SEAMAP Reef Fish Video Survey: Relative Indices of Abundance of Vermilion Snapper

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Introduction

The primary objective of the annual Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) reef fish video survey is to provide an index of the relative abundances of fish species associated with topographic features (e.g reefs, banks, and ledges) located on the continental shelf of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) from Brownsville, TX to the Dry Tortugas, FL (Figures 1, and 13-29). Secondary objectives include quantification of habitat types sampled (optical and acoustic data), and collection of environmental data throughout the survey. Because the survey is conducted on topographic features the species assemblages targeted are typically classified as reef fish (e.g. red snapper, Lutjanus campechanus), but occasionally fish more commonly associated with pelagic environments are observed (e.g. Amberjack, Seriola dumerili). The survey has been executed from 1992-1997, 2001-2002, and 2004-present and historically takes place from April - May, however in limited years the survey was conducted through the end of August. The 2001 survey was abbreviated due to ship scheduling, during which, the only sites that were completed were located in the western Gulf of Mexico (GOM). Types of data collected on the survey include diversity, abundance (min-count), fish length, habitat type, habitat coverage, bottom topography and water quality. The size of fish sampled with the video gear is species specific however vermilion snapper sampled over the history of the survey had fork lengths ranging from 84 - 685 mm, and mean annual fork lengths ranging from 239 – 315 mm (Table 7, Figures 31). Age and reproductive data cannot be collected with the camera gear but beginning with the 2012 survey, a vertical line component was coupled with the video drops to collect hard parts, fin clips, and gonads and was included with the life history information provided by NMFS Panama City Laboratory.

Methods

Sampling design

Total reef area available to select survey sites from is approximately 1771 km², of which 1244 km² is located in the eastern GOM and 527 km² in the western GOM. The large size of the survey area necessitates a two-stage sampling design to minimize travel times between stations. The first-stage uses stratified random sampling to select blocks that are 10 minutes of latitude by 10 minutes of longitude in dimension (Figure 1). The block strata were defined by geographic region (4 regions: South Florida, Northeast Gulf, Louisiana-Texas Shelf, and South Texas), and by total reef habitat area contained in the block (blocks \leq 20 km² reef, block > 20 km² reef). There are a total of 7 strata. A 0.1 by 0.1 mile grid is then overlaid onto the reef area contained within a given block and the ultimate sampling sites (second stage units) are randomly selected

from that grid.

Gear and deployment

The SEAMAP reef fish survey has employed several camcorders in underwater housings since 1992. Sony VX2000 DCR digital camcorders mounted in Gates PD150M underwater housings were used from 2002 to 2005 and Sony PD170 camcorders during the years 2006 and 2007. In 2008 a stereo video camera system was developed and assembled at the NMFS Mississippi Laboratories - Stennis Space Center Facility and has been used in all subsequent surveys. The stereo video unit consists of a digital stereo still camera head, digital video camera, CPU, and hard drive mounted in an aluminum casing. All of the camcorder housings are rated to a maximum depth of 150 meters while the stereo camera housings are rated to 600 meters. Stereo cameras are mounted orthogonally at a height of 50 cm above the bottom of the pod and the array is baited with squid during deployment.

At each sampling site the stereo video unit is deployed for 40 minutes total, however the cameras and CPU delay filming for 5 minutes to allow for descent to the bottom, and settling of suspended sediment following impact. Once turned on, the cameras film for approximately 30 minutes before shutting off and retrieval of the array. During camera deployment the vessel drifts away from the site and a CTD cast is executed, collecting water depth, temperature, conductivity, and transmissivity from the surface to the maximum depth. Seabird units are the standard onboard NOAA vessels however the model employed was vessel/cruise dependent.

