

# MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING STATISTICAL SURVEY (MRFSS)

One Constituent's Analysis

By

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# Presented to the Red Snapper Data Review Panel

April 19-23, 2004

International House Hotel  
New Orleans, LA

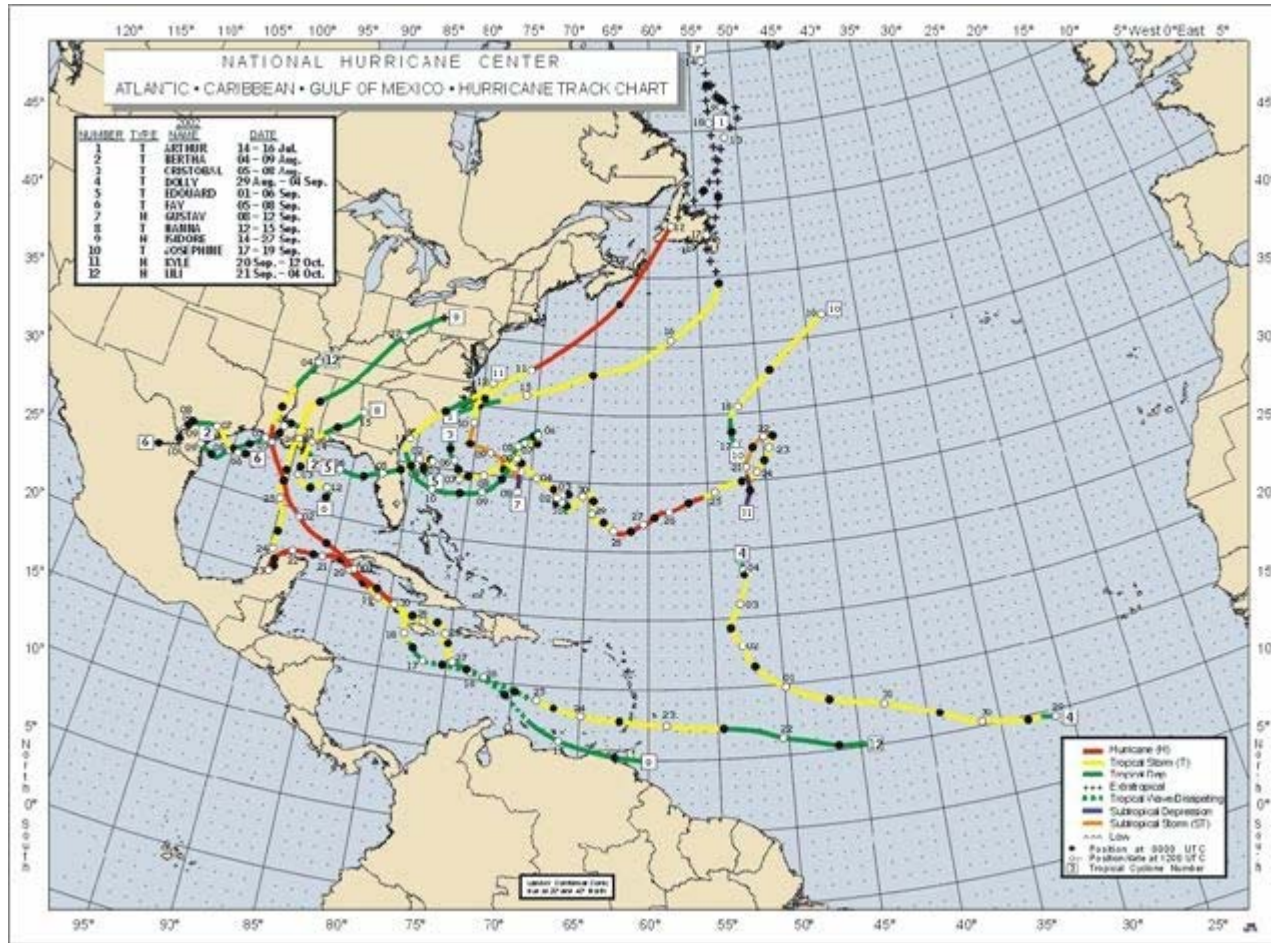
- MRFSS established 1979
- Random Digit Dialing statistical coastal household survey along with random dockside interviews
- Texas opted out of MRFSS in 1986
- South Carolina, Maryland, California, Washington, Oregon use select versions of MRFSS
- Alaska has never participated in MRFSS

- Over estimation of effort resulting in over estimation of harvest
- A, B1, B2 fish.  $A+B1$ =harvest.  
 $A+B1+B2$ =total catch
- For-Hire survey implemented in Gulf 2000 and showed up to 40% over estimation of effort

- Late 1980s an incorrect telephone interview in FL Keys with a charterboat captain who was listed as a private rec fisherman resulted in extreme over estimation of effort and harvest in the king mackerel fishery
- 2002 incorrect coding of private/rec fishing trip in MS resulted in over estimation of red snapper harvest accounting for up to 7% of total Gulf allocation (300,000 lbs)
- 2002 1 red snapper identified on a pier in NW FL extrapolated to 1003 red snappers being harvested in the shore mode
- September 2002 wave 5, 5 named storms in northern Gulf for 23 days yet

- NOAA Tropical Prediction Center, 2002

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- “The Importance of Accurate Survey Information: A Charter Fishing Industry Perspective” by Captain Robert F. Zales, II, February 29, 1996 provided information from NW FL charterboat fleet regarding years 1991 through 1994 and indicated a struggling fleet trying to maintain historical effort while MRFSS showed dramatic increases in effort and harvest

- More funding, increased number of dockside interviews, more select RDD interviews, new methodology have resulted in improved data collection over traditional MRFSS
- MRFSS still inadequate to obtain adverse weather, economic and social impacts
- MRFSS cannot be used to track quotas and provide real time data



- New data system is necessary
- License system to identify all users
- Logbooks with observers can provide necessary data
- Logbooks can provide effort, harvest, and discards