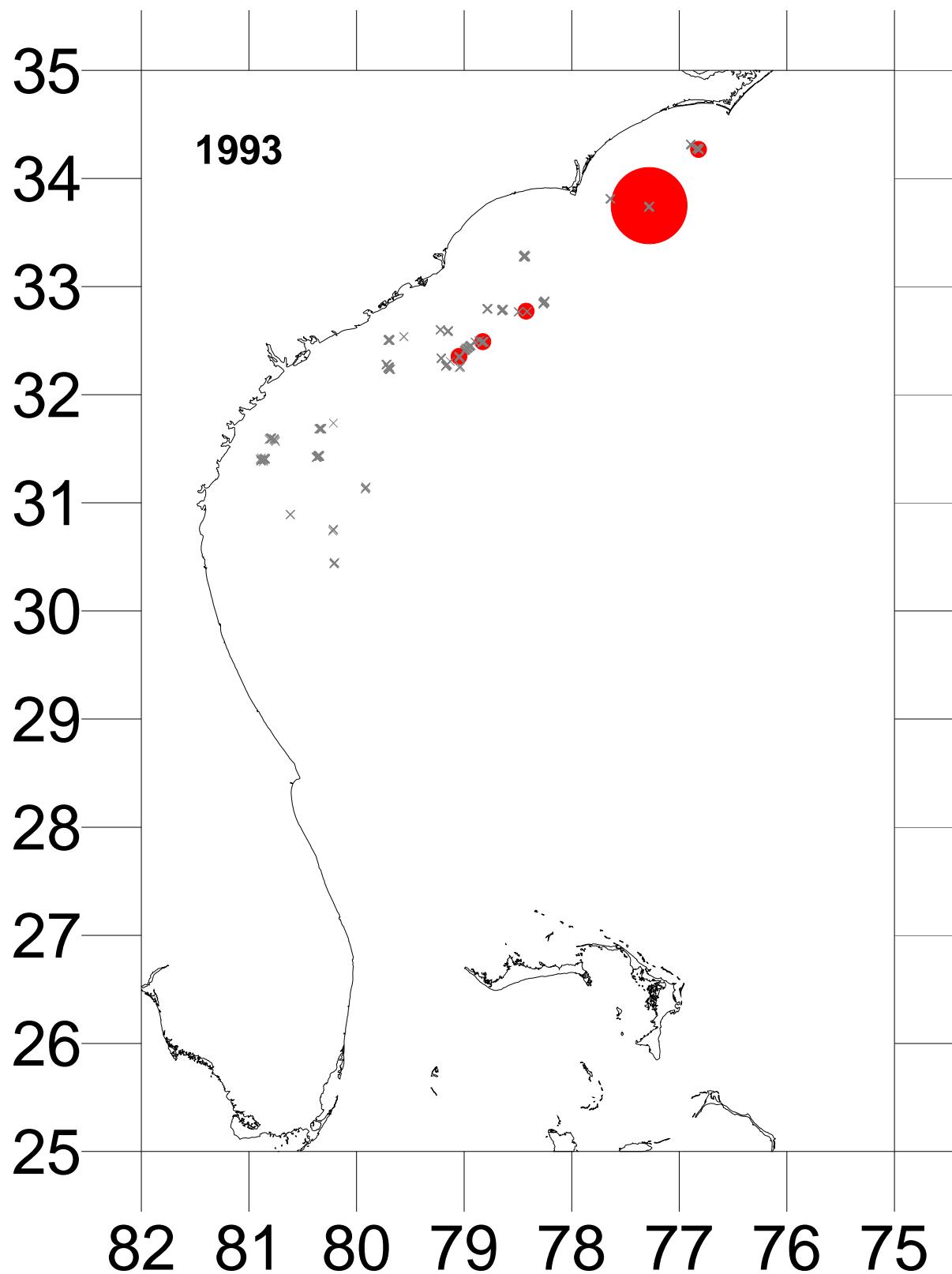
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Effort: 301 chevron trap sets

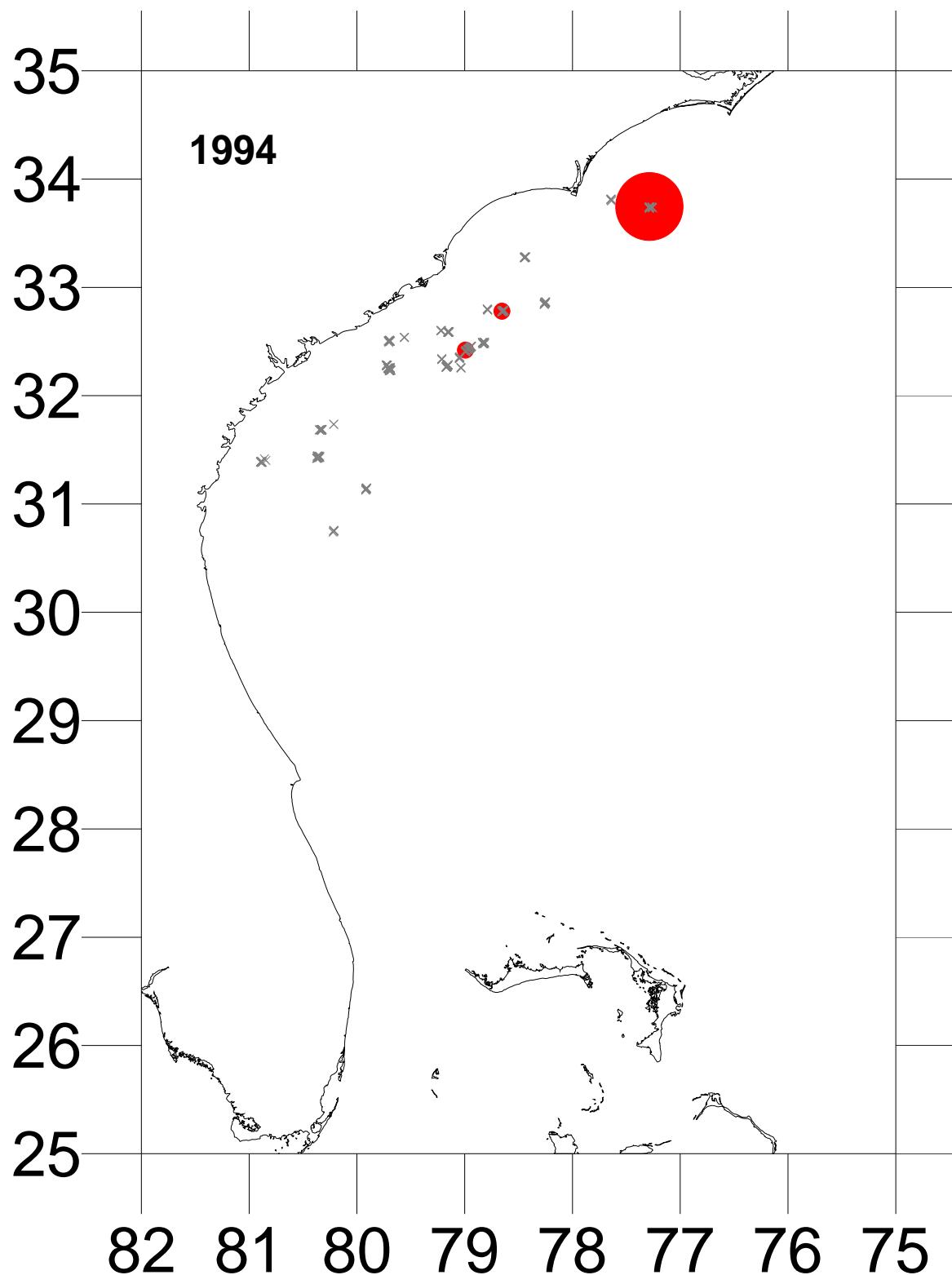
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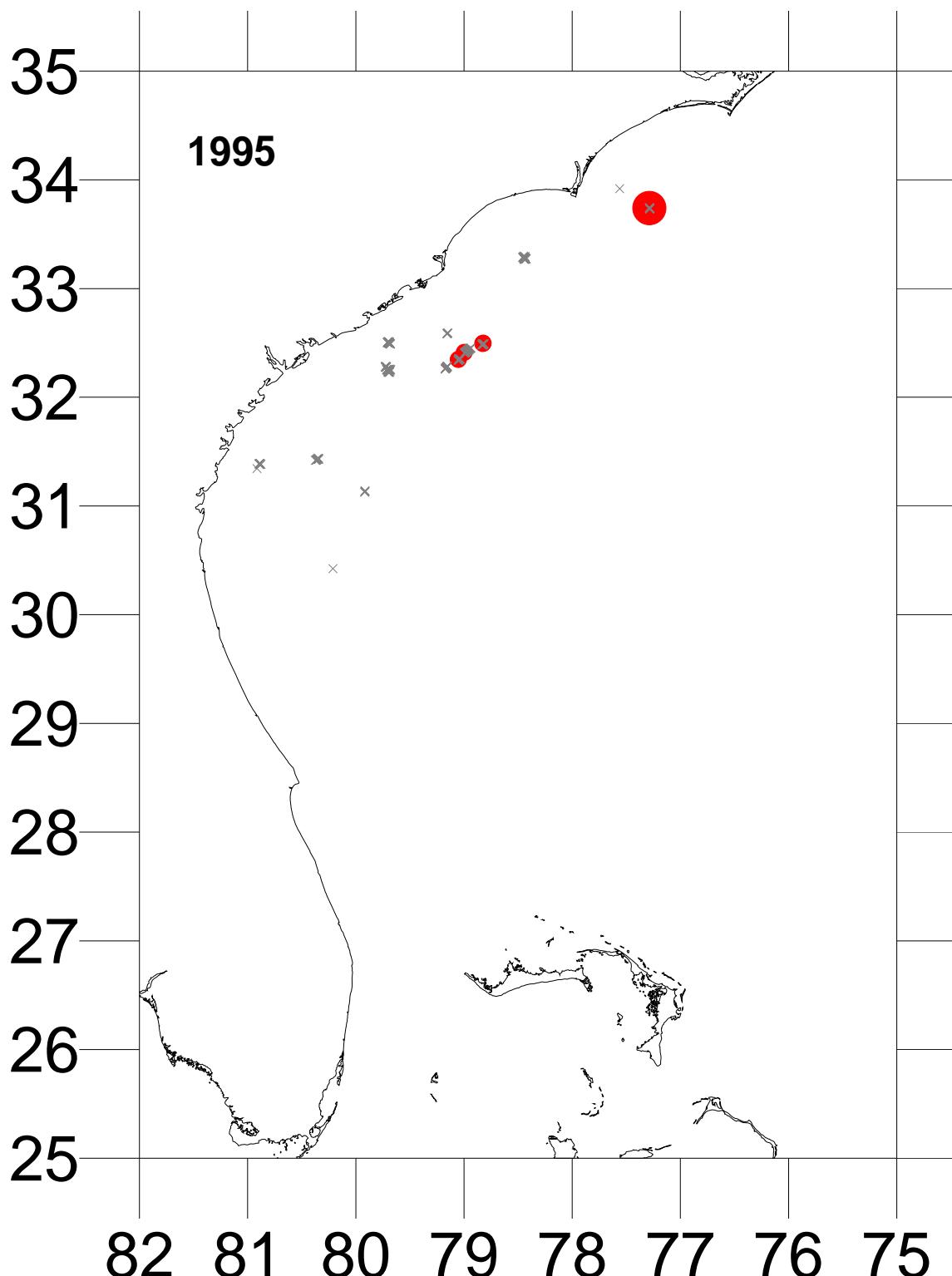
Effort: 411 chevron trap sets

Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 8



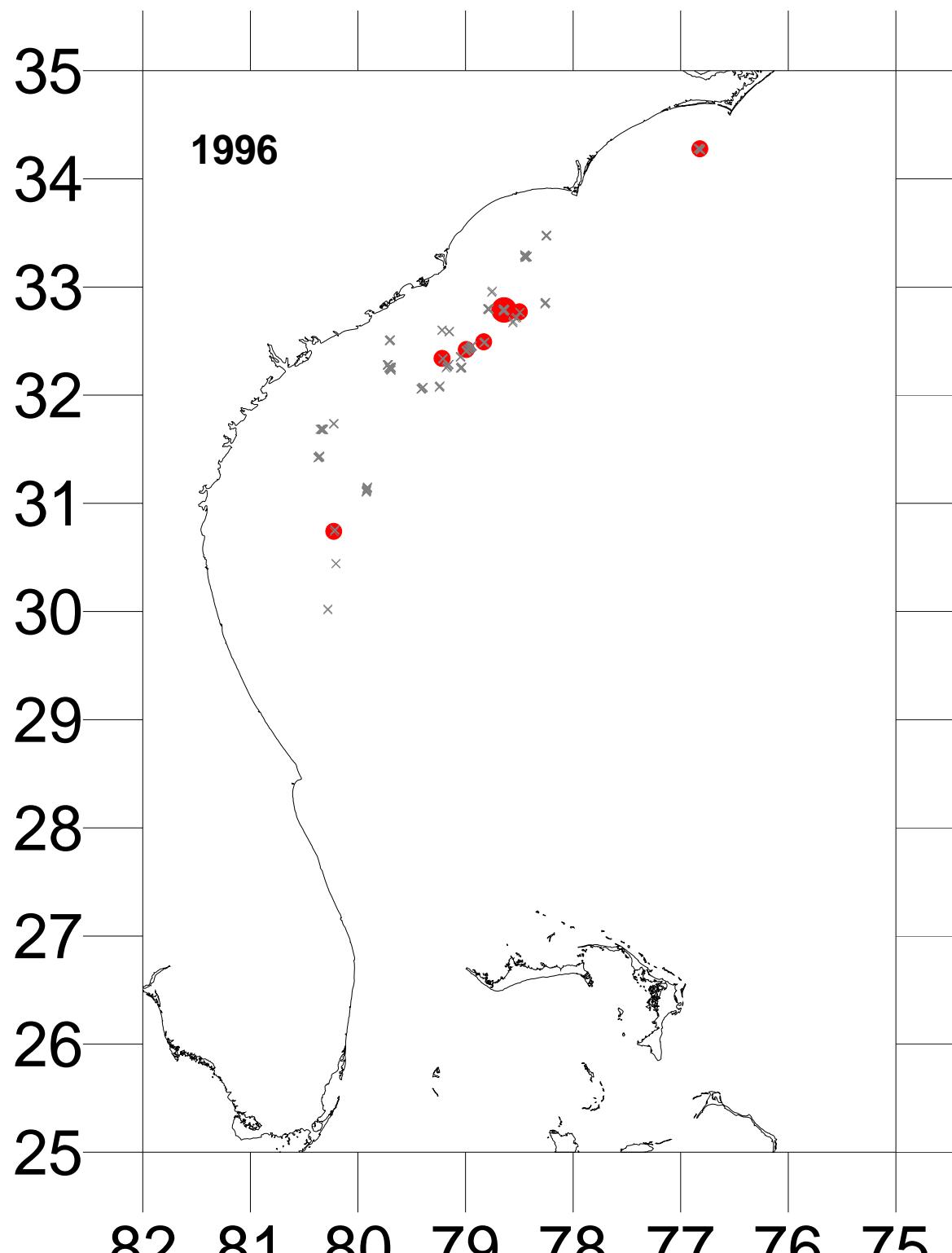
Effort: 368 chevron trap sets

Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 7



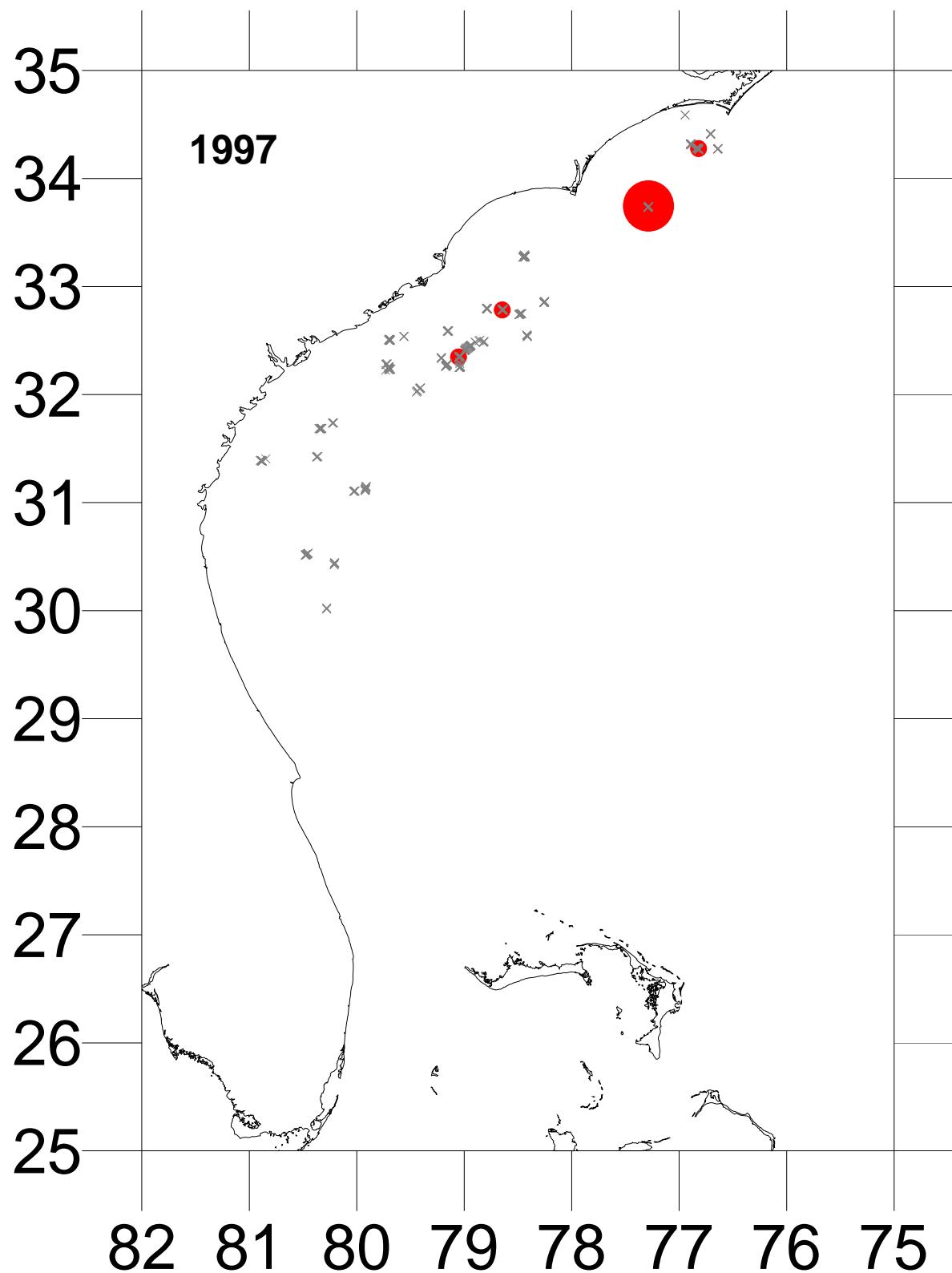
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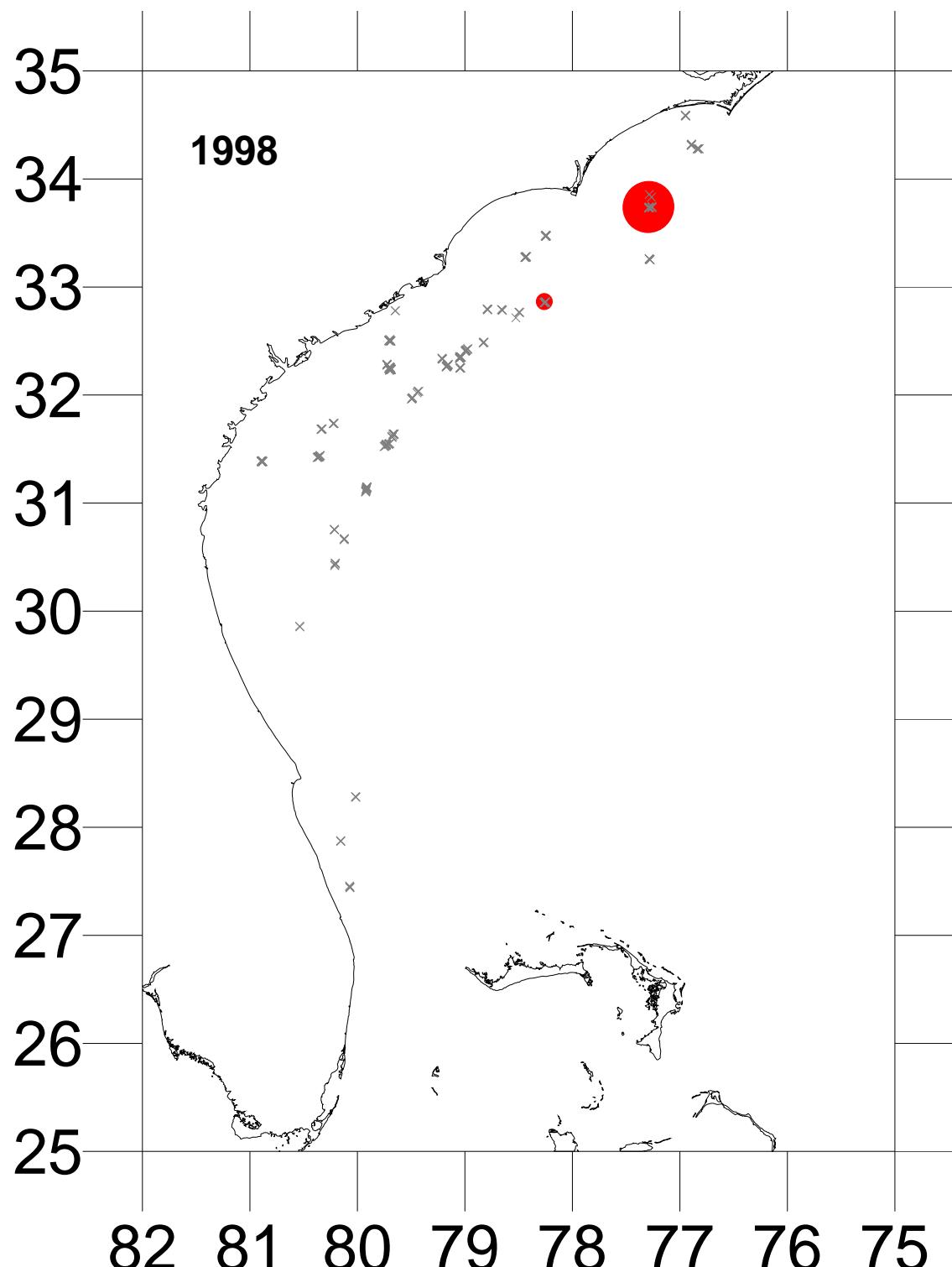
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Effort: 321 chevron trap sets

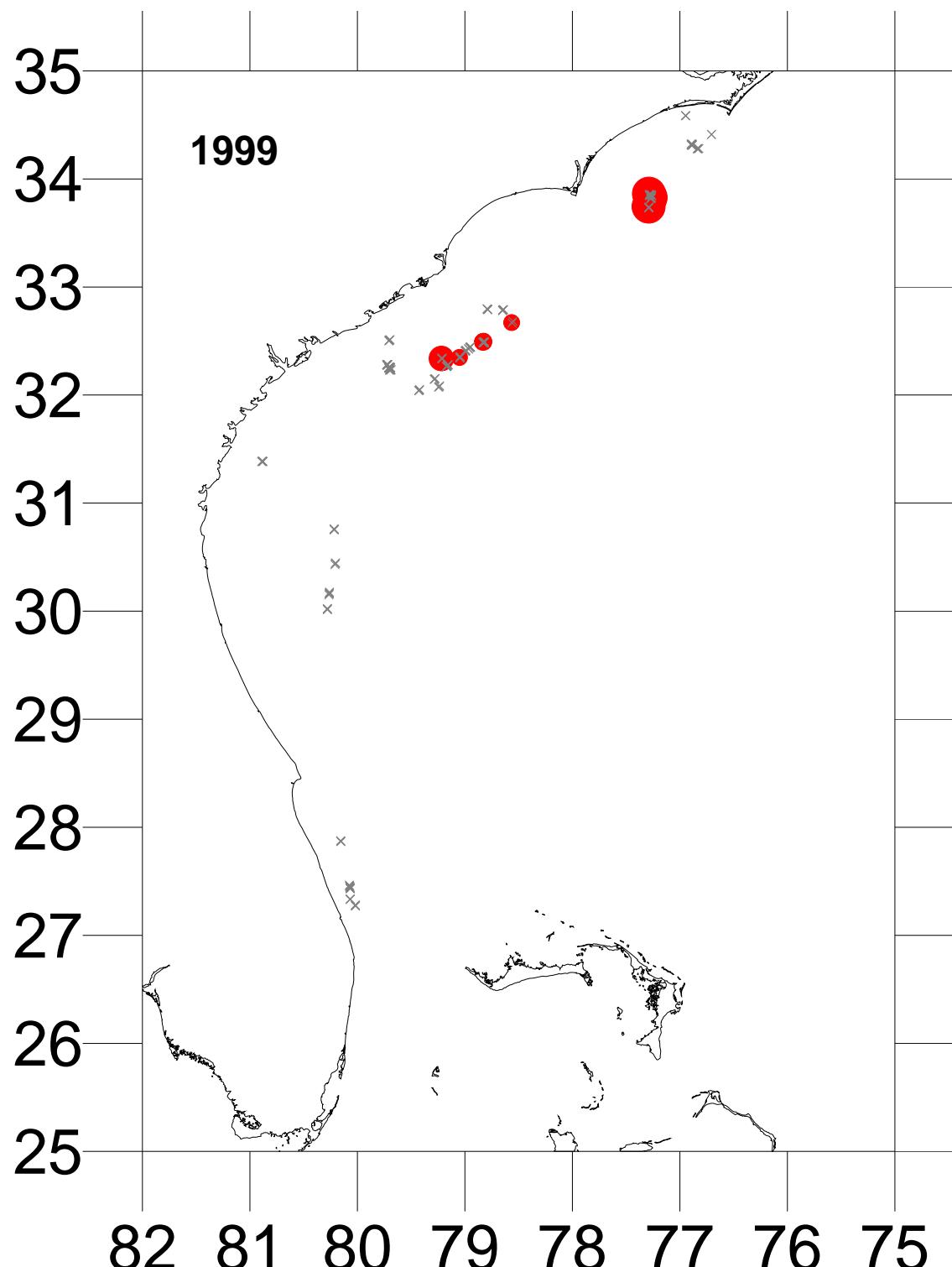
Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 2