Video tape viewing

One video tape from each station is randomly selected for viewing out of all viewable videos. Videos that have issues with visibility, obstructions or camera malfunction cannot be randomly selected and are not viewed. Selected videos are viewed for twenty minutes starting from the time when the view clears from suspended sediment. Viewers identify, and enumerate all species to the lowest taxonomic level during the 20 minute viewable segment. From 1993-2007 the time when each fish entered and left the field of view was recorded a procedure referred to as time in - time out (TITO) and from these data a minimum count was calculated. The minimum count is the maximum number of individuals of a selected taxon in the field of view at one instance. Each 20 minute video is evaluated to determine the highest minimum count observed during a 20 minute recording. From 2008-present the digital video allows the viewer to record a frame number or time stamp of the image when the maximum number of individuals of a species occurred, along with the number of taxon identified in the image, but does not use the TITO method. Both the TITO and current viewing procedure result in the minimum count estimation of abundance (i.e. - mincount). Minimum count methodology is preferred because it prevents counting the same fish multiple times (e.g. if a fish were swimming in circles around the camera).

Fish length measurement

Beginning in 1995 fish lengths were measured from video using lasers attached on the camera system in parallel. However, the frequency of hitting targets with the lasers was low and to increase sample size all measureable fish during the video read were measured (i.e. not just at the mincount), and fish could have potentially been measured twice. The stereo-cameras used since 2008 allow size estimation from fish images and allows for increased sample sizes and allowed for measurements to be taken at the point in the video corresponding to the mincount

therefore there is no potential to measure any fish twice. From 2008-2013 Vision Measurement System (VMS, Geometrics Inc.) was used to estimate size of fish and in 2014 we began use of SeaGIS software (SeaGIS Pty. Ltd.).

Data reduction

Various limitations either in design, implementation, or performance of gear causes limitations in calculating mincount and are therefore dropped from the design-based indices development and analysis as follows. In 1992, each fish was counted every time it came into view over the entire record time and the total of all these counts was the maximum count. Unfortunately the 1992 video tapes were destroyed during Hurricane Katrina and cannot be reviewed to obtain mincounts, so 1992 data is excluded from analyses (unknown number of stations). From 1998 – 2000 and in 2003 the survey was not conducted. In 2001 the survey was spatially restricted to the west and was an abbreviated survey and therefore we removed that year as well. No vermilion snapper were observed in depths less than 20 m and therefore sites in shallower depths than 20 m were excluded. Occasionally tapes are unable to be read (i.e. organisms cannot be identified to species) for the following reasons including: 1) camera views are more than 50% obstructed, 2) sub-optimal lighting conditions, 3) increased backlighting, 4) increased turbidity, 5) cameras out of focus, 6) cameras failed to film. In all of these cases the station is flagged as 'XX' in the data set and dropped. Sites that did not receive a stratum assignment are also dropped and all of those occurred early in the survey (1994-1995). Total exclusions of sites from the data set was 312 total.

Explanatory variables and definitions

- Year (Y) = The survey is conducted on an annual basis during the spring and the objective is to calculate standardized observation rates by year. Years included 1993-1997, 2001-2002, and 2004-2014.
- Region (R) = The survey is conducted throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico, however historically the SEDAR data workshop has requested separate indices for the western and eastern Gulf which is divided at 89° west longitude. This variable is not included in the model itself.
- Block (B) = The first stage of the random site selection process is selected from 10' latitude x 10' longitude blocks. Only blocks containing known reef are eligible for selection. Ten sites are randomly selected from within the blocks. Initial models always include a random block factor to test for autocorrelation among sites within a block.
- Strata (ST) = Strata are defined by geographic region (4 regions: South Florida, Northeast Gulf, Louisiana-Texas Shelf, and South Texas), and by total reef habitat area contained in the block (blocks ≤ 20 km² reef, block > 20 km² reef). There are a total of 7 strata.
- Depth (D) = Water depth at the lat-lon where the camera was deployed via TDR placed on the array.

Temperature (T) = Water temperature on the bottom (C°) taken during camera deployment via

TDR placed on the camera array.

