SEDAR 33-DW-19: A meta-data analysis of discard mortality estimates for gag grouper and greater amberjack

Linda Lombardi, Matthew D. Campbell, Beverly Sauls, and Kevin J. McCarthy

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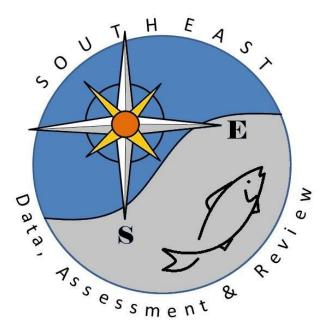
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A meta-data analysis of discard mortality estimates for gag grouper and greater amberjack

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Background

Discard mortality can be measured in three levels: immediate, short-term and long-term (Pollock and Pine 2007). Immediate discard mortally is measured from observations of fish immediately after being handled during normal fishing operations. Short-term mortality is typically measured in experimental studies, such as when fish are held in confinement (i.e., cage, holding tank) following exposure to capture or simulated capture (i.e. barometric chamber). Long-term mortality is tracked with tagging studies by modeling the recapture rate of marked fish or actively tracking individual fish with acoustic tags. Each of these methods (surface observation, experimental, and tagging) has associated caveats and assumptions that need to be considered when using resulting mortality estimates.

There are five terms of reference (TOR) specific to treatment of discard mortality during the SEDAR process: 1) review available research and published literature, 2) consider research directed at gag (*Mycteroperca microlepis*) and greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*) as well as similar species from other areas, 3) provide estimates of discard mortality rate by fishery, gear type, depth, and other feasible or appropriate strata, 4) include thorough rationale for recommended discard mortality rates and 5) provide justification for any recommendations that deviate from the range of discard mortality provided in the last update or other prior assessments. This report provides documentation of the steps associated with addressing TORs 1, 2, and 3, and each will be addressed separately for gag and greater amberjack.

On-line citation indexes were searched using Web of Science and Google Scholar. In addition, National Sea Grant, Mote Marine Laboratory, NC and FL Sea Grant and National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center publication series were also

searched. These databases were searched using the keywords: gag grouper, greater amberjack, discard, release, tag-recapture, mortality and reef fish. The result of these on-line searches were 33 citations for gag grouper, 12 citations for greater amberjack and 6 citations involving hook selectivity and/or discard mortality that would be applicable for this review (see Literature Cited).

Previous Assessments Discard (Release) Mortality Estimates

Gag Grouper

There have been four gag grouper assessments in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM)(Schirripa and Goodyear 1994, Schirripa and Legault 1997, Turner et al. 2001, SEDAR 2006a), two assessments in the South Atlantic (Potts and Manooch 1998, SEDAR 2006a), and one GOM update assessment (SEDAR 2010). The most recent assessments for gag in the GOM and South Atlantic used logistic regression to estimate a depth-mortality function, and that function relied on the published estimates of Burns et al. 2002 and McGovern et al. 2005 (Table 1). These estimates were based on both passive tag-recapture and caging studies (Table 2).

The 2001 GOM gag assessment relied on discard mortality values from previous assessments. In this assessment, recreational release mortality was set at 20% and 30% for the commercial sector (Table 1; Turner et al. 2001). The higher discard estimate for the commercial sector was based on the belief that discard mortality increased with depth fished, and it was thought that most commercial vessels fished in deeper waters than recreational vessels.

The 1998 south Atlantic gag assessment applied two release mortality estimates (20% and 50%) to model runs regardless of fishing sector (Table 1; Potts and Manooch 1998). The

lower discard mortality estimate was based on surface observations of gag released on headboat vessels. The investigators felt that a discard estimate of 20% was low; therefore, assessment models were compiled with an additional discard estimate of 50%.