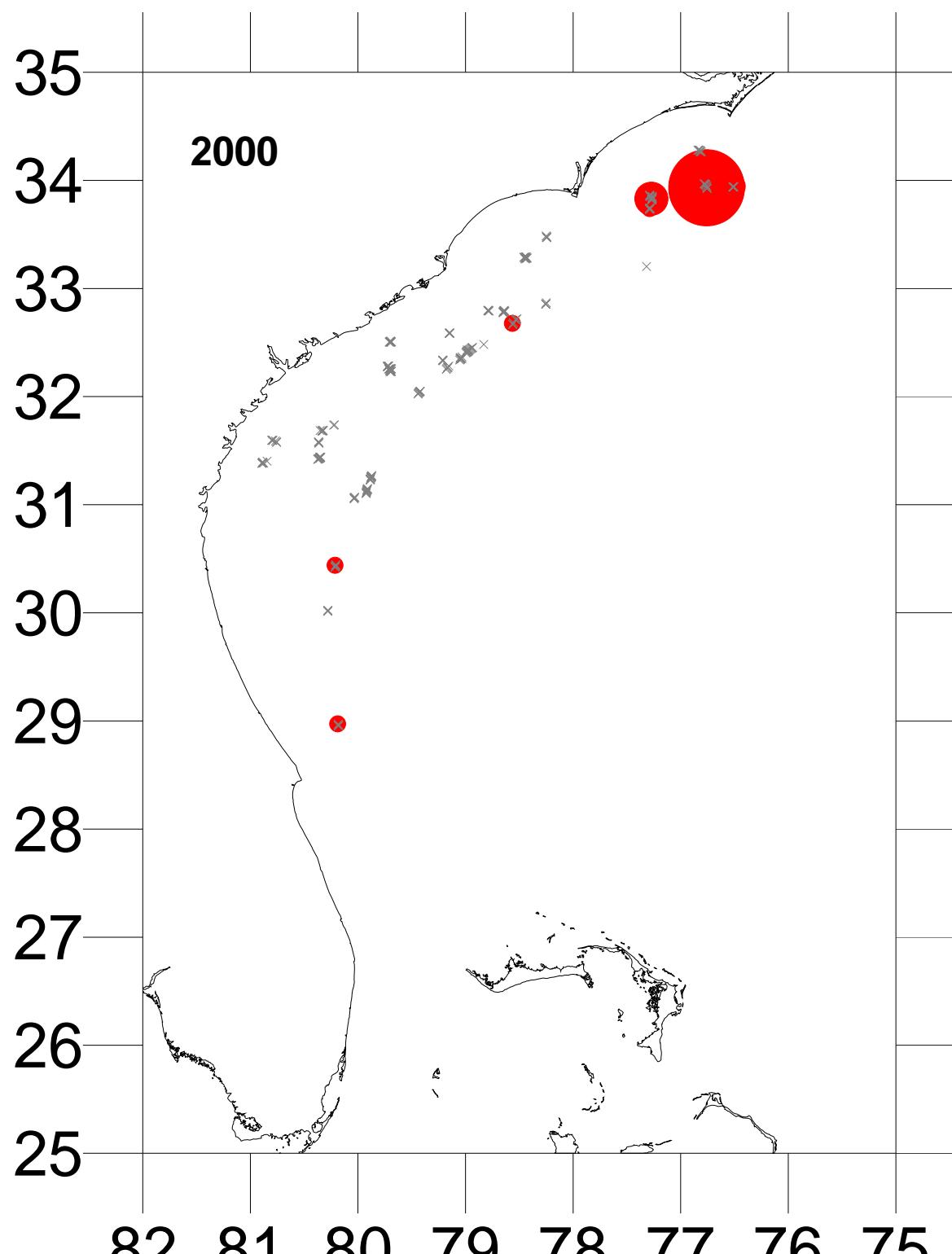
Effort: 328 chevron trap sets

Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 5



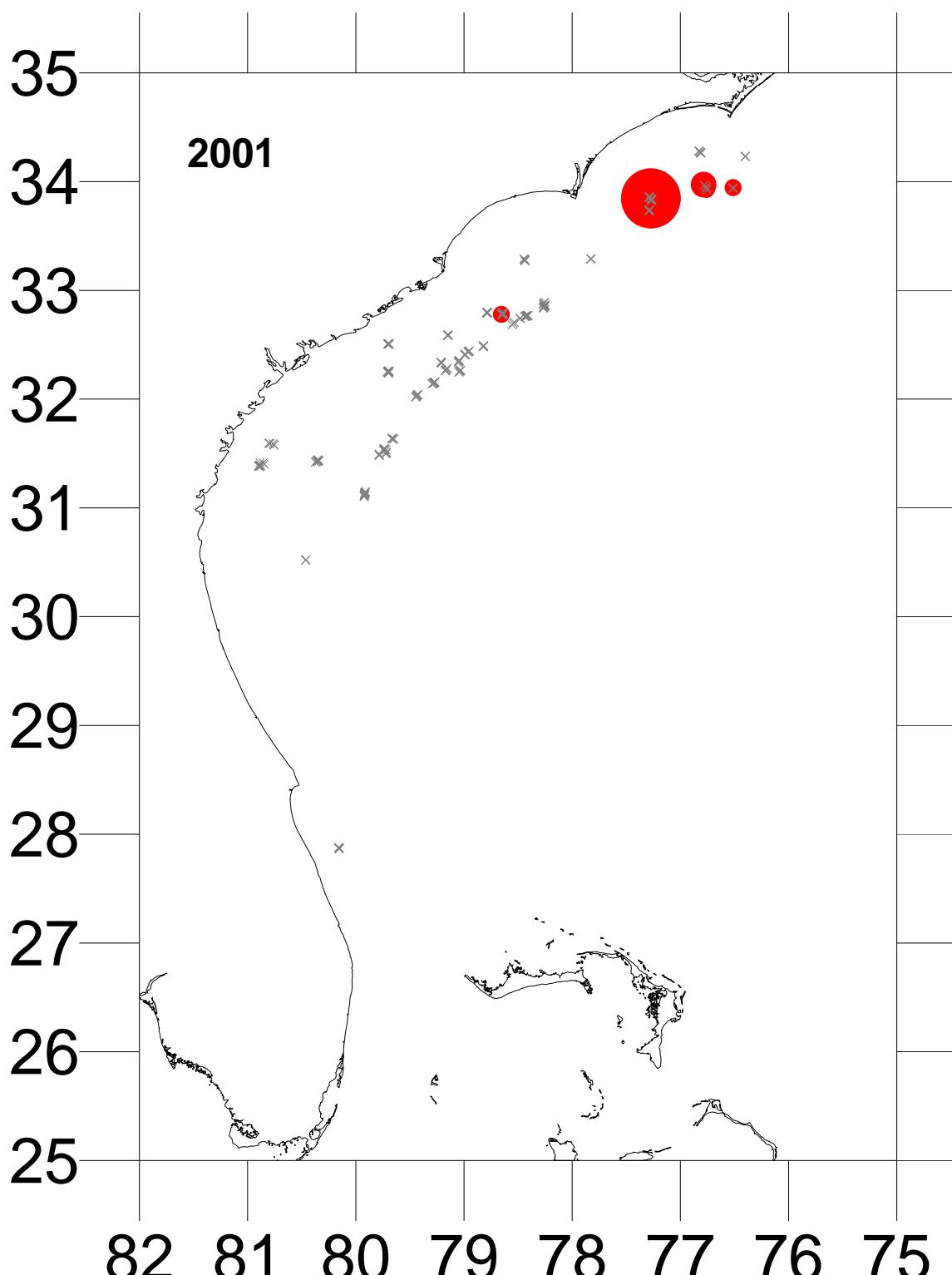
Effort: 225 chevron trap sets

Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 3



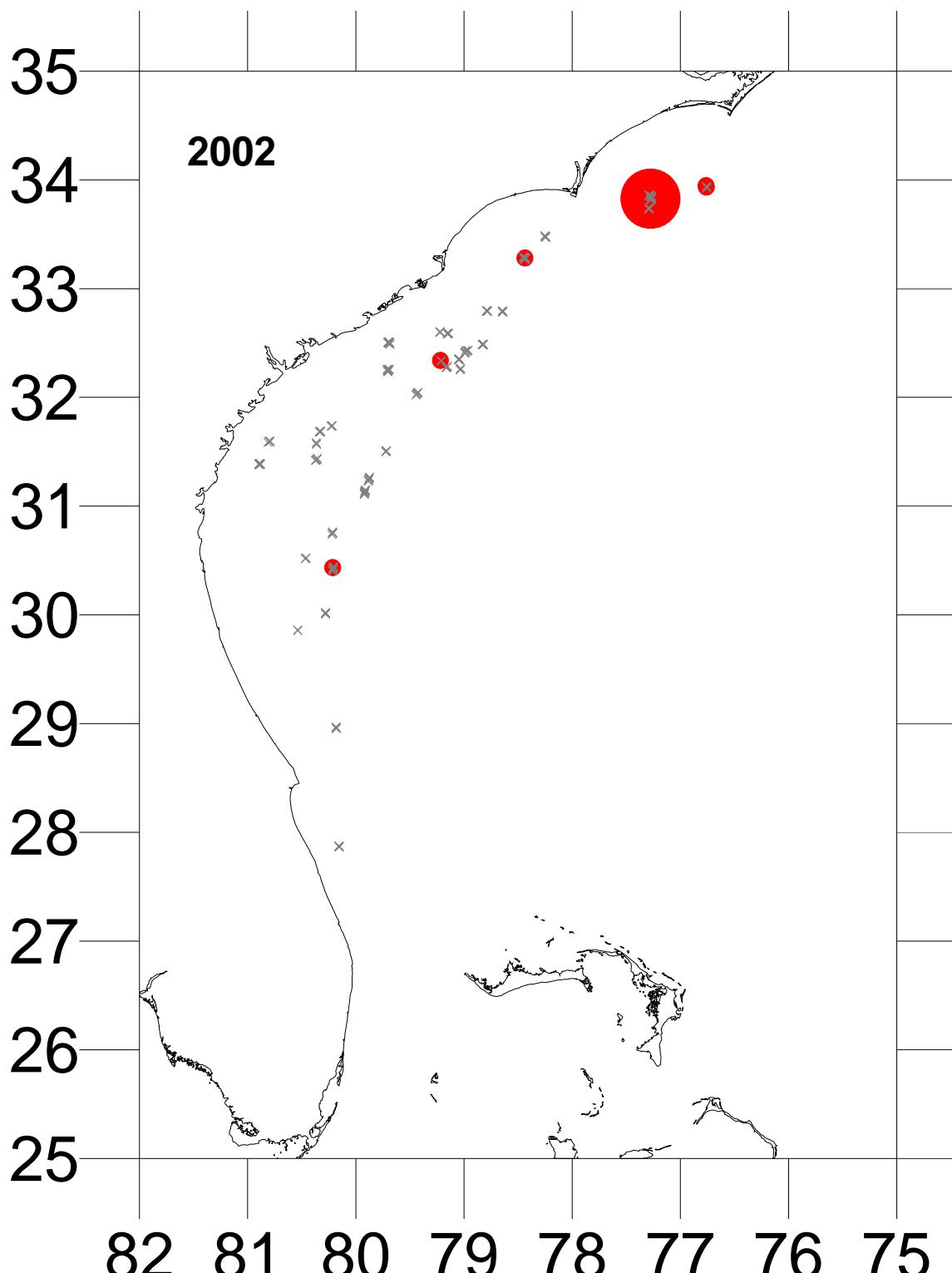
Effort: 265 chevron trap sets

Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 8



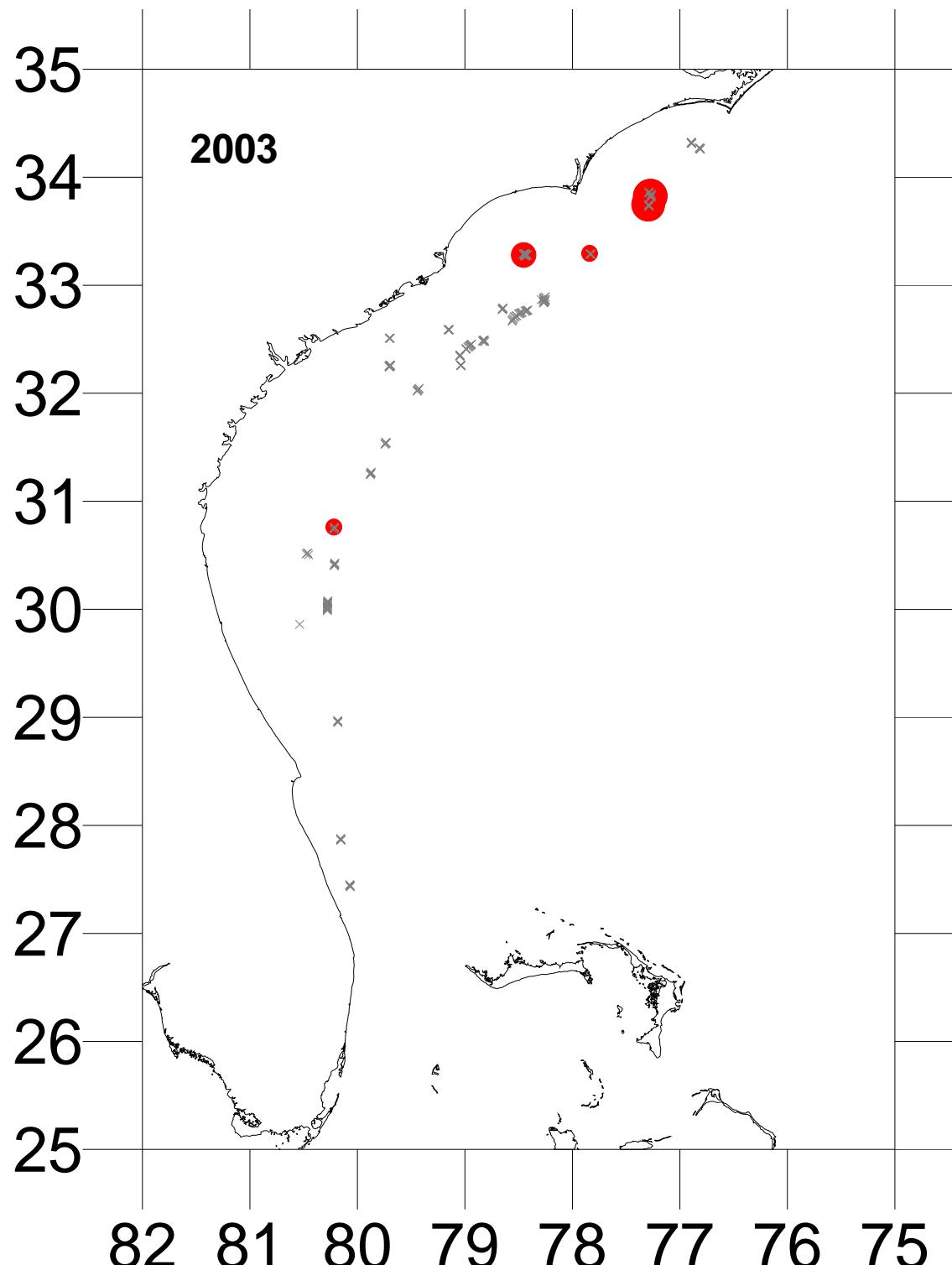
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Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 6



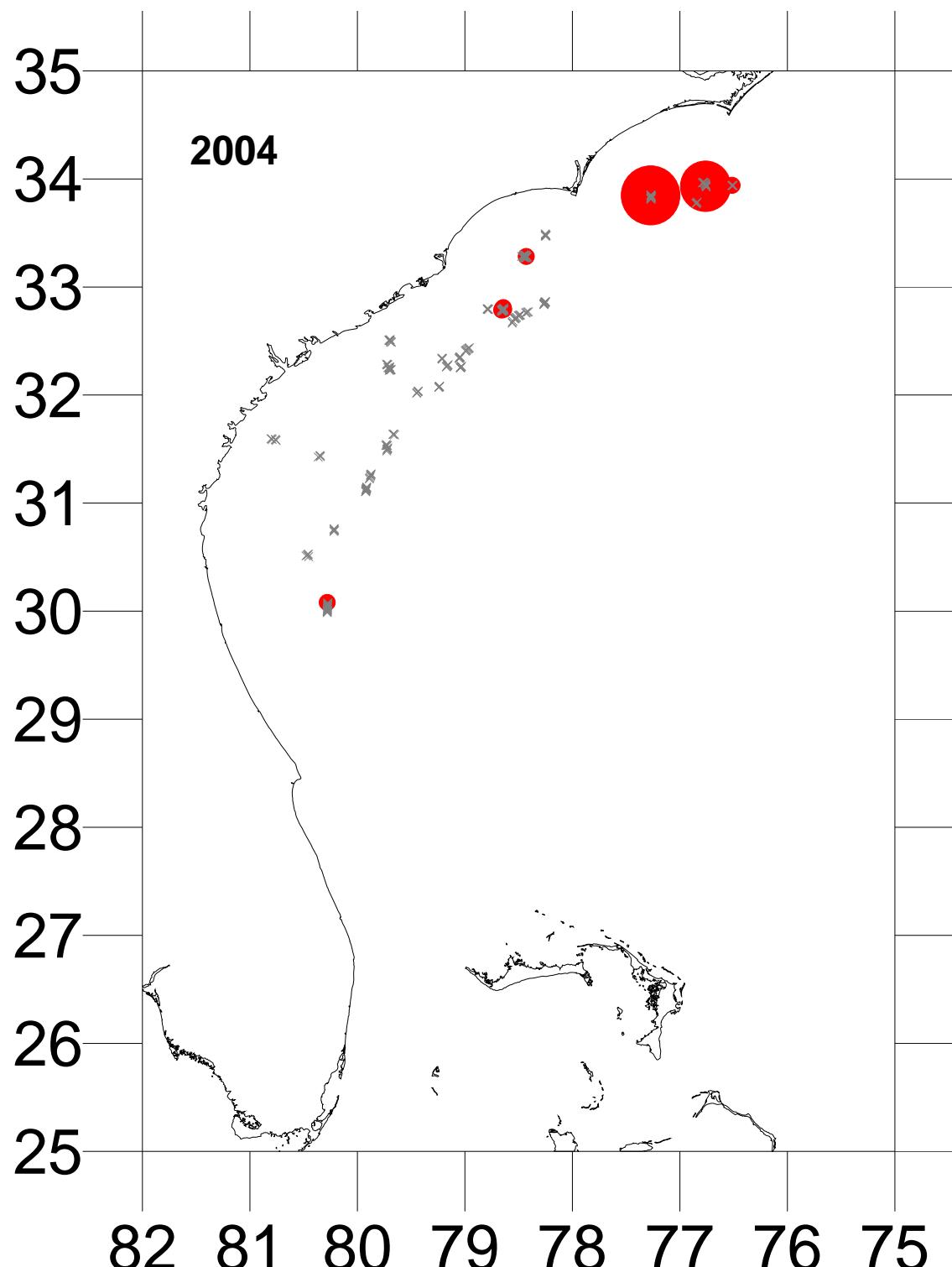
Effort: 218 chevron trap sets

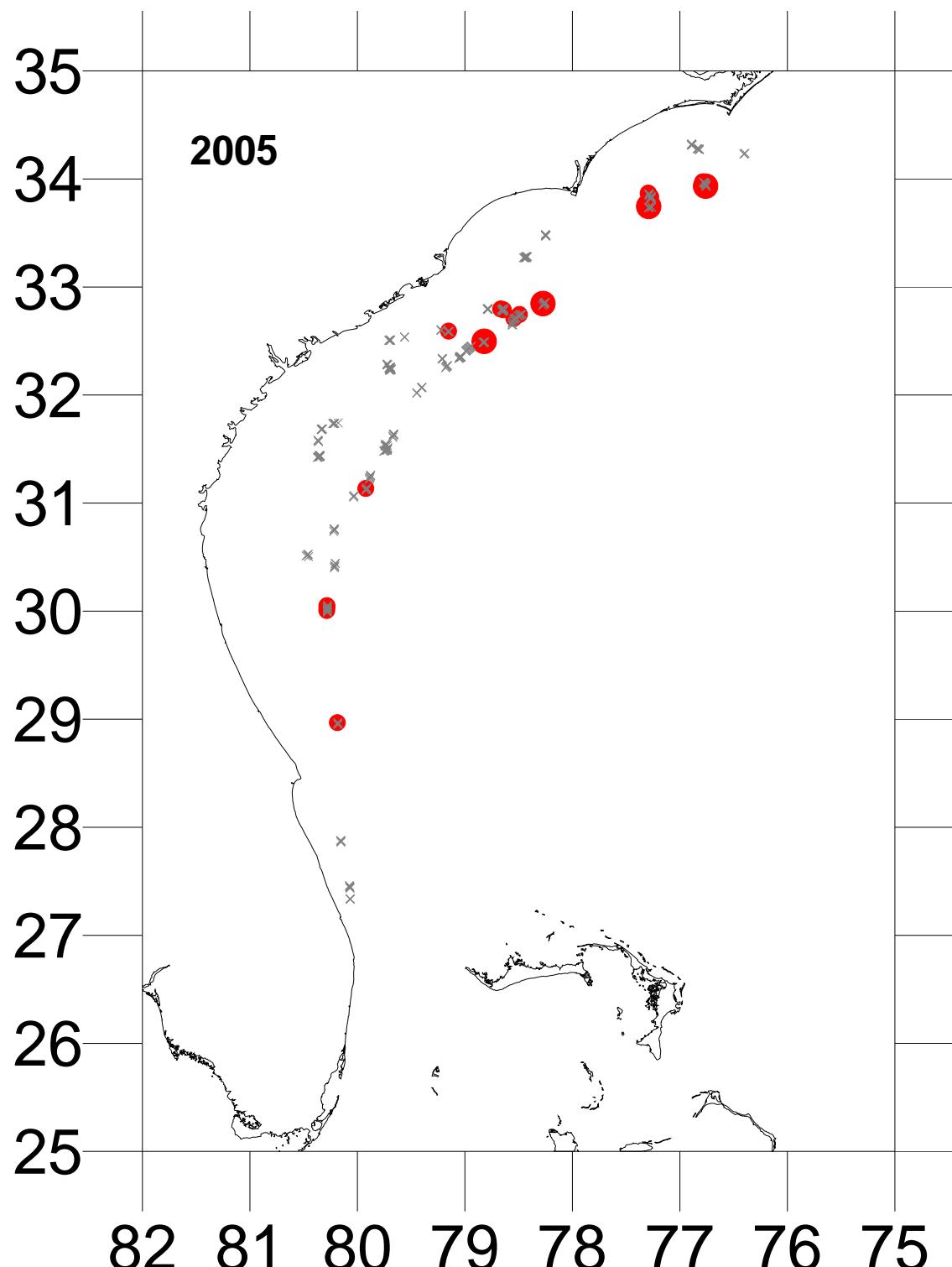
Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 6