- Dissolved oxygen (DO) = Dissolved oxygen (mg/l) taken via CTD cast slightly away from where the camera is deployed.
- Salinity (S) = Salinity (ppt) taken via CTD cast slightly away from where the camera is deployed.

Silt sand clay (SSC) = Percent bottom cover of silt, sand, or clay substrates.

Shell gravel (SG) = Percent bottom cover of shell or gravel substrates.

Rock (RK) = Percent bottom cover of rock substrates.

Attached epifauna (AE) = Percent bottom cover of attached epifauna on top of substrate.

Grass (G) = Percent bottom covered by grass.

Sponge (SP) = Percent bottom covered by sponge.

Unknown sessiles (US) = Percent bottom covered by unknown sessile organisms.

Algae (AL) = Percent bottom covered by algae.

Hardcoral (HC) = Percent bottom covered by hard coral.

Softcoral (SC) = Percent bottom covered by soft coral.

Seawhips (SW) = Percent bottom covered by seawhips.

Relief Maximum (RM) = Maximum relief measured from substrate to highest point.

Relief Average (RA) = Average relief measured from substrate to all measurable points.

- Reef (RF) = Boolean variable indicating whether or not a station landed on reef or missed reef. It is a composite variable where positive reef stations area identified as having one of the following: > 5% hard coral or >5% rock or >5% soft coral
- Habitat Complexity (HBin) = Shannon's H' derived from presence/absence data of SSC, SG, RK, AE, G, SP, US, AL, HC, SC, SW.

Index Construction

Video surveys produce count data that often do not conform to assumptions of normality and are frequently modeled using Poisson or negative-binomial error distributions (Guenther et al. 2014). Video data frequently has high numbers of 'zero-counts' commonly referred to as 'zero-inflated' data distributions, they are common in ecological count data and are a special case of over dispersion that cannot be easily addressed using traditional transformation procedures (Hall 2000). Delta lognormal models have been frequently used to model video count data (Campbell et al. 2012) but recent exploration of models using negative-binomial, poisson (SEDAR 2015), zero-inflated negative-binomial, and zero-inflated poisson models(Guenther et al. 2014) have been accepted for use in assessments in the southeast United States. Additionally for certain species like Gulf of Mexico red grouper it has been determined that a combined video index was useful and included data from NMFS-Mississippi Labs, NMFS-Panama City, and FWRI index (SEDAR 2015). We explored model fit using three different error distributions to construct relative abundance indices including delta-lognormal, poisson and negative binomial.

East-, west- and GOM-wide models were run and independent variables tested in the model included year and reef as fixed effects and depth as a continuous variable (mincount = year + reef + depth). We used the composite variable 'reef' rather than the percent coverage of individual habitat variables because of the strong relationship vermilion snapper have with reef habitat and as a simplifying or aggregating variable to indicate if a camera observed reef habitat. Additionally, in past SEDAR data workshops (SEDAR 2015) it was decided that a combination of video indices submitted by NMFS-Mississippi Labs, NMFS-Panama City and FWRI was desired. Despite the good coordination between groups the percent habitat cover variables are fairly subjective and may be interpreted differently among the coordinating laboratories, however each group is consistent in determining if the camera landed on reef habitat (i.e. the 'reef' variable). The GLIMMIX and MIXED procedure in SAS (v. 9.4) were used to develop the binomial and lognormal sub-models in the delta lognormal model (Lo et al. 1992), and GLIMMIX used to develop the poisson and negative binomial models. Best fitting models were determined by evaluating the conditional likelihood, over-dispersion parameter (Pearson chi-square/DF), and visual interpretation of the Q/Q plots.

