

**Preliminary information on the recreational catch of silk, queen, and blackfin snapper, from 2000 through 2002 in Puerto Rico with additional notes on sand tilefish**

by

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## **Background**

Little information exists to document the recreational fisheries in Puerto Rico however, in information on the condition of the silk, queen, blackfin and sand tilefish populations in Puerto Rico was requested by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC). Known sources of recreational fishing statistics for catch and size composition were accessed to establish time trends for the recreational fisheries. Around 1980 the Marine Recreational Fisheries Sampling Survey (MRFSS) was implemented in Puerto Rico. This survey provides estimates of total fish landed, the variance of the total and auxiliary information on the estimated number of fish released and the size composition of fish harvested. The survey was not conducted after 1980 in Puerto Rico and was re-implemented during 2000. Brief summary statistics available through part of 2003 calendar year are presented below for silk, queen, and black fin snapper and sand tilefish.

### **Summary Information recreational catch and the size composition of fish landed**

Estimates of the recreational catch of blackfin, silk, and queen snapper and of sand tilefish in Puerto Rico between 2000 and 2003 are presented in Tables 1 and 2 and Figures 1 and 2. The estimates for 2003 calendar year are preliminary. Of these four species harvested by recreational anglers silk snapper apparently are harvested most often. All of the four species are landed more often by private/rental fishery mode than from the shore mode. Very few fish were released according to these estimates (Table 2).

### **Recreational Catch Size Composition**

Length frequency samples were obtained from some of the recreational catches of silk, queen, blackfin snappers and of sand tilefish over the period 2000 through 2003 (Table 3). In general only the private angler catches were sampled— only two fish were measured from shore catches during the period (Table 3). In the private angler fishery mode the majority of the fish measured for length were silk snapper (n=190) with queen snapper being measure second most (n=56 fishes). Summary length composition distributions by 5 cm fork length intervals are shown in Figures 3-8. Only for silk snapper measured in 2000, 2001 and 2003 were there sufficient samples to present histograms by year.

Table 1. Estimates of the A + B1 catch of silk, blackfin, and queen snapper and of sand tilefish caught by recreational private/rental fishery mode in Puerto Rico, 2000-2003.

----- MODE=PRIVATE/RENTAL BOAT -----

		COMMON Name							
		BLACKFIN SNAPPER	QUEEN SNAPPER	SAND TILEFISH	SILK SNAPPER				
		ESTIM- ATED							
		TOTAL							
		LANDI- NGS (A + B1)							
		SED							
		Sum							
Year	WAVE OF								
Data	DATA								
Collect-									
ed									
2000	MAR/APR	0	0	0	0	0	20,917	0	0
	MAY/JUN	1,088	0	0	0	0	2,719	0	0
	JUL/AUG	382	0	384	0	0	17,194	0	0
	SEP/OCT	0	0	5,334	0	1,334	40,020	0	0
	NOV/DEC	7,798	0	0	0	0	988	0	0
	All	9,267	0	5,718	0	1,334	81,839	0	0
2001	WAVE OF								
	DATA								
	JAN/FEB	822	0	6,162	0	822	8,627	0	0
	MAR/APR	2,676	408	5,196	0	2,731	28,323	0	0
	MAY/JUN	1,036	0	0	0	1,036	10,361	0	0
	JUL/AUG	0	0	4,254	0	0	1,251	0	0
	SEP/OCT	0	0	1,877	0	268	17,429	0	0
	All	4,534	408	17,489	0	4,857	65,991	0	0
2002	WAVE OF								
	DATA								
	JAN/FEB	0	0	2,789	0	0	398	0	0
	MAR/APR	0	0	0	0	0	11,859	0	0
	MAY/JUN	0	0	0	0	2,027	2,027	0	0
	SEP/OCT	0	0	4,230	0	0	3,461	0	0
	NOV/DEC	1,439	0	2,518	0	360	11,437	0	0
	All	1,439	0	9,537	0	2,386	29,181	0	0
2003	WAVE OF								
	DATA								
	JAN/FEB	701	0	1,402	0	701	21,029	0	0
	MAR/APR	3,357	0	2,877	0	3,357	43,130	0	0
	All	4,058	0	4,279	0	4,058	64,158	0	0

Source of information: Marine Recreational Fisheries Sampling Survey database. Data for 2000-2003 are preliminary and data for 2003 are incomplete.

