

SEDAR 92 South Atlantic Blueline Tilefish Operational Assessment Topical Working Group: Commercial Report

Prepared by Anna-Mai Christmas-Svajdlenka
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Terms of Reference and Scope of Work

According to SEDAR 92 ToRs:

Consider new and updated information on life history, discard mortality, commercial and recreational landings and discards. Note any particular concerns or problems with data collected in 2020 and beyond. Document any changes or corrections made and provide updated input data tables. Provide commercial and recreational landings and discards in pounds and numbers.

Topical Working Group	Affiliation
Julie Defillippi-Simpson, Co-Chair	Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
Anna-Mai Christmas-Svajdlenka	Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
Walter Bubley	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Kevin Spanik	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Meredith Whitten	North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Bev Sauls	Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
Steve Turner	South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, Science and Statistical Committee
Kai Lorenzen	South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, Science and Statistical Committee
Byron Shults	Industry Representative
Dewey Hemilright	Industry Representative
Andrew Cathey, Co-Chair	Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Matthew Nuttall	Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Nikolai Klibansky	Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Erik Williams	Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Ken Brennan	Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Gary Decossas	Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Kevin Thompson	Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Overview

The following document provides a data compilation summary. Annual commercial landings for the US Atlantic blueline tilefish stock were developed by gear (handlines, longlines, and other) in pounds (whole weight) for the period 1958–2023 based on federal and state databases. Corresponding landings in numbers were based on mean weights estimated from the Trip Interview Program (TIP) by year, state, and gear. Data for the years 1958 to 2015 were obtained

from SEDAR 50 and data from 2016 to 2023 were compiled by the ACCSP and the Atlantic data providers for the SEDAR 92 South Atlantic Blueline Tilefish operational assessment.

Stock Boundaries

The southern boundary is defined as the South Atlantic-Gulf Council boundary along US Highway 1 in Monroe County, FL. Logbook proportions were used to divide landings in Monroe County. The northern boundary is defined as Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

Terminal Years

The data set from SEDAR 50 (1958-2015) was appended to include data from 2016-2023. The approach was confirmed during the SEDAR 92 data scoping webinar. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina provided validation data from Massachusetts to North of Cape Hatteras, NC. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida provided validation data from South of Cape Hatteras, NC to US Highway 1 in Monroe County, FL.

Commercial Landings

Commercial landings of blueline tilefish were compiled from 2016 through 2023 (1958 to 2015 in SEDAR 50) for the entire U.S. Atlantic Coast. Sources for landings in the U.S. South Atlantic (North Carolina through Florida) included the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Florida Trip Ticket program, and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). Landings from the Mid and North Atlantic (north of the NC-VA border) were from ACCSP, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New Jersey Department of Environmental Management, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). Data sources and collection methods are illustrated by state in Figure 3.1. Final landings data came from the following sources and can be found in Figures 3.2 and 3.3:

- Massachusetts: 2016-2023 (ACCSP)
- Rhode Island: 2016-2023 (ACCSP)
- New York: 2016-2023 (ACCSP)
- New Jersey: 2016-2023 (ACCSP)
- Delaware: 2016-2023 (Delaware logbook); 2020 (ACCSP)
- Maryland: 2016-2023 (ACCSP)
- Virginia: 2016-2023 (VMRC)
- North Carolina: 2016-2023 (ACCSP)
- South Carolina: 2016-2023 (ACCSP)
- Georgia: 2016-2023 (ACCSP)
- Florida: 2016-2023 (FL Trip Ticket; ACCSP)

Commercial Gears

Landings were categorized into three gear groups: longline, handline, and other. Handlines include hook and line, electric/hydraulic (a.k.a., bandit) reels, and trolling. A list of gears included in the longline and handline categories can be found in Table 3.1.

Converting Landings in Weight to Landings in Numbers

The majority of blueline tilefish in the Atlantic are landed in gutted condition and converted by the states to whole weight at ACCSP. This data is then all converted to gutted using the states conversion. This data set provides landings in whole weight pounds and number of fish. Weights were converted to numbers using mean weights from TIP data provided by Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Table 3.2. Landings in pounds can be found in Table 3.3 and landings in numbers can be found in Table 3.4.