Results

Initial runs of the poisson and negative-binomial models produced poor fits to the data that were non-linear (e.g. 'S shaped' QQ plots), whereas the delta lognormal model showed a mostly linear fit with some tailing (Figures 4, 7 and 10). Additional evaluation of error distributions showed improved fit statistics for the delta lognormal model in which only year was retained as a variable. Delta lognormal models consistently showed lower AIC and conditional likelihood values. Pearson chi-square /DF measures of fit were not used to compare model runs as that information is not produced for the delta lognormal models, however both the poisson and negative binomial models had values exceeding 1 indicating poor fit for those distributions. Finally all of the delta lognormal models produced nearly linear QQ plots indicating good fitting models (Figures 4, 7 and 10). Therefore the delta lognormal models were selected as the best fitting model and we chose to only present model output and graphs from those runs for the east, west and GOM wide vermilion snapper indices.

Vermilion snapper were observed throughout the eastern and western Gulf of Mexico in most years and the spatial distributions observed are highly reflective of the reef sampling universe used to select sampling sites (Figures 1 and 13-30). The Dry Tortugas are the shallowest reefs available for sampling and in that region vermilion snapper were never observed, and thus those shallow sites were dropped from use in index estimation. Anecdotally

sites shallower than 20 m in the Panama City video index also do not observe vermilion snapper (Chris Gardner, personal communication). Gaps in mapping and habitat information exist on the central portion of the west Florida shelf, Mississippi river delta region, and portions of the Texas coast and those are slowly being investigated and filled. In most years the survey shows good coverage in the defined sampling universe, and coverage improved through time as the sampling universe expanded and more sites were added to the survey. The most recent mapping and sampling efforts in south Texas and in the central portion of the west Florida shelf were accomplished in 2012-14 and beginning in 2014 are starting to be incorporated into the sampling frame.

We tested a suite a variables to evaluate their effects of vermilion abundance and to improve model precision (CV) including year, reef, hbin, depth, latitude by longitude interaction. In the Gulf-wide model significant variables in the binomial submodel included year, reef, hbin, depth, and the latitude*longitude interaction. Whereas in the lognormal submodel we retained only year, reef and hbin as significant terms (Tables 1 - 2). Through time it appears that the GOM wide index shows a peak in the index in 1994 followed by a decrease and generally stable values through 2007. From 2007 through 2011 index values trended up followed by a two year dip with a final increase back to 2011 levels in 2014 and continued increases through 2017. The population appears to demonstrate a general index in Gulf-wide trends since 2003 with some variability in the highs (2011, 2015, 2017) and lows (2006, 2007, 2013). Highest mincounts were observed in 1994, 2011, 2014, 2015, and 2017 and the lowest was observed in 2007 (Table 3, Figures 2 and 3).

The east GOM trends were similar to the GOM wide trends (Figures 5 and 6). Highest index values were observed in 1993, 1997, 2012 and 2017. Low years were observed in the index from 2003-2007 but have and increased and show some stabilization since 2007. The west GOM model shows generally similar trends to both the east and GOM wide models (Table 6, Figures 9-12). The west GOM model showed higher CVs likely due to less consistent sampling in that region. The differences in trends are likely due the decreasing detection probability with sampling less frequently. The highest mincounts were observed in 1993, 1997, 2004, 2012, 2014 and 2017. Similar to the other models, since 2002 the population appears to be stable with a general increasing trend in abundance although with high variability than the other two models (Figures 8 and 9).

Annual fork lengths ranging from 84 - 685 mm, and mean annual fork lengths ranging from 239 - 315 mm (Table 7, Figure 31). East GOM vermilion ranged from 205 - 407 mm mean annual fork length (Table 7, Figure 31). West GOM vermilion snapper ranged from 196 - 320 mm mean annual fork length (Table 7, Figure 31). Mean length was larger in the west than the east GOM but generally showed overlapping length frequency histograms (Table 7, Figure 31).

Literature cited

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Figure 1. Spatial distribution of known reef from which stations are randomly selected for sampling for the reef fish video survey. Over the history of the survey (1992-2014) new reef tract has been discovered and mapped and therefore this map represents what was available in 2014, and not necessarily what has been available over the entire time series.