Table 2. Estimates of the A + B1 catch of silk, blackfin, and queen snapper and of sand tilefish caught by recreational shore based fishery mode in Puerto Rico, 2000 through 2003.

----- MODE=SHORE -----

		COMMON Name					
		BLACKFIN	SNAPPER	SAND TILEFISH	SILK SNAPPER		
		ESTIM-ATED	ESTIM-ATED	ESTIM-ATED	ESTIM-ATED	ESTIM-ATED	ESTIM-ATED
		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
		LANDING	LANDING	LANDING	LANDING	LANDING	LANDING
		(A+B1)	(A+B1)	(A+B1)	(A+B1)	(A+B1)	(A+B1)
		SED	SED	SED	SED	SED	SED
		Sum	Sum	Sum	Sum	Sum	Sum
Year	WAVE OF						
Data	DATA						
Collect-							
ed							
2000	SEP/OCT	0	0	0	0	772	0
	All	0	0	0	0	772	0
2001	WAVE OF						
	DATA						
	JAN/FEB	0	0	652	0	0	657
	All	0	0	652	0	0	657
2002	WAVE OF						
	DATA						
	MAY/JUN	0	0	0	0	0	1,838
	All	0	0	0	0	0	1,838
2003	WAVE OF						
	DATA						
	JAN/FEB	554	0	0	0	0	0
	All	554	0	0	0	0	0

Source of information: Marine Recreational Fisheries Sampling Survey database.  
 Data for 2000-2003 are preliminary and data for 2003 are incomplete

Table 3. Number of individual length frequency samples taken of blackfin, queen, and silk snapper and of sand tilefish in the private/rental recreational fisheries in Puerto Rico, 2000-2003 (all years combined).

Count of length 5cm	common			
length 5cm	blackfin snapper	queen snapper	sand tile	silk snapper
0				
5				
10			2	
15	1	10		13
20	12	3	1	31
25	8	1	2	71
30	1	7	6	47
35	1	6	4	12
40		7	1	10
45		4		3
50		5		
55		2		1
60		3		
65		2		
70		1		2
75		5		
Grand Total	23	56	16	190

Source of information:

Marine Recreation Fishing Sampling Survey (MRFSS) database.

Table 4. Number of individual length frequency samples taken of silk snapper in the Private/rental recreational fisheries in Puerto Rico, 2000-2003.

length 5cm	silk snapper				silk snapper Total
	2000	2001	2002	2003	
15	2	9	1	1	13
20	11	16	1	3	31
25	19	32	4	16	71
30	14	10	7	16	47
35	5	3	2	2	12
40	6		1	3	10
45	1		1	1	3
55			1		1
70	1		1		2
Grand Total	59	70	19	42	190

Table 5. Number of individual length frequency samples taken of blackfin snapper in the private/rental recreational fisheries in Puerto Rico, 2000-2003.

length 5cm	blackfin snapper			blackfin snapper Total
	2000	2001	2003	
15	1			1
20	3	3	6	12
25	1	4	3	8
30		1		1
35			1	1
Grand Total	5	8	10	23

Table 6. Number of individual length frequency samples taken of queen snapper in the Private/rental recreational fisheries in Puerto Rico, 2000-2003.

length 5cm	queen snapper				queen snapper Total
	2000	2001	2002	2003	
15		10			10
20		2		1	3
25		1			1
30		3		4	7
35		6			6
40	1	3	2	1	7
45			4		4
50			5		5
55		2			2
60			2	1	3
65			2		2
70	1				1
75			4	1	5
Grand Total	2	27	19	8	56

Table 7. Number of individual length frequency samples taken of sand tilefish in the Private/rental recreational fisheries in Puerto Rico, 2000-2003

length 5cm	sand tile				sand tile Total
	2000	2001	2002	2003	
10	2				2
20	1				1
25		2			2
30		3	2	1	6
35		1	1	2	4
40		1			1
Grand Total	3	7	3	3	16

