

GENERAL CANVASS LANDINGS STATISTICS SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

John Poffenberger¹

General canvass landings statistics consist of the quantity and value of seafood products that are sold to established (licensed) wholesale and retail seafood dealers. Currently, these data are collected by trip ticket programs managed by state agencies in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. However, prior to the implementation of the trip ticket programs, landings statistics were traditionally collected monthly from seafood dealers as totals by species for the month. State or federal field agents would visit each dealer in their area and record the total quantity and value of the landings (purchases) for each species during the month. In addition, the agents would assign an estimate of the type of gear and fishing area where the landings were caught.

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) has maintained the general canvass landings statistics in a regional database since 1962. These monthly data are provided for the eight deep-water species in the SEDAR Data Workshop. Annual summaries of the eight species are provided in Table 1. It is immediately obvious from the data in this table that not all of the eight species had landings reported from 1962. In fact, only Warsaw grouper and golden tilefish had reported landings going back to 1962.

There are two likely reasons for the lack of reported landings for the other six species. First, it is possible that the species were, in fact, not caught and landed. The more likely explanation is that these species were included in generic classifications of snappers and groupers. When fishery statistics were first collected prior to the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, the purpose was principally to account for the commerce for National income accounting purposes. Consequently, it wasn't necessary to identify individual species and because many of the species were sold for the same price, dealers didn't have an incentive to record the specific species on sales receipts. Therefore, species identification was often more dependent on the price per pound and not on the need to identify the quantity purchased for individual species.

Annual summaries of the generic (unclassified) categories of snappers, groupers, and tilefishes for the period 1962 to 2002 are presented in Table 2.

¹Sustainable Fisheries Division, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL.

There are two other aspects of the general canvass landings statistics that need to be explained. First, the landings data are recorded by the county in which the product was brought ashore. This location may be different from the area where the fish were actually caught. As noted above, the area of catch is one of the attributes of the landings statistics that are assigned or estimated by the field agents. Because the SEDAR for these eight deep-water species is for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) jurisdiction, the fishing location and not the county where the fish were landed should be used to identify the landings statistics for these species. Thus, the fishing locations for the landings in the Florida Keys (Monroe County) should be used to include or exclude the landings for this SEDAR database. The data provided to the SEDAR are for landings of the eight species with a fishing location (aka, waterbody code) in the areas under the jurisdiction of the SAFMC.

The second aspect of the landings statistics is the assignment of the gear code. Prior to 1977, NMFS field agents did not assign a gear code to monthly landings statistics for those data collected in Florida. Gear codes were only assigned to annual summaries of the general canvass data. Consequently, two data sets are provided to the SEDAR. One data set contains the monthly landings by species with gear assigned for all state landings except Florida. The second data set contains the annual general canvass landings for Florida with gear codes assigned to these data.

Table 1. Annual landings statistics for the eight deep-water species, 1962 - 2002*.