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Model	Effect	Num DF	Den DF	Chi-Square	F Value	Pr>ChiSq	Pr>F
	Year	19	1568	161.58	8.44	<.0001	<.0001
COM	Reef	1	4701	52.7	52.7	<.0001	<.0001
GOIVI	HBin	1	4687	17.4	17.4	<.0001	<.0001
WIGE	Depth	1	4685	7.51	7.51	0.0061	0.0062
	Lat*Lon	1	4478	160.83	160.83	<.0001	<.0001
	Year	19	546	90.16	4.64	<.0001	<.0001
East	Reef	1	1796	72.37	72.37	<.0001	<.0001
GOM	HBin	1	1739	5.94	5.94	0.0148	0.0149
	Depth	1	1576	16.48	16.48	<.0001	<.0001
	Year	19	546	90.16	4.64	<.0001	<.0001
West	Reef	1	1796	72.37	72.37	<.0001	<.0001
GOM	Depth	1	1739	5.94	5.94	0.0148	0.0149
	HBin	1	1576	16.48	16.48	<.0001	<.0001

Table 1. Test of type III fixed effects for the binomial portion of the delta lognormal model.

Table 2. Test of type III fixed effects for the lognormal portion of the delta lognormal model.

Model	Effect	Num DF	Den DF	F Value	Pr>F
CON4	Year	19	1174	3.41	<.0001
GOIVI Wide	Reef	1	1174	16.3	<.0001
vviue	Hbin	1	1174	16.44	<.0001
	Year	19	549	4.49	<.0001
East	Reef	1	549	13.51	0.0003
GOM	Hbin	1	549	11.91	0.0006
	Depth	1	549	8.24	0.0043
	Year	19	549	4.49	<.0001
West	Reef	1	549	13.51	0.0003
GOM	HBin	1	549	11.91	0.0006
	Depth	1	549	8.24	0.0043

SurveyYear	Frequency	Ν	LoIndex	StdIndex	SE	CV	LCL	UCL
1993	0.11348	141	1.34195	0.79556	0.59986	0.44700	0.33881	1.86807
1994	0.25714	105	3.01840	1.78942	0.84769	0.28084	1.03132	3.10478
1995	0.26582	79	2.32091	1.37592	0.77630	0.33448	0.71735	2.63907
1996	0.12044	274	0.51031	0.30253	0.14670	0.28747	0.17219	0.53152
1997	0.29600	250	2.96815	1.75962	0.60274	0.20307	1.17711	2.63041
2002	0.18220	236	1.58677	0.94070	0.40381	0.25449	0.56998	1.55251
2004	0.15217	184	1.06481	0.63126	0.31238	0.29337	0.35533	1.12145
2005	0.22812	377	1.33329	0.79042	0.23220	0.17416	0.55939	1.11687
2006	0.13764	356	0.50365	0.29858	0.12712	0.25239	0.18164	0.49081
2007	0.13927	438	0.39753	0.23567	0.08904	0.22398	0.15140	0.36684
2008	0.24490	294	1.11713	0.66227	0.21881	0.19587	0.44927	0.97627
2009	0.26893	383	1.75290	1.03918	0.26479	0.15106	0.76952	1.40333
2010	0.29259	270	1.85079	1.09722	0.33596	0.18152	0.76542	1.57283
2011	0.32973	370	2.24993	1.33384	0.28626	0.12723	1.03522	1.71859
2012	0.20882	431	1.41534	0.83906	0.26184	0.18500	0.58137	1.21097
2013	0.23529	272	0.99017	0.58701	0.23989	0.24227	0.36409	0.94642
2014	0.24561	285	1.73598	1.02915	0.29412	0.16943	0.73512	1.44079
2015	0.19653	173	2.45887	1.45770	0.67562	0.27477	0.84984	2.50035
2016	0.31646	316	2.06317	1.22312	0.39309	0.19053	0.83840	1.78438
2017	0.34174	357	3.05613	1.81178	0.50548	0.16540	1.30440	2.51653

Table 3. Output for the delta lognormal index of relative abundance of vermilion snapper by year, GOM wide delta lognormal model run.



