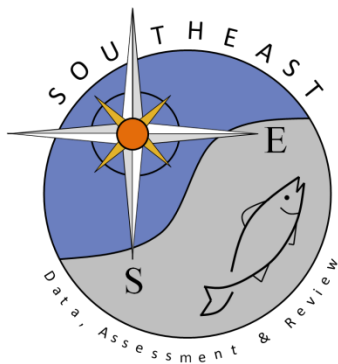


Catches of Hammerhead Sharks from the Congressional Supplemental Sampling Program  
(CSSP) in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

Adam G. Pollack and David S. Hanisko

SEDAR77-SID02

Received: 6/29/2021



*This information is distributed solely for the purpose of pre-dissemination peer review. It does not represent and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.*

Please cite this document as:

Pollack, Adam G. and David S. Hanisko. 2021. Catches of Hammerhead Sharks from the Congressional Supplemental Sampling Program (CSSP) in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. SEDAR77-SID02. SEDAR, North Charleston, SC. 5 pp.

Catches of Hammerhead Sharks from the Congressional Supplemental Sampling Program (CSSP) in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

Adam G. Pollack and David S. Hanisko

NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center,  
Mississippi Laboratories, Pascagoula, MS

The Congressional Supplemental Sampling Program (CSSP), also referred to as Expanded Annual Stock Assessment (EASA) program in previous SEDAR documents, was a single year, highly extensive survey that sampled the northern Gulf of Mexico (GOM). The CSSP was intended to provide additional information on key fisheries in the GOM, create a truly synoptic survey, increase precision of relative abundance estimates, and to evaluate selectivity issues between gears and hook sizes. Four longline and two vertical line vessels simultaneously fished randomly selected sites in the northern GOM from April 7 – October 25, 2011. The longline portion of the CSSP survey followed the general methodology that is used during the National Marine Fisheries Service Bottom Longline Survey (NMFS BLL) (Ingram et al. 2005), with the exception of the maximum depth fished (400 m in CSSP and 366 m in NMFS BLL) and the slight differences in the station selection protocol. A full rundown of the CSSP specific methodology can be found in Campbell et al. (2012).

For this document, all stations from the CSSP, along with the catches of great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*) and scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*) were extracted from the Mississippi Laboratories Oracle Database. Overall, 1,172 bottom longline stations were sampled from April through October (Table 1). Scalloped hammerhead were more prevalent in the sampling than great hammerhead, with 140 and 24 individuals, respectively, being captured. The overall distribution of great hammerhead is shown in Figure 1, while the monthly breakdown of distribution is shown in Figure 2. For scalloped hammerhead, the overall distribution is shown in Figure 3, with the monthly breakdown of distribution shown in Figure 4.

#### Literature Cited

Campbell, M., A.G. Pollack, T. Henwood, J. Provaznik and M. Cook. 2012. Summary report of the red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) catch during the 2011 congressional supplemental sampling program. SEDAR31-DW-17. SEDAR, North Charleston, SC. 26 pp.

Ingram, W., T. Henwood, M. Grace, L. Jones, W. Driggers, and K. Mitchell. 2005. Catch rates, distribution and size composition of large coastal sharks collected during NOAA Fisheries Bottom Longline Surveys from the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and U.S. Atlantic Ocean. LCS05/06-DW-27.

Table 1. Number of stations sampled by month with the corresponding numbers of great hammerhead and scalloped hammerhead caught during the Congressional Supplemental Sampling Program in 2011.

Month	Stations Sampled	Number Caught	
		Great Hammerhead	Scalloped Hammerhead
April	109	0	13
May	190	3	30
June	199	5	35
July	191	2	17
August	178	7	21
September	166	3	13
October	139	4	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1172</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>140</b>

