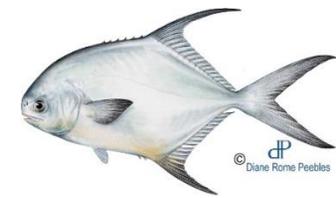
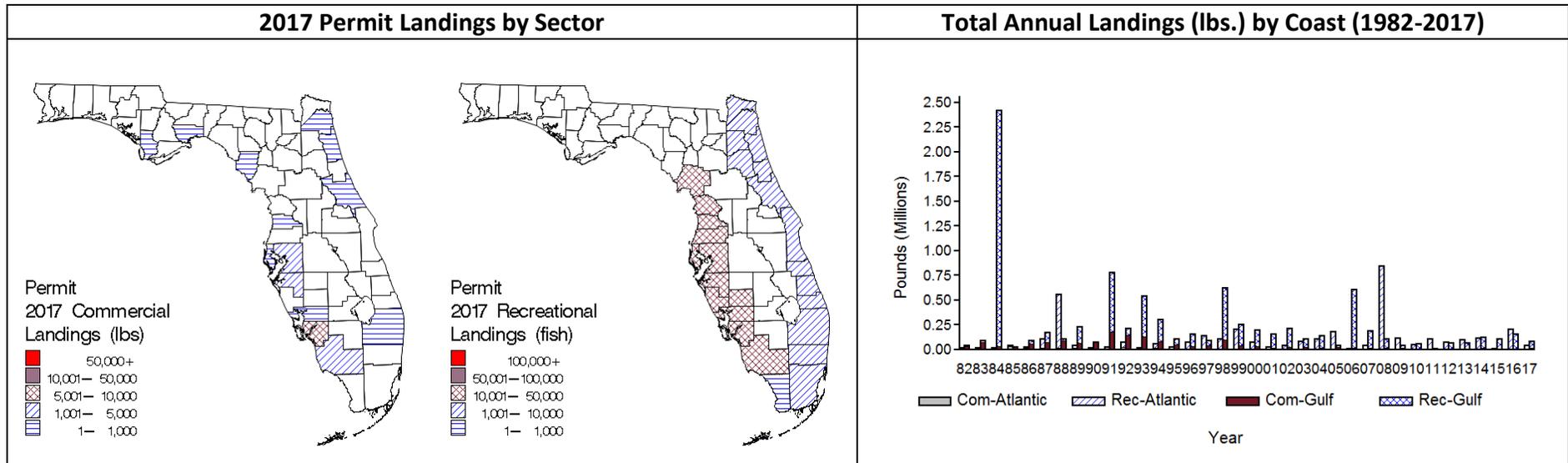


Permit, *Trachinotus falcatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)



