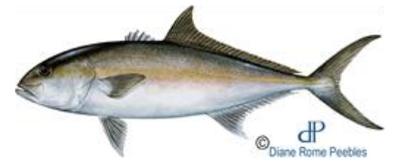
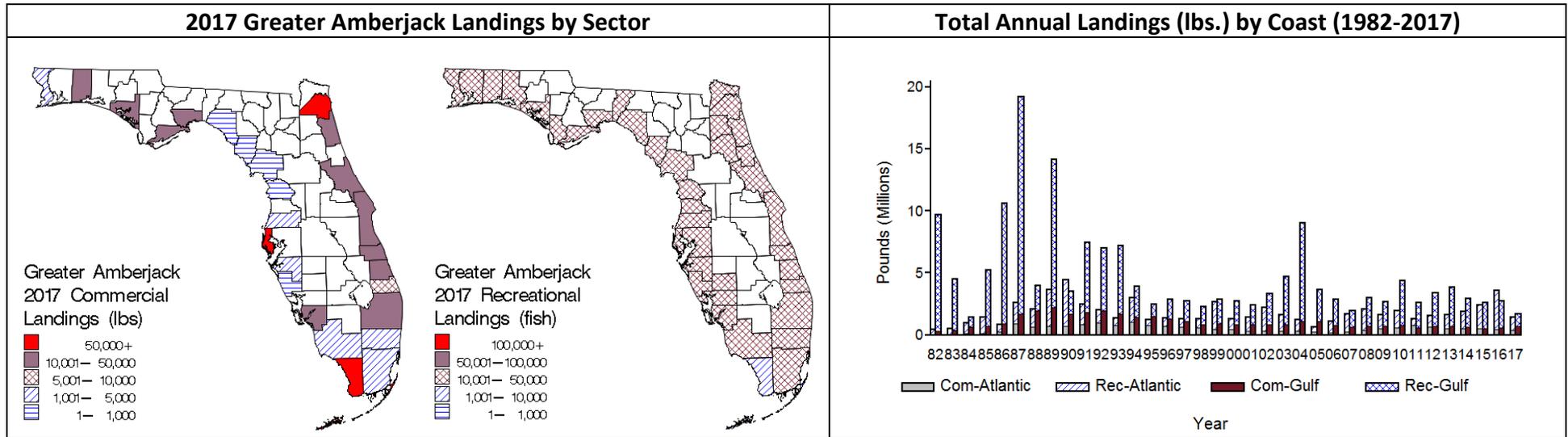


Greater Amberjack, *Seriola dumerili* (Risso, 1810)

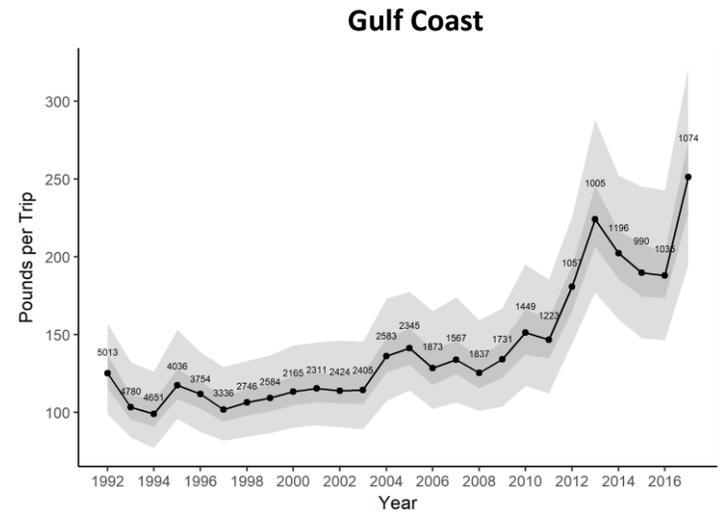
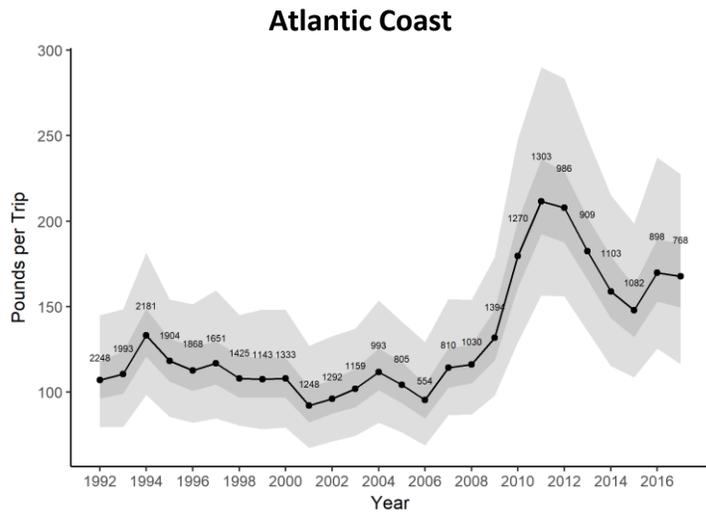