The 1997 GOM gag assessment used discard mortality estimates of 20% (recreational) and 33% (commercial) (Table 1; Schirripa and Legault 1997). These values were slightly higher than what was calculated from observations onboard commercial vessels that recorded immediate mortality of discards (SEFSC 1995), but these values were similar to values used in other reef fish assessments at that time (e.g. red snapper). Discard mortality was higher for the commercial sector based on the belief that commercial vessels fished in deeper waters and had lower opportunities for quick release of gag compared to the recreational sector.

The first GOM gag assessment used a range of discard mortality estimates (0 – 35%) (Table 1; Schirripa and Goodyear 1994). These values were based on the review of discard mortality estimates for a variety of reef fish from a tag and capture project but were not specific to gag grouper (Schirripa et al. 1993).

Greater Amberjack

There have been three GOM greater amberjack assessments (Turner et al. 2000, Diaz et al. 2005, SEDAR 2006b) and one GOM update assessment (SEDAR 2011). The most recent assessment for GOM greater amberjack in the used 20% discard mortality for assessment model base runs and additional discard mortalities of 0% and 40% as model sensitivities (Table 3). These discard mortality rates were based on surface observations from fish caught and released onboard headboat and commercial vertical line vessels. Twelve greater amberjack

were caught off of North Carolina with one fish 'presumed' dead due to floating condition (release mortality = 10%). The 2006 life history group advised release mortality would likely be higher; and recommended sensitivity analyses across a range of release mortalities (20-50%) (SEDAR 2006b). During the 2010 update assessment, two projects reported fairly low discard mortality rates although the results were considered preliminary at that time (FL FWC/FWRI, discard mortality = 3.8%; Murie and Parkyn 2010, discard mortality <2%). Three different levels of release mortality (0%, 20%, and 40%) were applied to the 2005 GOM assessment (Diaz et al. 2005) and only one value for discard mortality (20%) was used to the assessment model in 2000 (Turner et al. 2000) (Table 3).

Methods of Estimation

Surface Observation

Discard mortality estimates calculated from surface observations are somewhat subjective since the recorded condition of the fish often relies on the observed behavior of fish during release at the surface after handling. Typically surface observations measure immediate mortality resulting from exposure to catch and release. Release condition categories are described as good if the fish was released alive and immediately submerged beneath the surface, fair if the fish was initially disoriented or floated before slowly descending, poor if the fish floated at the surface, or dead if the fish was either unresponsive or preyed upon (Rudershausen et al. 2005, Rudershausen and Buckel 2007, Stephens and Harris 2010). Release conditions may also include other indicators of injury or impairment, such as hook location, visible barotrauma symptoms, or fitness measures. In addition to research projects onboard commercial vessels, two observer programs in the US southeast record surface observations for discards in the commercial fishery: Galveston Observer Program (SEFSC 2011) and the Shark Bottom Long-line Observer Program. Observers record the condition of each fish twice: 1) the condition on capture and 2) the condition on release. Surface observations for discards of gag grouper and greater amberjack in the recreational hook-and-line fisheries have been reported by several short-term programs that employed fishery observers on for-hire vessels, including headboats and charter boats and described in SEDAR33-DW04 and SEDAR33-DW05 (Sauls and Cermak 2013a and 2013b).

Gag Grouper

A variety of discard mortality estimates have been calculated for gag grouper based on the condition of the fish on release from commercial and recreational vertical line fishing (Table 2). These values range from 0% (Rudershausen et al. 2005, Rudershausen and Buckel 2007, Stephens and Harris 2010) to 14.7% (based on observer coverage, SEDAR 2006c). Of these studies, discard mortality estimates reported by Rudershausen and Buckel 2007 (preliminary results reported in Rudershausen et al. 2005) appear to be the most useful, since estimates were reported by two depth zones (19-25m and 26-50m). For gag discards (both vented and unvented) observed in the recreational hook-and-line fishery in the eastern GOM, a majority (75-100% during any given year) were released alive and immediately submerged (Sauls and Cermak 2013a), and 77.79% of gags observed in Florida submerged immediately without a need for venting (Sauls 2013). Less than 1% of gags observed were either dead or preyed upon at the time they were discarded.

