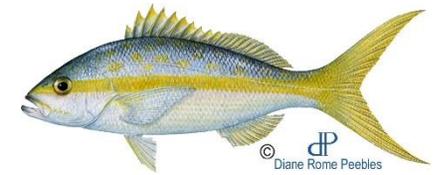
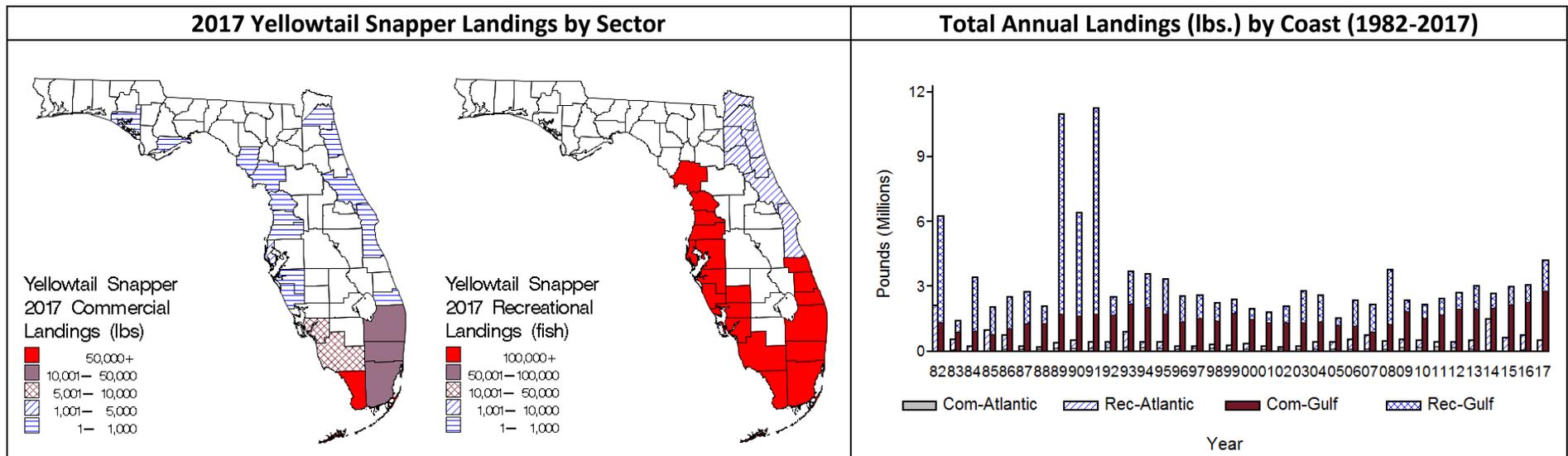


## Yellowtail Snapper, *Ocyurus chrysurus* (Bloch, 1791)



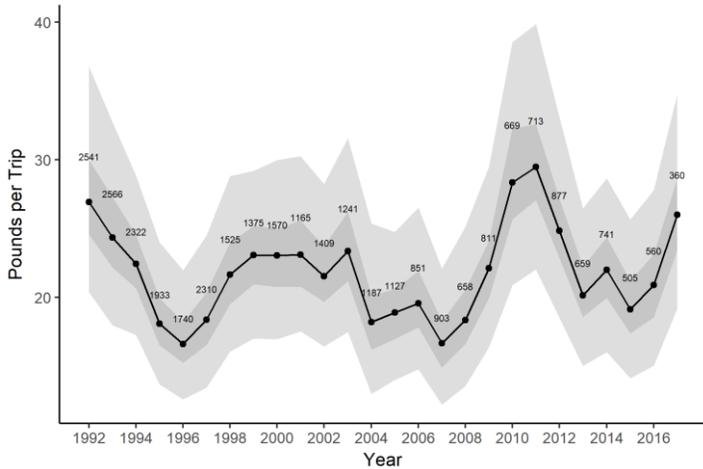
### Life History

Yellowtail Snapper are tropical reef fish that are most abundant in the Bahamas, south Florida, throughout the Caribbean Sea, and south to Brazil. Spawning occurs in deep water during March through August off the coast of Cuba (Piedra 1969), mainly from April to August in the Florida Keys (Collins and Finucane 1989), and year-round off Jamaica (Munro et al. 1973) with peaks in February-April and September-October (Thompson and Munro 1974). Yellowtail Snapper grow to 5.4 inches fork length (FL) at age 1 and can reach about 16.9 inches at age 14 (Johnson 1983). The criteria used for assessing female sexual maturity vary, with some studies suggesting 50% female maturity between 11.4 and 12.2 inches FL (Thompson and Munro 1974) based on macroscopic criteria while others using histological criteria suggest 50% maturity at 9.8 inches FL (Figuerola et al. 1998) to 7.6 inches FL (SEDAR 27A). These lengths correspond to average lengths found for 1.7–4 year-old Yellowtail Snapper (SEDAR 27A, Johnson 1983). Maximum age has been reported to be 17 years (Manooch and Drennon 1987), though a few specimens from more recent collections were up to 23 years in age (SEDAR 27A). Juvenile Yellowtail Snapper feed mostly on benthic invertebrates, crustaceans, and detritus. Adults frequently eat crabs, fish eggs and larvae, jellyfish, and juvenile fishes (Randall 1967).