Life History

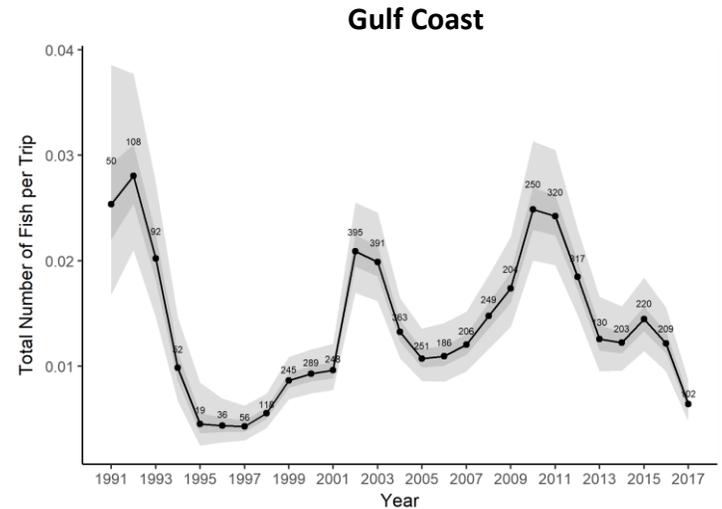
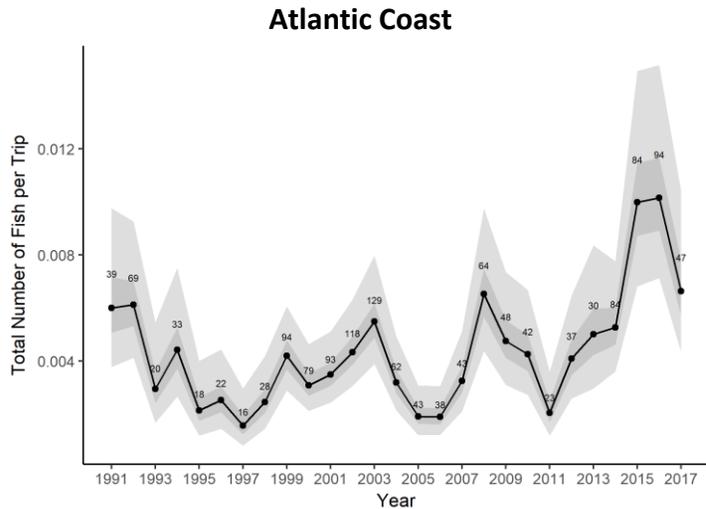
Greater Amberjack is a reef-associated species with circumglobal distribution in warm-temperate waters. In the western Atlantic, it ranges from Nova Scotia to Brazil, including Bermuda, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean (Manooch 1984). Based on *mtDNA* haplotype frequency data, two subpopulations of Greater Amberjack were hypothesized: one in the northern Gulf of Mexico and another along southwest Florida and the U.S. South Atlantic region (Gold and Richardson 1998a). Analysis of nearly 35 years of tag-recapture data showed that some Greater Amberjack are resident along Florida's gulf or Atlantic coasts (Cummings and McClellan 1996). In winter, individuals move into Florida's Atlantic waters from the South Atlantic Bight, possibly in preparation for spring spawning, which primarily occurs off south Florida and the Florida Keys during April and May (McClellan and Cummings 1997; Harris *et al.* 2007). Age at 50% maturity for females is 1.3 years when about 30" fork length (Harris *et al.* 2007). Females grow faster and to a larger size than males (Burch 1979, Harris *et al.* 2007). Greater Amberjack grow quickly: fish of undetermined sex grew from 13.2" fork length (FL) at age 1 to over 43.1" by age 10 in the U.S. South Atlantic (Manooch and Potts 1997a). In the Gulf of Mexico, sizes varied from 14.6" to 19.7" FL at age 1, and fish grew as large as 39.9"–62.4" FL by age 10 (Manooch and Potts 1997b; Schirripa and Burns 1997; Thompson *et al.* 1999). Maximum life span is at least 17 years (Manooch and Potts 1997a). Stomach content analysis of 308 adult Amberjack in the central Mediterranean Sea (Andovora and Pipitone 1997) found *Loligo* spp., *Sardinella aurita*, and *Sardinella pilchardus* to be the most common prey items.