Greater Amberjack

Two studies have provided estimates for immediate discard mortality based on commercial vertical line fishing operations (Table 4). These values ranged from 23.5% (based on observer coverage, SEDAR 2006d) to 94% (Stephens and Harris 2010). Stephens and Harris (2010) reported 199 greater amberjack caught with 47 fish discarded (discard rate 23.6%); but of those fish discarded, 44 were classified as either having experienced difficulty submerging or as fish that floated at the surface. Further discussion is needed to qualify the immediate release mortality condition given the considerable differences in discard mortality rates reported in these studies. A small percentage of greater amberjack observed in the recreational hook-and-line fishery (2.38% from headboats, 5.64% from charter) suffered immediate mortality or were not able to submerge immediately following release (Sauls and Cermak 2013b).

Cage studies

Discard mortality estimates obtained through caging or containment studies rely on the study design (number of cages, replicates, and controls) to obtain an unbiased measure of mortality (Pollock and Pine 2007). Caging studies measure short-term mortality and discard mortality is defined as the number of observed deaths over a defined holding period (Overton et al. 2008). However, some fish can become more stressed and/or suffer additional injuries during containment, generally are not subjected to predation during containment, and are likely more vulnerable to predators after containment.

Three caging studies reported a range of discard mortality rates for gag grouper (Table 2). Each of these studies used vertical line with circle or J hooks to investigate post-release mortality for undersized reef fish. The cages used in these studies were also similarly constructed with wire mesh and PVC pipes. In each study, cages were lowered to various designated depth.

The first cage study reported only three gag grouper all of which died after being in cages (cage depths 55 and 75 m) for a minimum of 24 hrs (Wilson and Burns 1996). A second caging study estimated mortality rates using two different cage types (circle and square) and investigated differences between 2 hr and 48 hr holding periods, which resulted in an immediate mortality rate of 22%, and with mortality increasing with the increase in holding period (Overton and Zabawski 2003, Overton et al. 2008). The third study collected a total of 67 gag grouper (<500 mm) and divided the fish among cages at four depths (20 m, 35 m, 45 m, and 50 m) and resulted in a depth-mortality function with discard mortality of 50% at 43.7 m (Burns et al. 2002). This data formulated the depth-mortality function that was used in the 2006 GOM and south Atlantic assessments as well as the 2010 GOM update assessment.

Greater Amberjack

None to date

Gag

Passive and Acoustic Tags

Discard mortality estimates obtained through passive or acoustic tagging studies rely on the design of the study, the number of fish tagged, and the willingness of anglers to report tags (Pollock and Pine 2007). Tag-recapture percentages should not be interpreted as an estimate of survival (typically, only around 10% of fish in passive tagging studies are recaptured), though these percentages may be used to derive estimates of total mortality and discard mortality. Recapture rates are also highly dependent on fishing effort. Comparisons of tag-recapture percentages and long-term mortality estimates derived from recaptures reported by commercial and recreational fishers should be viewed with caution when factors that influence fishing effort (and hence, tag-recapture rates) across spatial and temporal scales are not accounted for in models.

Gag Grouper

Gag grouper (n = 3876) were tagged off the US South Atlantic coast over a four year period (1995-1999) through a cooperative program with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and commercial captains (McGovern et al. 2005, SEDAR 2006e). Tag and recapture rates were reported by depth at capture (Table 2). These recapture rates formulated the depth-mortality function that was applied to the 2006 assessment in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic and the 2010 update assessment in the Gulf of Mexico. A tag-recapture study in Florida described in SEDAR33-DW06 modeled relative survival of gags in good, fair and poor condition categories (Sauls 2013). The model included covariates that controlled for variable recapture rates for gags tagged in different time periods and regions in the study. The

majority of gags were released in good condition (77.8%), and gags released in fair and poor condition were 69.1% and 46.1% as likely to survive, respectively, compared to gags released in good condition. Estimated mortality percentages in depths >40m were lower in this study compared to McGovern et al (2005).