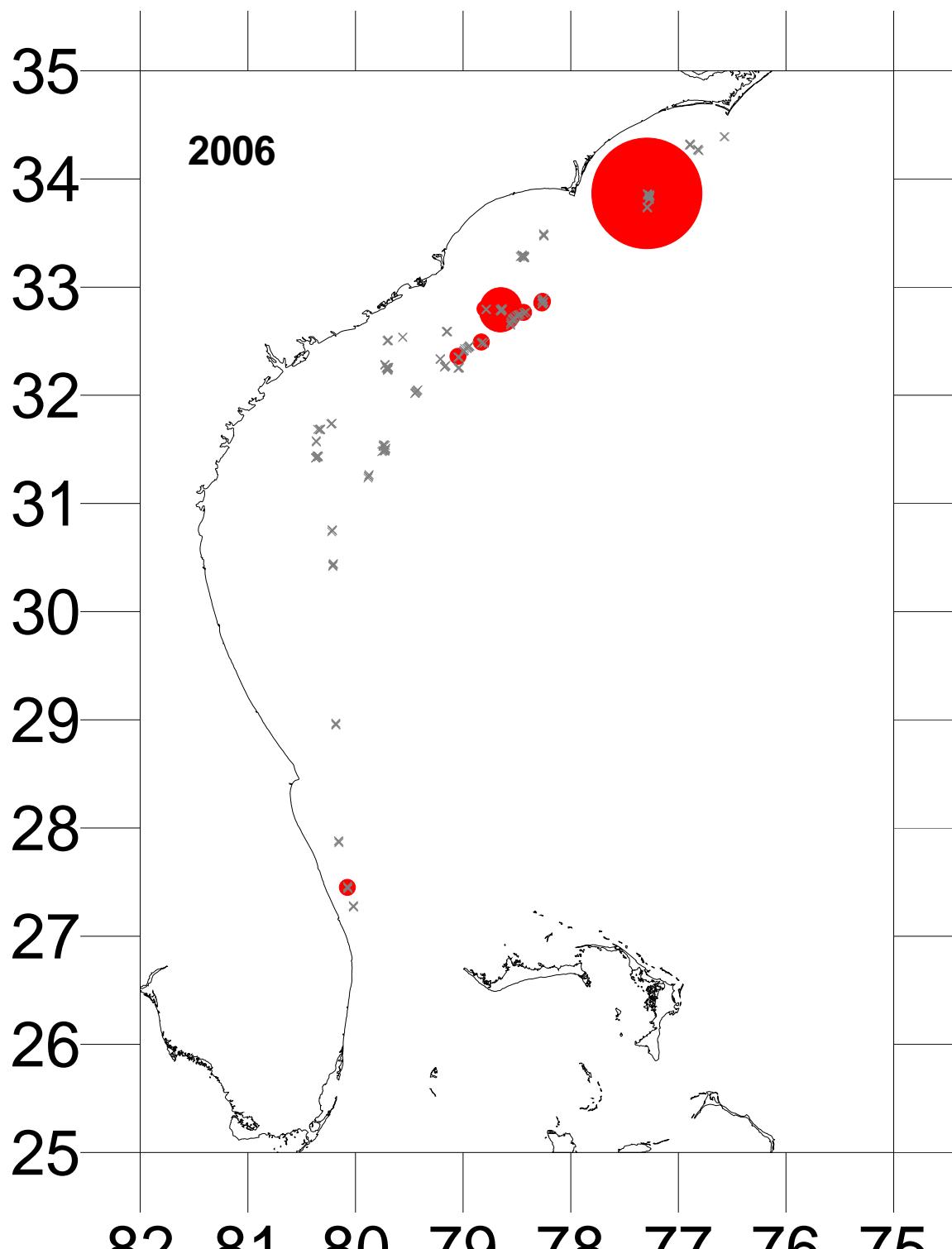


Effort: 218 chevron trap sets

Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 3

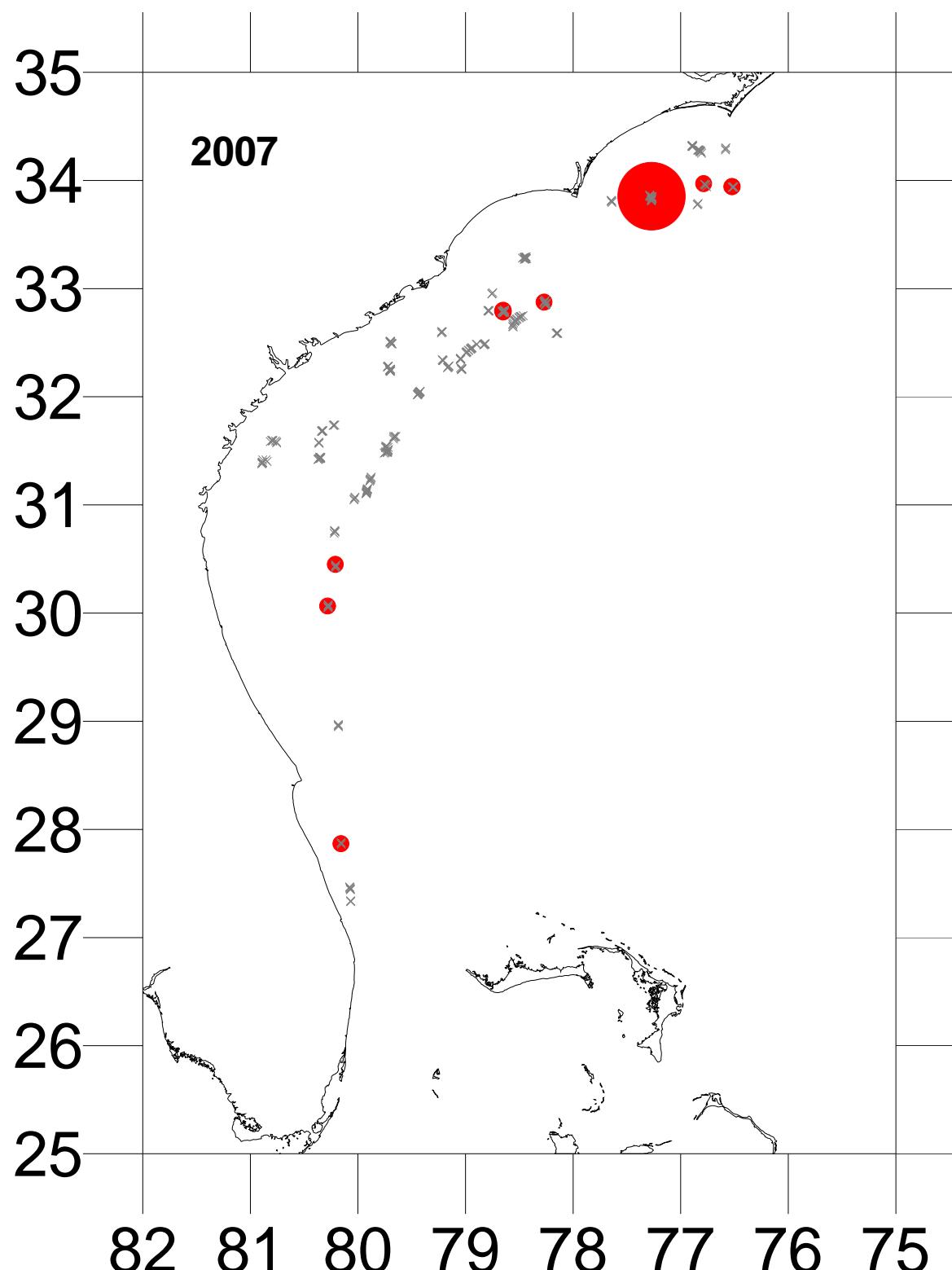






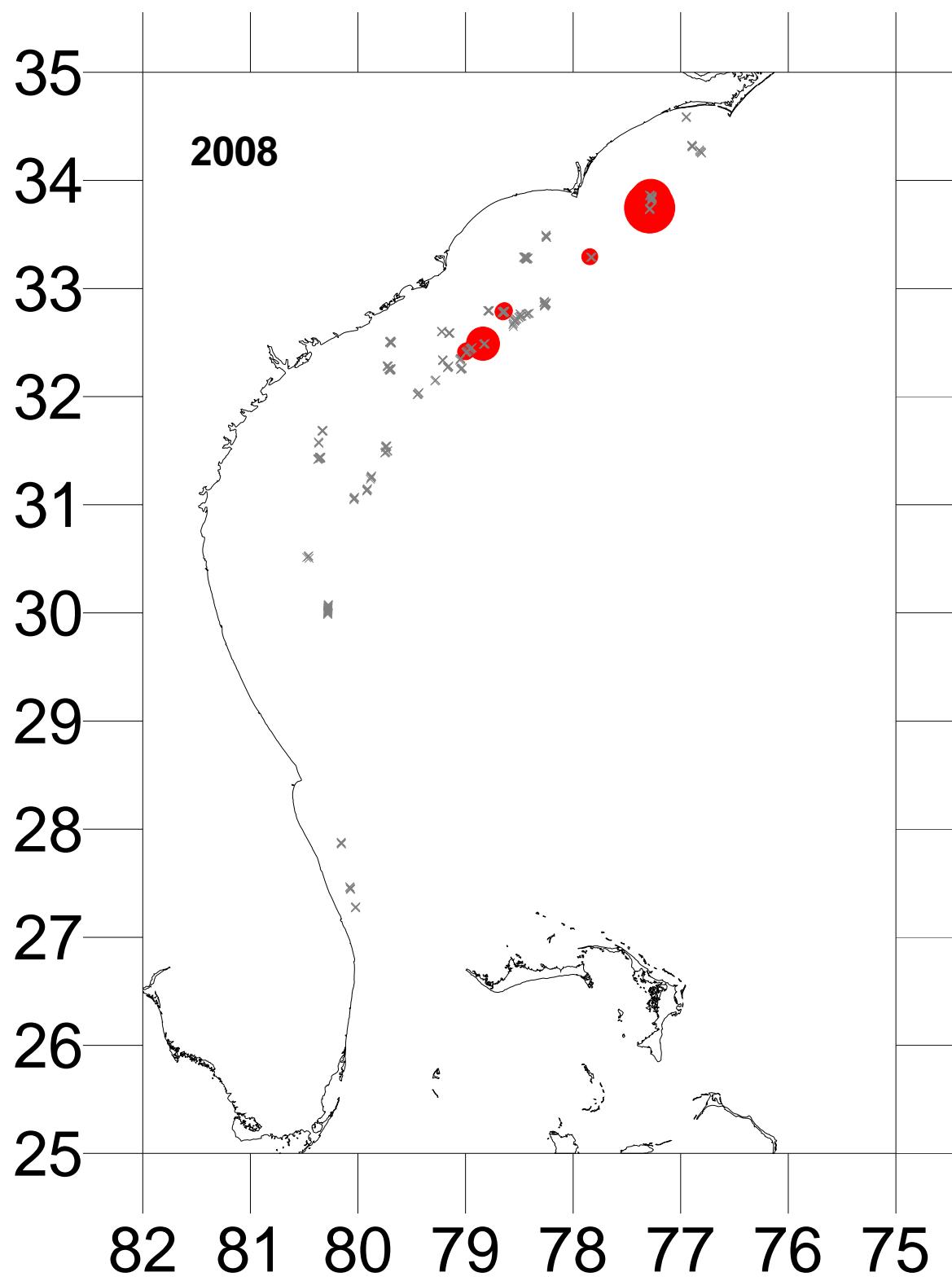
Effort: 285 chevron trap sets

Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 12



Effort: 326 chevron trap sets

Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 7

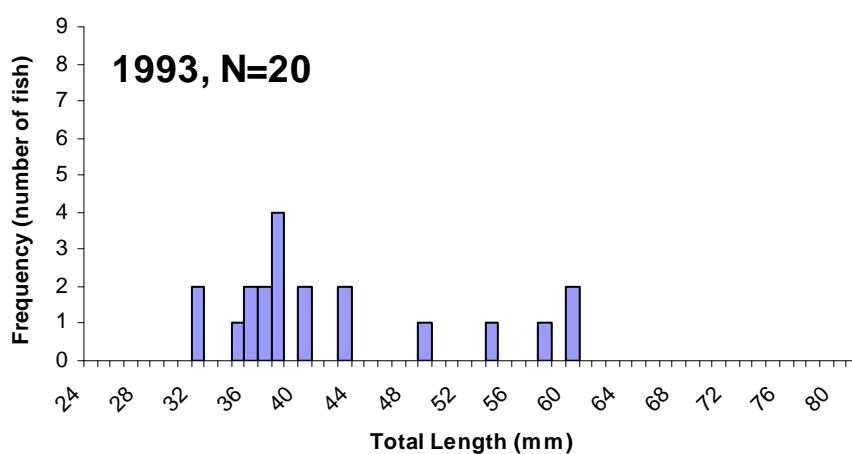
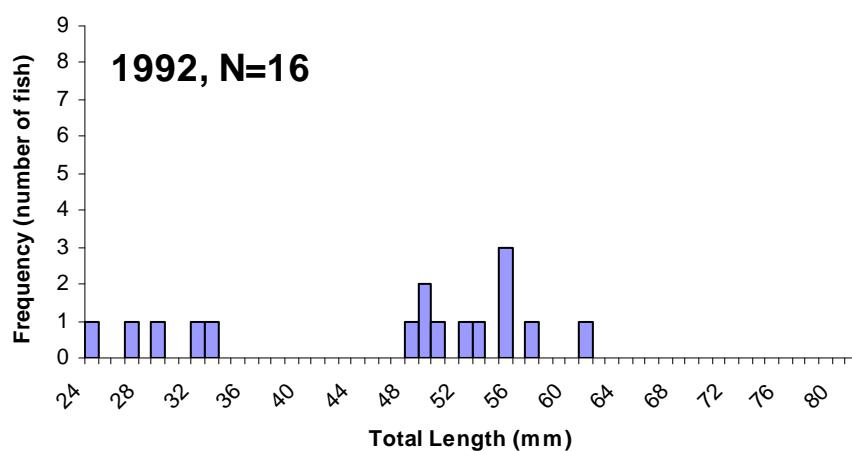
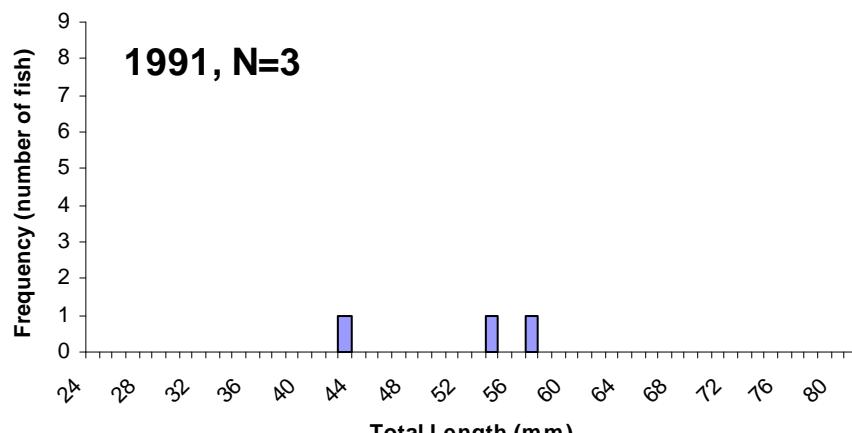


