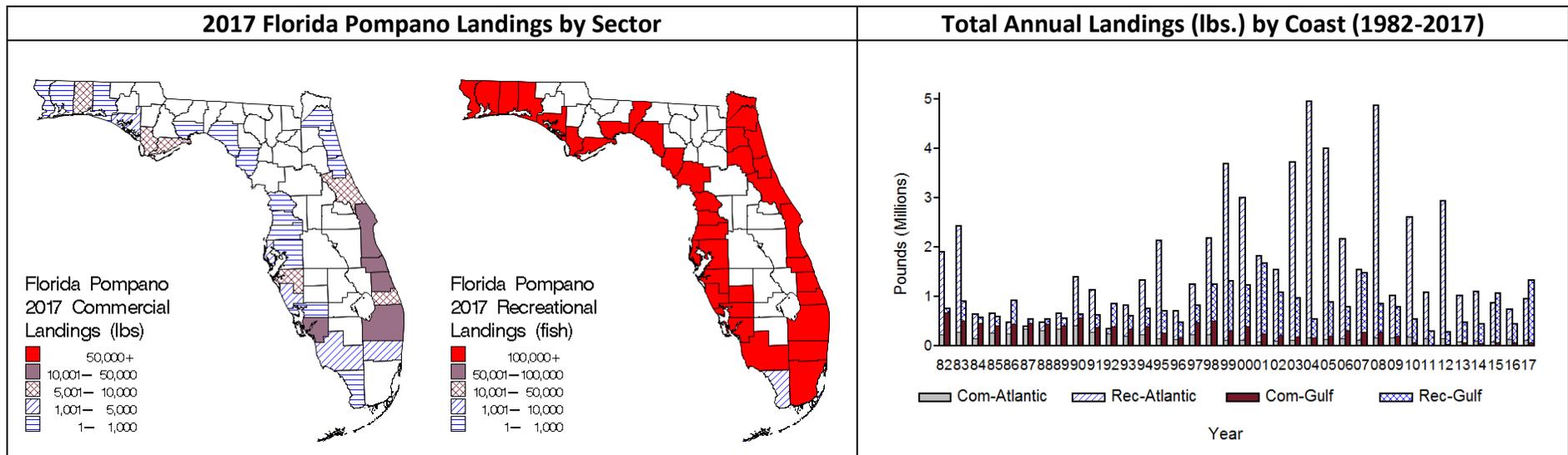


## Florida Pompano, *Trachinotus carolinus* (Linnaeus, 1766)



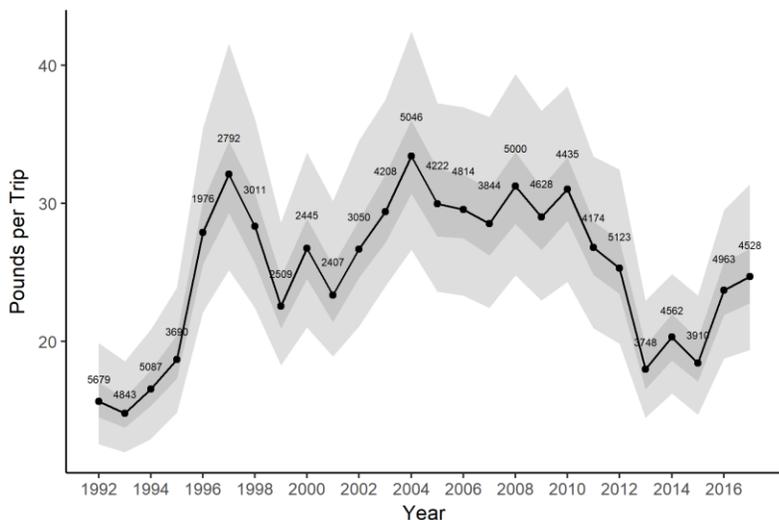
### Life History

Florida Pompano occur in western Atlantic coastal waters from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to southeastern Brazil. In U.S. waters, they are uncommon north of Chesapeake Bay. Pompano are found year-round in Florida but move north and south in response to the 15°C isotherm in near shore waters (Berry and Iverson 1967). Florida Pompano mature before reaching a total length (TL) of 14 inches (Finucane 1969). Mature fish have been found as small as about 10 inches fork length (FL) and as young as age 1 (FWC-FWRI, unpublished data). The oldest fish examined in an FWC-FWRI study was estimated to be 7 years old. Spawning is thought to occur in offshore waters, e.g., near the Gulf Stream at 660' depths (Fields 1962). Peak spawning activity occurs during the spring and fall (Finucane 1969). Pompano are generalized benthic feeders that use large well-developed pharyngeal plates to crush hard-shelled prey (Bellinger and Avault 1971). In Tampa Bay, small juvenile pompano (0.6–1.8 inches standard length) shift from eating amphipods, dipteran larvae, and coquina clams to eating larger crustaceans, mollusks, and occasionally fishes. Diets of adult pompano from the Indian River lagoon consist primarily of infaunal bivalves (Armitage and Alevizon 1980). In Tampa Bay, adults chiefly eat mussels and penaeid shrimp (Finucane 1969).

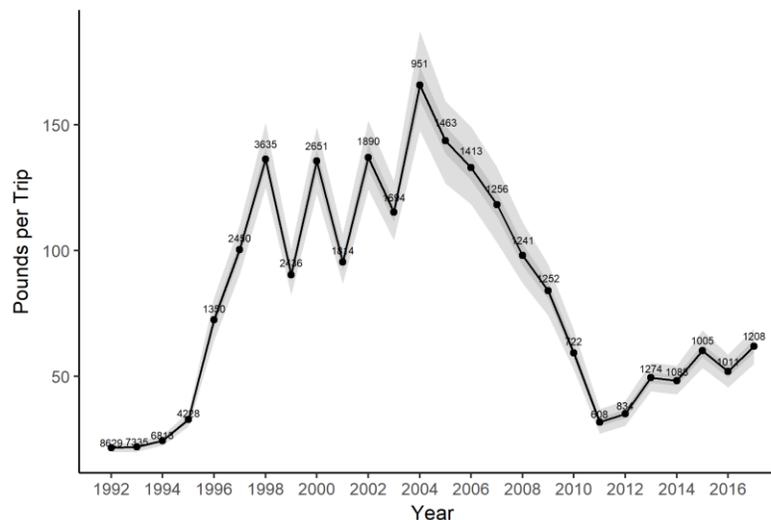


Fishers landed 2,266,566 pounds in 2017 which were 22.2% higher than the previous 5-year average (2012-2016). Coast wide, 59% of these were from the Gulf and 41% were from the Atlantic. Recreational landings constituted 92.2% of the total landings.

