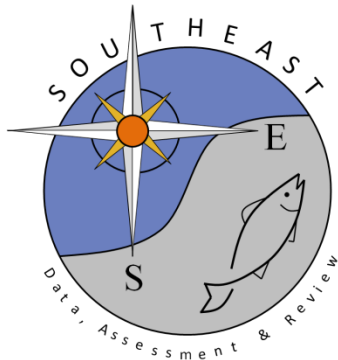


Virginia Blueline Tilefish Data Collection Summary

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Dependent

The Virginia Marine Sportfish Sampling Program (MSCP) was designed by fisheries management staff at the Virginia Marine Resources (VMRC) to target recreationally important species in the coastal and Chesapeake Bay areas of Virginia that are not readily available for sampling from commercial harvesters. The project places freezers at various high traffic weigh-stations (with scales certified by VMRC) and marinas, where recreational anglers can voluntarily donate legal size whole fish or carcasses. Anglers are provided with pre-made packets in which they are required to report the date and water body of capture as well as a weight of the fish prior to filleting if available. Anglers who complete the provided form with the required information receive a t-shirt or reward for donating the fish. The frequencies at which samples are collected from these freezers coincide with seasonal fishing changes and freezer space demands. From 2007 through 2016 blueline tilefish was among the species targeted by the MSCP.

Independent

Blueline tilefish were collected off the coast of Virginia using recreational sampling techniques from 2009-2012 through a federal grant program (Grant F-132-R-2). Forty-three sampling trips were conducted aboard for-hire headboat and charter vessels. Sagittal otoliths, length measurements (mm), and macroscopic assessments of sex and reproductive stage (using the same Index of Finfish Sexual Maturity as all other species that VMRC collects) were collected from all specimens. In addition, weight (g) was recorded for whole fish and gonads were extracted and weighed (g) for fresh specimens.

Age Sampling

The Old Dominion University Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology (CQFE) processes and ages hard parts collected by VMRC. Otoliths have been collected from 2007 through 2016 however only a subsample of otoliths collected from 2009 through 2012 have been aged which coincides with the end of Federal Grant F-132-R-2. Currently 1,050 otoliths are available to be aged that were collected from 2007 through 2016 (Table 1).

Data

Table 1. Summary of lengths, weights, otoliths collected, and otoliths aged of blueline tilefish in Virginia.

Year	Number of Lengths	Number of Weights	Number of Otoliths Collected	Number of Otoliths Aged*
2007	47	2	47	--
2008	64	2	64	--
2009	91	6	91	87
2010	257	74	256	252
2011	623	126	623	614
2012	1,123	104	1,123	517
2013	112	41	112	--
2014	87	1	87	--
2015	79	--	79	--
2016	38	1	38	--
Total	2,521	357	2,520	1,470

*Subsample of otoliths only aged through funding of Federal Grant F-132-R-2, 2009 through 2012.