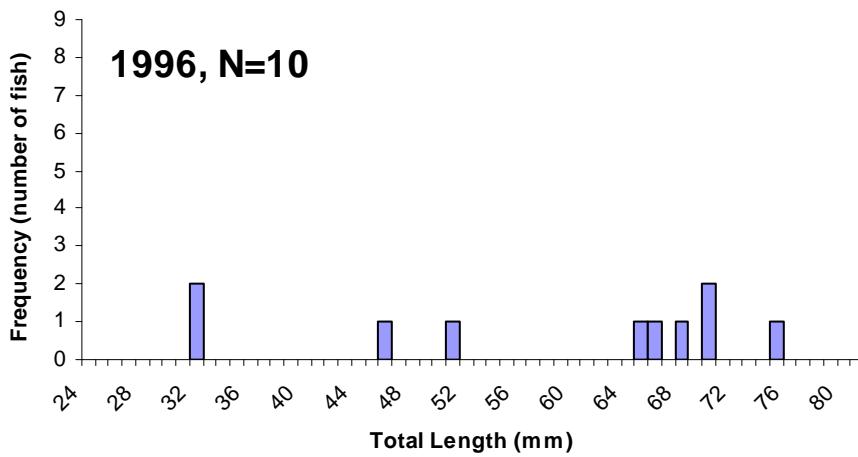
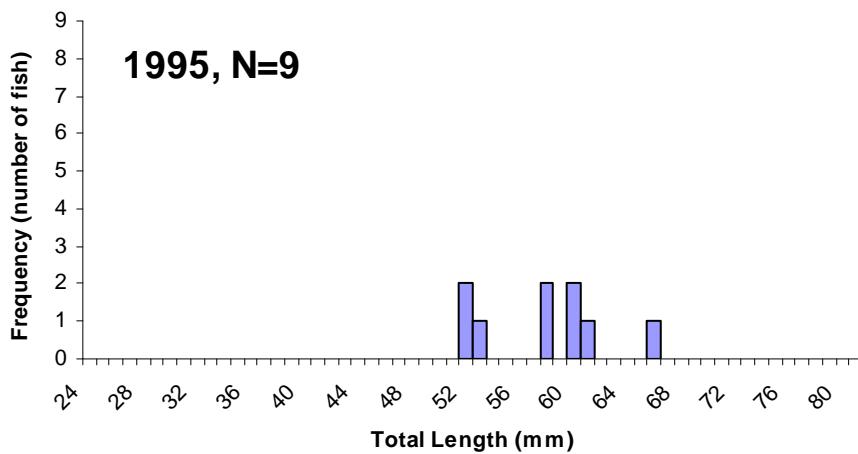
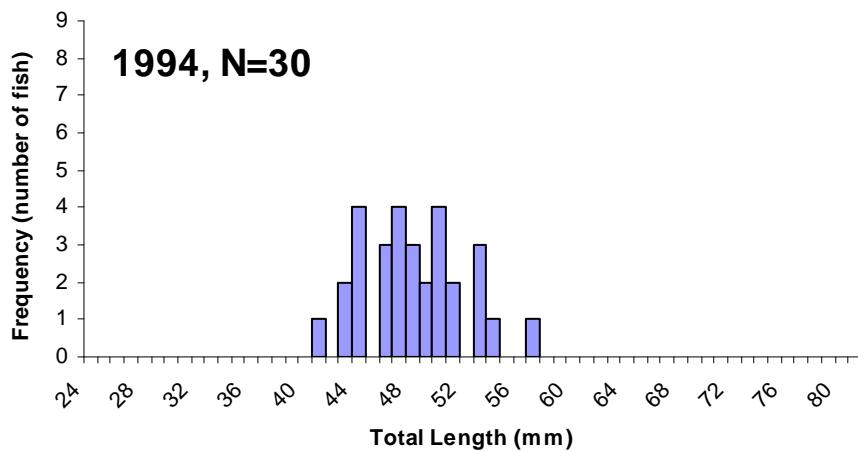
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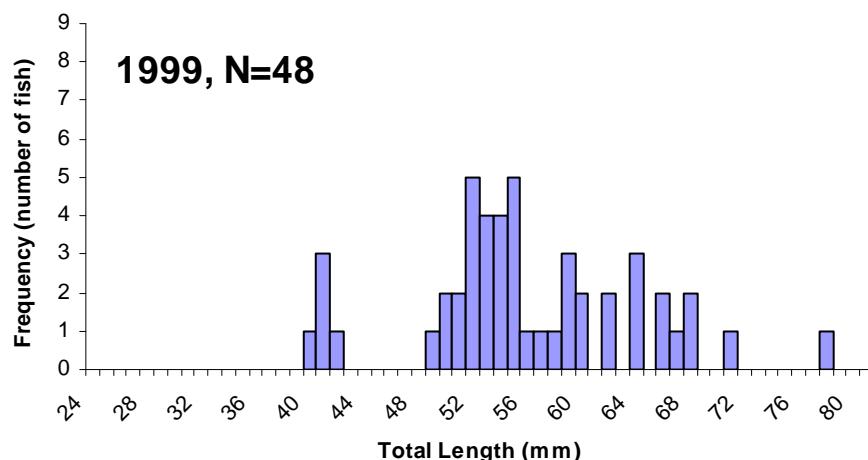
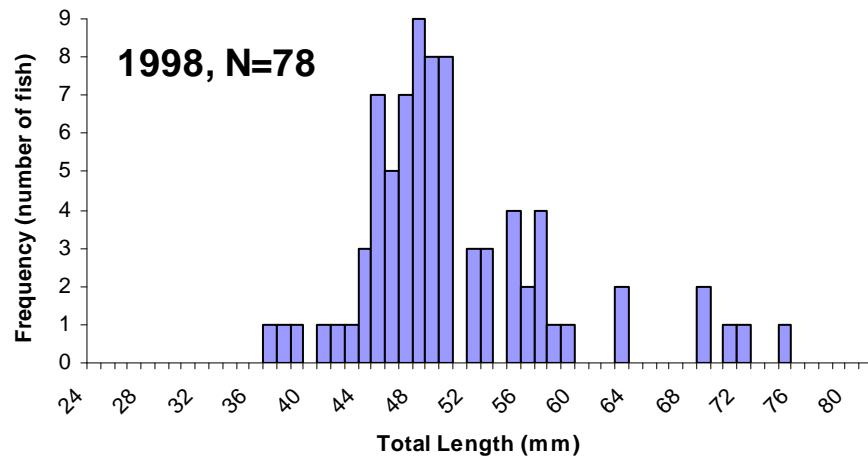
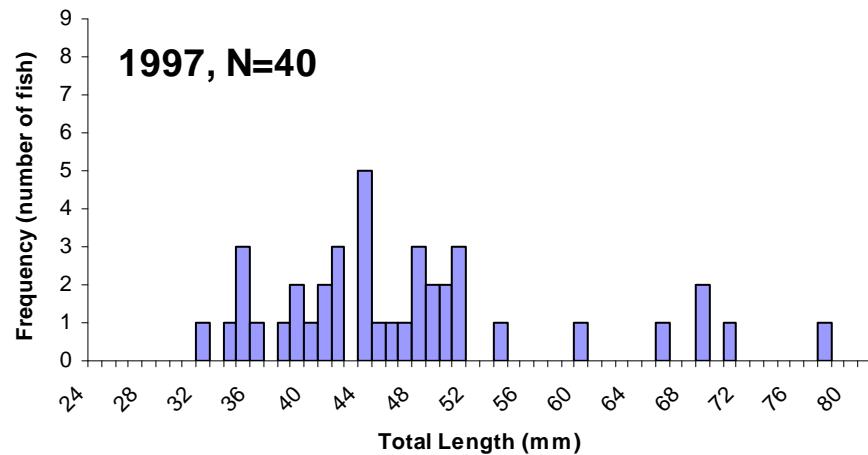
Range of non-zero red grouper observations: 1 – 5

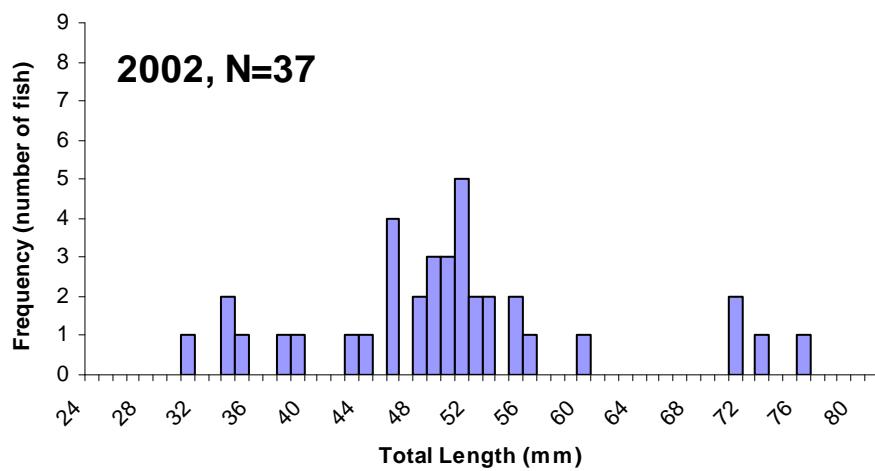
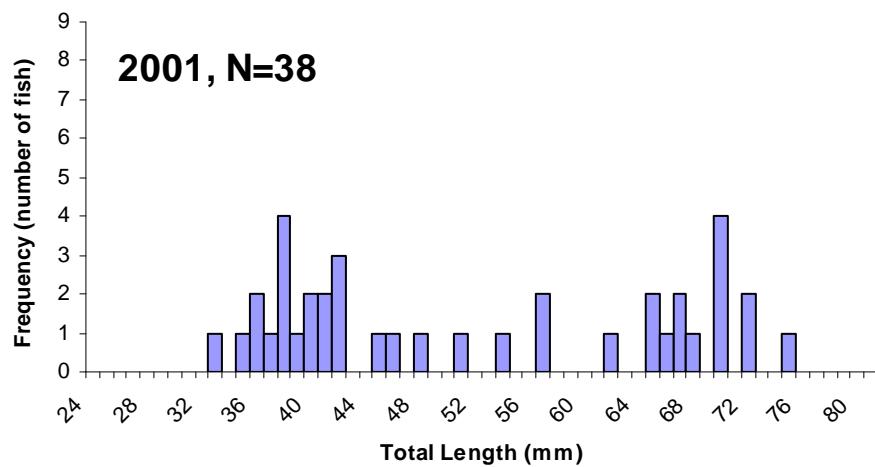
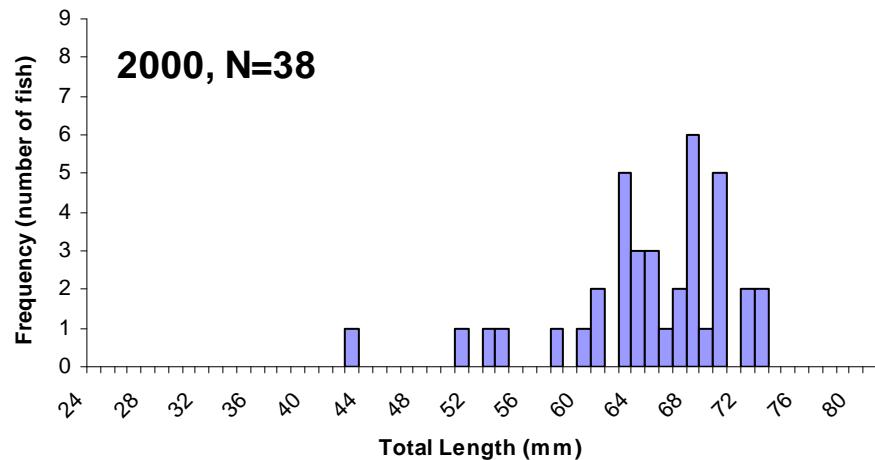
## Appendix 2:

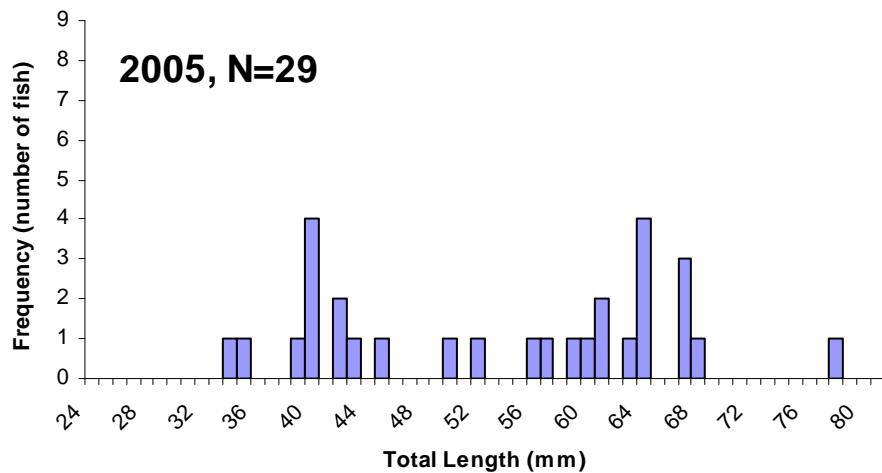
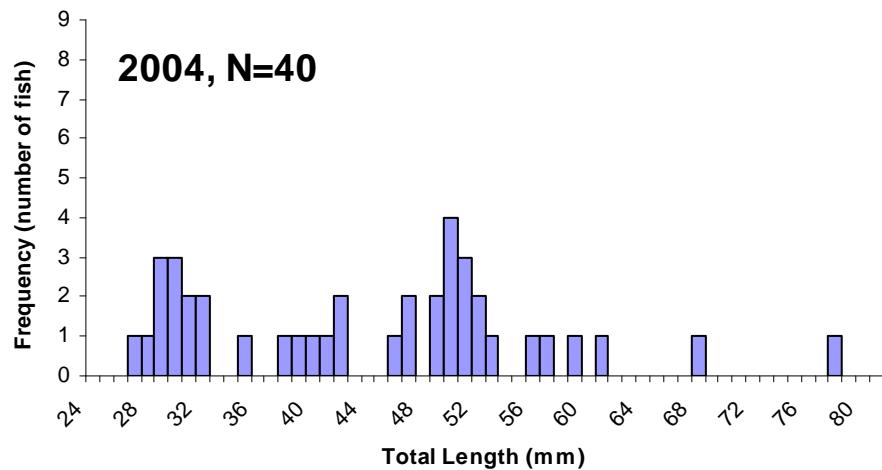
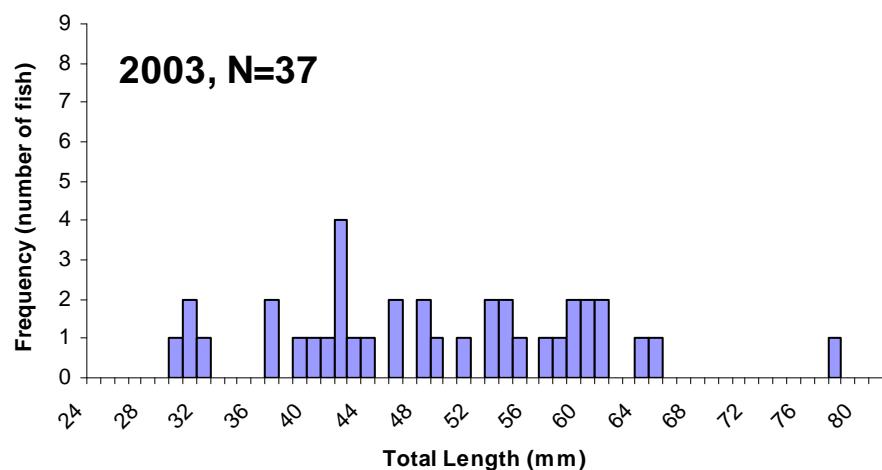
Length frequencies of red grouper observed in chevron traps set during the MARMAP Survey (1990 – 2008).

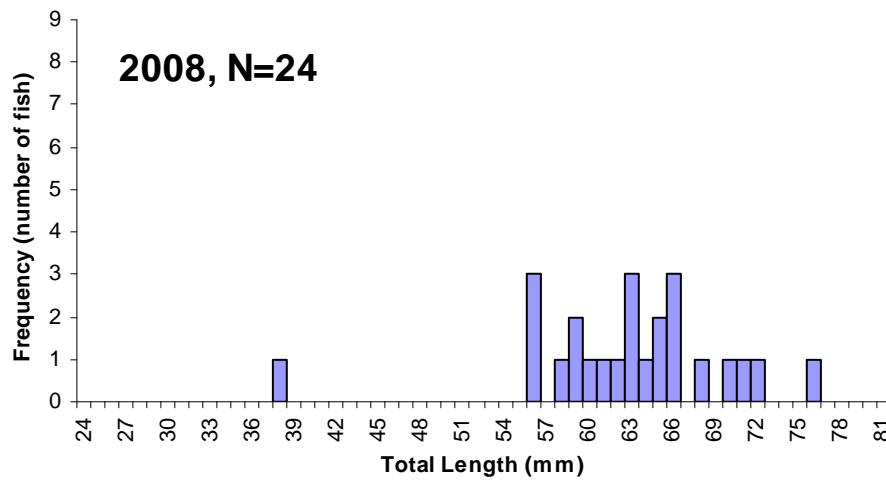
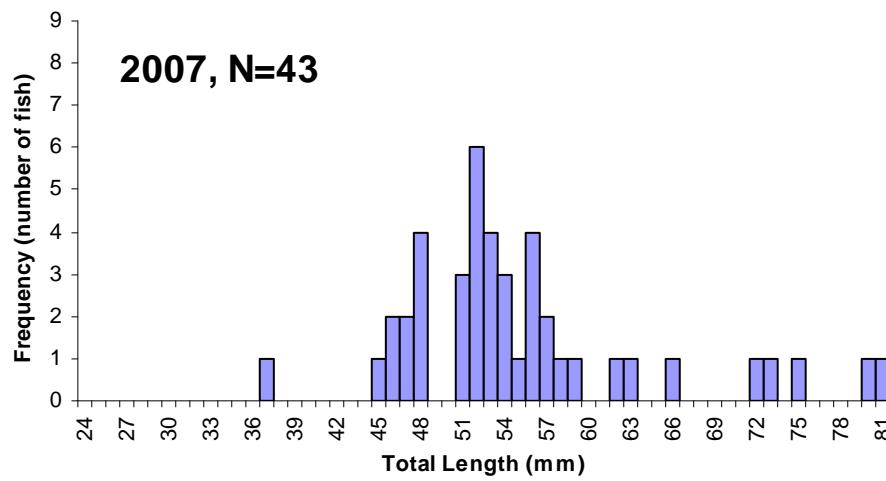
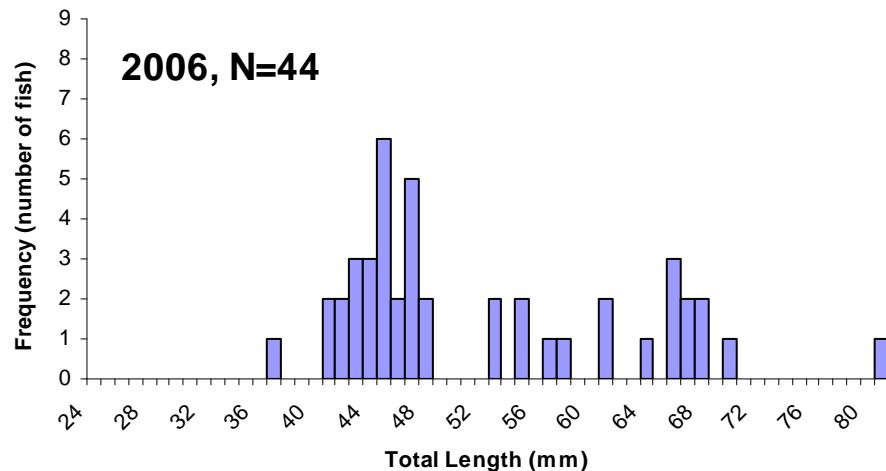