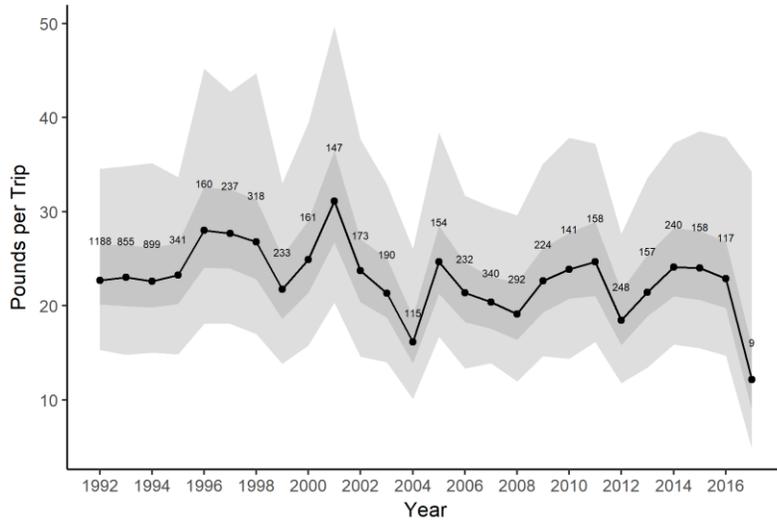
Life History

Permit are found only in the western Atlantic where they occur from Massachusetts to southern Brazil, throughout the West Indies, and in Bermuda (Berry and Smith-Vanez 1978). Permit inhabit the waters in northern and central Florida during the warmer months and the waters in south Florida year-round. Juveniles occur in the waters near sandy beaches where they prey on benthic invertebrates (Finucane 1969). Adults are associated with channels, holes, sandflats, and reefs. Permit grow rapidly until reaching age 5; then growth slows considerably (Crabtree *et al.* 2002). Maximum age for permit appears to be at least 23 years. Males and females grow at the same rate; predicted size at age is 12.6 inches fork length (FL) at age 1 and 25.4 inches FL at age 5. Half of female permit reach maturity by 21.5 inches and about 3 years old (Crabtree *et al.* 2002). Males mature at smaller sizes (19.1 inches FL) at 2 years of age. Spawning occurs during the summer in the Florida Keys and possibly again during the fall in Tampa Bay. Juvenile permit are initially planktivorous and feed on copepods, amphipods, mysids, and larval shrimp and fish (Carr and Adams 1972). At larger sizes, juveniles shift to benthic prey such as mole crabs, coquina clams, flatworms, gastropods, and sessile barnacles. Larger juveniles and adults prey on gastropods, sea urchin, bivalves, and crabs (Randall 1967).

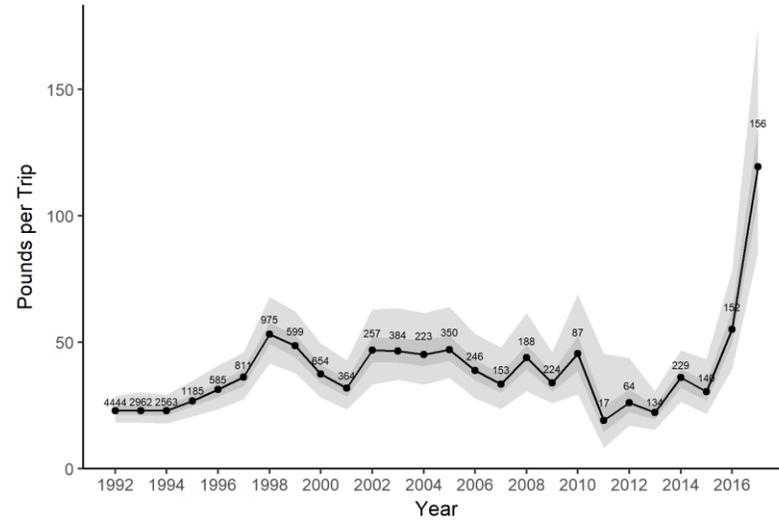


Fishers landed 115,245 pounds in 2017 which were 41.2% lower than the previous 5-year average (2012-2016). Coast wide, 66% of these were from the Gulf and 34% were from the Atlantic. Recreational landings constituted 86.2% of the total landings.