Gag grouper were also tagged and released over the course of 15 years (1991-2005) using volunteers onboard commercial and a variety of recreational vessels (charter and headboats, private vessels) through the Mote Marine Laboratory tagging program (SEDAR 2006f). This program tagged 6,353 gag and 586 were recaptured, a recapture rate of 9%. Recapture rates were provided only by year and by fishing mode (commercial, recreational) (Table 2).

Greater Amberjack

The University of Florida, Fisheries and Aquatic Science Program, professors Deb Murie and Daryl Parkyn have been leading both a passive and an acoustic tagging program for greater amberjack beginning in 2007 (Murie et al. 2011, Parkyn and Murie 2012, SEDAR33-DWXX). Greater amberjack (n = 1,493) were caught by both commercial and recreational fishing vessels using a variety of gears, with 169 tags returned (11.3%) as of 2011 (Murie et al. 2011). Five large mature fish were tagged with pop-up archival satellite tags, three of the fish experienced similar depth and environmental profiles, while two fish showed more variability (Murie et al. 2011). Additional data from this program will be made available during the data workshop for SEDAR33.

Conclusion

This report summarizes the first three terms of reference (TOR) specific to the discard mortality: 1) review available research and published literature and provide ratioinale for irrelevant studies (see Table 5), 2) consider research directed at gag and greater amberjack and 3) provide estimates of discard mortality rate by fishery, gear type, depth, and other feasible or appropriate strata. Immediate discard mortality estimates from surface observations are available from four studies involving gag caught by the commercial vertical line fishery and one study using recreational vessels (Table 2). In addition, short-term discard mortality estimates are available for gag from three caging studies and from two tag-recapture studies reporting long-term discard mortality estimates (Table 2). Fewer studies have reported immediate discard mortality estimates for greater amberjack from surface observations, but of those studies discard mortality estimates are available from two studies using the commercial vertical line fishery and one study using recreational vessels (Table 2). Fewer studies using the commercial vertical line fishery and one study using recreational vessels (Table 2). Fewer studies have reported immediate discard mortality estimates for greater amberjack from surface observations, but of those studies discard mortality estimates are available from two studies using the commercial vertical line fishery and one study using recreational vessels (Table 4). Long-term mortality estimates for greater amberjack are currently preliminary and final estimates will be provided during SEDAR data workshop (SEDAR33-DW-XX).

The discard mortality working group will revise this report after the data workshop by addressing the final two TORs: 4) include thorough rationale for recommended discard mortality rates and 5) provide justification for any recommendations that deviate from the range of discard mortality provided in the last update or other prior assessment and reviewing additional data/reports provided at the SEDAR33 data workshop. In addition, the discard mortality working group will discuss the effect of depth, hook type, and venting in estimating discard mortality.

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Assessment Year	Region	Discard mortality
2010 update ^a	GOM	Depth-mortality function
		Mortality = 1/(1+exp(-k(depth-50%mortality)))
		k = 0.058649; 50% mortality = 45.5 m
a 2006	GOM	Depth-mortality function
2000	SA	Mortality = 1/(1+exp(-k(depth-50%mortality)))
		k = 0.058649; 50% mortality = 45.5 m
2001	GOM	20% (Recreational), 30% (Commercial)
1998	SA	0%, 20%, 50%
1997 ^b	GOM	20% (Recreational), 33% (Commercial)
1994 [°]	GOM	0%, 20%, 33% (most realistic)

Table 1. Discard mortality estimates applied to previous assessments for gag grouper in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) and South Atlantic (SA).