Year	Speckled Hind	Snowy Grouper	Yellowedge Grouper	Misty Grouper	Queen Snapper	Golden Tilefish	Blueline Tilefish	Warsaw Grouper
1962						3,800		29,200
1963						3,600		19,000
1964						1,100		19,400
1965						26,100		56,700
1966						4,900		23,600
1967						11,600		54,700
1968						7,100		80,600
1969						5,800		44,100
1970						11,500		57,900
1971						21,300		100,100
1972						12,700		54,600
1973						45,700		74,900
1974						101,800		70,800
1975						174,776		47,300
1976						169,851		34,400
1977						98,659		38,805
1978						203,531		19,972
1979						189,532		22,035
1980	1,628	6,788	527			363,990		7,798
1981	11,123	222,596	343			1,248,886		23,457
1982	13,455	203,942	10,254			3,770,393		22,565
1983	27,597	416,966	20,525			2,113,660		19,024
1984	32,620	319,390	2,152			1,428,043		16,974
1985	32,183	155,621	578			1,251,309	68,055	12,342
1986	35,890	475,010	33,293			1,317,941	116,081	28,562
1987	25,674	395,281	32,136			370,437	91,082	39,940
1988	20,342	335,708	23,794			659,206	50,409	31,320
1989	22,638	521,051	20,063			993,302	55,563	19,245
1990	21,814	604,606	20,638		32	1,008,802	102,169	17,308
1991	17,384	499,785	34,175	224	140	1,046,186	142,400	15,736
1992	21,641	575,055	48,712		61	983,037	291,140	22,668
1993	20,330	468,678	38,199	278	2,972	1,072,487	220,506	25,796
1994	10,486	322,100	30,679	677	317	841,791	214,015	12,706
1995	2,732	395,827	23,945	548	1,600	702,649	182,239	4,272
1996	9,367	339,750	30,783	937	6,771	353,763	167,653	2,301
1997	10,050	556,933	32,516	2,229	9,913	346,686	231,808	8,405
1998	6,519	337,822	27,737	496	1,946	372,554	111,597	1,453
1999	1,815	461,777	17,691	2,360	7,080	506,821	122,539	3,377
2000	2,053	399,454	45,358	1,457	14,279	734,043	130,099	3,511
2001	2,433	339,431	33,540	2,495	6,569	414,363	141,686	4,075
2002	967	316,017	21,283	1,932	5,066	372,257	273,603	6,507

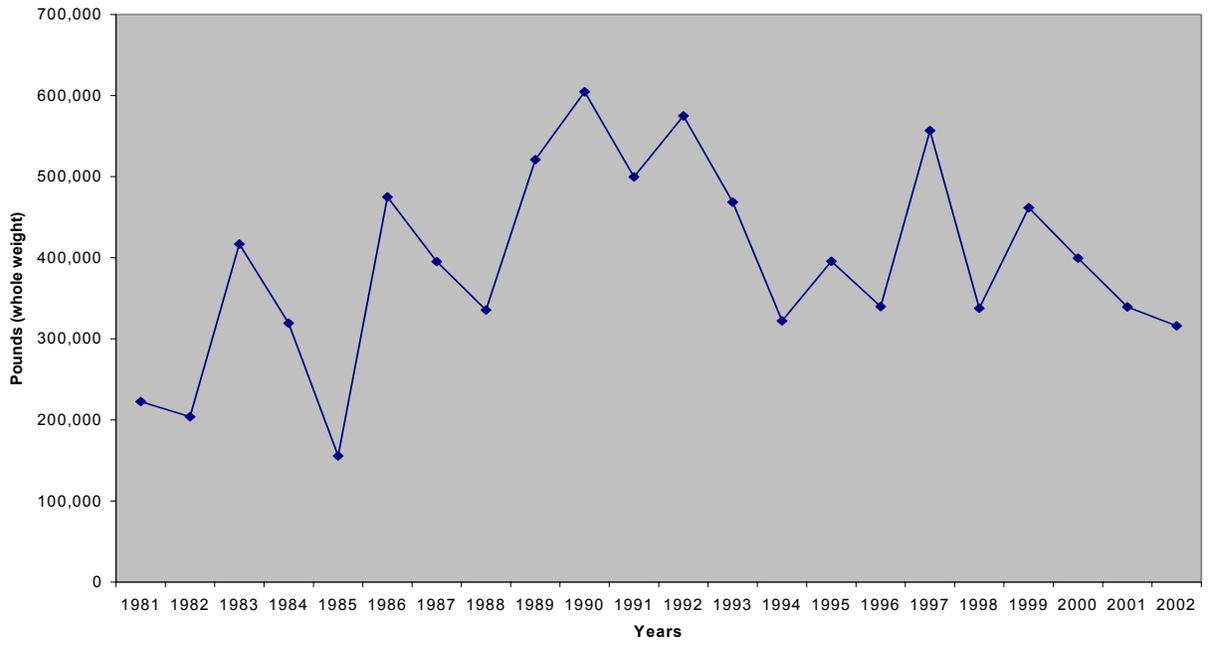
* Source: Southeast Fisheries Science, General Canvass Monthly Landings Statistics.