**Atlantic Coast**

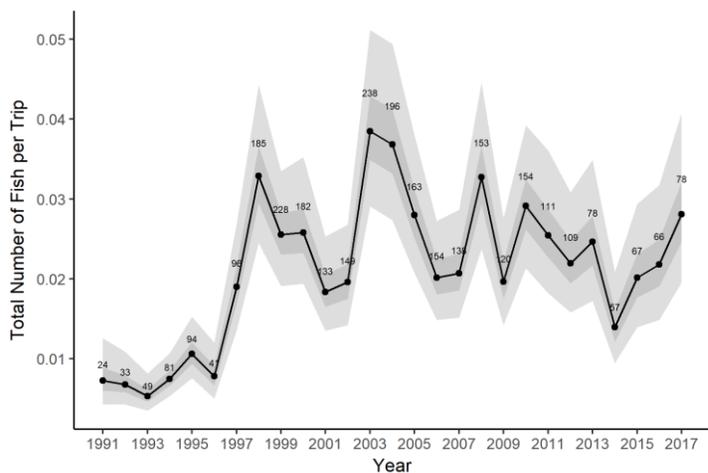


**Gulf Coast**

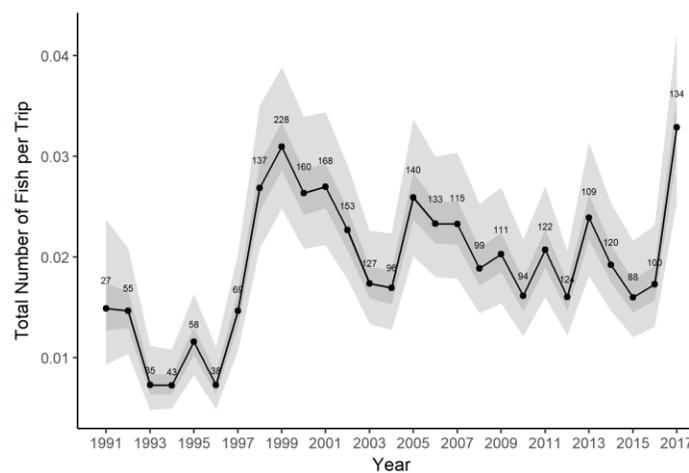


**Standardized Commercial Catch Rates:** Atlantic coast commercial catch varied in an upward trend through 2004 then decreased markedly through 2012. Gulf coast commercial catch varied widely between 1992 and 2008 and then