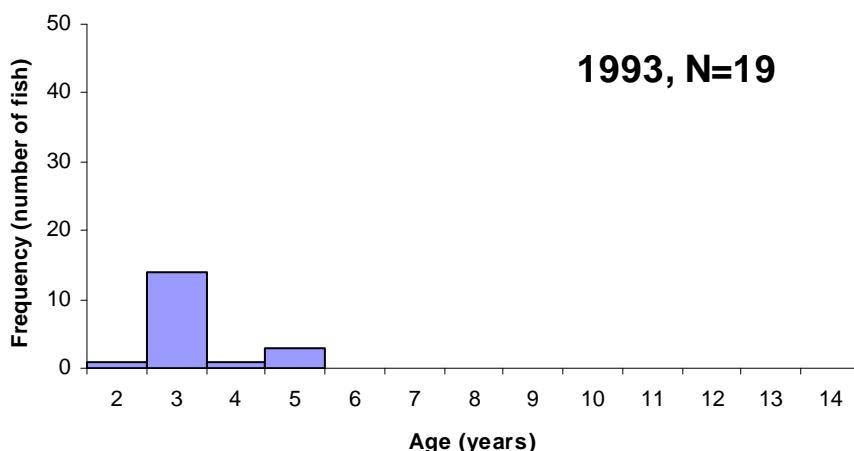
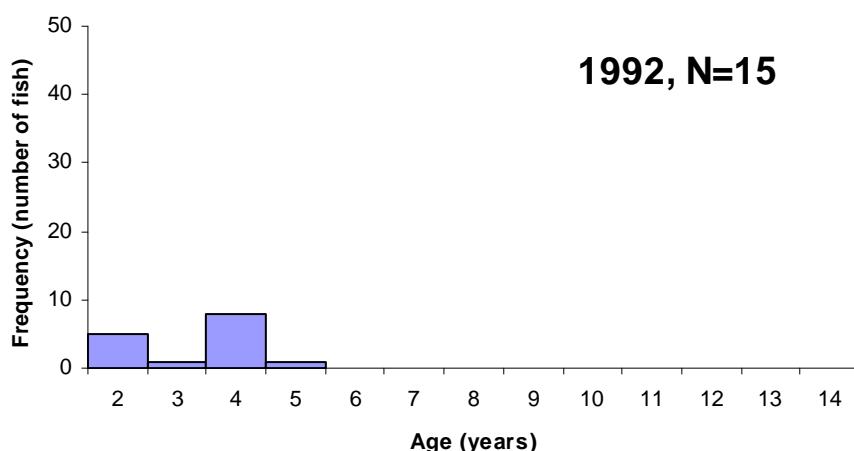
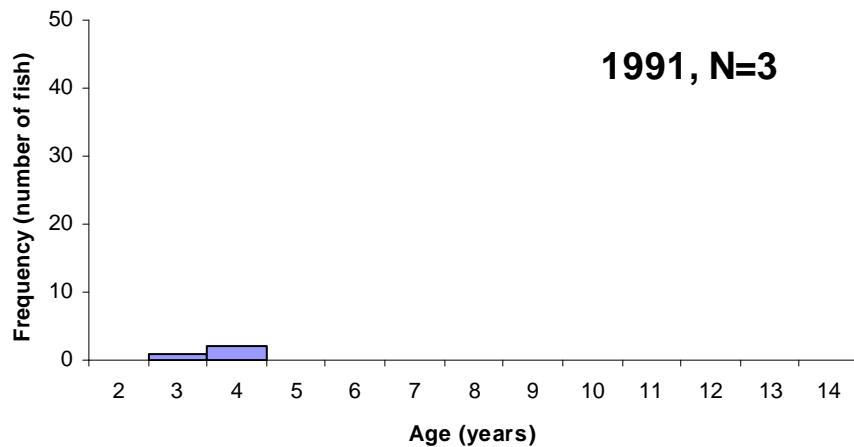


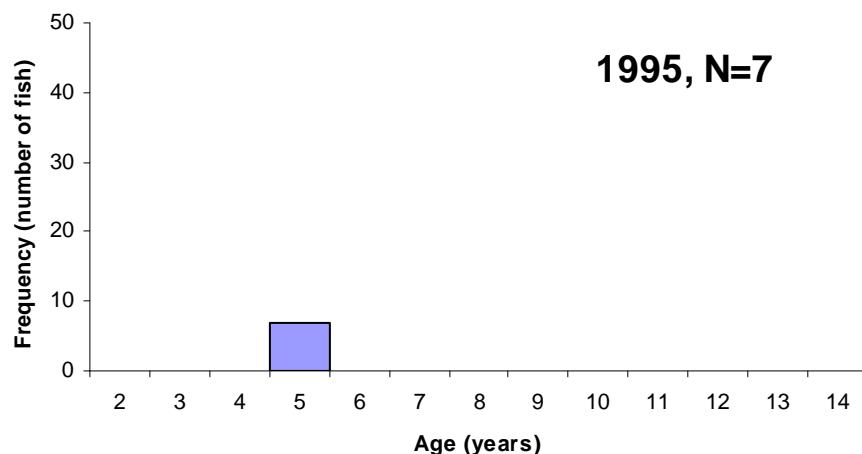
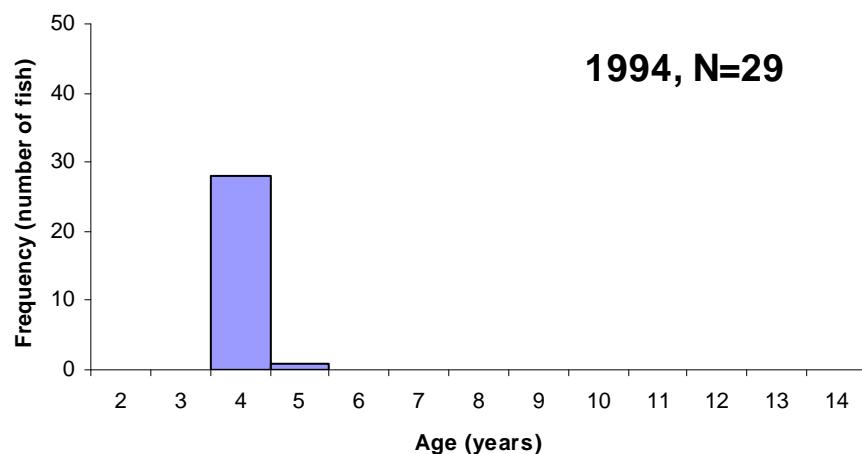


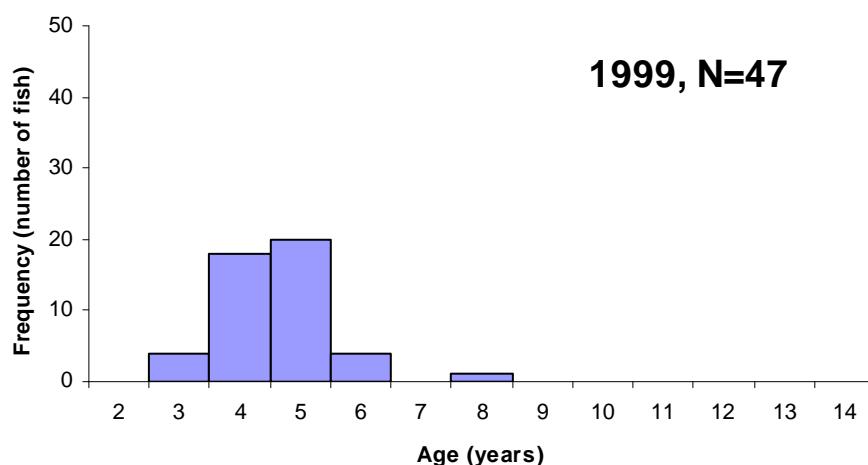
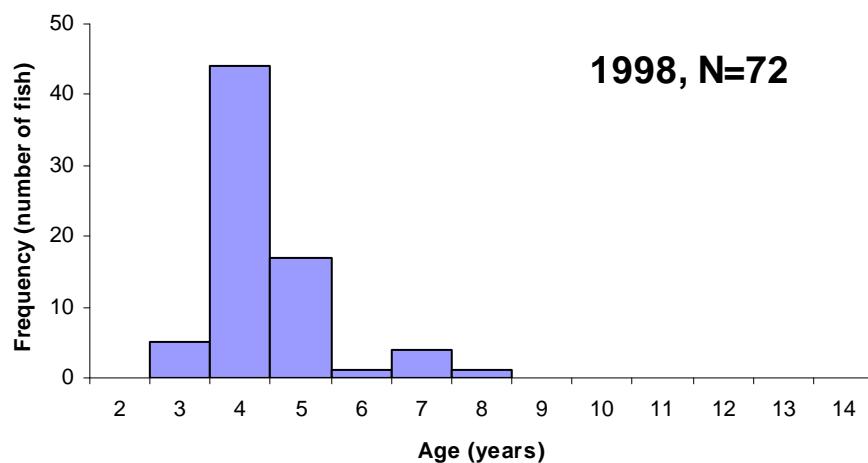
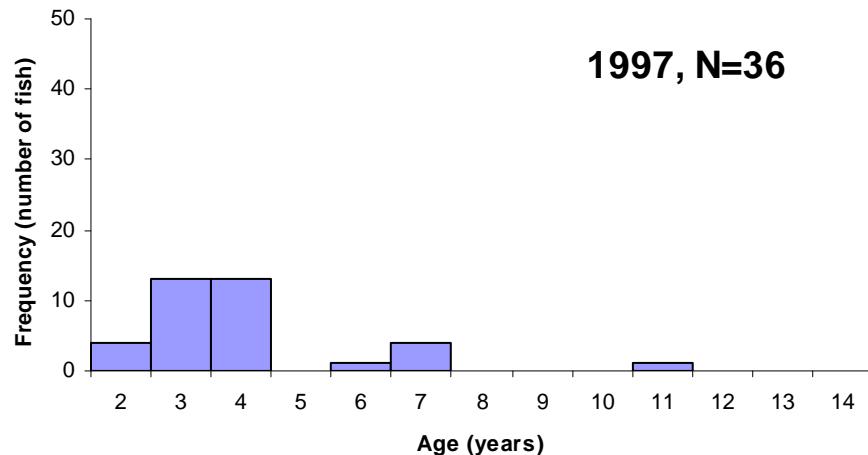


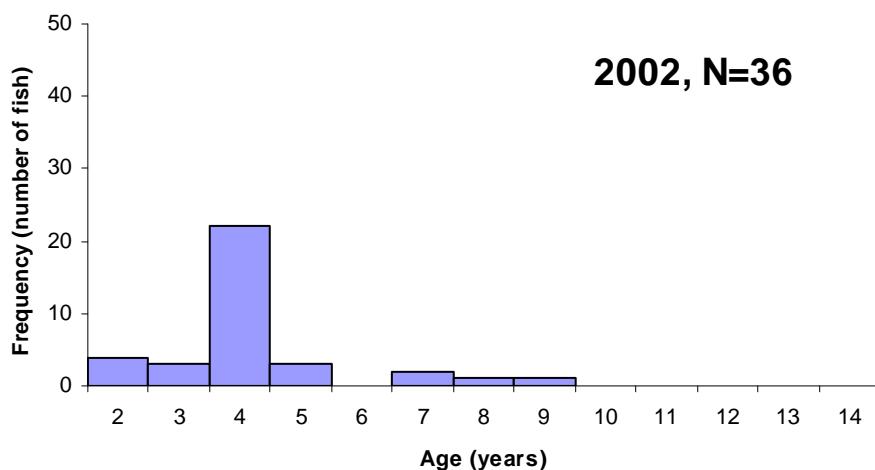
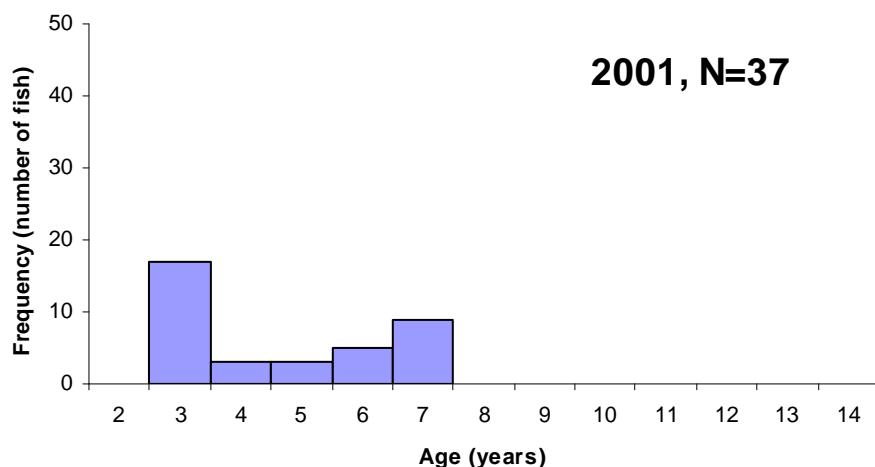
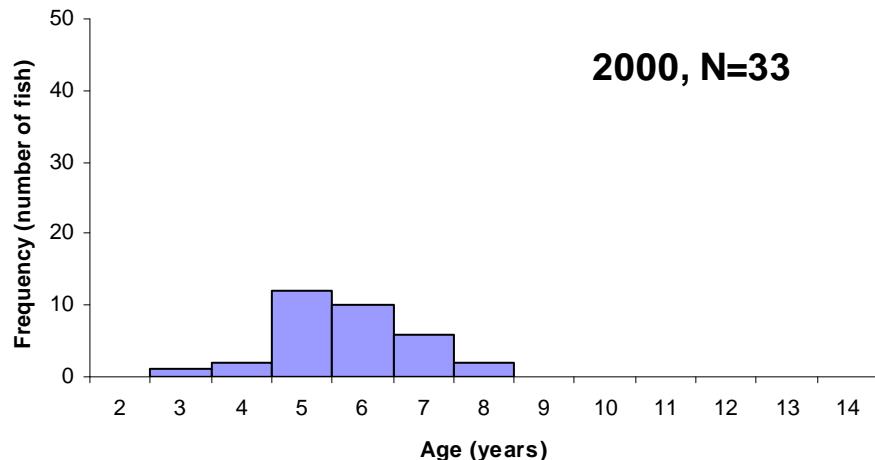
### Appendix 3:

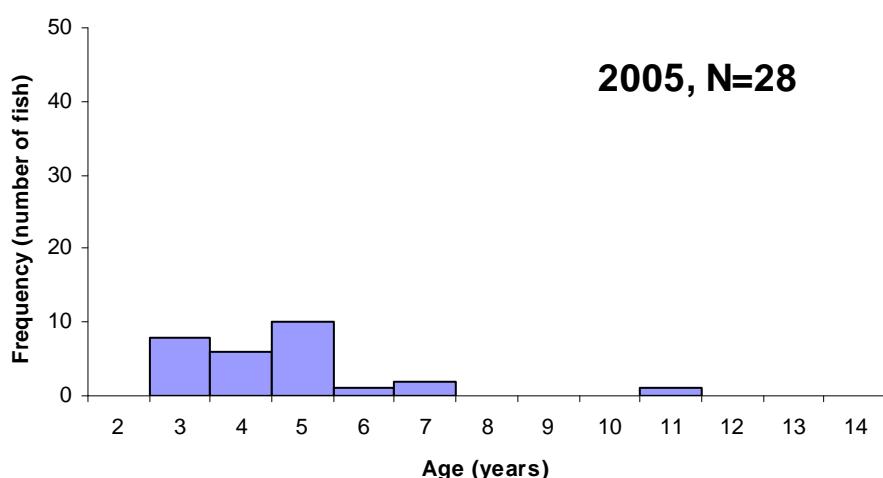
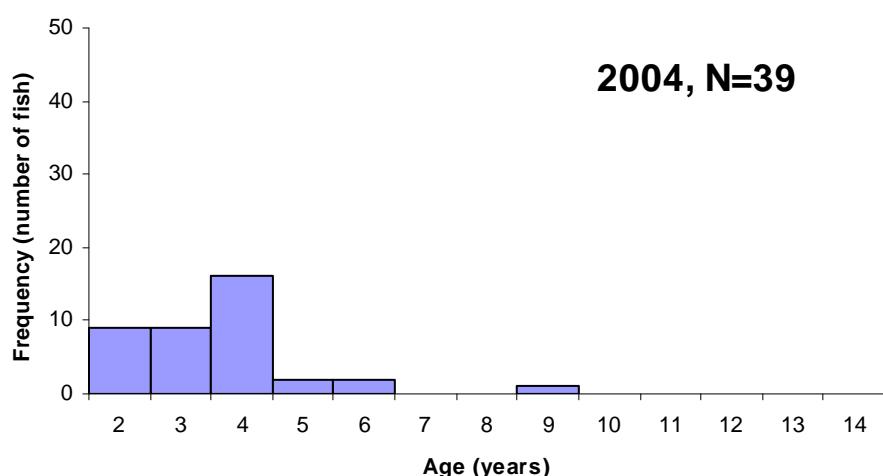
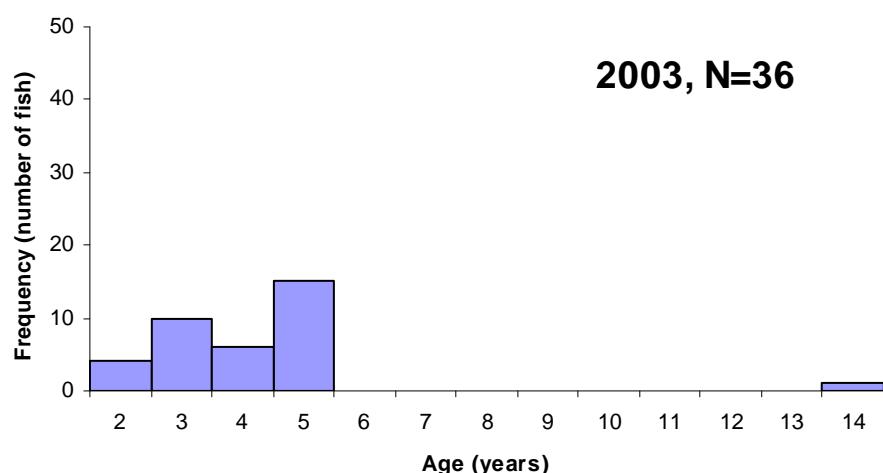
Age frequencies of red grouper observed in chevron traps set during the MARMAP Survey (1991 – 2008).