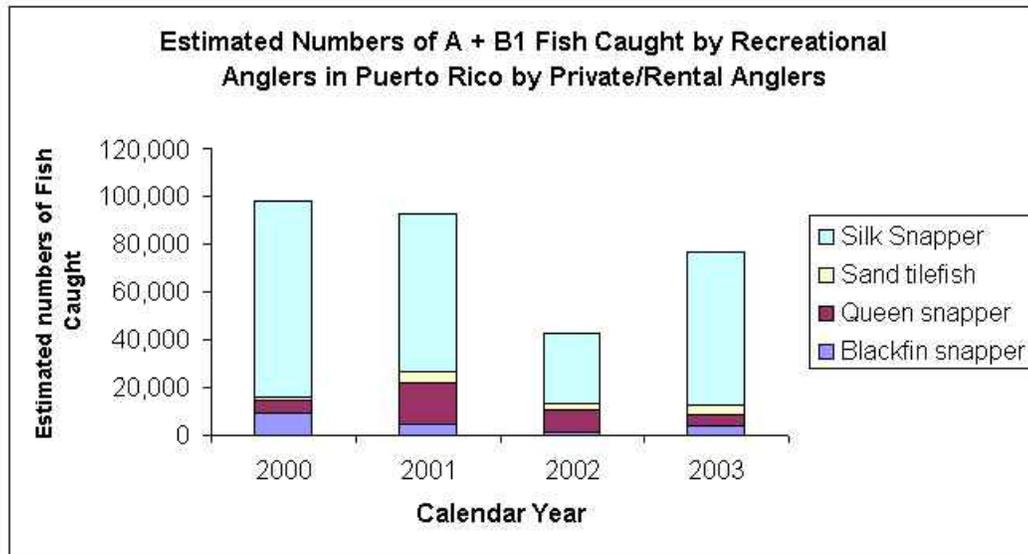


Figure 1. Estimated numbers of A+B1 fish caught by private/rental anglers for silk, queen, and blackfin snapper and sand tilefish in Puerto Rico, 2000-2003.

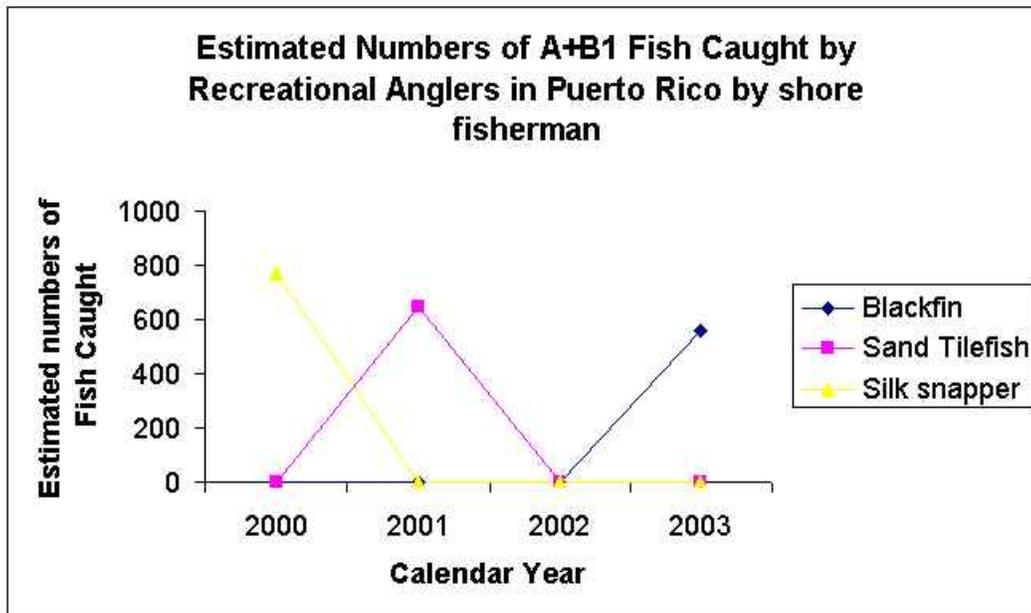


Figure 2. Estimated numbers of A+B1 fish caught by shore based anglers for silk, queen, and blackfin snapper and sand tilefish in Puerto Rico, 2000-2003.

Figure 3. Size composition of silk snapper sampled during 2000 in the recreational private/rental fisheries.