drastically declined through 2011. Dark grey ribbons represent first and third quartiles while the light grey ribbons represent the 2.5% – 97.5% quantiles.

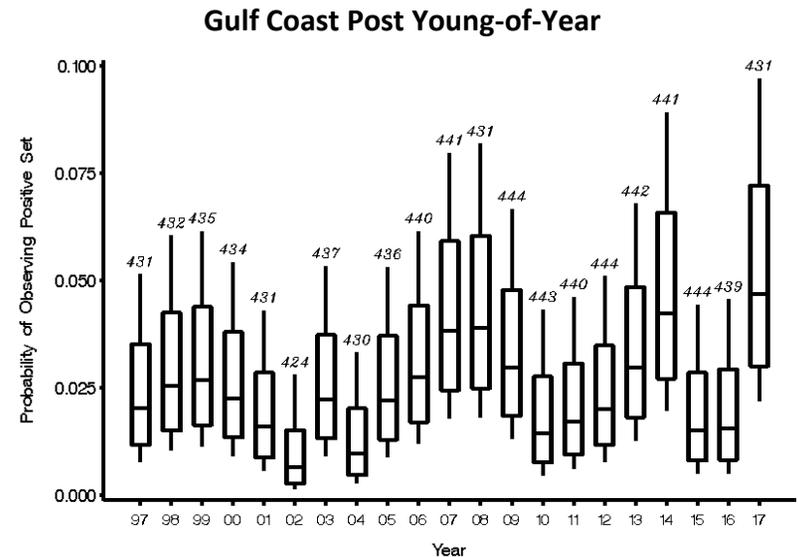
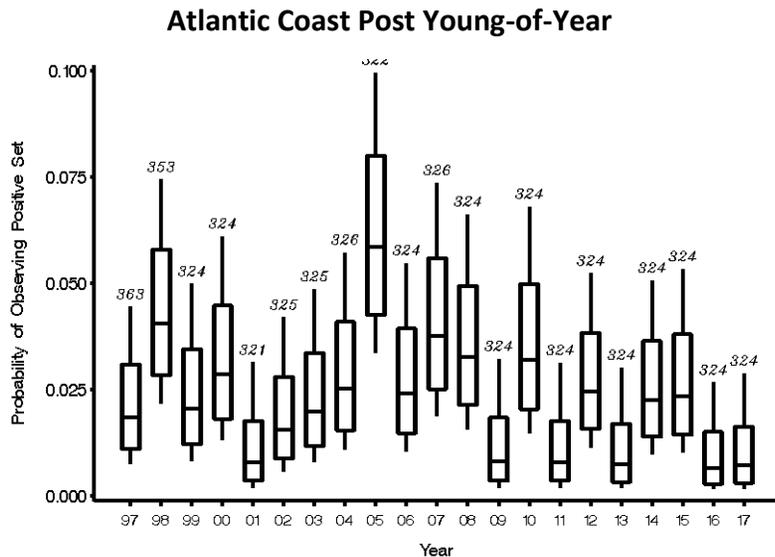
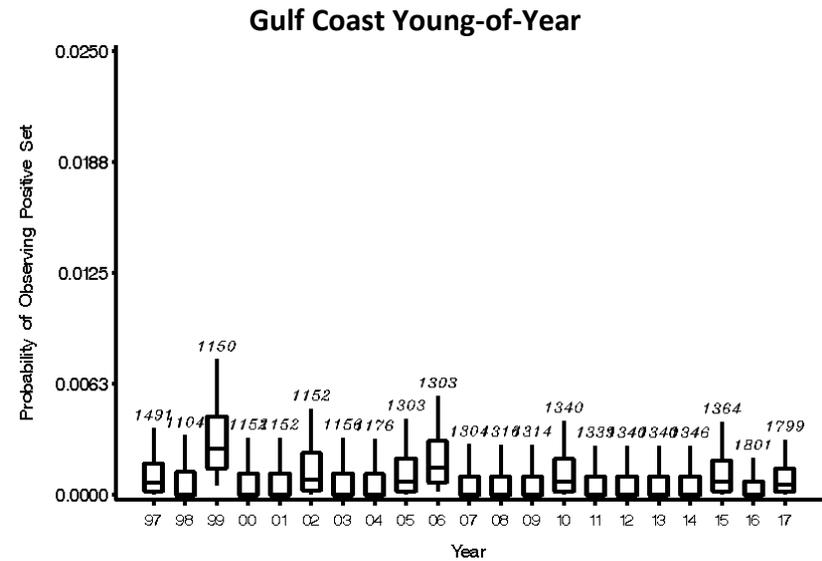
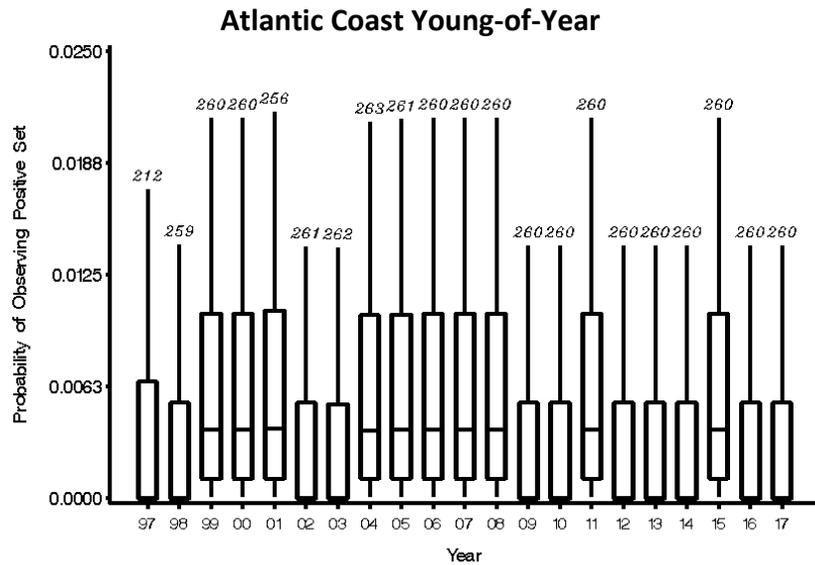
**Atlantic Coast**