Tables

Table 3.1 Specific ACCSP gears in each gear category for blueline tilefish commercial landings. All other gears were grouped together.

HANDLINE			
GEAR CODE	GEAR NAME	TYPE CODE	GEAR TYPE
300	HOOK AND LINE	007	HOOK AND LINE
301	HOOK AND LINE, MANUAL	007	HOOK AND LINE
302	HOOK AND LINE, ELECTRIC	007	HOOK AND LINE
303	ELECTRIC/HYDRAULIC, BANDIT REELS	007	HOOK AND LINE
304	HOOK AND LINE, CHUM	007	HOOK AND LINE
305	HOOK AND LINE, JIG	007	HOOK AND LINE
306	HOOK AND LINE, TROLL	007	HOOK AND LINE
307	HOOK AND LINE, CAST	007	HOOK AND LINE
308	HOOK AND LINE, DRIFTING EEL	007	HOOK AND LINE
309	HOOK AND LINE, FLY	007	HOOK AND LINE
310	HOOK AND LINE, BOTTOM	007	HOOK AND LINE
320	TROLL LINES	007	HOOK AND LINE
321	TROLL LINE, MANUAL	007	HOOK AND LINE
322	TROLL LINE, ELECTRIC	007	HOOK AND LINE
323	TROLL LINE, HYDRAULIC	007	HOOK AND LINE
324	TROLL LINE, GREEN-STICK	007	HOOK AND LINE
330	HAND LINE	013	HAND LINE
331	TROLL & HAND LINE CMB	013	HAND LINE
340	AUTO JIG	013	HAND LINE
700	HAND LINE	013	HAND LINE
701	TROLL AND HAND LINES CMB	013	HAND LINE
702	HAND LINES, AUTO JIG	013	HAND LINE
LONGLINE			
GEAR CODE	GEAR NAME	TYPE CODE	GEAR TYPE
400	LONG LINES	008	LONG LINES
401	LONG LINES, VERTICAL	008	LONG LINES
402	LONG LINES, SURFACE	008	LONG LINES
403	LONG LINES, BOTTOM	008	LONG LINES
404	LONG LINES, SURFACE, MIDWATER	008	LONG LINES
405	LONG LINES, TROT	008	LONG LINES
406	LONG LINES, TURTLE HOOKS	008	LONG LINES
407	LONG LINES, DRIFT W/HOOKS	008	LONG LINES
408	BOUY GEAR	008	LONG LINES

Table 3.2 Stratification of the mean weights by state and year from the Trip Interview Program (TIP) data provided by Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Virginia North data used North Carolina - North of Hatteras mean weights and Georgia data used Florida mean weights.

Year	Gear	State	Mean Weight (Pounds)
2016	Handline	Florida	3.887
2016	Handline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	4.030
2016	Handline	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	3.661
2016	Handline	South Carolina	3.912
2016	Longline	Florida	4.543
2016	Longline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	4.313
2016	Longline	South Carolina	5.267
2017	Handline	Florida	3.338
2017	Handline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	6.013
2017	Handline	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	3.938
2017	Handline	South Carolina	4.196
2017	Longline	Florida	5.226
2017	Longline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	4.501
2017	Longline	South Carolina	4.848
2018	Handline	Florida	4.414
2018	Handline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	5.005
2018	Handline	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	4.184
2018	Handline	South Carolina	4.688
2018	Longline	Florida	5.676
2018	Longline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	4.732
2018	Longline	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	4.254
2018	Longline	South Carolina	4.390
2018	All Other Gears	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	2.775
2019	Handline	Florida	3.956
2019	Handline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	4.035
2019	Handline	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	3.663
2019	Handline	South Carolina	4.436
2019	Longline	Florida	6.112
2019	Longline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	5.993
2019	Longline	South Carolina	4.314
2020	Handline	Florida	3.604
2020	Handline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	5.188
2020	Handline	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	4.131
2020	Handline	South Carolina	4.598
2020	Longline	Florida	5.462
2020	Longline	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	4.456
2020	All Other Gears	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	4.691
2021	Handline	Florida	3.596