Table 2. Annual landings statistics for unclassified snappers, groupers, and tilefishes, 1962 - 2002*.

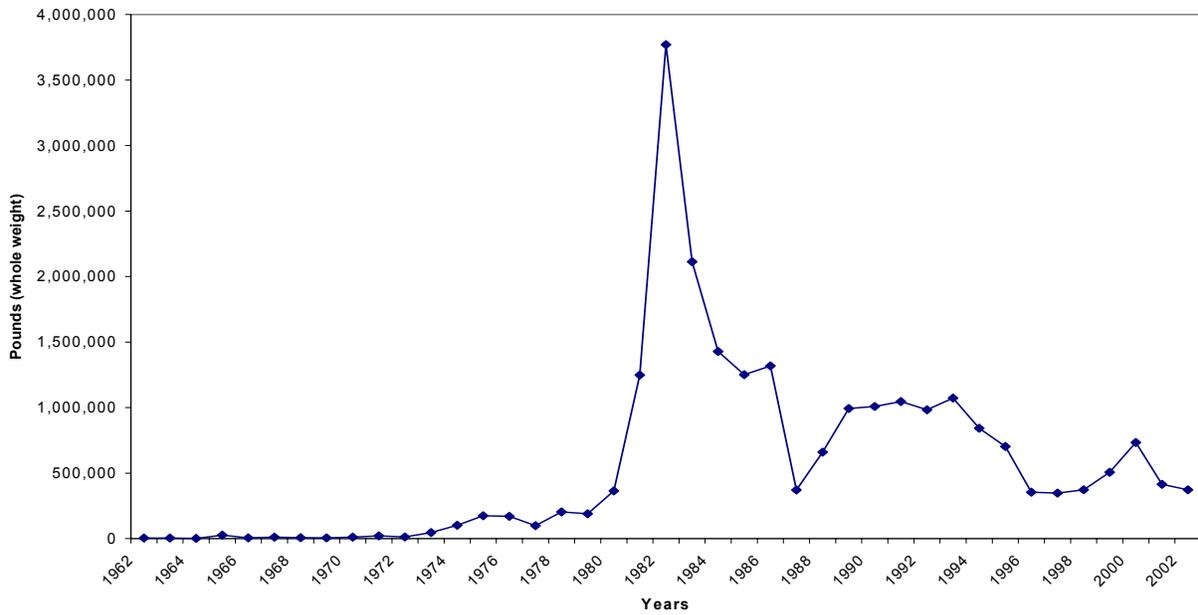
Year	Unclassified Snappers	Unclassified Grouper	Unclassified Tilefish
1962	700	681,900	
1963		688,700	
1964	600	699,500	
1965		614,900	
1966		474,300	
1967		853,300	
1968		1,144,100	
1969		875,800	
1970		1,226,100	
1971	7,400	1,231,800	
1972	121	1,103,466	
1973	6,343	1,081,837	
1974	21,076	1,434,319	
1975	32,781	1,702,797	
1976	22,331	2,327,989	
1977	90,995	2,114,081	
1978	124,030	3,224,173	
1979	123,338	2,895,966	
1980	152,325	2,284,709	
1981	260,549	2,477,211	
1982	332,886	2,355,238	
1983	297,518	2,473,070	
1984	189,919	2,294,138	104,659
1985	101,570	1,699,044	16,633
1986	251,501	428,275	19,265
1987	248,871	470,501	42,381
1988	192,928	564,527	27,748
1989	141,114	368,637	25,702
1990	125,354	316,906	17,822
1991	109,826	206,645	25,058
1992	96,694	207,675	13,834
1993	76,025	197,269	4,404
1994	51,089	70,594	80
1995	27,763	63,169	13
1996	18,333	49,051	34
1997	5,662	40,899	
1998	5,141	22,739	
1999	3,665	26,935	126
2000	2,832	21,840	124
2001	2,147	12,917	59
2002	3,981	11,169	

* Source: Southeast Fisheries Science Center, General Canvass Monthly Statistics.

