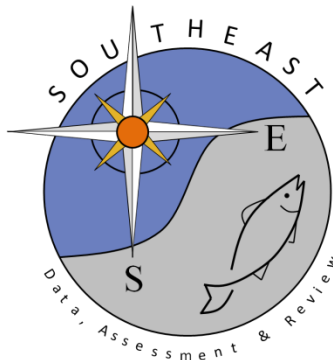


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Bycatch estimates of scalloped and great hammerhead shark in the shark bottom longline fishery

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Introduction

Currently about 200 United States (US) fishers are permitted to target sharks (excluding dogfish) in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, with an additional number of fishers (<250) permitted to land sharks incidentally. Amendments to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan based on stock assessments have eliminated the major directed shark fishery in the US South Atlantic (NMFS 2007). These amendments also implemented a shark research fishery, which allows the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to select a limited number of commercial shark vessels on an annual basis to collect life history data and catch data for future stock assessments. Since 2008, only commercial shark fishers participating in the shark research fishery are allowed to land sandbar sharks, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, and must carry an observer on 100% of all trips (compared to a coverage level of 4-6% outside the research fishery). Fishers not participating in the research fishery are permitted to land 45 non-sandbar large coastal sharks (including hammerhead shark, *Carcharhinus limbatus*, bull shark, *Carcharhinus leucas*, lemon shark, *Negaprion brevirostris*, nurse shark, *Ginglymostoma cirratum*, silky shark, *Carcharhinus falciformis*, spinner shark, *Carcharhinus brevipinna*, tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, great hammerhead, *Sphyrna mokarran*, and scalloped hammerhead, *Sphyrna lewini*) per trip in the South Atlantic region.

Bottom longline landings and fishing effort of commercial vessels operating in the South Atlantic are reported to NMFS through the Coastal Fisheries Logbook Program (CFLP, conducted by the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center). The program collects landings and effort data by fishing trip from vessels that are federally permitted to fish in a number of fisheries managed by NMFS and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The coastal logbook program began in 1990 with the objective of a complete census of coastal fisheries permitted vessel activity, with the exception of Florida, where a 20% sample of vessels was selected to report. Beginning in 1993, reporting in Florida was increased to include all vessels permitted for federally managed coastal fisheries.

Commercial shark longline vessels operating in the US South Atlantic are also required to carry fishery observers to monitor catch and bycatch. Fishery observers are trained in fishery and biological data collection, biological sampling, and teleost and elasmobranch species identification. Observers are required to record and measure all species captured, their disposition (e.g. kept, discarded dead, used for bait, etc.) and effort (e.g. number of hooks, gear characteristics, set and haul times).

Methods

Estimates of dead and live discards were reported separately for the shark research fishery and the shark bottom longline fishery. As vessels in the shark research fishery are monitored 100%, no extrapolations of the dead discards were needed.

For vessels outside the shark research fishery (i.e. shark bottom longline fishery), observer-reported hammerhead shark discard rates from 2006-2018, along with self reported commercial fishing effort data, were used to calculate hammerhead shark discards for the shark bottom longline fishery in the US South Atlantic. Following the definition of the South Atlantic from the Highly Migratory Species Office, bycatch was estimated for the US south Atlantic, Gulf of

Mexico and all areas. Due to the nature of the data, we followed the approach of Garrison (2007) by employing a simple ratio estimator to represent bycatch rates:

Catch per unit effort (CPUE) = number of hammerhead sharks discarded / number of hooks fished

An estimate of uncertainty in these estimates was derived from bootstrap resampling of the calculated CPUE data set. A sample was drawn from the data (with replacement) and the procedure was repeated 1,000 times to generate a mean distribution for the estimate and the associated standard deviation. Estimates were derived separately for sharks discarded dead and sharks discards alive as reported by the on-board observer.