^bSEFSC 1995

^cSchirripa et al. 1993

) Depth (m)	Season	Region	Method	Size Range (mm) Mean or Range	Discard rate	N	# dead	# alive	Hooks	Mode	Vent	Relevant	Citation
cptii (iii)	5005011	NE Gulf of	Immediate	Mean of Mange	Discara rate		# ucuu	# allvc	110013	Widde	vent	Nelevant	Citation
		Mexico (west	mortality							Recreational, hook			
-90	All Year	FL shelf)	upon release	Mean=463-585	<1%	3,832	11	3,821	Circle or J	and line	Selective	Yes	Sauls 2013
50	/ III real	r E shieny	upon release	100 505	41/0	3,032		3,021			Scicetive		50015 2015
		NE Gulf of											
		Mexico (west			2.5%, 11.9%,					Recreational, hook			Sauls 2013
10	All Year	FL shelf)	Tag-recapture		21.3%	3,832			Circle or J	and line	Selective		
		NE Gulf of											
		Mexico (west			1.9%, 11.5%,					Recreational, hook			Sauls 2013
1-20	All Year	FL shelf)	Tag-recapture		21.1%	3,832			Circle or J	and line	Selective		
		NE Gulf of											Sauls 2013
		Mexico (west			9.0%, 16.4%,					Recreational, hook			
1-30	All Year	FL shelf)	Tag-recapture		23.8%	3,832			Circle or J	and line	Selective		
		NE Gulf of										Yes, range of mortalities	Sauls 2013
		Mexico (west			21.2%, 24.9%,					Recreational, hook		based on varied assumption of	
L-40	All Year	FL shelf)	Tag-recapture		28.6%	3,832			Circle or J	and line	Selective	survival for fish in good	
		NE Gulf of										condition that may be used	Sauls 2013
		Mexico (west			25.8%, 28.4%,					Recreational, hook		for sensitivity runs	
1-50	All Year	FL shelf)	Tag-recapture		31.0%	3,832			Circle or J	and line	Selective		
		NE Gulf of											Sauls 2013
		Mexico (west			20.1%, 24.2%,					Recreational, hook			
1-60	All Year	FL shelf)	Tag-recapture		28.3%	3,832			Circle or J	and line	Selective		
		NE Gulf of											Sauls 2013
		Mexico (west			26.3%, 30.4%,					Recreational, hook			
L-90	All Year	FL shelf)	Tag-recapture		34.5%	3,832			Circle or J	and line	Selective		
													Sauls 2013
					3.77%								
		NE Gulf of			potentially								
ange of		Mexico (west			lethal hook					Recreational,			
epths	All Year	FL shelf)	Hook location	500	injuries	1,433			Circle	hook and line	Selective		Sauls and Ayala 2012
												Yes, low percentage of	
					5.44%							potentially lethal hook injuries	
		NE Gulf of			potentially							for both circle and J hooks, no	
inge of		Mexico (west			lethal hook					Recreational,		significant reduction with	
epths	All Year	FL shelf)	Hook location	500	injuries	772			J	hook and line	Selective	circle hooks	Sauls and Ayala 2012

Table 2. Meta-data of discard mortality estimates for gag grouper (in order by year of citation).