2021	Handline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	4.295
2021	Handline	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	3.958
2021	Handline	South Carolina	5.233
2021	Longline	Florida	6.212
2021	Longline	South Carolina	3.625
2022	Handline	Florida	3.792
2022	Handline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	5.570
2022	Handline	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	4.513
2022	Handline	South Carolina	3.849
2022	Longline	Florida	2.735
2022	Longline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	5.895
2023	Handline	Florida	3.507
2023	Handline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	6.224
2023	Handline	North Carolina - South of Hatteras	3.856
2023	Handline	South Carolina	4.787
2023	Longline	Florida	4.386
2023	Longline	North Carolina - North of Hatteras	5.783
2023	Longline	South Carolina	5.697

Table 3.3 Blueline tilefish landings by gear, in whole weight pounds, for all Atlantic states (ME-FL). Cells with an * indicate confidential data and therefore were removed.

Year	Total Handline	Total Longline	Total Other
1958	367		
1959	183		92
1960			
1961			
1962	517	125	446
1963	517	125	263
1964	61	15	650
1965	3,945	970	605
1966	737	183	113
1967	1,729	439	263
1968	680	389	64
1969	426	357	20
1970	1,469	493	201
1971	3,043	808	456
1972	1,789	499	264
1973	8,694	685	1,595
1974	20,955	1,038	3,956
1975	36,230	1,790	6,816
1976	36,122	1,576	6,684
1977	26,352	1,914	2,646
1978	77,461	2,610	22,497
1979	57,900	3,225	7,434
1980	142,390	3,600	9,115
1981	371,861	18,688	44,911
1982	876,490	66,813	139,319
1983	394,130	115,944	61,190
1984	300,108	119,840	31,313
1985	254,188	45,689	36,984
1986	124,519	130,868	8,853
1987	91,243	47,943	2,417
1988	63,434	55,436	2,268
1989	64,918	56,451	3,800
1990	104,364	73,362	3,752
1991	120,463	97,064	26,255
1992	119,888	153,610	7,952
1993	56,291	149,678	10,478
1994	73,148	111,853	4,537
1995	66,099	102,200	2,765
1996	116,603	31,583	*
1997	142,377	74,182	3,239

1998	73,752	32,773	1,254
1999	78,998	36,030	1,107
2000	74,793	34,198	3,369
2001	89,254	36,773	1,730
2002	137,662	125,135	71
2003	78,358	33,913	5,240
2004	42,069	27,061	7,435
2005	57,611	19,920	6,384
2006	105,607	52,061	15,360
2007	57,722	7,132	8,582
2008	210,755	185,931	14,445
2009	259,815	200,170	14,590
2010	135,812	292,231	8,802
2011	19,681	114,999	6,848
2012	32,971	311,239	19,602
2013	56,661	217,831	14,537
2014	57,021	282,328	16,687
2015	17,795	119,260	7,107
2016	70,726	44,091	9,894
2017	75,670	18,890	7,363
2018	76,494	24,643	5,073
2019	84,294	31,394	10,734
2020	116,097	18,918	14,646
2021	108,241	20,986	17,058
2022	79,602	48,333	10,739
2023	93,623	40,380	14,604

Table 3.4 Blueline tilefish landings by gear, in number, for all Atlantic states (ME-FL). Cells with an * indicate confidential data and therefore were removed.

Year	Total Handline	Total Longline	Total Other
1958	83		
1959	42		22
1960			
1961			
1962	145	25	116
1963	145	25	71
1964	17	3	159
1965	1,104	196	202
1966	206	37	38
1967	483	89	88
1968	176	78	21
1969	103	72	6
1970	402	99	67
1971	847	163	153
1972	497	101	88
1973	2,525	140	535
1974	6,126	215	1,326
1975	10,584	371	2,284
1976	10,514	328	2,240
1977	6,849	389	875
1978	18,695	530	5,764
1979	14,718	656	2,228
1980	35,175	738	2,983
1981	97,184	3,818	14,327
1982	246,949	13,660	46,638
1983	104,698	23,402	20,472
1984	70,869	16,540	10,351
1985	63,773	7,330	12,386
1986	24,586	21,602	2,651
1987	21,257	9,774	801
1988	14,860	8,691	757
1989	15,442	10,314	1,095
1990	28,225	14,170	1,187
1991	31,426	19,703	6,600
1992	26,457	31,195	2,207
1993	12,482	34,599	3,390
1994	16,900	23,417	1,394
1995	17,110	25,494	859
1996	31,045	8,038	*
1997	40,545	19,341	787