Fishers landed 3,069,265 pounds in 2017 which were 42.3% lower than the previous 5-year average (2012-2016). Coastwide, 53.7% of these were from the Gulf and 43.3% were from the Atlantic. Recreational landings constituted 66.6% of the total landings.



Standardized Commercial Catch Rates: Atlantic coast commercial catch rates varied without trend through 2009 before increasing to a new and greater level of harvest beginning in 2010 through the present. Gulf coast commercial landings rates have increased steadily with 2017 reaching a historic high. Dark grey figure lines represent first and third quartiles while the light grey lines represent the 2.5% – 97.5% quantiles.



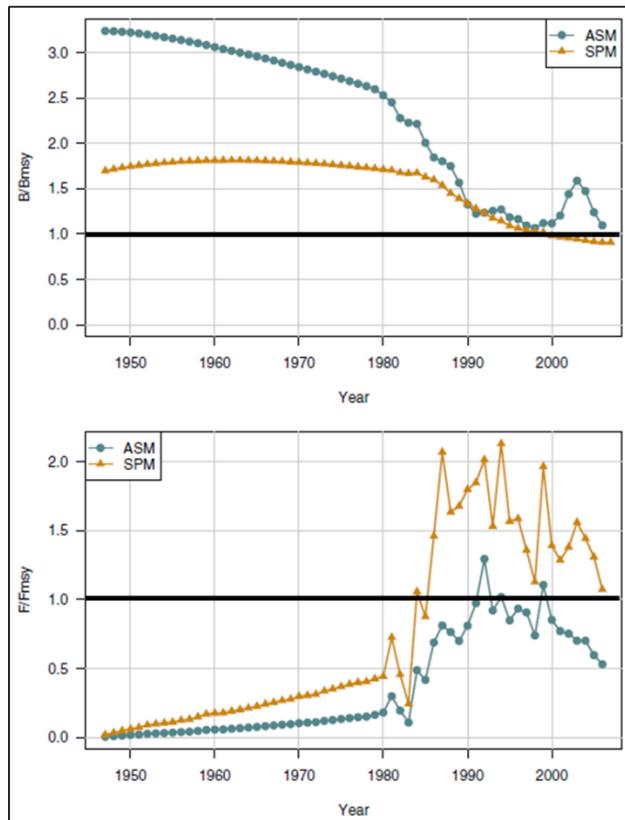
Standardized Recreational Total Catch Rates: Total catch rates for recreational anglers on the Atlantic coast fluctuated widely with notable highs in 2015-2016. On the Gulf, total catch rates increased in trend from 1995-2011 with notable highs in 2002-2003 and 2010-2011 before decreasing through 2017. Dark grey figure lines represent first and third quartiles while the light grey lines represent the 2.5% – 97.5% quantiles.

Stock Status

Current Condition: South Atlantic – not overfished nor undergoing overfishing; Gulf of Mexico – overfished and undergoing overfishing

Management History: On the Atlantic coast of Florida, fishing is open year-round with a 28" fork length minimum size limit while on the Gulf coast fishing is open from May 1-31 and Aug 1-Oct. 31 with a 34" fork length minimum size limit. Both coasts have a 1 fish per person daily bag limit. For South Atlantic populations, the most recent benchmark stock assessment (SEDAR 15 2008b) found Greater Amberjack populations neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing using an age structured model (ASM). Exploitation status was found to be $F_{2006}/F_{MSY} = 0.531$ in 2006, which is below the level at what the fishing mortality would be if the fishery were operating at maximum sustainable yield. Stock status in 2006 was estimated to be $B/B_{MSY} = 1.1$, in which the basis was spawning stock biomass at the maximum sustainable yield. The next assessment will take a Standard approach and is scheduled to finish in March 2019 (SEDAR 59). The most recent update assessment for the Gulf of Mexico (SEDAR 33 2016 Update) found the stock of Greater Amberjack to be both overfished ($SSB_{2015}/MSST = 0.40$) and undergoing overfishing ($F_{current}/MFMT=1.68$). The results also indicated the Greater Amberjack stock has been overfished in all years since about 1987 and has been undergoing overfishing since 1985. The results of the update assessment were generally consistent with the SEDAR 33 benchmark assessment.

SEDAR 15 2008b: South Atlantic



SEDAR 33 2016: Gulf of Mexico