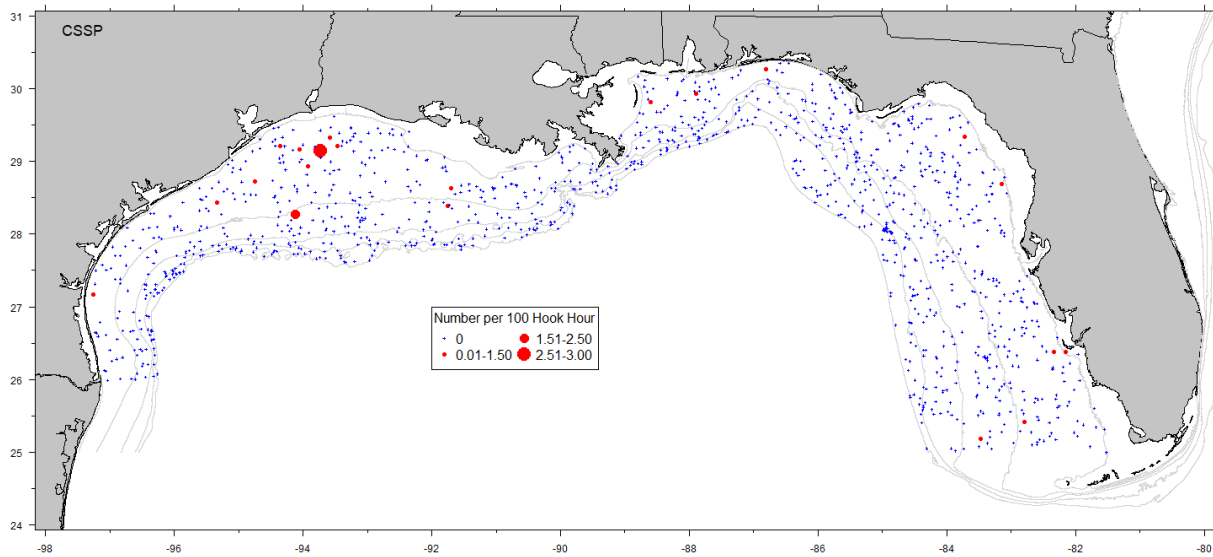


Figure 1. Catches of great hammerhead from the Congressional Supplemental Sampling Program (CSSP) in 2011.