Atlantic Coast

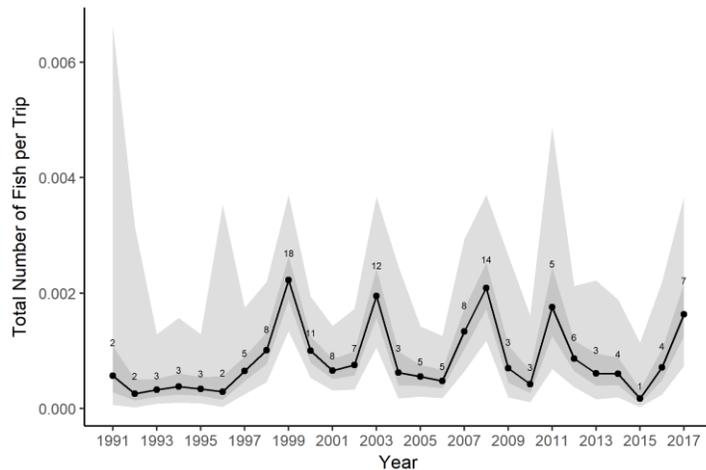


Gulf Coast

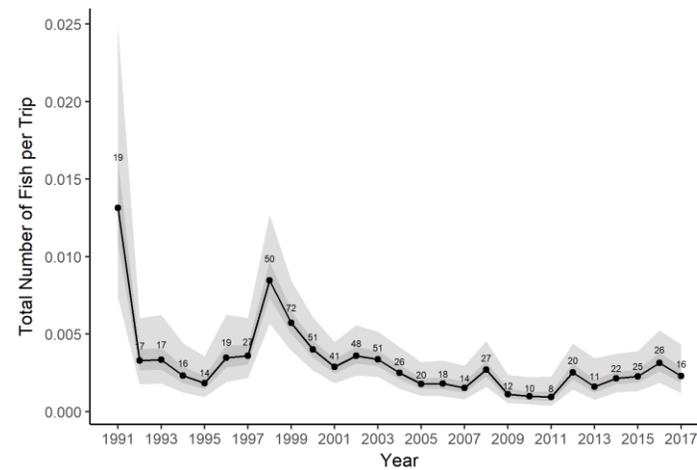


Standardized Commercial Catch Rates: Atlantic coast commercial catch rates varied without trend and then then decreased markedly through 2017. Gulf coast commercial landings rates varied with trend from 1998 to 2015. Rates then increased drastically 2016 and remained high through 2017. Dark grey ribbon represent first and third quartiles while the light grey ribbon represent the 2.5% – 97.5% quantiles.

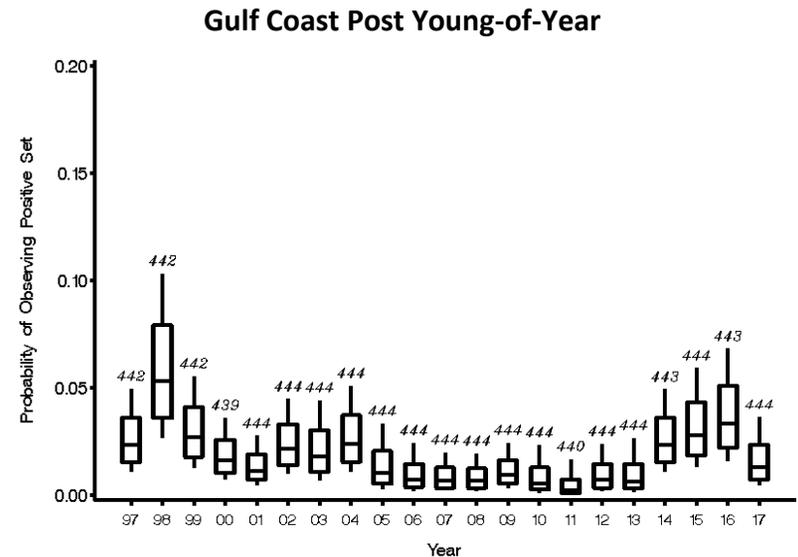
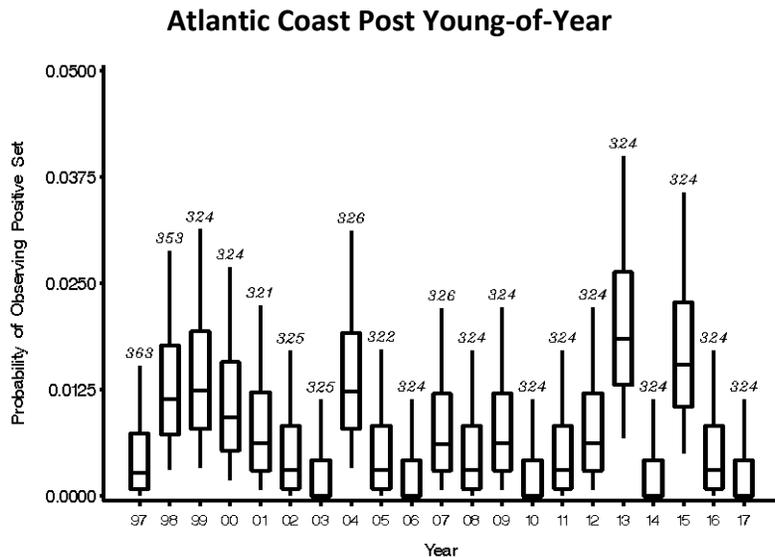
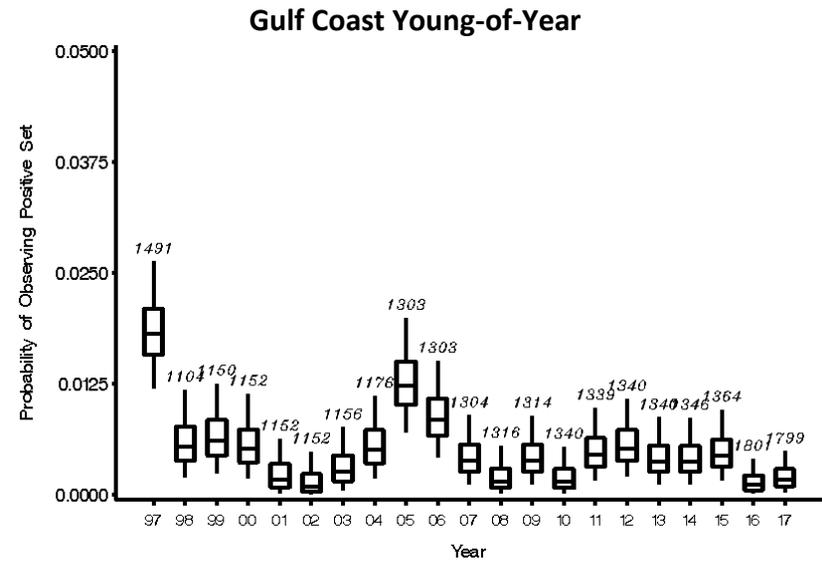
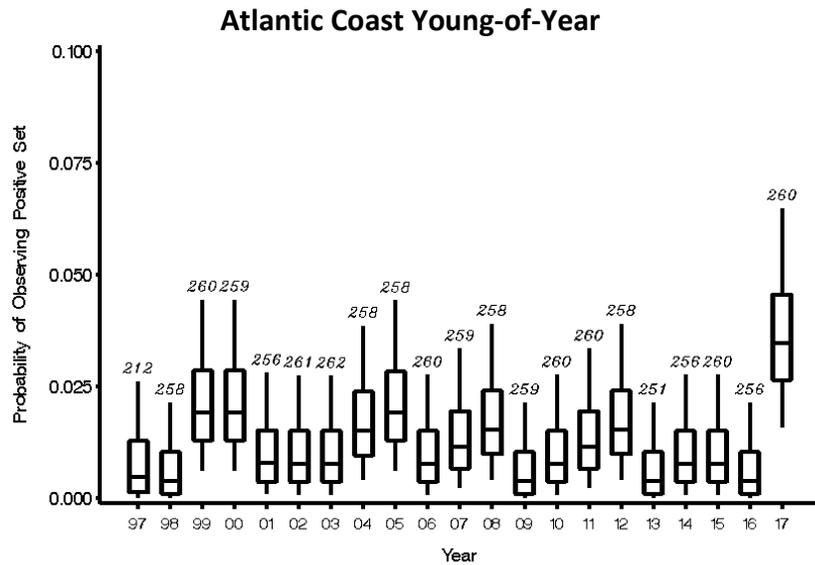
Atlantic Coast