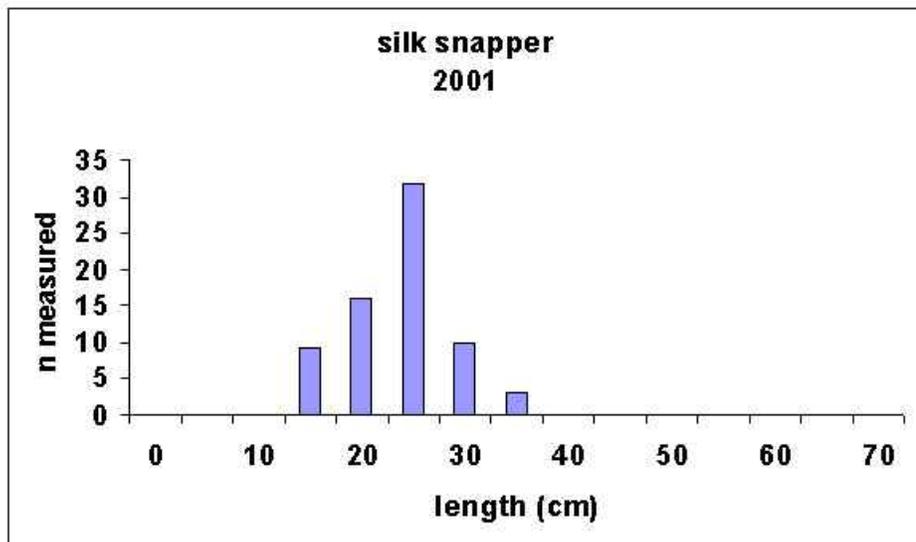


Figure 4.  
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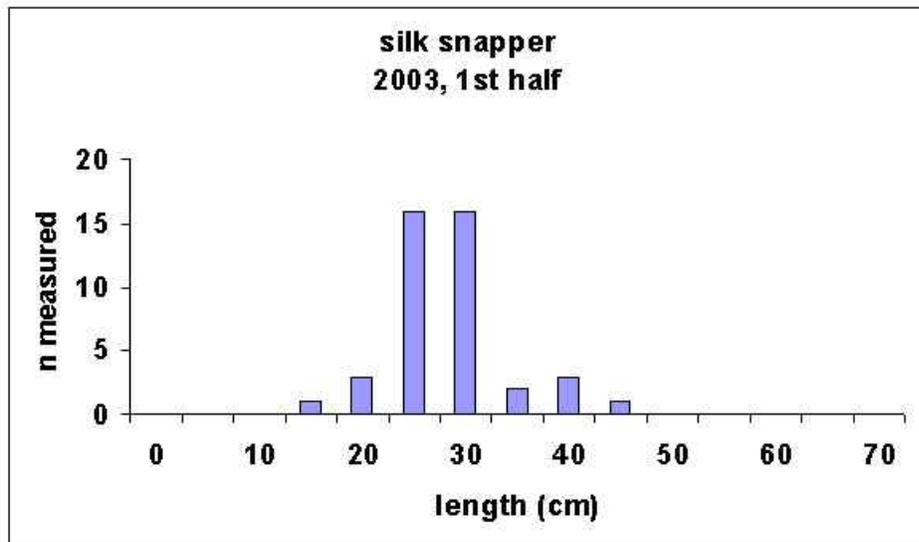


Figure 5. Size composition of silk snapper sampled during 2003 (January-June) in the recreational private/rental fisheries.