Fishing effort data were available from the coastal logbook program for the years 1993-2019 (Figure 1). Beginning in 1993 all commercial vessels with Federal fishing permits (other than those for swordfish, tunas, and shrimp) was required to report landings and effort to the coastal logbook program. Available coastal logbook data were filtered to include only bottom longline data and to remove records missing effort information (number of sets, number of hooks per set). Data reported from individual trips with fishing effort in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico were excluded from the analyses because fishing effort cannot be reliably apportioned within single trips. Coastal logbook data were additionally filtered to remove likely erroneous records; for example, data from trips that reported fishing more than 24 sets per 24 hours. Those data that exceeded the 99.5 percentile of the data for any variable used to calculate effort (number of sets, number of hooks) were also excluded. Such outliers in the data set usually resulted from data entry errors. After data filtering, effort data from only those trips that targeted sharks (defined as trips with reported landings of 2/3 shark by weight) were included in the analysis. Effort was defined as hooks fished because hook hours fished could not be reliably calculated from the coastal logbook data.

Total discards were calculated as the product of observer reported yearly mean dead and live discard rates by hook and the yearly total fishing effort (bottom longline hooks) reported to the coastal logbook program. As the logbook data does not differentiate vessels in the research fishery, total fishing effort from 2008-2018 was estimated by subtracting the effort observed (100%) in the research fishery from the effort estimated in the logbooks.

To calculate discards for the years 1993-2005, when the Panama City observer program made no observer trips, the mean discard rate was used. In a year where no observations were made outside the shark research fishery or sample size was low (e.g., $n \leq 5$), the mean discard rate from 2006-2019 was used.

Results and Discussion

Calculated hammerhead shark dead and live discards (in numbers of sharks) from commercial shark bottom longline fishery and the shark research fishery are provided in Table 1- In all the estimates, data was pooled without considering strata due to the sparse nature of the bycatch events and the fact that logbook data is reported by sampling grid (see Figure 1).

Table 1. Yearly calculated dead discards of great hammerhead sharks for the shark bottom longline fishery. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Mean Discard Rate	Standard deviation	Total hooks	Total Dead Discards
1993		0.00009	0.0002	1101380	96
1994		0.00009	0.0002	1941435	169
1995		0.00009	0.0002	2417653	211
1996		0.00009	0.0002	3435583	299
1997		0.00009	0.0002	1471463	128
1998		0.00009	0.0002	1579283	138
1999		0.00009	0.0002	1529138	133
2000		0.00009	0.0002	1387950	121
2001		0.00009	0.0002	1358879	118
2002		0.00009	0.0002	1662874	145
2003		0.00009	0.0002	1652615	144
2004		0.00009	0.0002	1227075	107
2005	93	0	0.0000	1388406	0
2006	89	0	0.0000	1579548	0
2007	94	0	0.0000	495758	0
2008	5	0	0.0000	258546	0
2009	9	0	0.0000	290442	0
2010	13	0	0.0000	230152	0
2011	13	0	0.0000	209477	0
2012	97	0	0.0000	193178	0
2013	20	0	0.0000	231876	0
2014	22	0	0.0000	329424	0
2015	17	0	0.0000	300820	0
2016	38	0	0.0000	187493	0
2017	48	0	0.0000	210155	0
2018	52	0.000856788	0.0033	196449	168
2019	39	0.0003626	0.0018	130975	47

Table 2. Yearly observed dead discards of great hammerhead sharks from shark research fishery. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Total Dead Discards
2008	62	3
2009	111	3
2010	185	27
2011	236	37
2012	85	2
2013	93	6
2014	104	1
2015	99	1
2016	81	1
2017	104	2
2018	108	0
2019	100	3