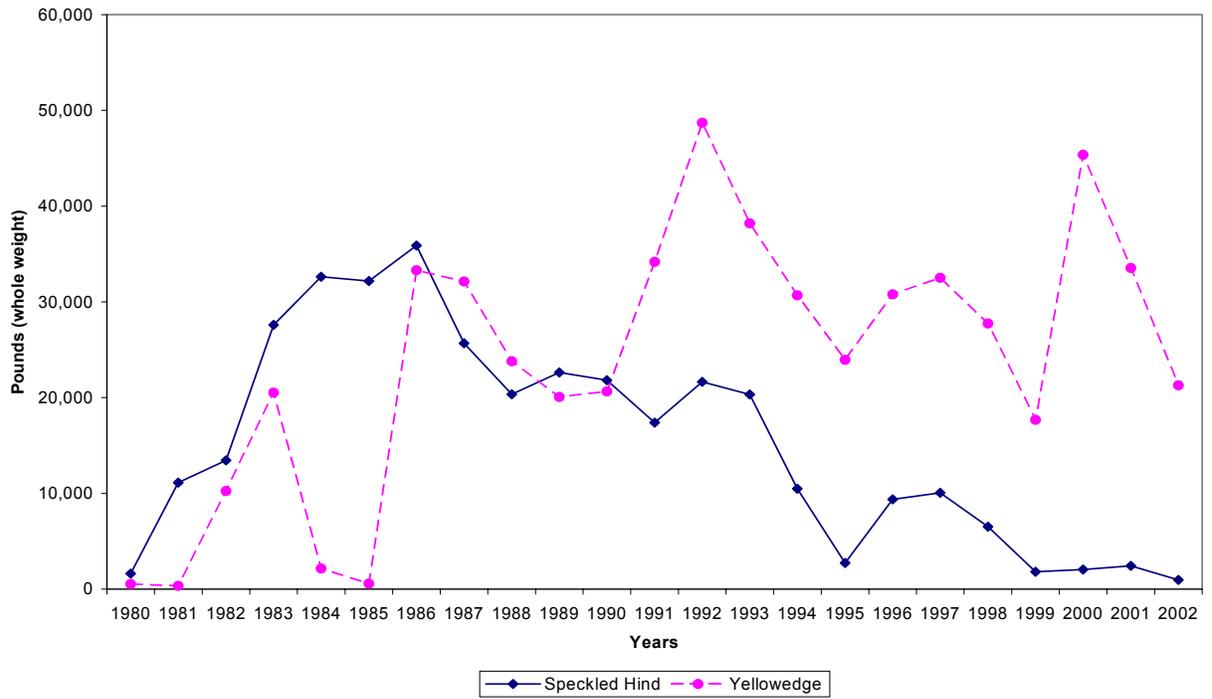
Landings - Snowy Grouper



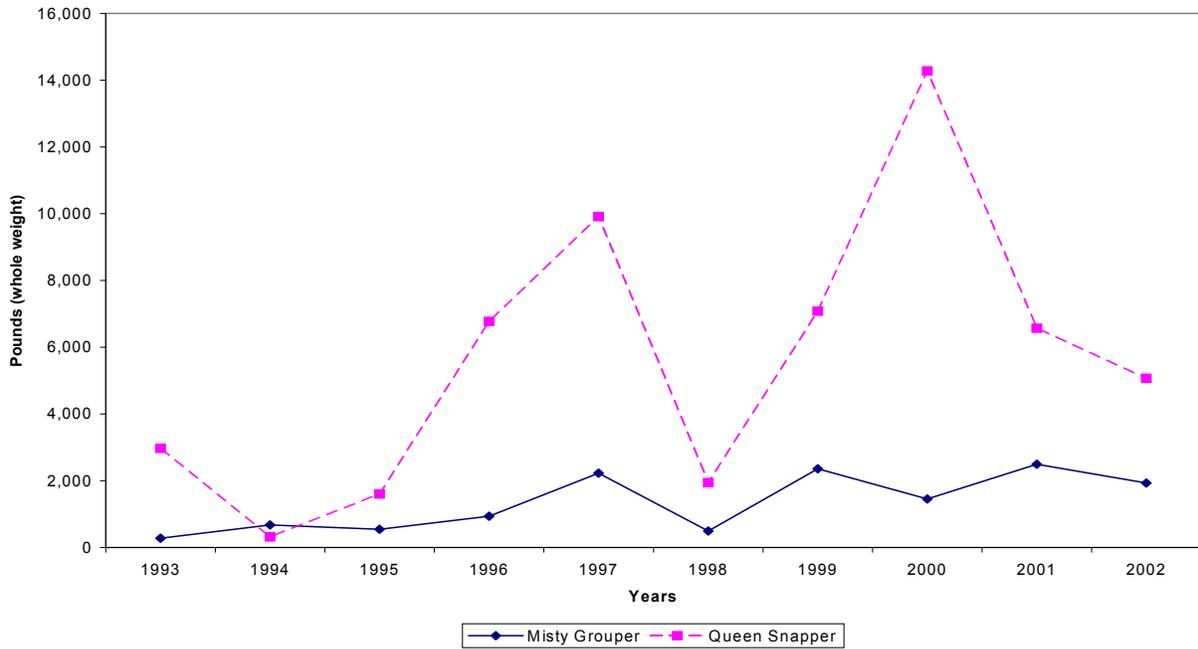
Landings - Golden Tilefish



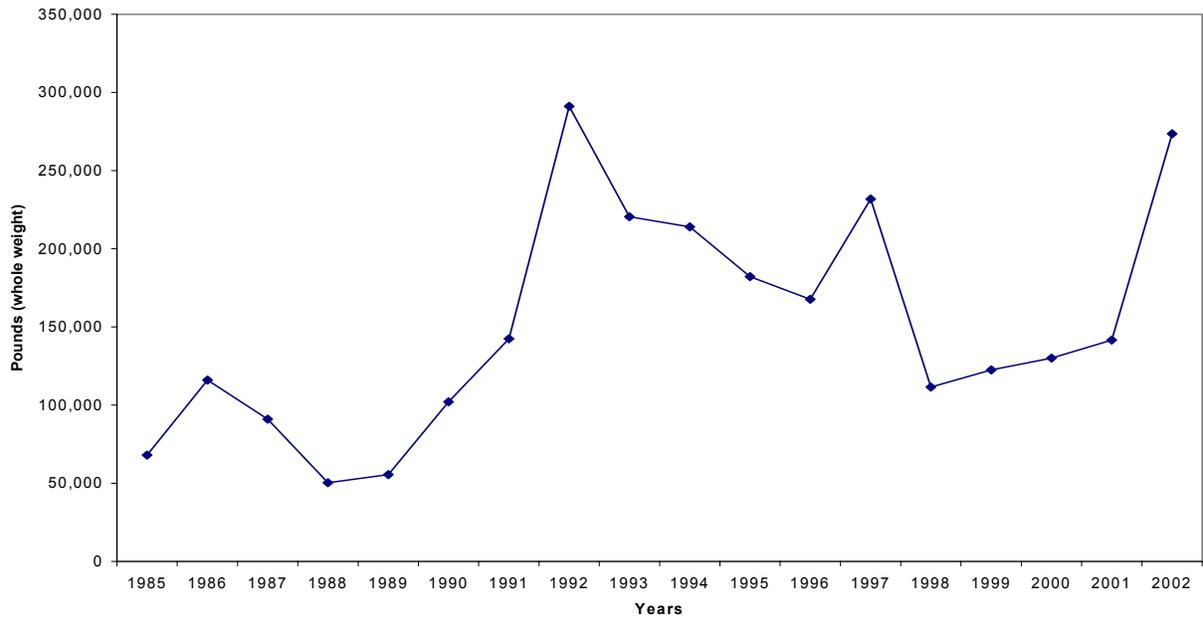
Landings - Speckled Hind & Yellowedge Grouper



Landings - Misty Grouper & Queen Snapper



Landings - Blueline Tilefish



Landings - Warsaw Grouper