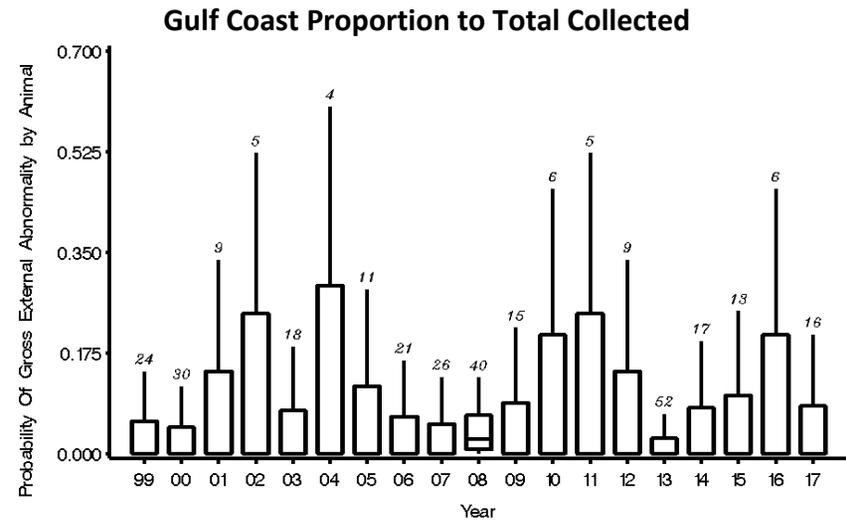
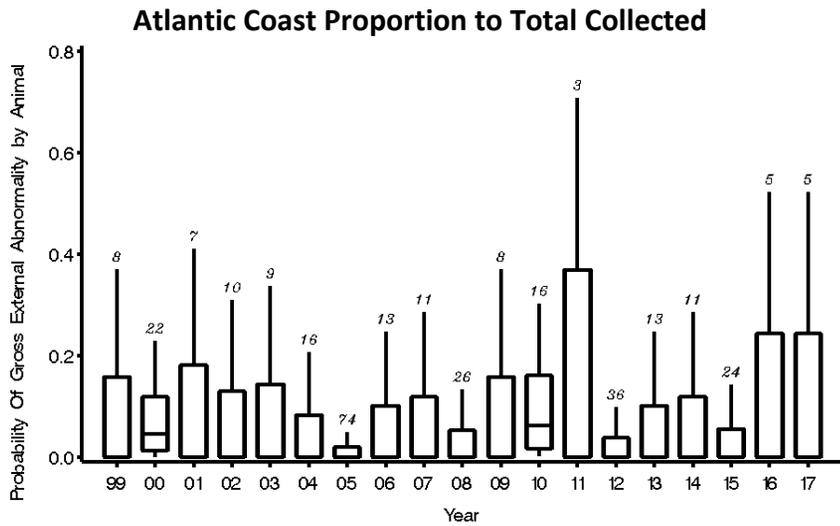
**Gulf Coast**