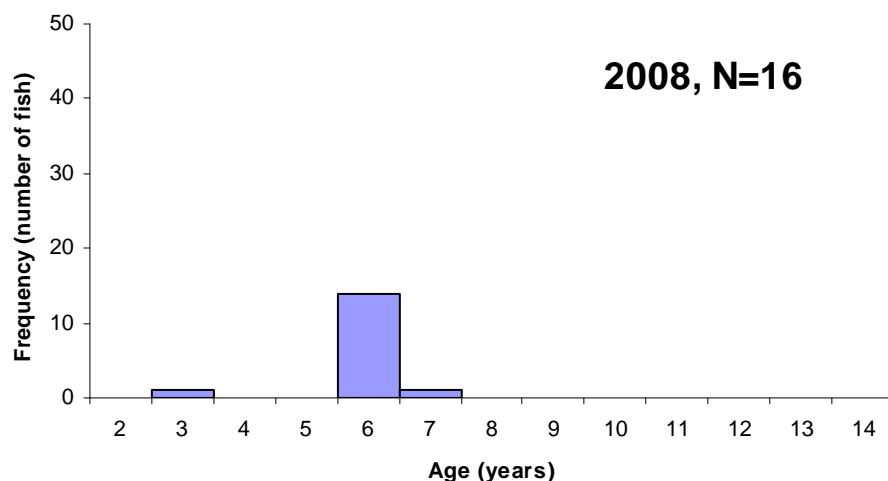
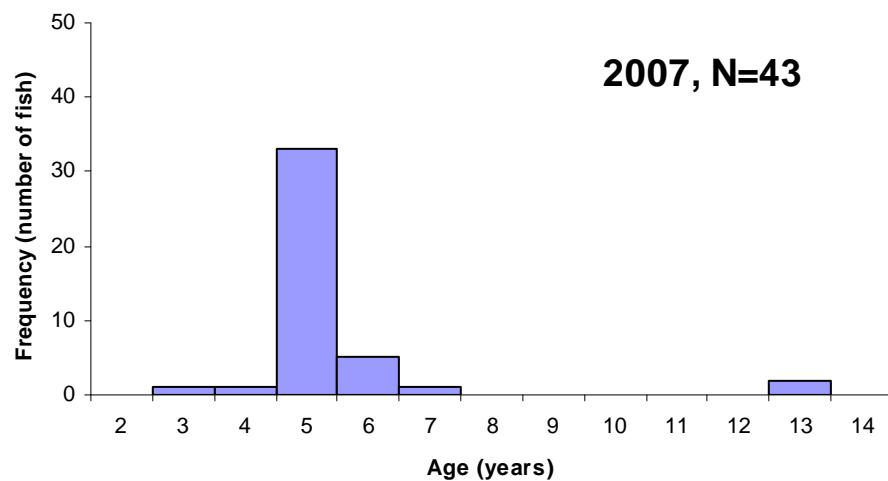
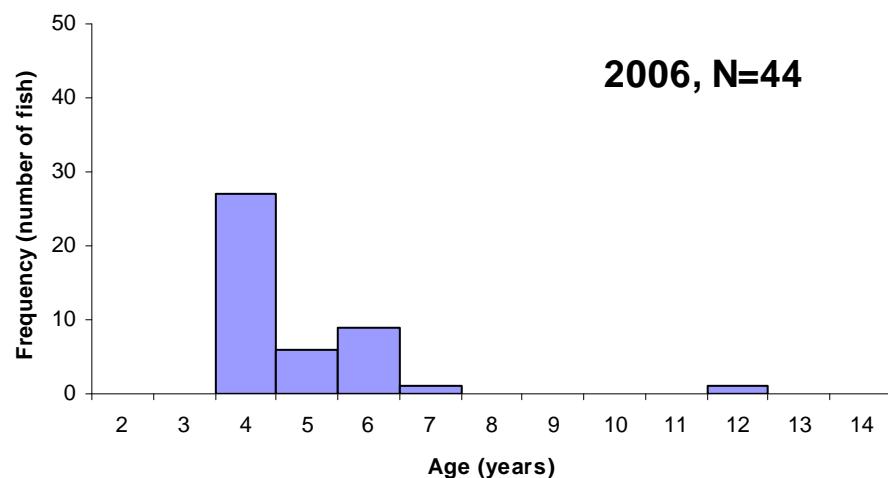












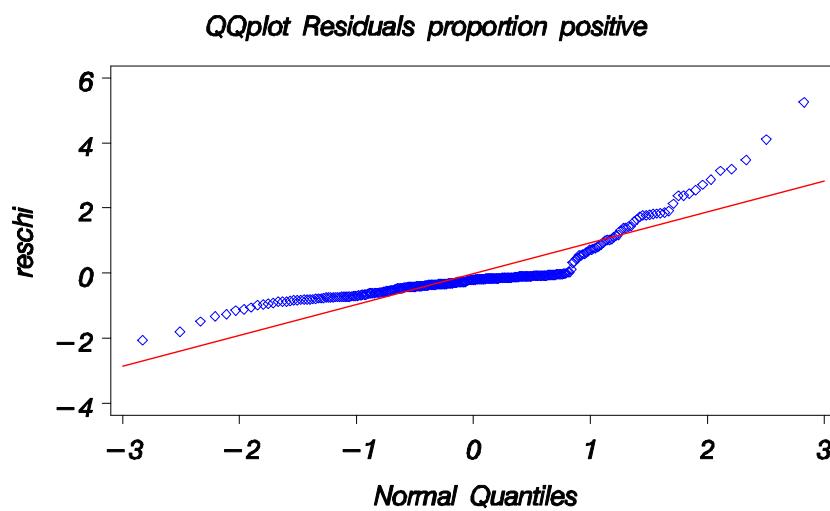
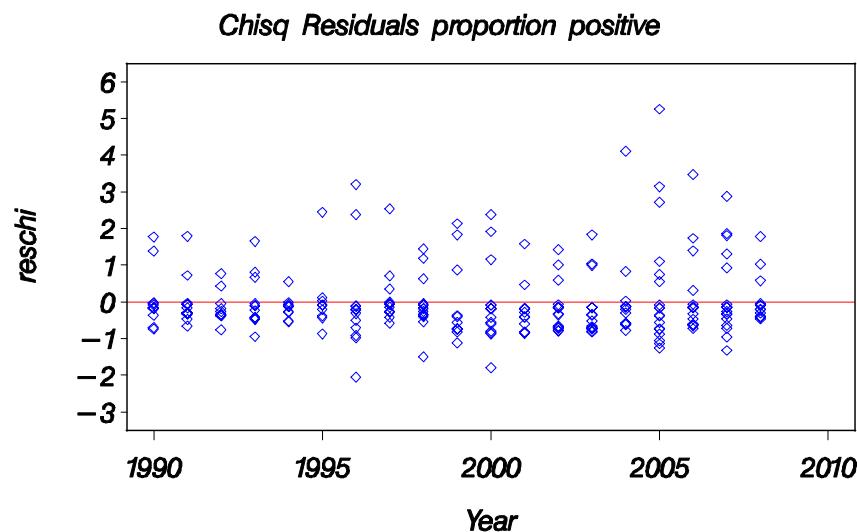
## Appendix 4:

Model building results for red grouper observed in chevron traps set during the MARMAP Survey (1990 – 2008).

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Binomial: Type 3 Tests of Fixed Effects, AIC =1256.5						
Effect	Num DF	Den DF	Chi-Square	F Value	Pr > ChiSq	Pr > F
Year	18	238	52.95	2.94	<.0001	<.0001
Latitude Degree Category	6	238	159.01	26.50	<.0001	<.0001
Depth Class	3	238	37.97	12.66	<.0001	<.0001

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Run: 2. Poisson: Type 3 Tests of Fixed Effects, AIC = 544.9

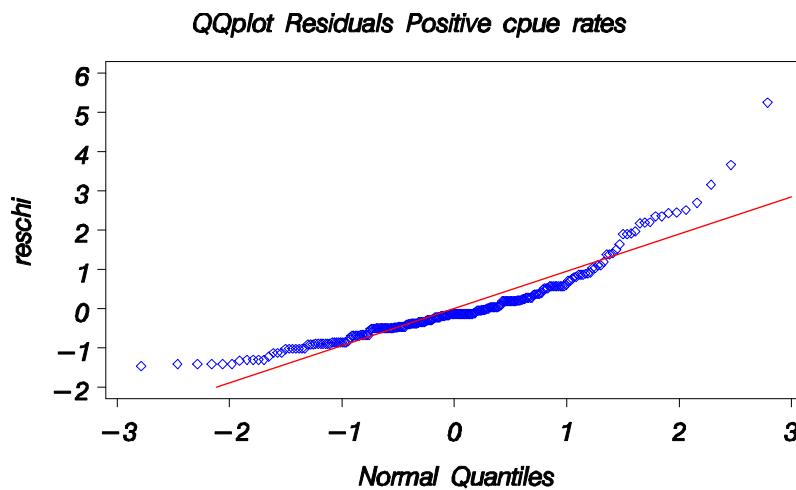
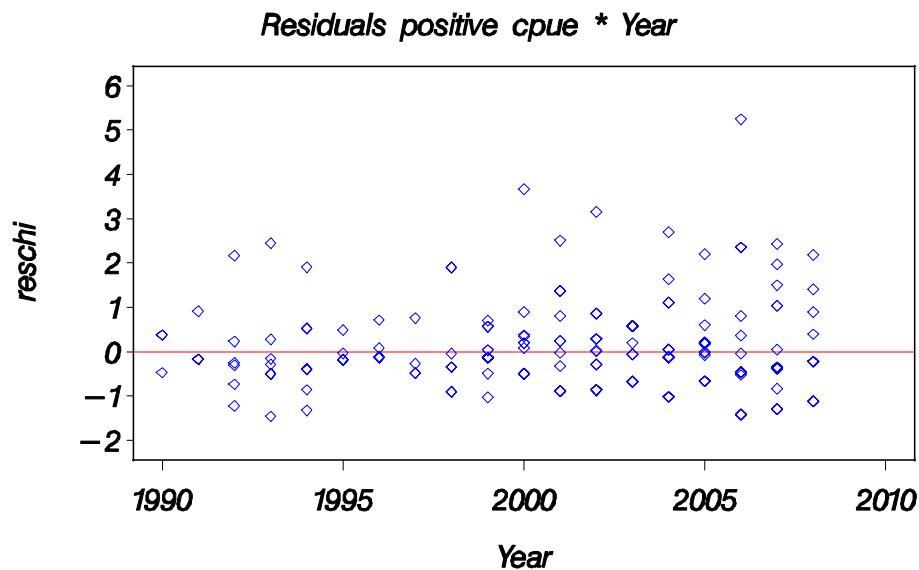
Effect	Num DF	Den DF	Chi-Square	F Value	Pr > ChiSq	Pr > F
Year	18	207	29.05	1.61	0.0478	0.0589
Latitude Degree Category	6	207	23.95	3.99	0.0005	0.0008
Depth Class	3	207	5.21	1.74	0.1571	0.1606

---

Run: 2. Poisson: Type 3 Tests of Fixed Effects, AIC = 547.7

Effect	Num DF	Den DF	Chi-Square	F Value	Pr > ChiSq	Pr > F
Year	18	210	31.66	1.76	0.0241	0.0321
Latitude Degree Category	6	210	49.18	8.20	<.0001	<.0001

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***Appendix 1***  
***Additional Analyses to MARMAP***  
***Chevron Trap Data***

A separate analysis was run on the MARMAP chevron trap data. Standardized catch rates were estimated using a delta-GLM error structure modified from Lo et al. (1992), in which the binomial distribution describes proportion of positive CPUE, and Poisson distribution describes the positive CPUE. Explanatory variables considered, in addition to year (necessarily included), were bottom temperature (continuous variable), month (categorical variable), latitude degree (categorical variable), depth (continuous variable), and trap set duration (continuous variable). Both model components (binomial and Poisson) included main effects only.

***Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper***  
***GLIMMIX binomial on proportion of positive***  
***GLIMMIX Model Statistics***

<i>Fit Statistics</i>	
-2 Res Log Likelihood	23229.6
AIC (smaller is better)	23231.6
AICC (smaller is better)	23231.6
BIC (smaller is better)	23237.8

<i>Type 3 Tests of Fixed Effects</i>						
<i>Effect</i>	<i>Num</i>	<i>Den</i>	<i>Chi-Square</i>	<i>F Value</i>	<i>Pr &gt; ChiSq</i>	<i>Pr &gt; F</i>
	<i>DF</i>	<i>DF</i>				
<i>Year</i>	18	3476	73.39	4.08	<.0001	<.0001
<i>LatDeg</i>	6	3476	216.86	36.14	<.0001	<.0001
<i>depthclass</i>	3	3476	70.26	23.42	<.0001	<.0001
<i>Month</i>	4	3476	18.74	4.68	0.0009	0.0009
<i>Duration</i>	1	3476	8.58	8.58	0.0034	0.0034

<i>Description</i>	<i>Value</i>
Deviance	938.5857
Scaled Deviance	1449.0785
Pearson Chi-Square	2251.4472
Scaled Pearson Chi-Square	3476.0000
Extra-Dispersion Scale	0.6477

**Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper**

**GLIMMIX on positive catches**

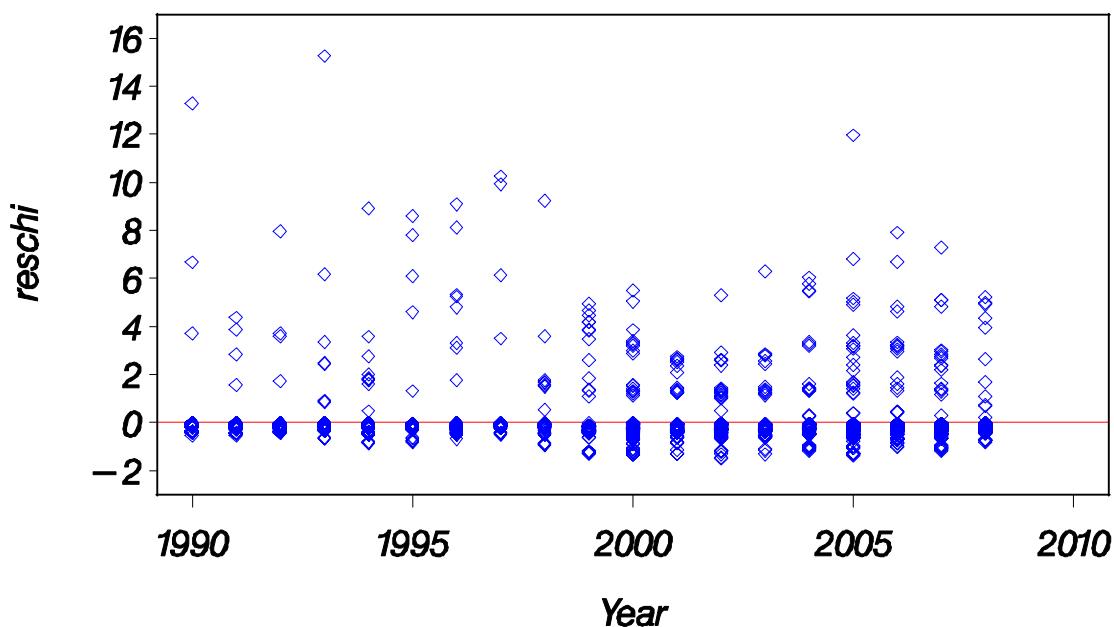
**GLIMMIX Model Statistics**

<i>Fit Statistics</i>	
-2 Res Log Likelihood	506.0
AIC (smaller is better)	508.0
AICC (smaller is better)	508.0
BIC (smaller is better)	511.3

