

NOAA FISHERIES



Gray Snapper (*Lutjanus griseus* aka mangrove snapper)

Widely distributed from Florida to Brazil, the Caribbean, and the northern Gulf of Mexico

Larvae remain in the plankton for ~25 days until they settle in estuary/ coastal habitats

Juveniles/sub adults remain in estuary/coastal habitats until 3-5 yrs (6.5in-7in)

spawn during summer (May - Sept) in offshore waters around structured reef habitats

50% maturity at ~ 11in

Adults in reef and hard bottom up to 28yrs (30in max)

Current Regulations:

Bag limit of 10 per angler



12 inch min

in AL, MS, LA, and Federal Waters



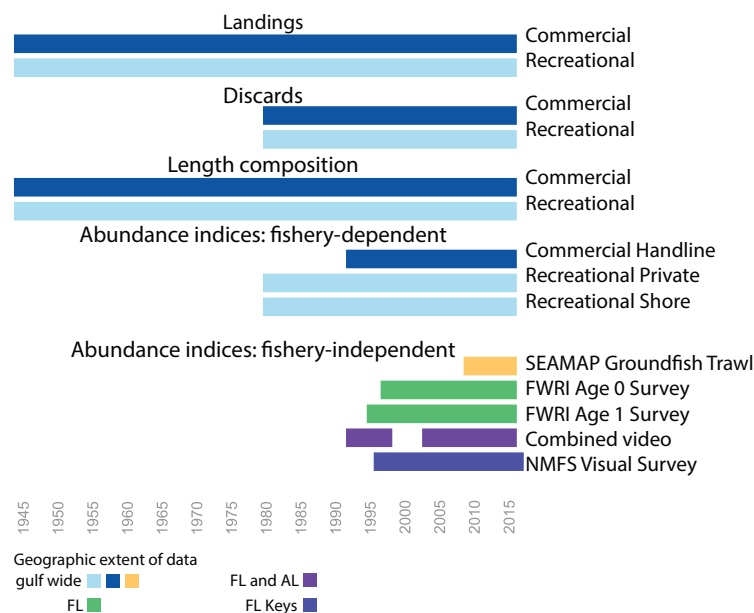
10 inch min

in FL State Waters

5 fish/person/day limit in FL

No regulations in TX

Data Sources for Stock Assessment:



Management Unit:
Reef Fish



Management Unit Definition:
Gulf of Mexico



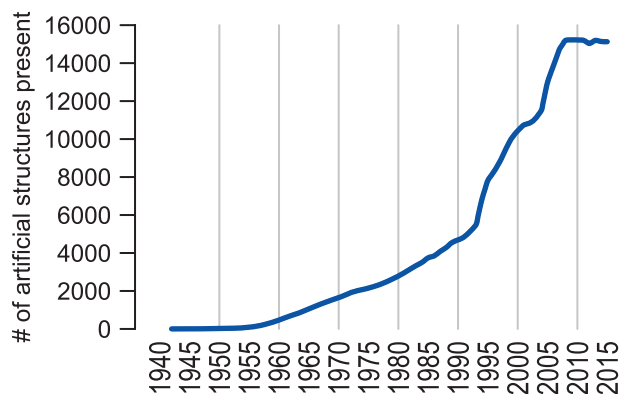
Management Entity:
Gulf of Mexico Fishery
Management Council



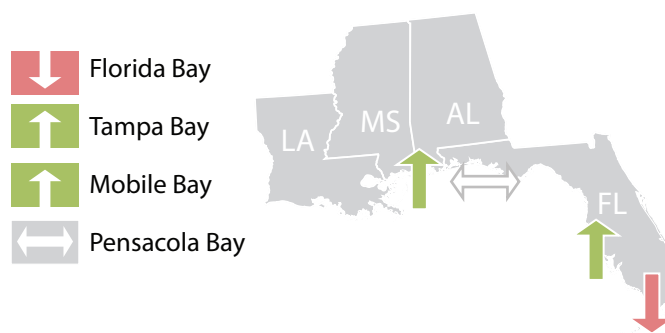


Juvenile and subadult gray snapper require seagrass habitats for nurseries and protection before transitioning into adults

