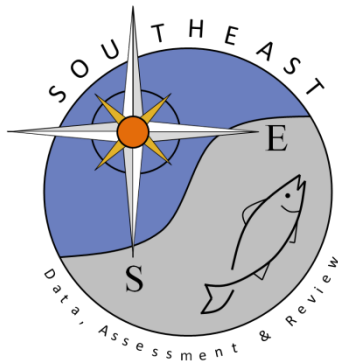


Fishery-Independent Sampling: Alabama

SEDAR27-RD-01



ALABAMA MARINE RESOURCES

Trawls

Years: 1981- Current

Target species: N/A

Design: fixed stations

Processing: Prior to 2007 samples were preserved in 10% formalin. 2007 and after samples were frozen until processing. Large adults if caught are measured for appropriate length, weighed (spring scale) and released. Lab processing entails measuring up to 50 individuals (SL) and obtaining weight of entire species catch on a bench scale.

Gear description: 16 foot, flat two seam. 1.25" stretch mesh (front) 1.5" stretch mesh bag, with 3/16" liner.

Sampling: 10 minute tow time.

Changes: Numerous stations have been added or dropped over time. Longest running sample stations are: 3T, 8T, 9T, 12T, 14T, 16T, 17T, 20T, 24T, 27T, 28T, 31T

Factors: length (mmSL), catch(total number), year, month, day, water temperature, salinity, D.O., 10-minute tow standard effort.

Seine

Years: 1981- Current

Target species: N/A

Design: fixed stations

Processing: Samples are preserved in 5% formalin solution until processing. Large adults if caught are measured for appropriate length, weighed (spring scale) and released. Lab processing entails measuring up to 50 individuals (SL) and obtaining weight of entire species catch on a bench scale.

Gear description: 4' x 50' foot bag seine.

Bag 4'x4'x4'.

Knotless 3/16 mesh.

Sampling: 60 foot pull toward shore.

Changes: Numerous stations have been added or dropped over time. Longest running sample stations are: 34E, 38E.

Factors: length (mmSL), catch(total number), year, month, day, water temperature, salinity, D.O. Target species was juvenile mullet at the two stations listed above.

BPL

Years: 1981- Current

Target species: N/A

Design: fixed stations

Processing: Samples are preserved in 5% formalin solution until processing. Lab processing entails measuring up to 50 individuals (SL) and obtaining weight of entire species catch on a bench scale.

Gear description: Beam – 1.8 meter, aluminum

Trawl Opening (front) – 150 cm x 83.8 cm

Trawl Bottom (back) – 40 cm diameter

Net Depth – 100cm center, 116 cm sides

Mesh – 0.5 mm

Bag (detachable) – 40 cm dia. opening, 100cm deep, 9 cm dia. opening for cod

Cod End – 3” pvc w/ 3” cap, 16 holes w/ 0.5 mm screen

Sampling: towed perpendicular to shore for 426 ft..

Changes: Numerous stations have been added or dropped over time. Longest running sample stations are: 33B, 35B, 36B, 40B, 41B, 42B, 66B.

Factors: length (mmSL), catch(total number), year, month, day, water temperature, salinity, D.O., 10-minute tow standard effort.

Gillnets

Years: 2001- Current

Target species: N/A

Design: stratified random stations

Processing: Samples are placed on ice until processing. Field processing entails measuring up to 10 individuals (mm) from each mesh size per species and obtaining a total count by mesh size. Species of interest are bagged, labeled and returned for lab processing. Lab processing entails length, weight, sexing, ovary weight and otolith extraction.

Gear description:

The small mesh gillnet is composed of five panels (8 X 150 ft.) of graduated mesh sizes (750 ft. total). Mesh sizes begin with a 2-inch stretch mesh and increase by ½ inch increments. Each mesh is color coded by a corresponding float (blue = 2, red = 2.5, white = 3, green = 3.5, and gold = 4).

Each experimental large mesh gillnet is composed of four panels (8 X 150 ft.) of graduated mesh sizes (600 ft. total). Mesh sizes begin with a 4.5-inch stretch mesh and increase by ½ inch increments. Meshes are color coded by a corresponding float (blue = 4.5, red = 5, white = 5.5, and green = 6).

Sampling: soaked for a period of 1 hour.

Changes: Changed configuration of large mesh net twice. Originally was 5.25 and 6.0”. During 2004, large mesh net started with a 4’ mesh, but this mesh was dropped for 2005. Sampling sites are allocated by variation in samples. Essentially this minimized samples in cold months and areas that did not catch fish, while maintaining a target of 240 sets per year.

Factors: mesh size (stretch), length (mm, varies by species, FL for menhaden), species (3-letter code, MEN= gulf menhaden), catch (total number by mesh), year, month, day, water temperature, salinity, D.O. Areas; 1= upper bay, 2= lower bay, 3= Mississippi Sound, and 4= Perdido system.