Table 3. Yearly calculated live discards of great hammerhead sharks for the shark bottom longline fishery. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Mean Discard Rate	Standard deviation	Total hooks	Total Live Discards
1993		0.00020	0.00037	373270	73
1994		0.00020	0.00037	767570	151
1995		0.00020	0.00037	293603	58
1996		0.00020	0.00037	853758	168
1997		0.00020	0.00037	393413	77
1998		0.00020	0.00037	458687	90
1999		0.00020	0.00037	420234	82
2000		0.00020	0.00037	398160	78
2001		0.00020	0.00037	432662	85
2002		0.00020	0.00037	583965	115
2003		0.00020	0.00037	586888	115
2004		0.00020	0.00037	455745	89
2005	93	0	0	386396	0
2006	89	3.76799E-05	0.000251731	386212	15
2007	94	0	0	207548	0
2008	5	0	0	112946	0
2009	9	0	0	252278	0
2010	13	0	0	209491	0
2011	13	0	0	150252	0
2012	97	0	0	88786	0
2013	20	0.00131579	0.005884389	126843	167
2014	22	0	0	173177	0
2015	17	0	0	155914	0
2016	38	0.000292398	0.00180246	92890	27
2017	48	0.000521695	0.001777477	97453	51
2018	52	0.000468004	0.001555691	71537	33
2019	39	0.000112461	0.000702317	71538	8

Table 4. Yearly observed live discards of great hammerhead sharks from shark research fishery. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Total Dead Discards
2008	62	2
2009	111	4
2010	185	0
2011	236	8
2012	85	3
2013	93	15
2014	104	4
2015	99	12
2016	81	5
2017	104	26
2018	108	5
2019	100	14

Table 5. Yearly calculated dead discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks for the shark bottom longline fishery for all areas. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Mean Discard Rate	Standard deviation	Total hooks	Total Dead Discards
1993		0.0005	0.0008	1101380	555
1994		0.0005	0.0008	1941435	978
1995		0.0005	0.0008	2417653	1,218
1996		0.0005	0.0008	3435583	1,730
1997		0.0005	0.0008	1471463	741
1998		0.0005	0.0008	1579283	795
1999		0.0005	0.0008	1529138	770
2000		0.0005	0.0008	1387950	699
2001		0.0005	0.0008	1358879	684
2002		0.0005	0.0008	1662874	837
2003		0.0005	0.0008	1652615	832
2004		0.0005	0.0008	1227075	618
2005	93	0.0000	0.0000	1388406	0
2006	89	0.0000	0.0004	1579548	67
2007	94	0.0000	0.0003	495758	16
2008	5	0.0000	0.0000	258546	0
2009	9	0.0000	0.0000	290442	0
2010	13	0.0012	0.0022	230152	266
2011	13	0.0001	0.0004	209477	24
2012	97	0.0000	0.0003	193178	7
2013	20	0.0000	0.0000	231876	0
2014	22	0.0003	0.0008	329424	86
2015	17	0.0021	0.0077	300820	631
2016	38	0.0002	0.0010	187493	44
2017	48	0.0003	0.0012	210155	53
2018	52	0.0024	0.0082	196449	479
2019	39	0.0004	0.0024	130975	51

Table 6. Yearly observed dead discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks from shark research fishery from all areas. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Total Dead Discards
2008	62	1
2009	111	41
2010	185	23
2011	236	37
2012	85	6
2013	93	3
2014	104	4
2015	99	4
2016	81	6
2017	104	8
2018	108	4
2019	100	3

Table 7. Yearly calculated live discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks for the shark bottom longline fishery from all areas. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Mean Discard Rate	Standard deviation	Total hooks	Total Live Discards
1993		0.0003	0.0005	1101380	366
1994		0.0003	0.0005	1941435	645
1995		0.0003	0.0005	2417653	803
1996		0.0003	0.0005	3435583	1,141
1997		0.0003	0.0005	1471463	489
1998		0.0003	0.0005	1579283	525
1999		0.0003	0.0005	1529138	508
2000		0.0003	0.0005	1387950	461
2001		0.0003	0.0005	1358879	451
2002		0.0003	0.0005	1662874	552
2003		0.0003	0.0005	1652615	549
2004		0.0003	0.0005	1227075	408
2005	93	0.0000	0.0005	1388406	65
2006	89	0.0001	0.0009	1579548	187
2007	94	0.0000	0.0001	495758	8
2008	5	0.0000	0.0000	258546	0
2009	9	0.0000	0.0000	290442	0
2010	13	0.0000	0.0000	230152	0
2011	13	0.0000	0.0000	209477	0
2012	97	0.0000	0.0000	193178	0
2013	20	0.0012	0.0053	231876	276
2014	22	0.0000	0.0000	329424	0
2015	17	0.0000	0.0000	300820	0
2016	38	0.0008	0.0037	187493	159
2017	48	0.0008	0.0029	210155	163
2018	52	0.0014	0.0055	196449	272
2019	39	0.0003	0.0020	130975	42