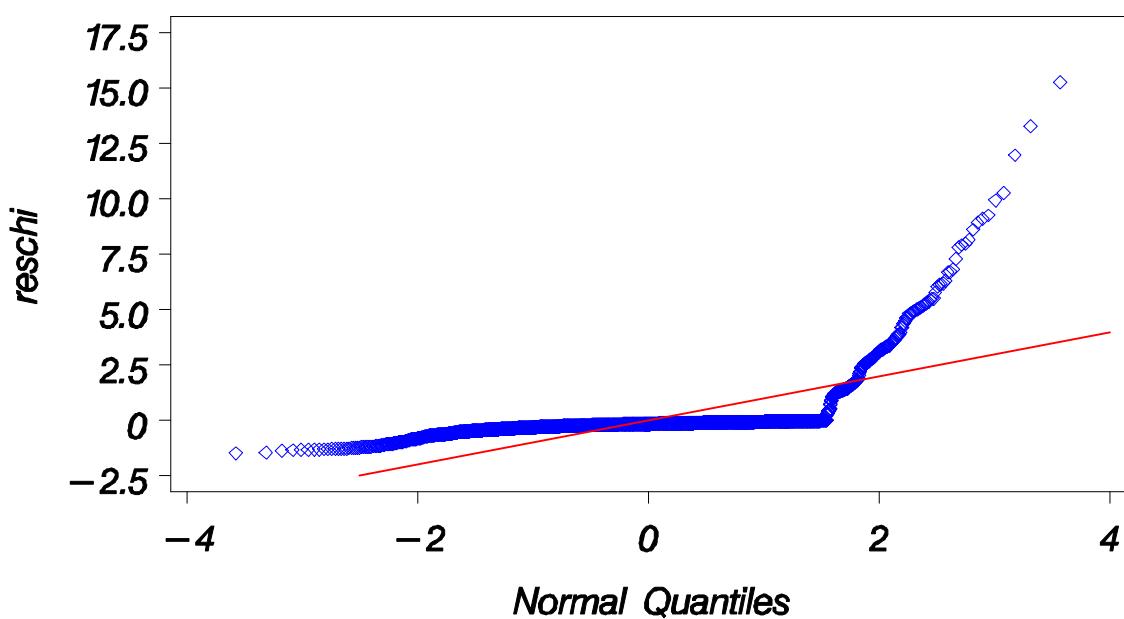
<i>Type 3 Tests of Fixed Effects</i>						
<i>Effect</i>	<i>Num DF</i>	<i>Den DF</i>	<i>Chi-Square</i>	<i>F Value</i>	<i>Pr &gt; ChiSq</i>	<i>Pr &gt; F</i>
Year	18	205	36.31	2.02	0.0064	0.0103
LatDeg	6	205	46.45	7.74	<.0001	<.0001
Month	4	205	9.28	2.32	0.0544	0.0581
Duration	1	205	3.07	3.07	0.0800	0.0815

<i>Description</i>	<i>Value</i>
Deviance	149.4549
Scaled Deviance	176.2744
Pearson Chi-Square	173.8100
Scaled Pearson Chi-Square	205.0000
Extra-Dispersion Scale	0.8479

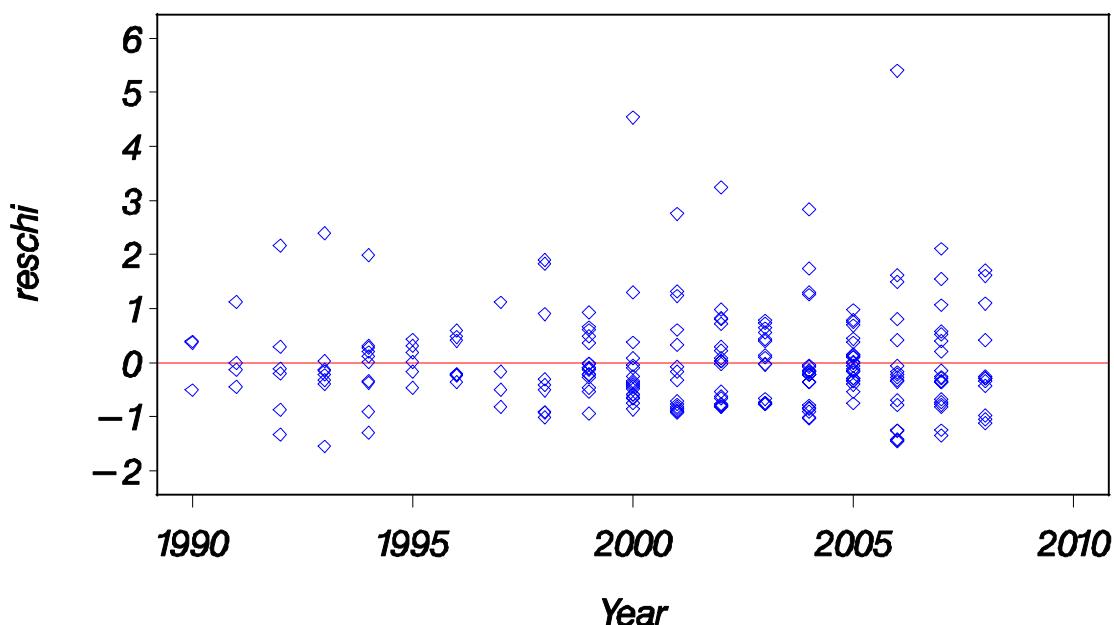
*Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper  
Chisq Residuals proportion positive*



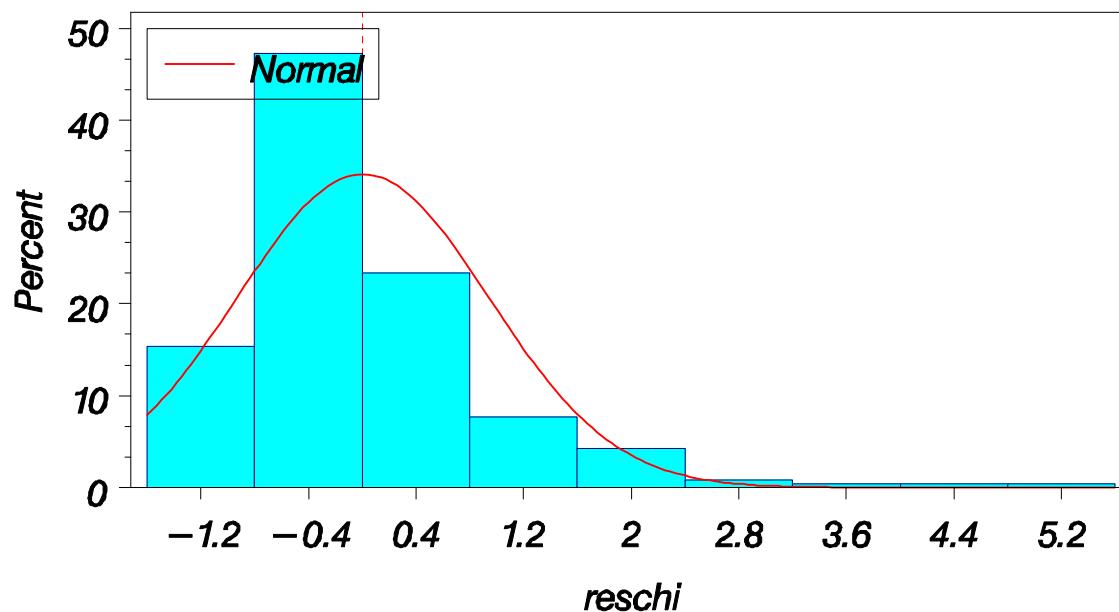
*Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper  
QQplot Residuals proportion positive*



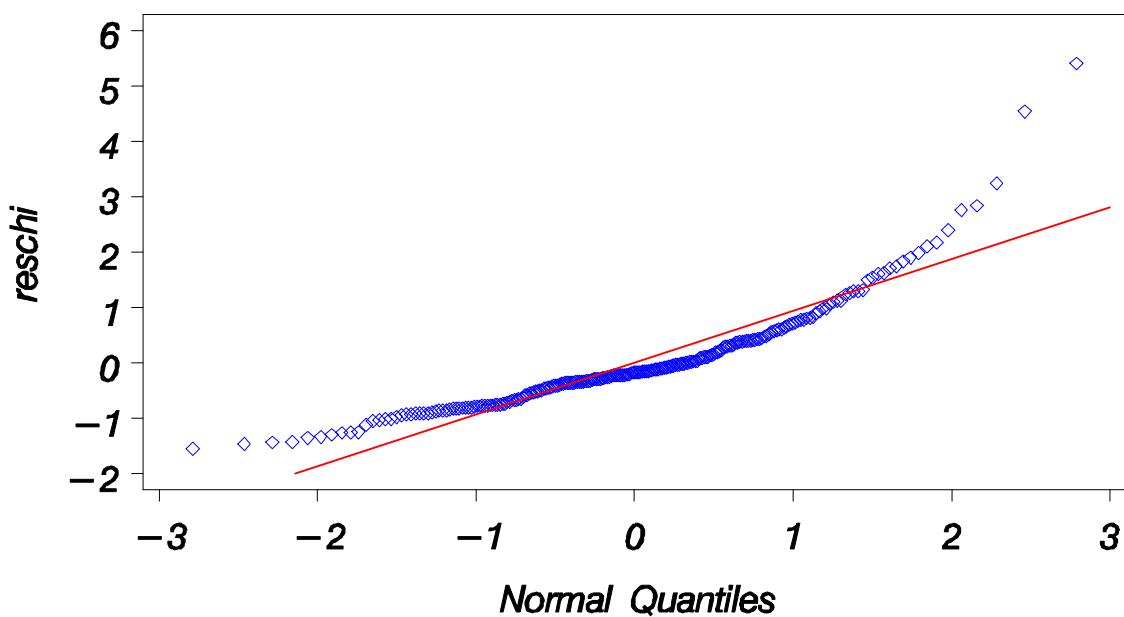
*Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper  
Residuals positive cpue \* Year*



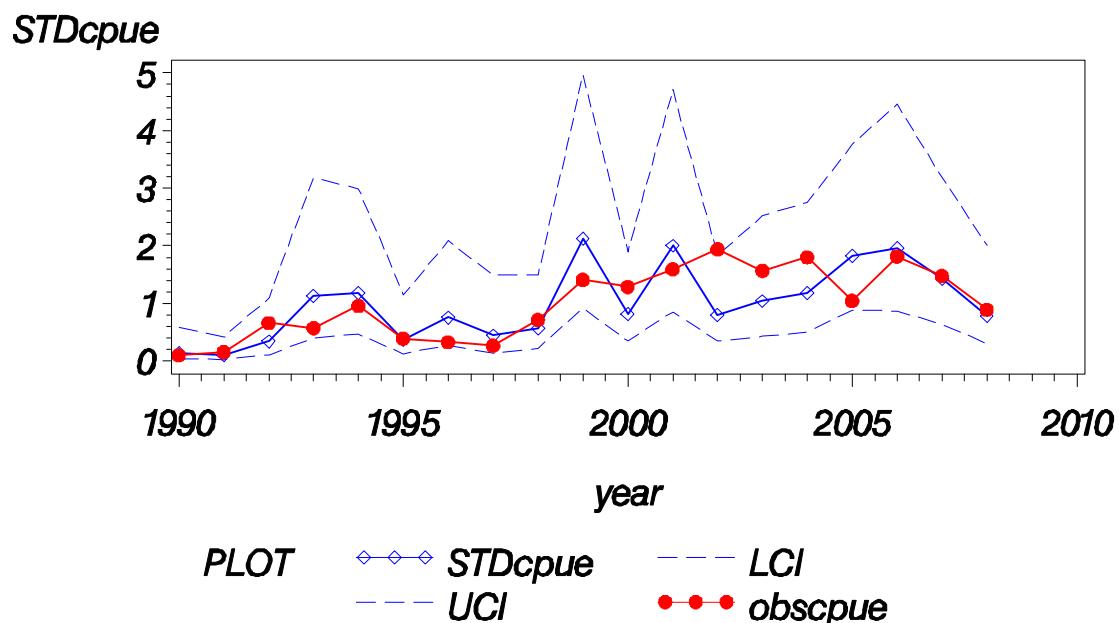
*Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper  
Residuals positive cpue Distribution*

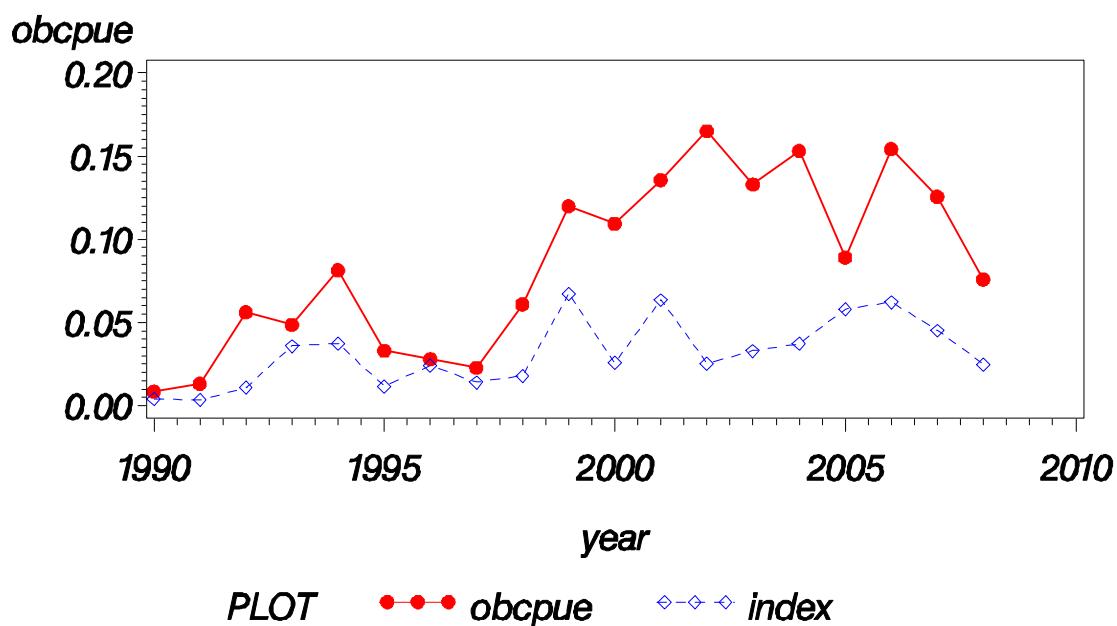


*Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper  
QQplot Residuals Positive cpue rates*



*Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper*  
*Observed and Standardized CPUE (95% CI)*



*Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper**Diagnostic plots: 3) Obs vs Pred CPUE Input units*

***Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper  
Index Output***

<i>SurveyYear</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>LoIndex</i>	<i>StdIndex</i>	<i>CV</i>	<i>LCL</i>	<i>UCL</i>
1990	0.008547	351	0.004263	0.13444	0.84287	0.03106	0.58194
1991	0.013289	301	0.003371	0.10630	0.77402	0.02700	0.41848
1992	0.018750	320	0.010893	0.34351	0.63105	0.10791	1.09351
1993	0.019465	411	0.035881	1.13145	0.55314	0.40260	3.17982
1994	0.027174	368	0.037406	1.17953	0.49171	0.46507	2.99161
1995	0.022059	272	0.011749	0.37048	0.61019	0.12026	1.14139
1996	0.024922	321	0.024074	0.75913	0.53974	0.27614	2.08690
1997	0.011429	350	0.014086	0.44416	0.66571	0.13227	1.49150
1998	0.027439	328	0.018062	0.56954	0.51371	0.21636	1.49925
1999	0.071111	225	0.067363	2.12417	0.44465	0.90836	4.96732
2000	0.067925	265	0.025808	0.81380	0.44299	0.34901	1.89754
2001	0.063559	236	0.063577	2.00479	0.44678	0.85412	4.70565
2002	0.091743	218	0.025406	0.80114	0.43342	0.34940	1.83691
2003	0.068807	218	0.033032	1.04161	0.46580	0.42935	2.52697
2004	0.080460	261	0.037356	1.17796	0.44450	0.50386	2.75392
2005	0.075908	303	0.057908	1.82604	0.37299	0.88721	3.75829
2006	0.063158	285	0.062294	1.96433	0.42756	0.86559	4.45777
2007	0.058282	326	0.045151	1.42377	0.41855	0.63746	3.17995
2008	0.039604	303	0.024858	0.78385	0.49785	0.30585	2.00888

***Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper  
Modeled Frequency of Occurrence Index Output***

MFO	CVMFO	LCLMFO	UCLMFO	year	MNZCPUE	NFO	NNZCPUE
0.005047	0.58157	0.001610	0.015705	1990	0.84482	0.008547	1.00000
0.006446	0.55238	0.002177	0.018933	1991	0.52295	0.013289	1.00000
0.006187	0.53149	0.002177	0.017453	1992	1.76082	0.018750	3.00000
0.016523	0.44828	0.006827	0.039442	1993	2.17164	0.019465	2.50000
0.023444	0.37332	0.011218	0.048343	1994	1.59554	0.027174	3.00000
0.012659	0.46647	0.005052	0.031361	1995	0.92809	0.022059	1.50000
0.021613	0.38436	0.010122	0.045547	1996	1.11388	0.024922	1.12500
0.007858	0.52434	0.002802	0.021837	1997	1.79241	0.011429	2.00000
0.022460	0.38437	0.010517	0.047319	1998	0.80416	0.027439	2.22222
0.053159	0.31768	0.028260	0.097790	1999	1.26719	0.071111	1.68750
0.032157	0.31277	0.017326	0.058920	2000	0.80255	0.067925	1.61111
0.052500	0.32528	0.027489	0.097975	2001	1.21100	0.063559	2.13333
0.037430	0.31203	0.020180	0.068398	2002	0.67876	0.091743	1.80000
0.037658	0.33273	0.019479	0.071562	2003	0.87717	0.068807	1.93333
0.034868	0.33211	0.018068	0.066234	2004	1.07136	0.080460	1.90476
0.057943	0.27059	0.033837	0.097489	2005	0.99940	0.075908	1.17391
0.033626	0.32174	0.017792	0.062650	2006	1.85257	0.063158	2.44444
0.038558	0.30819	0.020944	0.069928	2007	1.17100	0.058282	2.15789
0.020461	0.38277	0.009616	0.043009	2008	1.21488	0.039604	1.91667

*Delta Poisson CPUE for red grouper*  
*Observed and Standardized Frequency of Occurrence (95% CI)*