**Standardized Recreational Total Catch Rates:** Total catch rates for recreational anglers on the Atlantic coast have fluctuated without trend. On the Gulf, total catch rates varied highly also without trend with a notable high in 1999 and lows in 1993-1994 and 2003-2004. There has been a recent increase in catch rate for both coasts. Dark grey ribbons represent first and third quartiles while the light grey ribbons represent the 2.5% – 97.5% quantiles.



**Fishery-Independent Monitoring:** The index of abundance for young-of-the-year (YOY) Florida Pompano on the Atlantic coast has fluctuated without trend since 1997. Gulf coast YOY abundance also has fluctuated without trend. Post-YOY abundance follows a cyclical pattern on the Atlantic coast with highs in 1998, 2005, and 2010. The Gulf coast post-YOY index has varied without trend over the time series with peak abundance in 2007-2008, 2013-2014, and 2017.



Atlantic Coast Percentage of Abnormality Types

Gulf Coast Percentage of Abnormality Types

No Data Available

No Data Available

**Fish Health:** The prevalence of gross external abnormalities is highly variable on both coasts but was greatest in 2000 and 2010 on the Atlantic coast and greatest on the Gulf coast in 2008. There are no data on the type of gross external abnormalities.

## **Stock Status**

**Current Condition:** unknown

**Management History:** FWC has developed four stock assessments for Florida Pompano since 1996 (Murphy *et al.* 1996; Nelson and Murphy 2001; Muller *et al.* 2002; Murphy *et al.* 2006) using a variety of models. The most recent assessment of the status of Florida Pompano (Mahmoudi *et al.* 2010) was investigated using a variety of techniques. Of these, the stock reduction analysis and non-equilibrium stock production model were deemed most reliable. The stock production model has been applied to Florida Pompano since the 2001 FWC-FWRI assessment and uses catch and effort data to infer the population's productivity and abundance. Both techniques allow for estimation of maximum sustainable yield. On both coasts of Florida, fishing mortality rates for Florida Pompano showed a slow declining trend between 1981 and 1995 followed by a sharp drop in 1996. After 1996, there was an increase in fishing mortality that was sustained through 2005 on the Atlantic coast but was short-lived (1997-2001) on the Gulf coast where rates declined after 2001. The recent (2004-2005) Florida Pompano population biomasses on Florida's Atlantic or Gulf coasts are both larger than the minimum biomass threshold typically used to determine the overfished status of many Southeast U.S. fishes. While the recent Gulf coast stock biomass is larger than the biomass needed to produce maximum sustainable yield, the Atlantic coast population's stock size is less than the stock-production-model estimate of this level. The fishing rates estimated for the Atlantic stock in 2005 were, for the most part, higher than the overfishing limit but were less than this limit on the Gulf coast.