1998	20,917	6,569	305
1999	18,853	8,719	269
2000	19,710	7,137	865
2001	22,784	7,966	437
2002	35,097	28,515	17
2003	22,075	9,582	1,272
2004	11,485	6,740	1,805
2005	15,152	5,753	1,555
2006	30,964	9,011	3,729
2007	14,557	1,341	2,089
2008	47,085	32,365	3,508
2009	52,529	36,373	3,552
2010	27,702	55,987	2,137
2011	3,769	22,766	1,677
2012	6,489	61,625	4,762
2013	12,847	45,550	3,546
2014	13,066	68,857	4,053
2015	4,252	22,600	1,731
2016	18,379	10,102	2,457
2017	18,081	3,974	1,240
2018	16,978	5,180	1,058
2019	21,445	5,491	2,661
2020	24,655	3,672	2,856
2021	25,717	4,615	3,972
2022	16,348	9,240	1,930
2023	17,245	7,612	2,350

Figures

	1950 - 1977	1978 - 1985	1986 - 1988	1989	1990 - 1993	1994	1995 - 2000	2001 - 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 - today
ME DMR												
NH FGD												
MA DMF												
RI DFW												
CT DEEP												
NYS DEC												
NJ DFW												
DE DFW												
MD DNR												
VMRC												
NC DMF												
SC DNR												
GA DNR												
FL FWCC												
	Annual summaries	Monthly summaries	Trip reports (presented as monthly summaries)		Mixed (Trip reports and monthly summaries)		Trip reports (all fisheries)					

Figure 3. 1 Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Data Warehouse – data sources and collection methods by state. Early summaries provided by NMFS.