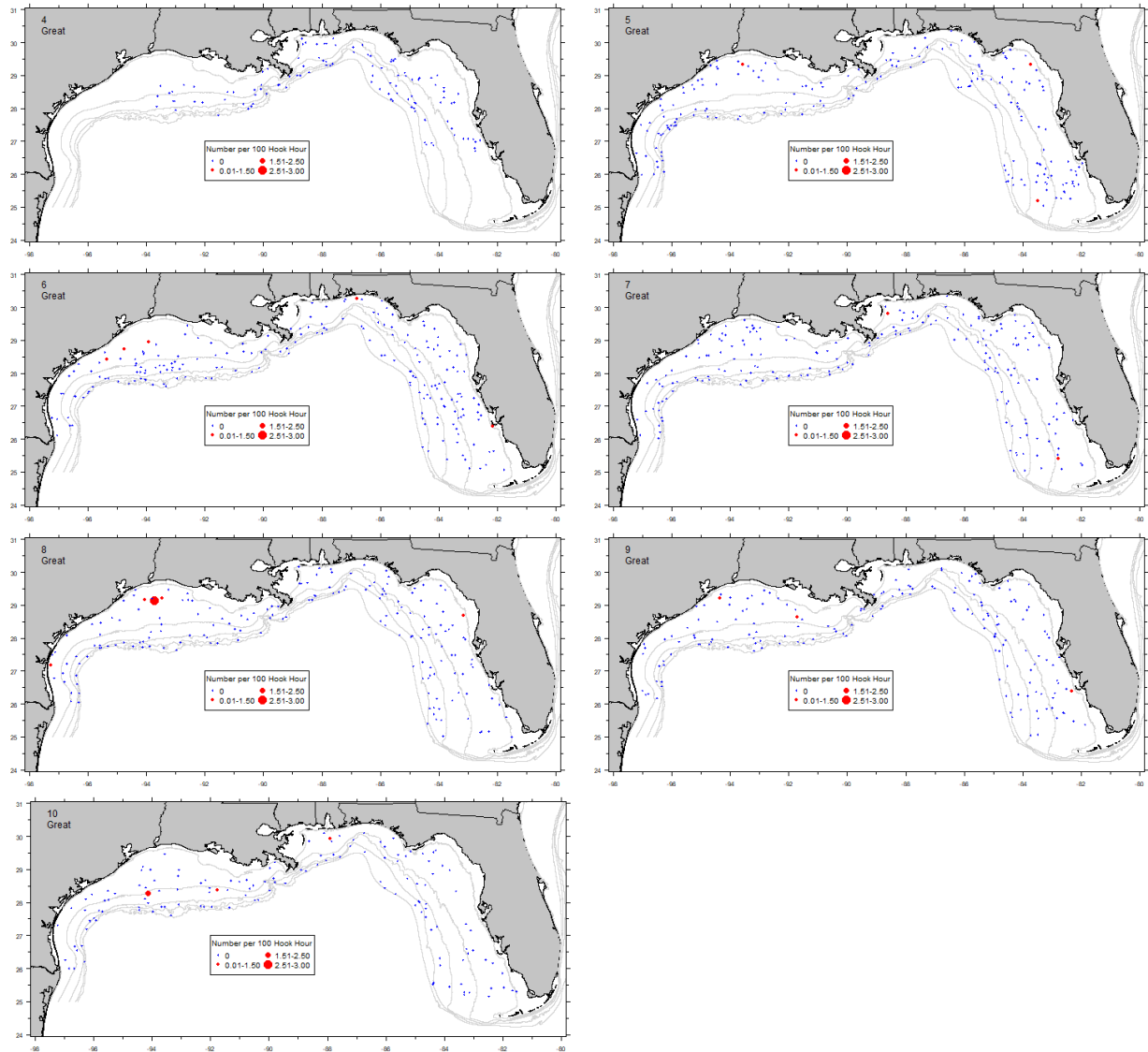


Figure 2. Monthly breakdown of the catches of great hammerhead from the Congressional Supplemental Sampling Program (CSSP) in 2011. The number in the upper left corner corresponds to the month the stations were sampled (e.g. 4 = April, 5 = May, etc.).

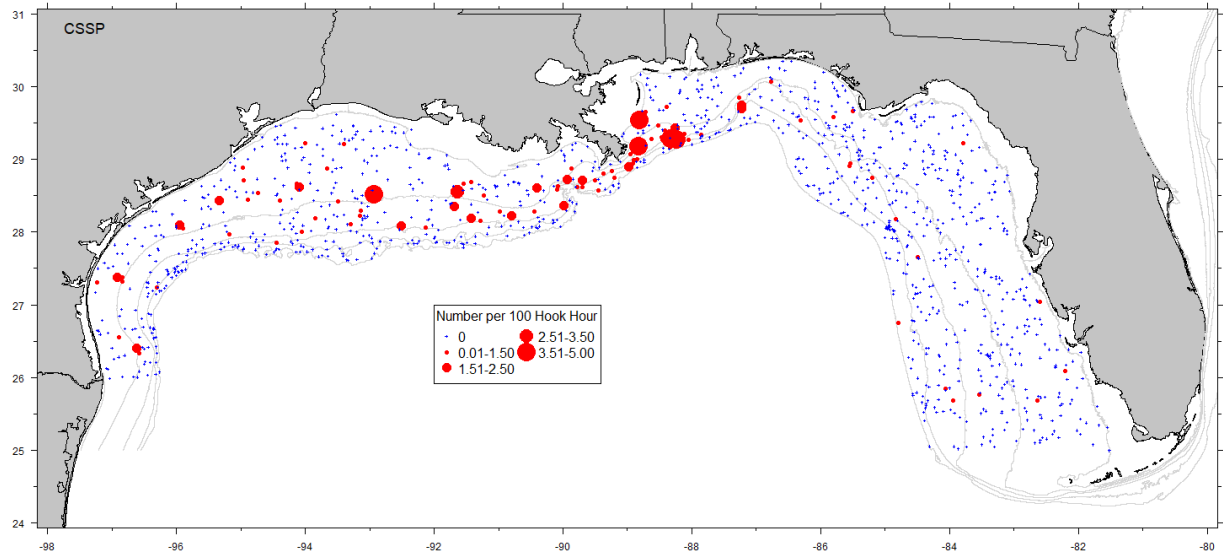


Figure 3. Catches of scalloped hammerhead from the Congressional Supplemental Sampling Program (CSSP) in 2011.