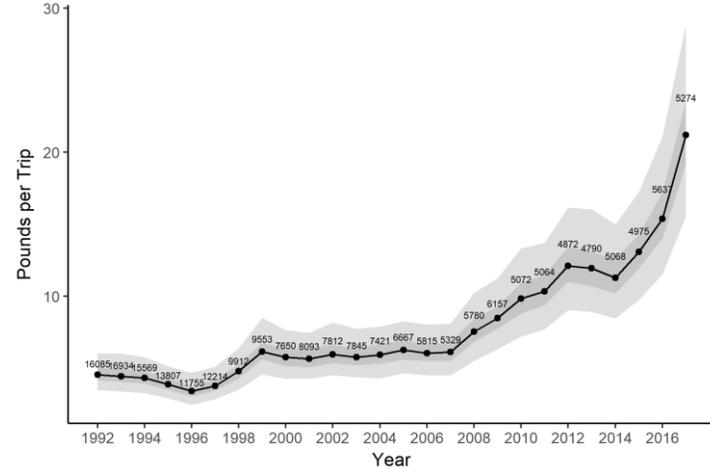


Fishers landed 4,661,903 pounds in 2017 which were 28.83% higher than the previous 5-year average (2012-2016). Coast wide, 90% of these were from the Gulf and 10% were from the Atlantic. Commercial and recreational landings constituted 60% and 40% of the total landings, respectively.

**Atlantic Coast**

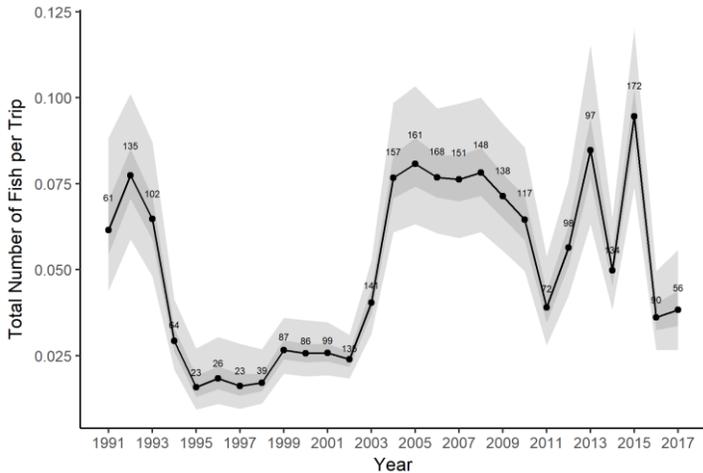


**Gulf Coast**

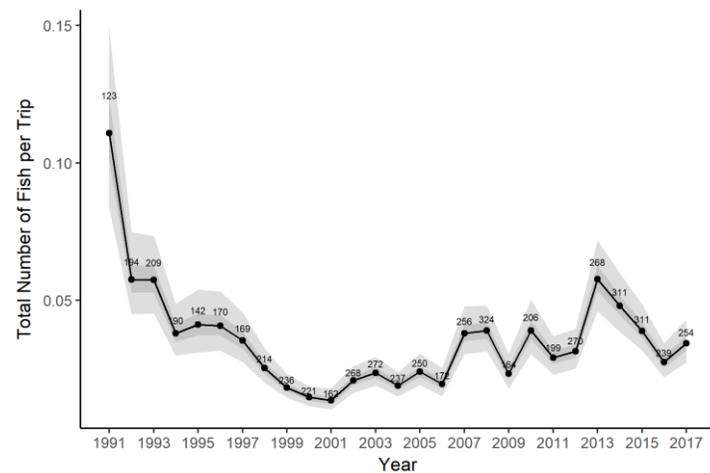


**Standardized Commercial Catch Rates:** Atlantic coast commercial landings rates were cyclic in trend with lows in 1996, 2007, and 2015 and highs in 1992, 1999-2001, and 2011. On the Gulf coast (including the Florida Keys), rates have increased over the timeseries to a high in 2017. Dark grey ribbons represent first and third quartiles while the light grey ribbons represent the 2.5% – 97.5% quantiles.

**Atlantic Coast**



**Gulf Coast**



**Standardized Recreational Total Catch Rates:** Catch rates on the Atlantic coast declined markedly from 1992-1995 and remained low through 2002, the increased sharply through 2004 and remained high and stable through 2010. Catches then became widely variable through 2017. On the Gulf coast (including the Florida Keys), catches declined drastically through 2001 but have remained relatively steady with a slightly increasing trend. Dark grey ribbons represent first and third quartiles while the light grey ribbons represent the 2.5% – 97.5% quantiles.

### **Stock Status**

**Current Condition:** The SEDAR (Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review) 27A stock assessment for South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Yellowtail Snapper (<http://sedarweb.org/sedar-27a>) concluded that they were not subject to overfishing nor were they overfished. The SEDAR 64 benchmark assessment for Yellowtail Snapper (<http://sedarweb.org/sedar-64>) is planned for 2019.

**Management History:** Yellowtail Snapper is managed under the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) of the South Atlantic Region and the FMP for the reef fish fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. Current regulations for Yellowtail Snapper include a 12" total length minimum size limit in all state and federal waters off Florida. The catch of Yellowtail Snapper is also limited by the 10-snapper aggregate bag limit for recreational anglers and the licensing requirements for commercial fishers.