Figure 2. Plot of the observed vs predicted proportion positives for vermilion snapper, GOM wide delta lognormal model run.



Figure 3. Observed and standardized mincounts of vermilion snapper from the GOM wide delta lognormal model run.



Figure 4. QQ plot of conditional residuals for the GOM wide delta lognormal model run.

UCL	LCL	CV	SE	StdIndex	LoIndex	Ν	Frequency	SurveyYear
9.65945	0.88826	0.65385	4.31295	2.92919	6.59624	44	0.09091	1993
1.33445	0.19421	0.51120	0.58604	0.50908	1.14640	44	0.22727	1994
2.45145	0.53953	0.39239	1.01623	1.15006	2.58982	41	0.31707	1995
0.91860	0.24662	0.33784	0.36210	0.47596	1.07182	157	0.14013	1996
4.17708	1.85695	0.20477	1.28425	2.78507	6.27170	123	0.46341	1997
0.79072	0.22457	0.32264	0.30617	0.42139	0.94894	91	0.25275	2002
2.39998	0.47856	0.42005	1.01373	1.07170	2.41336	50	0.24000	2004
0.80920	0.26899	0.28065	0.29485	0.46654	1.05061	132	0.25758	2005
0.39057	0.06760	0.46046	0.16848	0.16249	0.36590	122	0.16393	2006
0.27129	0.08008	0.31227	0.10365	0.14740	0.33193	164	0.21341	2007
0.82240	0.22625	0.33123	0.32174	0.43135	0.97137	124	0.25806	2008
1.37541	0.52960	0.24204	0.46518	0.85347	1.92193	154	0.31169	2009
1.10600	0.31885	0.31861	0.42608	0.59385	1.33728	95	0.40000	2010
0.77115	0.21332	0.32974	0.30117	0.40559	0.91335	98	0.24490	2011
2.29937	1.04664	0.19868	0.69408	1.55133	3.49344	192	0.31771	2012
2.17584	0.83116	0.24411	0.73925	1.34480	3.02835	134	0.35075	2013
2.23823	0.47972	0.39978	0.93287	1.03620	2.33343	107	0.19626	2014
2.50876	0.26006	0.61535	1.11926	0.80773	1.81892	47	0.27660	2015
2.03221	0.80379	0.23504	0.67646	1.27807	2.87809	158	0.42405	2016
2.46515	1.01106	0.22561	0.80207	1.57874	3.55517	176	0.38636	2017

Table 4. Output for the delta lognormal index of relative abundance of vermilion snapper by year, east GOM model run.



Figure 5. Plot of the observed vs predicted proportion positives for vermilion snapper, east GOM delta log normal model run.

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Figure 6. Observed and standardized mincounts of vermilion snapper from the east GOM delta lognormal model run.



Figure 7. QQ plot of conditional residuals for the east GOM delta lognormal model run.