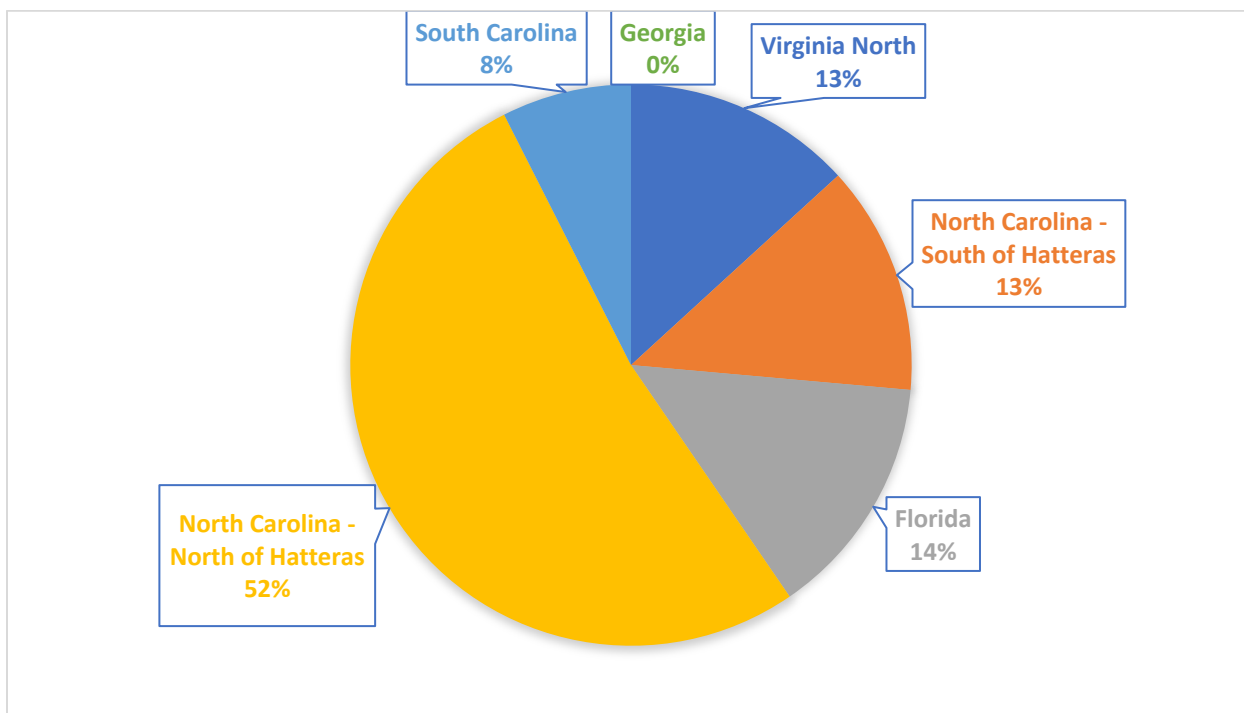


Figure 3.2 Percentage of Blueline tilefish landings by state (Maine to Florida) from 1958 to 2023.

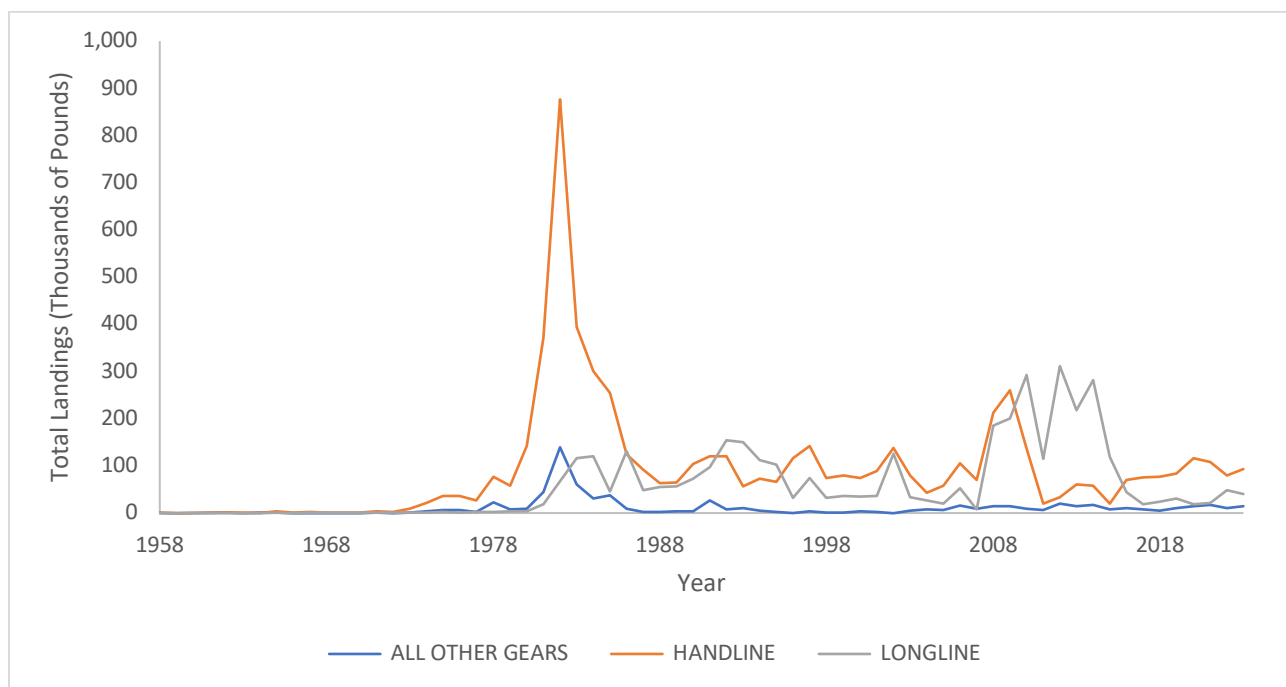


Figure 3.3 Blueline tilefish landings, in whole weight pounds, for all states (Maine to Florida) by gear from 1958 to 2023.