

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

By

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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 conducted 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

				YEAR							
				2000		2001		2002		2003	
				AB1	B2	AB1	B2	AB1	B2	AB1	B2
, All				41539,	3085,	29143,	8666,	21250,	6626,	52519,	5008,
, state	SUB_REG	ST	sta								
, 20	PR 11	72	PR	35044,	3085,	29143,	8666,	21250,	6626,	52519,	5008,
, 21	USVI 11	78	VI	6494,	0,						
, AREA_X		arean									
, 1		Ocean< 3		6494,	0,						
, 3		Ocean<10		13094,	1157,	19639,	1719,	18911,	6626,	44135,	5008,
, 4		Ocean>10		5954,	0,			2339,	0,	8385,	0,
, 5		Inshore		15996,	1928,	9504,	6946,				
, mode	MODE_FX	moden									
, 1	SH 3	Shore		14359,	2701,	10039,	7851,	10601,	4139,	10093,	2075,
, 3	CB 5	CBT						0,	495,		
, 4	PR 7	Pri v		27180,	384,	19103,	815,	10649,	1992,	42426,	2933,
, mode		newchart									
, 1		0		14359,	2701,	10039,	7851,	10601,	4139,	10093,	2075,
, 3		0						0,	495,		
, 4		0		27180,	384,	19103,	815,	10649,	1992,	42426,	2933,

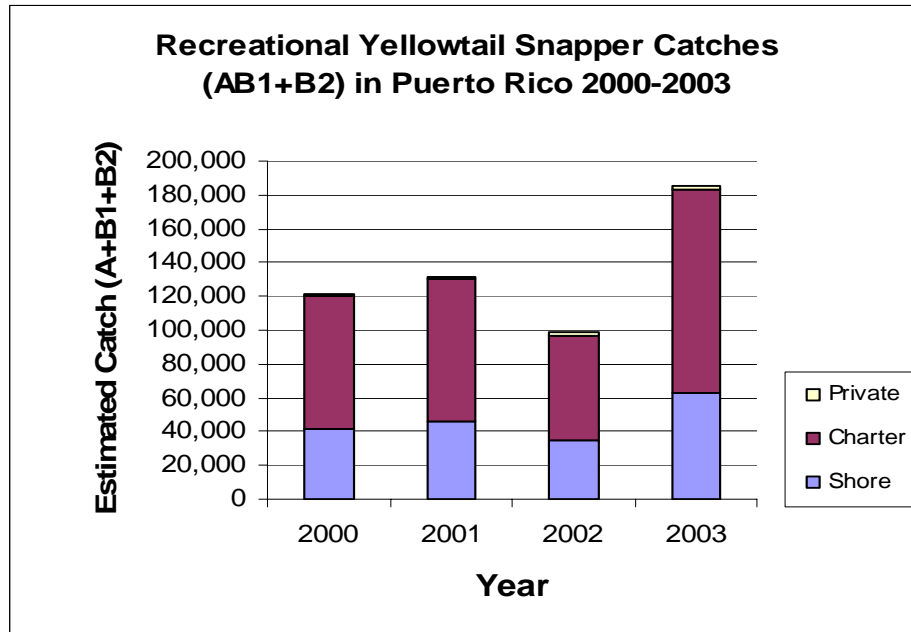


Figure 1. Estimates of recreational catches (AB1 harvest + B2 releases) in Puerto Rico by year and fishing mode from 2000-2003.

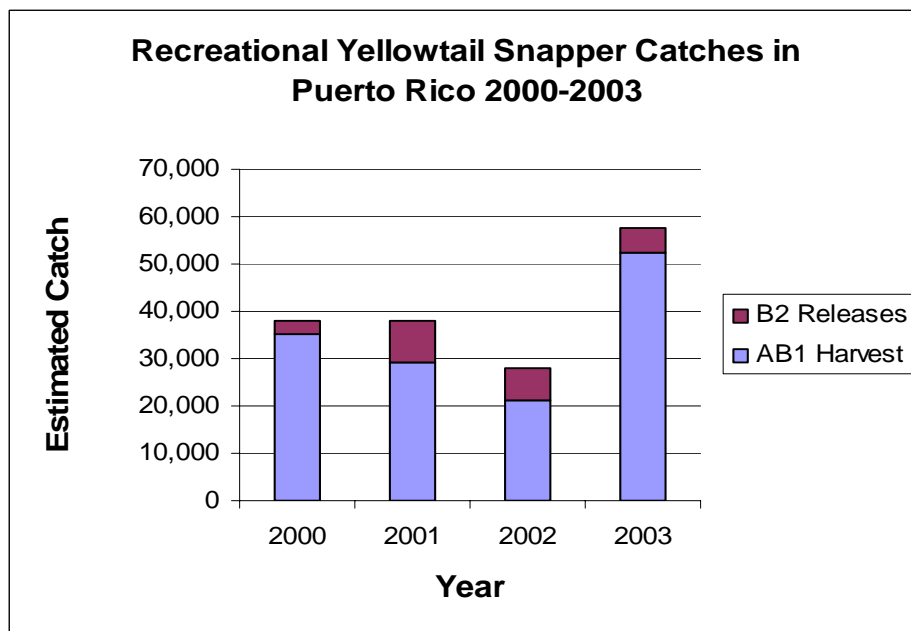


Figure 2. Estimates of recreational catches (AB1 harvest + B2 releases) of yellowtail snapper in Puerto Rico by year.