

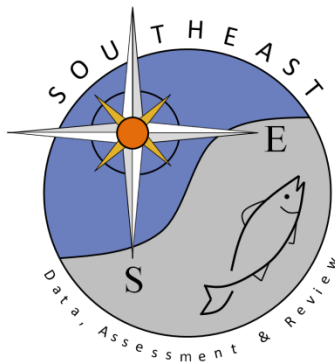
Monitoring of Commercially Exploited Fisheries Resources in Puerto Rico

(Abstract only)

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Monitoring of Commercially Exploited Fisheries Resources in Puerto Rico¹

by

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ABSTRACT

A monitoring program was conducted for two sampling periods, first from April 1986 to March 1987 and second from April 1987 to March 1988 to determine the distribution, relative abundance, and seasonal population fluctuations of commercially exploited fish and spiny lobster resources in selected fishing areas around Puerto Rico. Three coasts were monitored: East, South and West.

A total of 58 species of 16 families were monitored during the first sampling period for a total of over 642 kg of finfishes. For that same period a total of over 108 kg of spiny lobsters were monitored. During the second sampling period 68 species belonging to 18 families were monitored for a total of over 1,528 kg.

Two species of groupers (Serranidae) constituted the majority of the catch for both sampling periods. During the first sampling period groupers made up 40% by number of the total sample, of which the coney (*Epinephelus fulvus*) and red hind (*E. guttatus*) represented 23.9 and 19.9% by number respectively. For the second sampling period 59.9% by number of the catch was constituted by the species above mentioned; of which red hinds made up 30.9%, while the coney 29.1%. Singly, only one other species constituted a considerable part of the catch for both sampling periods; the lane snapper (*Lutjanus synagris*), which made up 20.2 and 5.7% for the first and second sampling years respectively.

Species composition for the east and south coasts were similar with predominant species members of the following families: grunt (Haemulidae), snappers (Lutjanidae), and groupers (Serranidae). On the other hand for the west coast the predominant species were groupers and snappers. The species composition was practically the same for both sampling periods.