Depth (m)	Season	Region	Method	Size Range (mm) Mean or Range	Discard rate	N	# dead	# alive	Hooks	Mode	Vent	Relevant	Citation
1 ()	Summer/	South Atlantic	Surface	0						Commercial,			
20 - 80	Fall	- SC	observations		0 %	53	2		J	vertical line	No	Yes	Stephen and Harris 2010
15 45	All Year	South Atlantic - NC	Cage and onboard	295-573	21.0.0/	22	7	26	Circle or I	Recreational,	Vented by lowering in	Vac Loui comple size	Overton et al. 2008
15-45	All Year	- NC	holding tanks	476 (SE 14)	21.9 %	33	/	26	Circle or J	Hook and line	cages	Yes. Low sample size.	Overton and Zabowski 200
10.450		South Atlantic - Onslow Bay,	Surface		0.1/		0		J Hooks	Commercial,	N -	Yes. Fishing depths not readily apparent. Great info on	Rudershausen and Buckel
19-150	All Year	NC	observations		0%	55	0	55	electric reels	vertical line	No	hooking location with J hooks	2007
unknown	All Year	NE Gulf of Mexico (west FL shelf)	Surface observations		14.7% dead, 0.9% kept	41,683			Not reported	Commercial, vertical line	Not reported	Yes	SEDAR 2006c
unknown	All fear	FL Shell)	Observations		0.9% kept	41,083			Not reported	vertical line	Not reported	fes	SEDAR 2000C
unknown	All year	NE Gulf of Mexico (west FL shelf)	Tag-recapture		8.98 % recapture N = 569	6336			Not reported	Commercial and Recreational, Gear unknown	Not reported	Yes, annual estimates	SEDAR 2006f
	All year	i L shenj	lag-lecaptule		N = 303	0330			Not reported	Gear anknown	Not reported	res, annual estimates	JEDAN 20001
unknown	All year	NE Gulf of Mexico (west FL shelf)	Tag-recapture		9.17% recapture N = 504	5495			Not reported	Recreational, Gear unknown	Not reported	Yes, annual estimates	SEDAR 2006f
unknown	All year	NE Gulf of Mexico (west FL shelf)	Tag-recapture		7.85% recapture N = 35	446			Not reported	Commercial, Gear unknown	Not reported	Yes, annual estimates	SEDAR 2006f
		South Atlantic								Commercial,		Provides estimates of M;	
11-20	All Year	- NC-FL South Atlantic	Tag-recapture	578 (SE 166)	14.2463%	253			Not reported	gear unknown Commercial,	Yes-all	however, 81% tagged off SC; noted large differences in	
21-30	All Year	- NC-FL South Atlantic	Tag-recapture	70.9 (SE 119)	23.0274%	1,221			Not reported	gear unknown Commercial,	Yes-all	recapture rates among regions attributed to uneven	
31-40	All Year	- NC-FL South Atlantic	Tag-recapture	771 (SE 105)	35.0113%	730			Not reported	gear unknown Commercial,	Yes-all	effort, which was not controlled for in the model.	
41-50	All Year	- NC-FL South Atlantic	Tag-recapture	828 (SE 77)	49.2420%	871			Not reported	gear unknown Commercial,	Yes-all	Also, M is estimated from survival across years after	
51-60	All Year	- NC-FL South Atlantic	Tag-recapture	842 (SE 81)	63.5966%	357			Not reported	gear unknown Commercial,	Yes-all	subtracting natural mortality, may still include mortality not	
51-70	All Year	- NC-FL	Tag-recapture	832 (SE 56)	75.8801%	321			Not reported	gear unknown	Yes-all	related to initial catch-and-	
71-80	All Year	South Atlantic	Tag-recapture	787	84.9966%	39			Not reported	Commercial,	Yes-all	release event?	McGovern et al. 2005

Table 2. Meta-data of discard mortality estimates for gag grouper (in order by year of citation)...continued

Depth (m)	Season	Region	Method	Size Range (mm) Mean or Range	Discard rate	N	# dead	# alive	Hooks	Mode	Vent	Relevant	Citation
<u> </u>	00000	- NC-FL		(one length)	2.0001.0.1010					gear unknown	. ent	helefunt	
		South Atlantic								Commercial,			
81-90	All Year	- NC-FL	Tag-recapture	Not reported	91.0728%	57			Not reported	gear unknown	Yes-all		
		South Atlantic								Commercial,			
91-100	All Year	- NC-FL	Tag-recapture	Not reported	94.8377%	11			Not reported	gear unknown	Yes-all		
18.8-85.2 Mean = 29.2	Summer/ Fall	South Atlantic - NC	Surface observations	683 (SE 119)	0%	29	0	29	J Hooks electric reels	Commercial, hook and line	No	Yes. Low sample size. Fishing depths not readily apparent. Great info on hooking location with J hooks	Rudershausen et al. 2005
20-50	Sumer	NE Gulf of Mexico (Apalachicola)	Cage	< 500	Estimated LD50 = 43.7 m (50% of the gag die at this depth)	67	n/a	n/a	Circle	Commercial Gear electric reels	Vented by lowering in cages.	Yes. Problem may exist in exclusion of subjects due to lost cages, shark attacks, gill and gut hooked fish not included. Logistical functional response with depth, data modeled with data from McGovern et al. 2005.	Burns et al. 2002
	Summer/	NE Gulf of Mexico (west							Not reported,				
54 and 75	Fall	FL shelf)	Cage	790-840	100%	3			likely J	hook and line	No	Low sample size	Wilson and Burns 1996

