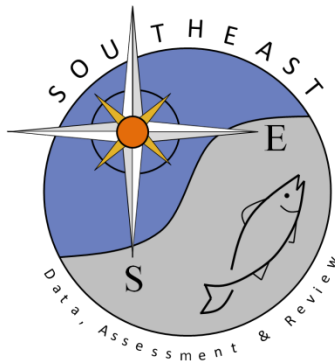


NMFS- Trip Intercept Program (TIP) data indicates significant Atlantic King Mackerel recruitment of new age classes into the East Florida commercial handline fishery in April 2014

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SEDAR38-RW-07

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c/o Southeastern Fisheries Association, East Coast Fisheries Section

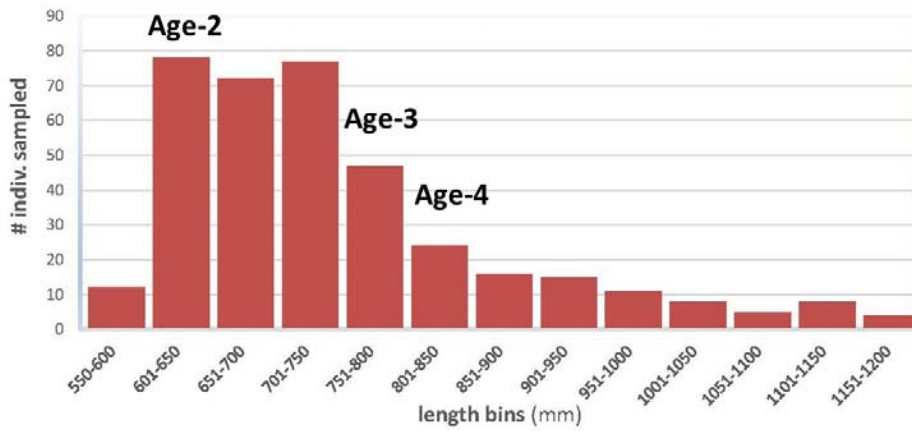
Summary

Trip Intercept Program (NMFS) data were acquired for April 2014 for the east Florida Atlantic King mackerel fishery. These samples were collected from landings along a ~ 280km (175 mi.) portion of the Florida coast where ~ 80% of the annual Atlantic stock landings are made, from Palm Beach to Volusia counties. The samples were also collected in a month where smaller King mackerel are known to begin a northerly migration back up along the Atlantic coast, where they presumably were spawned, after “overwintering” along East Florida (see SEDAR 16). Fork length data were sampled by NMFS port samplers where landings were reported for nearly 400 samples, while gutted weight analyses were available for over 80 of these observations, and were fitted into growth curves, below. Length frequency bins were matched with approximate ages from the length-age growth curves for Atlantic King mackerel from the SEDAR 38-AW report (Fig. 4.16.3).

This analysis indicates a large proportion of the King mackerel landed in this regionally significant fishing zone, during this period of April 2014, are in the age-2 and age-3 year classes. It is also important to note that minimum length of harvest is regulated to 610 mm (24”) for the commercial handline fishery, which prevents the landing (but not harvest and discard) of < age-2 King mackerel. This finding of significant recruitment of new age classes into the fishery is important, as other indicators of new recruitment into the fishery (e.g. the S. Atlantic SEAMAP trawl survey) do not suggest appreciable recruitment into this fishery over the past 5 years.

Length frequency of TIP King Mackerel

Palm Beach to Volusia Co.- April 2014



July 2014

South Atlantic King Mackerel

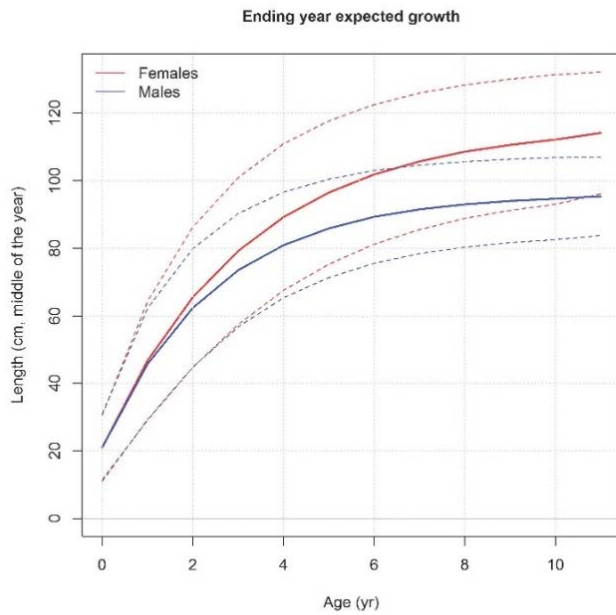
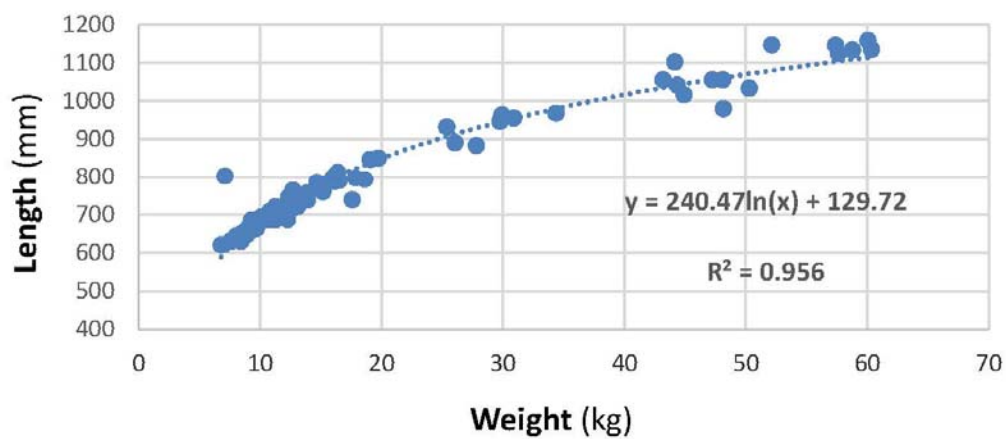


Figure 4.16.3. Growth relationship and 95% intervals for males (blue line) and females (red line) estimated in model.

TIP Length-weight growth curve for King Mackerel

Palm Beach Co. to Volusia Co.- April 2014



TIP Length-weight growth curve for King Mackerel

Palm Beach Co. to Volusia Co.- April 2014