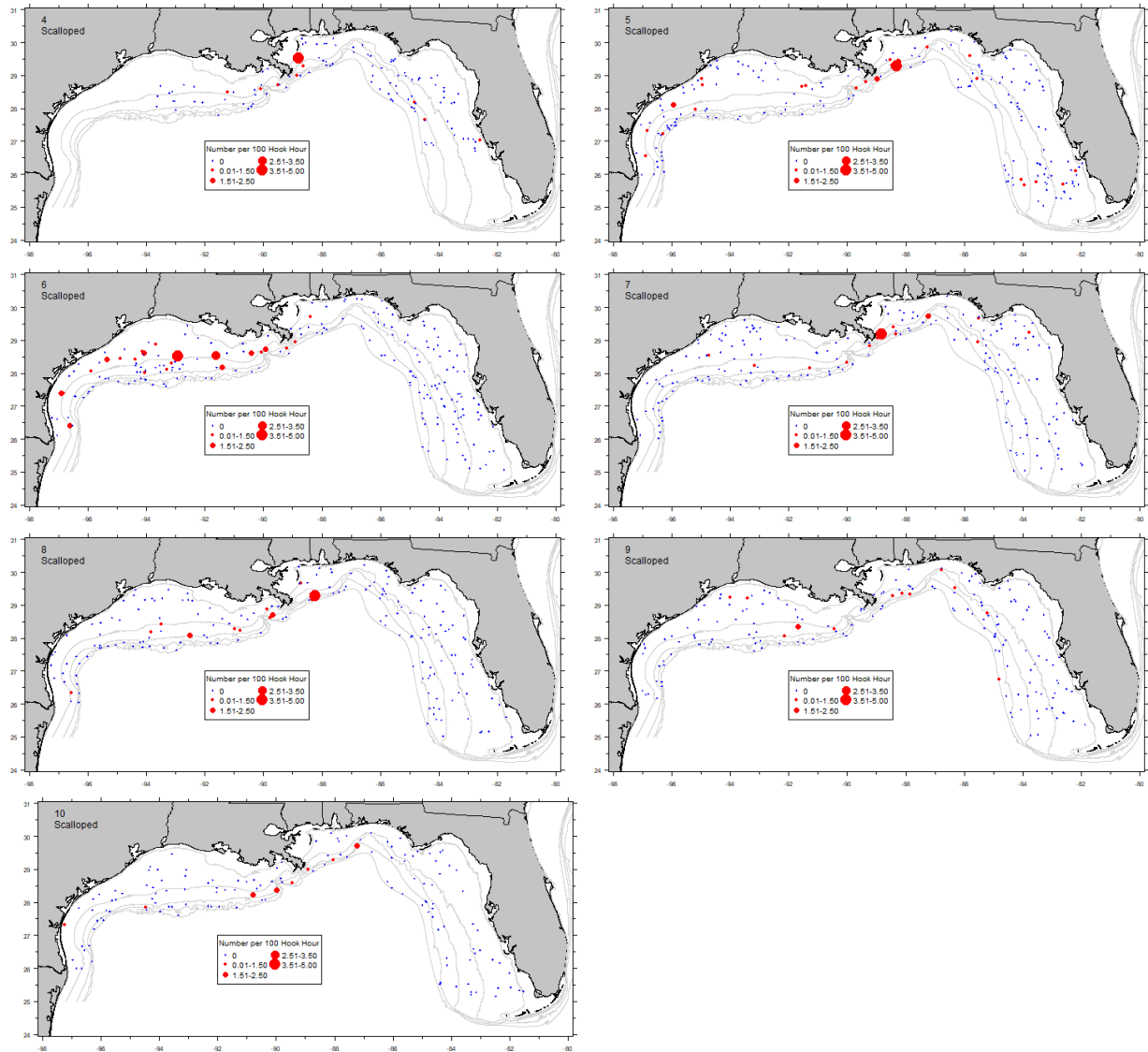


Figure 4. Monthly breakdown of the catches of scalloped hammerhead from the Congressional Supplemental Sampling Program (CSSP) in 2011. The number in the upper left corner corresponds to the month the stations were sampled (e.g. 4 = April, 5 = May, etc.).