Table 8. Yearly observed live discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks from shark research fishery from all areas. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Total Dead Discards
2008	62	2
2009	111	16
2010	185	13
2011	236	19
2012	85	5
2013	93	7
2014	104	10
2015	99	13
2016	81	23
2017	104	42
2018	108	14
2019	100	17

Table 9. Yearly calculated dead discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks for the shark bottom longline fishery the Atlantic. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Mean Discard Rate	Standard deviation	Total hooks	Total Dead Discards
1993		0.0007	0.0013	373270	248
1994		0.0007	0.0013	767570	510
1995		0.0007	0.0013	293603	195
1996		0.0007	0.0013	853758	568
1997		0.0007	0.0013	393413	262
1998		0.0007	0.0013	458687	305
1999		0.0007	0.0013	420234	279
2000		0.0007	0.0013	398160	265
2001		0.0007	0.0013	432662	288
2002		0.0007	0.0013	586165	390
2003		0.0007	0.0013	586888	390
2004		0.0007	0.0013	455745	303
2005	41	0.0000	0.0000	386396	0
2006	36	0.0001	0.0006	386212	40
2007	35	0.0001	0.0005	207548	19
2008	5	0.0000	0.0000	112946	0
2009	2	0.0000	0.0000	252278	0
2010	2	0.0017	0.0024	209491	349
2011	12	0.0001	0.0004	150252	19
2012	21	0.0002	0.0007	88786	14
2013	20	0.0000	0.0000	126843	0
2014	22	0.0003	0.0008	173177	45
2015	8	0.0045	0.0111	155914	695
2016	14	0.0003	0.0010	92890	26
2017	13	0.0000	0.0000	97453	0
2018	0			72317	0
2019	10	0.0015	0.0048	22476	34

Table 10. Yearly observed dead discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks from shark research fishery from the Atlantic. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Total Dead Discards
2008	21	0
2009	40	0
2010	127	10
2011	141	17
2012	58	3
2013	47	1
2014	88	2
2015	60	2
2016	52	1
2017	49	1
2018	57	4
2019	51	0

Table 11. Yearly calculated live discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks for the shark bottom longline fishery for the Atlantic. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Mean Discard Rate	Standard deviation	Total hooks	Total Live Discards
1993		0.0004	0.0006	373270	134
1994		0.0004	0.0006	767570	275
1995		0.0004	0.0006	293603	105
1996		0.0004	0.0006	853758	306
1997		0.0004	0.0006	393413	141
1998		0.0004	0.0006	458687	165
1999		0.0004	0.0006	420234	151
2000		0.0004	0.0006	398160	143
2001		0.0004	0.0006	432662	155
2002		0.0004	0.0006	586165	210
2003		0.0004	0.0006	586888	211
2004		0.0004	0.0006	455745	164
2005	41	0.0001	0.0007	386396	41
2006	36	0.0002	0.0014	386212	89
2007	35	0.0000	0.0002	207548	9
2008	5	0.0000	0.0000	112946	0
2009	2	0.0000	0.0000	252278	0
2010	2	0.0000	0.0000	209491	0
2011	12	0.0000	0.0000	150252	0
2012	21	0.0000	0.0000	88786	0
2013	20	0.0012	0.0053	126843	151
2014	22	0.0000	0.0000	173177	0
2015	8	0.0000	0.0000	155914	0
2016	14	0.0020	0.0059	92890	181
2017	13	0.0000	0.0000	97453	0
2018	0			72317	0
2019	10	0.0013	0.0040	22476	28