SurveyYear	Frequency	Ν	LoIndex	StdIndex	SE	CV	LCL	UCL
1993	0.09091	44	6.59624	2.92919	4.31295	0.65385	0.88826	9.65945
1994	0.22727	44	1.14640	0.50908	0.58604	0.51120	0.19421	1.33445
1995	0.31707	41	2.58982	1.15006	1.01623	0.39239	0.53953	2.45145
1996	0.14013	157	1.07182	0.47596	0.36210	0.33784	0.24662	0.91860
1997	0.46341	123	6.27170	2.78507	1.28425	0.20477	1.85695	4.17708
2002	0.25275	91	0.94894	0.42139	0.30617	0.32264	0.22457	0.79072
2004	0.24000	50	2.41336	1.07170	1.01373	0.42005	0.47856	2.39998
2005	0.25758	132	1.05061	0.46654	0.29485	0.28065	0.26899	0.80920
2006	0.16393	122	0.36590	0.16249	0.16848	0.46046	0.06760	0.39057
2007	0.21341	164	0.33193	0.14740	0.10365	0.31227	0.08008	0.27129
2008	0.25806	124	0.97137	0.43135	0.32174	0.33123	0.22625	0.82240
2009	0.31169	154	1.92193	0.85347	0.46518	0.24204	0.52960	1.37541
2010	0.40000	95	1.33728	0.59385	0.42608	0.31861	0.31885	1.10600
2011	0.24490	98	0.91335	0.40559	0.30117	0.32974	0.21332	0.77115
2012	0.31771	192	3.49344	1.55133	0.69408	0.19868	1.04664	2.29937
2013	0.35075	134	3.02835	1.34480	0.73925	0.24411	0.83116	2.17584
2014	0.19626	107	2.33343	1.03620	0.93287	0.39978	0.47972	2.23823
2015	0.27660	47	1.81892	0.80773	1.11926	0.61535	0.26006	2.50876
2016	0.42405	158	2.87809	1.27807	0.67646	0.23504	0.80379	2.03221
2017	0.38636	176	3.55517	1.57874	0.80207	0.22561	1.01106	2.46515

Table 5. Output for the delta lognormal index of relative abundance of vermilion snapper by year, west GOM model run.



Figure 8. Plot of the observed vs predicted proportion positives for vermilion snapper, west GOM delta log normal model run.



Figure 9. Observed and standardized mincounts of vermilion snapper from the east GOM delta lognormal model run.



Figure 10. QQ plot of conditional residuals for the west GOM delta lognormal model run.

Figure 11. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 1993.



Figure 12. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 1994.



Figure 13. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 1995.



Figure 14. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 1996.



Figure 15. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 1997.



Figure 16. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2002.



Figure 17. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2004.



Figure 18. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2005.



Figure 19. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2006.



Figure 20. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2007.



Figure 21. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2008.



Figure 22. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2009.



Figure 23. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2010.



Figure 24. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2011.



Figure 25. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2012.



Figure 26. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2013.



Figure 27. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2014.



Figure 28. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2015.



Figure 29. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2016.



Figure 30. Map of vermilion snapper mincounts during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise in 2017.



Table 7. Mean and standard deviation of vermilion snapper lengths (FL) from the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise from 1995 - 2013. Includes estimates by region and Gulf wide.

	East Gulf		West	Gulf	Gulf	Gulf Wide		
Year	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
1995	237.67	17.11	302.08	40.16	289.74	44.77		
1996	245.26	55.16	313.58	64.60	297.15	68.83		
1997	217.47	30.87	278.28	55.89	260.93	57.06		
2001	205.14	26.95	300.00	48.23	246.49	60.43		
2002	255.29	53.09	290.86	70.14	269.75	63.04		
2003	310.40	80.56			310.40	80.56		
2004	273.09	46.91	196.40	68.92	260.98	58.13		
2005	298.75	90.39	283.76	51.03	295.13	82.85		
2006	252.57	70.04	298.35	61.97	264.33	70.90		
2007	273.17	57.33	288.79	58.22	280.59	58.25		
2008	275.46	53.00	283.61	57.71	278.84	54.74		
2009	265.19	53.53	215.65	46.23	254.07	55.82		
2010	407.36	75.07	240.87	76.76	302.28	110.71		
2011	258.08	117.77	320.75	60.33	263.39	115.31		
2012	255.11	89.95	265.84	73.07	259.05	84.12		
2013	292.03	138.73	283.77	75.15	287.70	109.76		
2014	338.76	119.20	255.78	71.35	315.19	113.78		
2015	234.02	86.44	277.37	65.88	239.37	85.21		
2016	289.82	64.53	290.36	68.50	290.17	67.01		
2017	287.79	67.67	280.65	78.67	284.05	73.59		
Pooled	273.65	80.35	282.32	67.75	276.72	76.23		



Figure 31. Length frequency histograms of vermilion snapper observed during the SEAMAP reef fish video cruise from 1995 - 2017.