Table 2. Meta-data of discard mortality estimates for gag grouper (in order by year of citation)...continued

Table 3. Discard mortality estimates applied to previous assessments for greater amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM).

Assessment Year	Discard mortality
2010 update	0%, 20% (base), 40%
2006	0%, 20% (base), 40%
2005	
2005	0% (base for SSPASM), 20%, 40%
2000	20%
2000	20%

Region Eastern Gulf of Mexico –	Method Surface	Mean or Range	Discard rate	N	# dead	# alive	Hooks	Mode	Vent	Relevant	Citation
Gulf of Mexico –	Surface								Vent	Relevant	Citation
Mexico –	Surface										
			5.64% fair, poor,					Hook and line,			
FL, AL	observation	160-1070	or dead	1,046	6	1,040	Circle and J	Headboats	Selective	Yes	Sauls and Cermak 2013b
,				,		,					
FL	observation	280-960	or dead	496	1	495	Circle and J	charter boats	Selective	Yes	Sauls and Cermak 2013b
			Recapture rates:								
Gulf of			•	Not reported						Need more	
	Tag-recapture	Not reported	8.2% J hooks				Circle and J	Hook and line	Not reported	information	Parkyn and Murie 2012
			•								
ali LA, FL	lag-recapture	226-1412	rate, N = 169	1493			Circle and J	Variety of gear	Not reported	Yes	Murie et al. 2011
Atlantic -	Surface							Commercial.			
	observations		94% immediate	47	44	3	J-hooks	vertical line	No	Yes	Stephen and Harris 2010
								,			
l Mexico	observations		0.7% kept	74,579			Unknown	vertical line	Unknown	Yes	SEDAR 2006d
F	Mexico— FL Gulf of Mexico Gulf of Mexico – Fall LA, FL Atlantic -	FLobservationtedGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureGulf of Mexico - LA, FLTag-recapturefallAtlantic - SCSurface observationsdGulf of MexicoSurface observations	Mexico- FLSurface observation280-960tedGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureNot reportedGulf of Mexico - LA, FLTag-recapture226-1412fallAtlantic - SCSurface observationsSurface observations	Mexico- FLSurface observation280-9602.35% fair, poor or deadtedGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureNot reportedRecapture rates: 15.9% circle, 8.2% J hooksFallGulf of Mexico - LA, FLTag-recapture226-141211.3% recapture rate, N = 169FallAtlantic - SCSurface observations94% immediatedGulf of MexicoSurface observations23.5% dead, 0.7% kept	Mexico- FLSurface observation280-9602.35% fair, poor or dead496tedGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureNot reportedRecapture rates: 15.9% circle, 8.2% J hooksNot reportedFallGulf of Mexico - LA, FLTag-recapture226-141211.3% recapture rate, N = 1691493FallAtlantic - SCSurface observations94% immediate47	Mexico FLSurface observation280-9602.35% fair, poor or dead4961tedGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureNot reportedRecapture rates: 15.9% circle, 8.2% J hooksNot reported1Gulf of Mexico - FallTag-recaptureNot reported11.3% recapture rate, N = 169149344dGulf of MexicoSurface observations226-141211.3% recapture rate, N = 169149344dGulf of MexicoSurface observations23.5% dead, 0.7% kept74,57944	Mexico FLSurface observation280-9602.35% fair, poor or dead4961495tedGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureNot reportedRecapture rates: 15.9% circle, 8.2% J hooksNot reportedI495fallGulf of Mexico - LA, FLTag-recapture226-141211.3% recapture rate, N = 1691493IIfallAtlantic - SCSurface observationsSurface observations94% immediate47443	Mexico FLSurface observation280-9602.35% fair, poor or dead4961495Circle and JtedGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureNot reportedNot reportedNot reportedNot reportedCircle and JGulf of MexicoTag-recapture226-141211.3% recapture rate, N = 1691493Circle and JfallAtlantic - SCSurface observationsSurface observations94% immediate47443J-hooksdGulf of MexicoSurface observations23.5% dead, 0.7% kept74,579UnknownUnknown	Mexico- FLSurface observation2.35% fair, poor or dead4961495Circle and JHook and line, charter boatstedGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureNot reported15.9% circle, 8.2% J hooksNot reportedVertical lineGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureNot reported11.3% recapture rate, N = 169Not reportedCircle and JHook and line, charter boatsGulf of MexicoTag-recapture226-141211.3% recapture rate, N = 1691493Circle and JHook and line Recreational Variety of gearfallAtlantic - SCSurface observations23.5% dead, 0.7% kept74,579443J-hooksCommercial, vertical line	Mexico FLSurface observation280-9602.35% fair, poor or dead4961495Circle and JHook and line, charter boatsSelectivetedGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureNot reported15.9% circle, 8.2% J hooksNot reportedCircle and JHook and line, charter boatsNot reportedGulf of MexicoTag-recaptureNot reported11.3% recapture rate, N = 169Not reportedCircle and JHook and line, charter boatsNot reportedFallAtlantic - SCSurface observations226-141211.3% recapture rate, N = 1691493	Mexico- FLSurface observation280-9602.35% fair, poor or dead4961495Circle and JHook and line, charter boatsSelectiveYestedGulf of Mexico - LA, FLTag-recaptureNot reported1.3% circle, 8.2% J hooksNot reportedYesSelectiveYesFallGulf of Mexico - LA, FLTag-recapture226-141211.3% recapture rate, N = 1691493YesCommercial Recreational Variety of gearNot reportedYesdGulf of MexicoSurface observationsSurface observations94% immediate47443J-hooksCommercial, vertical lineNot reportedYesdGulf of MexicoSurface observationsSurface observations23.5% dead, 0.7% kept74,579YesYesYes