Table 12. Yearly observed live discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks from shark research fishery for the Atlantic. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Total Dead Discards
2008	21	0
2009	40	0
2010	127	9
2011	141	4
2012	58	0
2013	47	7
2014	88	7
2015	60	6
2016	52	17
2017	49	19
2018	57	9
2019	51	1

Table 13. Yearly calculated dead discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks for the shark bottom longline fishery the Gulf of Mexico. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Mean Discard Rate	Standard deviation	Total hooks	Total Dead Discards
1993		0.0004	0.0008	728110	268
1994		0.0004	0.0008	1173865	433
1995		0.0004	0.0008	2124050	783
1996		0.0004	0.0008	2581825	952
1997		0.0004	0.0008	1078050	397
1998		0.0004	0.0008	1120596	413
1999		0.0004	0.0008	1108904	409
2000		0.0004	0.0008	989790	365
2001		0.0004	0.0008	926217	341
2002		0.0004	0.0008	1076709	397
2003		0.0004	0.0008	1065727	393
2004		0.0004	0.0008	771330	284
2005	52	0.0000	0.0000	1002010	0
2006	53	0.0000	0.0000	1193336	0
2007	59	0.0000	0.0000	288210	0
2008	0			137903	0
2009	7	0.0000	0.0000	29846	0
2010	11	0.0011	0.0023	24177	26
2011	1	0.0000		26370	0
2012	66	0.0000	0.0000	95264	0
2013	0			95401	0
2014	0			135732	0
2015	9	0.0000	0.0000	130594	0
2016	24	0.0002	0.0010	82828	17
2017	35	0.0003	0.0014	100869	35
2018	52	0.0024	0.0082	111142	271
2019	29	0.0000	0.0000	96685	0

Table 14. Yearly observed dead discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks from shark research fishery from the Gulf of Mexico. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Total Dead Discards
2008	41	1
2009	71	41
2010	58	13
2011	95	20
2012	27	3
2013	46	2
2014	16	2
2015	39	2
2016	29	5
2017	55	7
2018	49	0
2019	49	3

Table 15. Yearly calculated live discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks for the shark bottom longline fishery for the Gulf of Mexico. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Mean Discard Rate	Standard deviation	Total hooks	Total Live Discards
1993		0.0004	0.0008	728110	268
1994		0.0004	0.0008	1173865	433
1995		0.0004	0.0008	2124050	783
1996		0.0004	0.0008	2581825	952
1997		0.0004	0.0008	1078050	397
1998		0.0004	0.0008	1120596	413
1999		0.0004	0.0008	1108904	409
2000		0.0004	0.0008	989790	365
2001		0.0004	0.0008	926217	341
2002		0.0004	0.0008	1076709	397
2003		0.0004	0.0008	1065727	393
2004		0.0004	0.0008	771330	284
2005	52	0.0000	0.0000	1002010	0
2006	53	0.0000	0.0000	1193336	0
2007	59	0.0000	0.0000	288210	0
2008	0			137903	0
2009	7	0.0000	0.0000	29846	0
2010	11	0.0011	0.0023	24177	26
2011	1	0.0000		26370	0
2012	66	0.0000	0.0000	95264	0
2013	0			95401	0
2014	0			135732	0
2015	9	0.0000	0.0000	130594	0
2016	24	0.0002	0.0010	82828	17
2017	35	0.0003	0.0014	100869	35
2018	52	0.0024	0.0082	111142	0
2019	29	0.0000	0.0000	96685	0

Table 16. Yearly observed live discards of scalloped hammerhead sharks from shark research fishery for the Gulf of Mexico. Discards are reported as number.

