Recreational Catches of Yellowtail snapper, *Ocyrurus chrysurus*, from 2000 through 2002 in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands

By

Nancie Cummings

U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SFSC)

Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD)

175 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149

December 3, 2004

Sustainable Fisheries Division Contribution No. SFD 2004-052

and

Caribbean Deepwater SEDAR Data Workshop Report SEDAR 8 Doc-12

Final Draft

Background

Little information exists to document the recreational fisheries in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. However, information on the condition of the yellowtail snapper populations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands 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. In 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. However, the survey was not conducted after 1980 in Puerto Rico until it was re-implemented in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. Virgin Islands during 2000. Brief summary statistics available through the 2003 calendar year are presented below for yellowtail snapper for Puerto Rico. The survey was not conduced after 2000 for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Summary Information on Recreational Catch of Yellowtail Snapper Landed in Puerto Rico

Estimates of the recreational catch of yellowtail snapper in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands between 2000 and 2003 are presented in Tables 1 and 2 and Figures 1 and 2. Figures 1 and 2 pertain only to the data for Puerto Rico. The estimates for 2003 calendar year are preliminary. This species was caught by shore, charter and private anglers with the majority of recreationally caught yellowtail being caught by charter anglers. The majority of fish were not released according to these estimates.

Recreational Yellowtail Snapper Size Frequency Composition

Length frequency samples were obtained from some of the recreational catches of yellowtail snapper from 2000 through 2003 (Table 3). In general very few fish were sampled for size (Figures 3-6). Sample sizes ranged from 26-36 fishes per year in Puerto Rico. Only three fish were sampled for size in the US Virgin Islands in the 2000 survey year. These fish were measured only for individual weight and not size (length) and were 1.09, 0.2 0.9 pounds in weight.

Table 1a. Estimates of recreational catches of yellowtail snapper in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands 2000-2003. Estimates are for Type A+B1 (harvest) and B2) releases.

Ccharterboat estimates are OLD method (newchart=0, 1) (0= not charter/not applicable, 1=old method) SP CODE 8835360401 and common YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER 2001 2002 2003 B2 AB1 B2 AB1 B2 B2 , state SUB_REG ST sta , 20 PR 3085, 29143, 72 PR 35044, 8666, 21250, 52519 5008 11 6626, , 21 USVI 11 78 ۷I 6494, 0, , AREA_X arean 6494. Ocean< 3 , 3 0cean<10 13094, 1157, 19639, 1719, 18911, 5008 6626. 44135. 4 0cean>10 5954, 2339, 8385, 0, 0. 1928. 6946 Inshore 15996, 9504, , mode MODE FX moden 14359, 2701, 10039, 7851, 10601, 4139. 10093, 2075 , 1 SH 3 Shore , 3 CB 5 CBT 495 , 4 PR 7 Pri v 27180, 384, 19103, 815, 10649, 1992, 42426, 2933, , mode newchart 2701, 10039, 14359, 7851, 10601, 4139, 10093 2075. , 1 0 , 3 0 495, 27180, 384, 19103, 815, 10649, 1992, 42426, 0 2933,

Table 1b. Estimates of recreational catches of yellowtail snapper in Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands 2000-2003. Estimates included are for Type A catch (harvest observed), B1(harvest not observed) and B2 (Releases).

ytail04 mrfss catch estimates -- 2003 is preliminary Extractopm os 10:35 Thursday, June 17, 2004 15 charterboat estimates are OLD method (newchart=0, 1), (0= not charter/not applicable, 1=old method

and comm	8835360401 Ion YELLOWTALL SNAPPER	<i>ffffffff.</i>	fffffff B1 .	fffffff AB1 .	<i>ffffffff</i> † B2 .
, Al I		c'^ <i>fffffffff</i> '^. , 118203,			
, YEAR , 2000	state 20 21 All	, 25107, , 6494, , 31602,		6494,	3085, 0, 3085,
, 2001	state 20 All	, 24371, , 24371,	4772, 4772,	29143, 29143,	8666 [,] 8666,
, 2002	state 20 All	, 16970, , 16970,	4279, 4279,		6626, 6626,
, 2003	state 20 All	, 45260, , 45260,	7259, 7259,	52519, 52519,	5008, 5008,
, state , 20 , 21	SUB_REG ST sta 11 72 PR 11 78 VI	, 111709, , 6494,	26247 ['] , 0,	137956, 6494,	23385, 0,
, AREA_X , 1 , 3 , 4 , 5	arean 0cean< 3 0cean<10 0cean>10 I nshore	, 6494, , 78021, , 11385, , 22303,	0, 17758, 5293, 3196,	16678,	0, 14511, 0, 8874,
, mode , 1 , 3 , 4	MODE_FX moden 3 Shore 5 CBT 7 Priv	, 31532, , 0, , 86672,	13561, 0, 12687,	45092 ['] , 0, 99358,	16766, 495, 6124,
, mode , 1 , 3 , 4	newchart 0 0 0	, 31532, , 0, , 86672,	13561, 0, 12687,	45092 ['] , 0, 99358,	16766, 495, 6124,

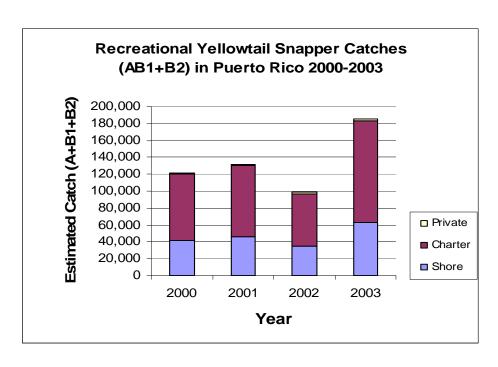


Figure 1. Estimates of recreational catches (AB1 harvest + B2 releases) in Puerto Rico by year and fishing mode from 2000-2003.

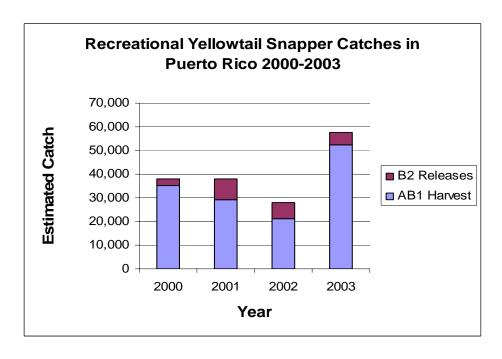


Figure 2. Estimates of recreational catches (AB1 harvest + B2 releases) of yellowtail snapper in Puerto Rico by year.