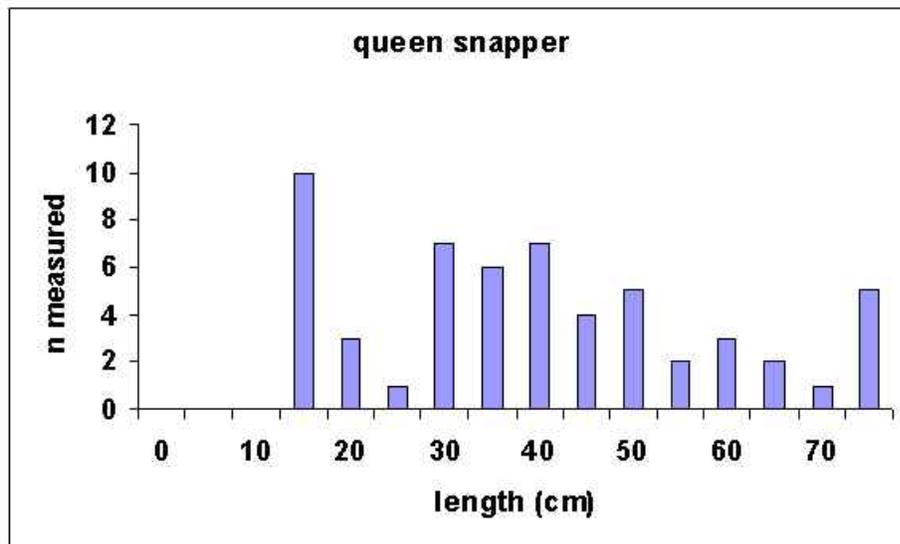


Figure 6. Size composition of queen snapper sampled between 2000 and 2003 in the recreational private/rental fisheries.

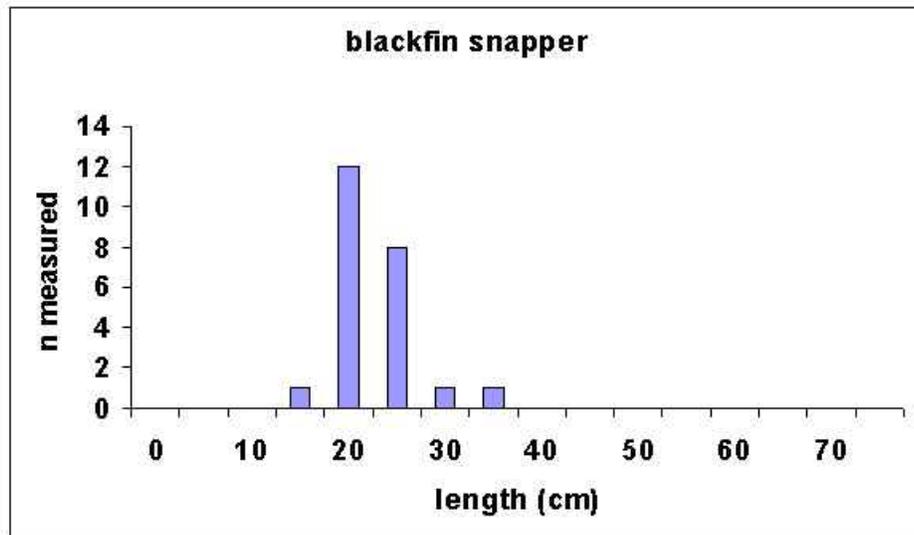


Figure 7. Size composition of blackfin snapper sampled between 2000 and 2003 in the recreational private/rental fisheries.

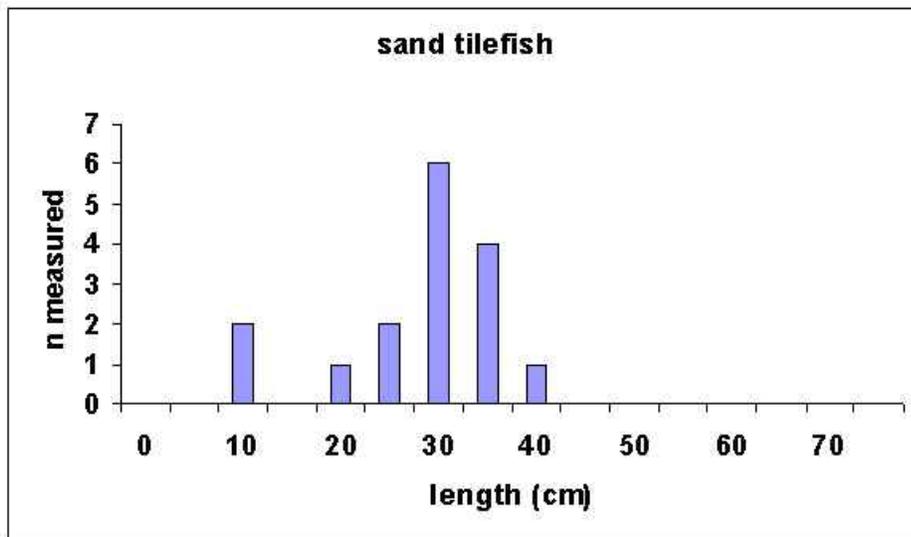


Figure 8. Size composition of silk snapper sampled between 2000 and 2003 in the recreational private/rental fisheries.