Table 4. Meta-data of discard mortality estimates for greater amberjack (in order by year of citation).

Table 5. List of citations irrelevant for discard mortality estimates for both gag grouper and greater amberjack.

Citation	Rationale for irrelevant research
Patterson et al. 2012	Primarily reporting hook selectivity for red snapper
Rudershausen et al. 2010	Passive tag-recapture study in North Carolina but did not include gag grouper or greater amberjack
Burns et al. 2008	No discard mortality rate reported. The report simply evaluates tag returns with no consideration of effort.
Bacheler and Buckel 2004	No discard mortality rate reported. Hooking and barotrauma injury rates reported. Circle hooks greatly reduced the number of gut hooking incidents
Burns et al. 2002	No discard mortality rate reported. The report simply evaluates tag returns with no consideration of effort.
Burns and Restrepo 1999	No discard mortality rate reported. Report evaluates tag returns. No consideration of effort. Seasonal returns. Venting vs Non-venting by depth tag returns.
McClellan and Cummings 1997	No applicable, looked at movement only, recapture rate did not adjust for biases in fishing effort across regions over 56 years
Wilson and Burns 1996	No discard mortality rate reported. The project did not account for regional or annual variation in effort
Moe 1972	Does not report any data, just a review of movement study
Moe 1966	No discard mortality rate reported