

Additional age data of south Atlantic red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) from Florida Fish and Wildlife's dependent monitoring program

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Introduction

FL FWC contributed additional age data for this assessment after the conclusion of the data workshop (and therefore not included in the SEDAR24 Data Workshop report). These data included fishery-dependent collections during the 2001 – 2006 fishing years.

Methods

Otoliths were randomly collected by port agents intercepting fishing trips. Ages were determined by FWC staff who were involved in the red snapper age workshop (see SEDAR24-DW-10 for more information). Age data included an increment count, an adjusted calendar age based on timing of annulus formation and an estimate of the amount of translucent edge present, and the determined fractional age using a July 1 birth date.

Results

A total of 683 otoliths were aged: commercial n = 10; charter boat n = 449; private boat n = 15; headboat n = 208; unknown = 1. (See Table 1 for samples collected each year by fishery.) Age estimates ranged from 2 to 18 with a mode age of 4. (See Tables 2 for age frequency by year.)

Table 1: Number of otoliths aged from the east coast of Florida by year and trip type.

Year	Commercial	Charter boat	Private boat	Headboat	Unknown	Grand Total
2001	1					1
2002		23	10		1	34
2003	2	82	2			86
2004	4	35	1	7		47
2005		128	2	60		190
2006	3	181		141		325
Grand Total	10	449	15	208	1	683

Table 2: Age frequency of red snapper collected off the east coast of Florida by year.

Calendar age	Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Grand Total
1								
2			4	1	1	1	6	13
3		1	25	51	26	105	42	250
4			3	19	10	49	182	263
5			2	6	6	11	48	73
6				3	1	13	16	33
7				3	2	4	8	17
8				1	1	2	6	10
9							7	7
10				1		3	1	5
11							1	1
12						1		1
13				1			3	4
14							2	2
15							1	1
16								
17							1	1
18						1	1	2
Grand Total		1	34	86	47	190	325	683