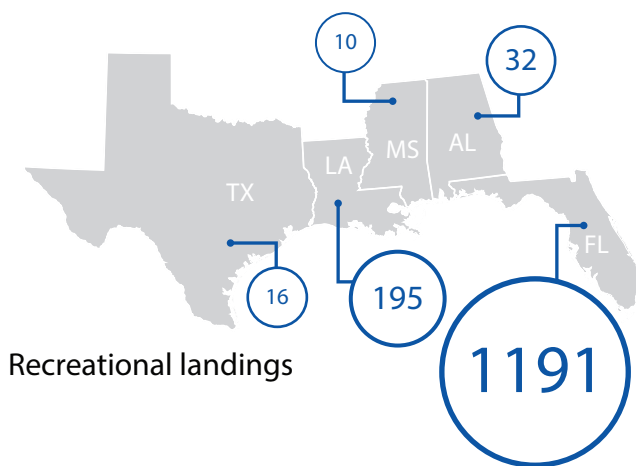
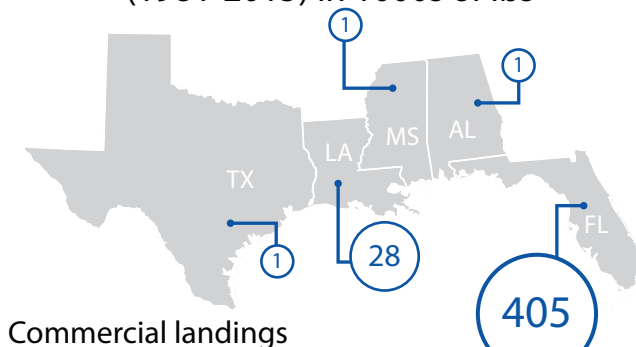
Gulf-wide artificial reef numbers



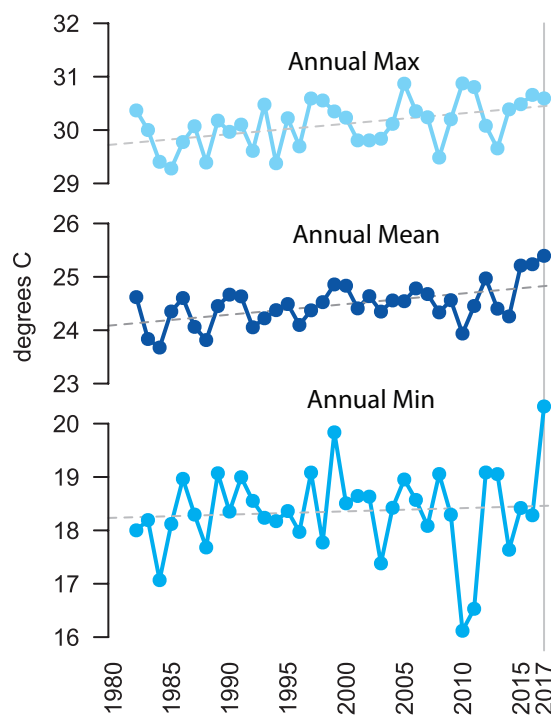
Trends in seagrass cover from 1980 - 2014



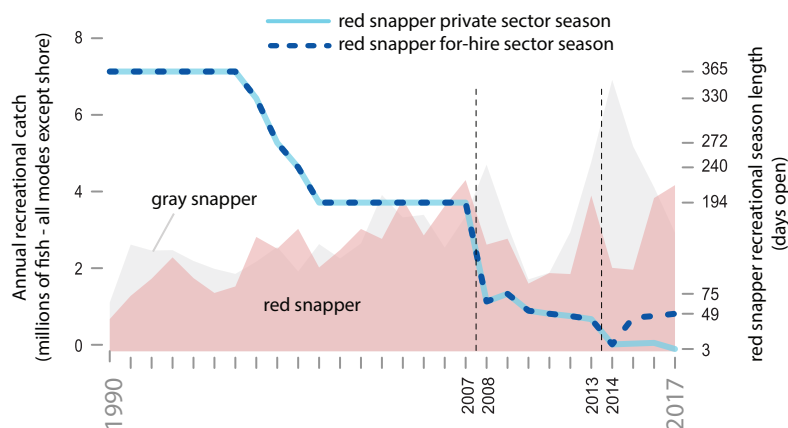
Average annual landings by state (1981-2015) in 1000s of lbs



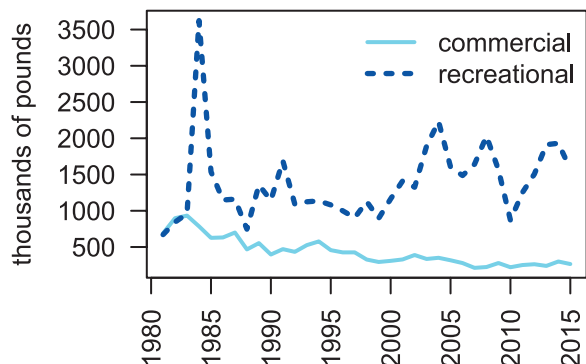
Sea surface temperatures in the adult range (Northern Gulf of Mexico)



Potential influence of red snapper fishery



Gulf-wide annual landings (1981-2015)



Sudden decreases in access to red snapper (such as the reductions in season length from 2007 to 2008 and 2013 to 2014) may cause short-term increases in targeting of other snapper species, such as gray snapper.