Year	Number Observed Sets	Total Dead Discards
2008	41	2
2009	71	16
2010	58	4
2011	95	15
2012	27	5
2013	46	0
2014	16	3
2015	39	7
2016	29	6
2017	55	23
2018	49	5
2019	49	16

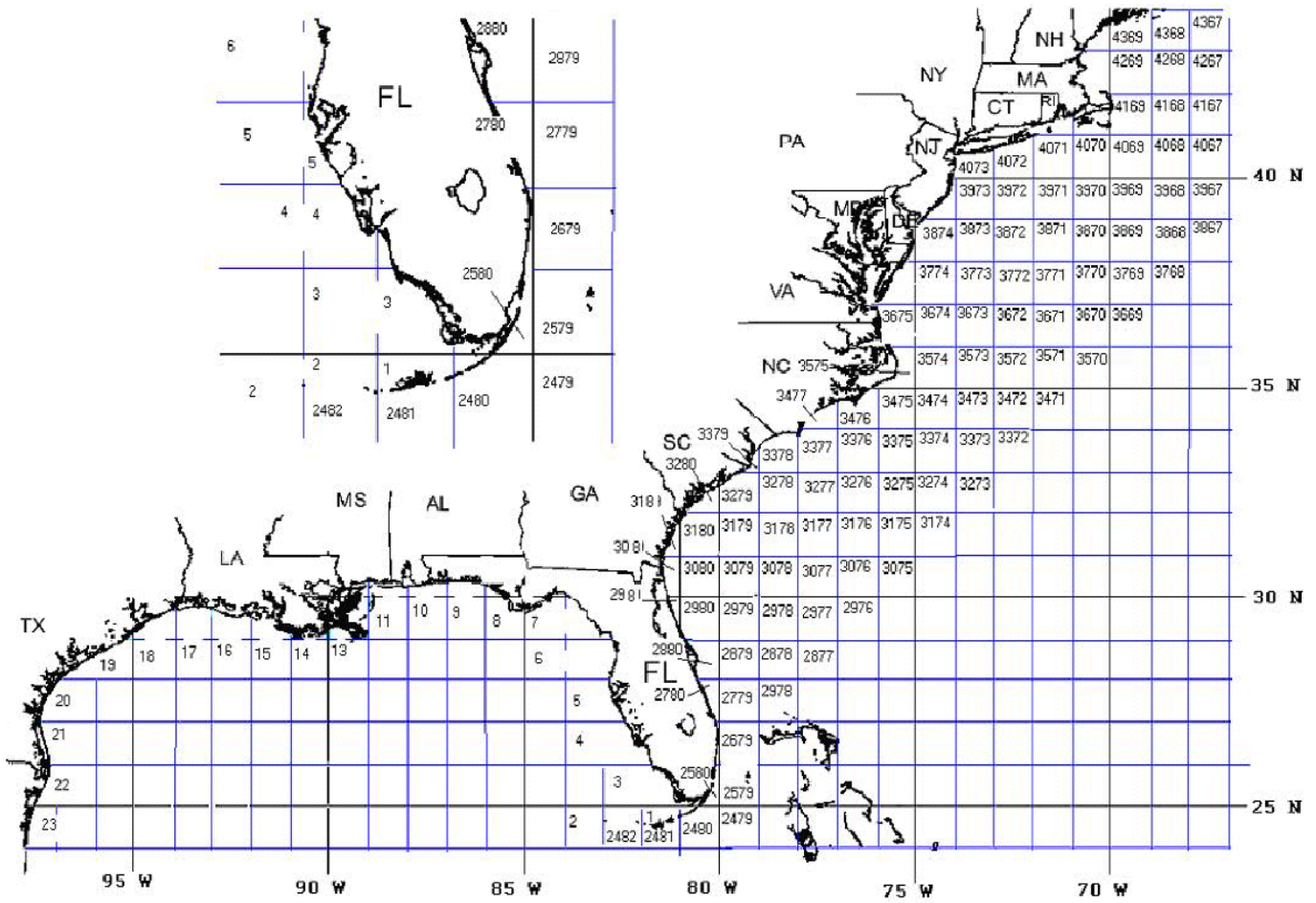


Figure 1. Coastal logbook statistical areas.