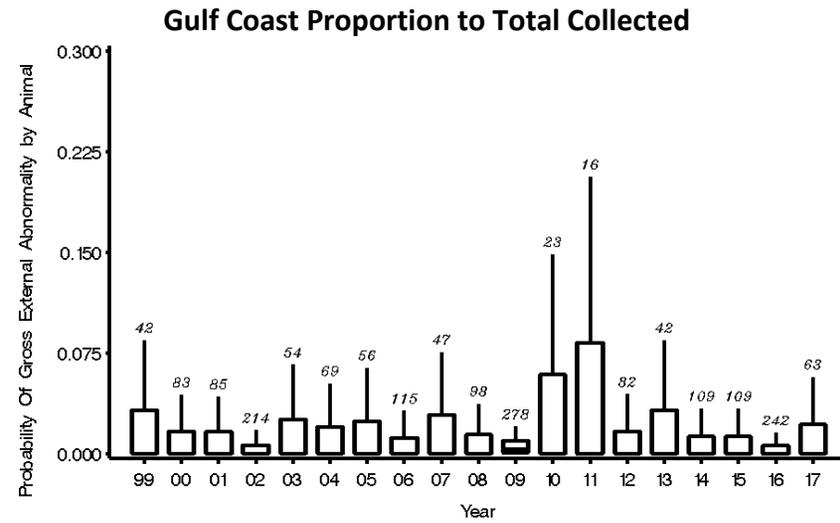
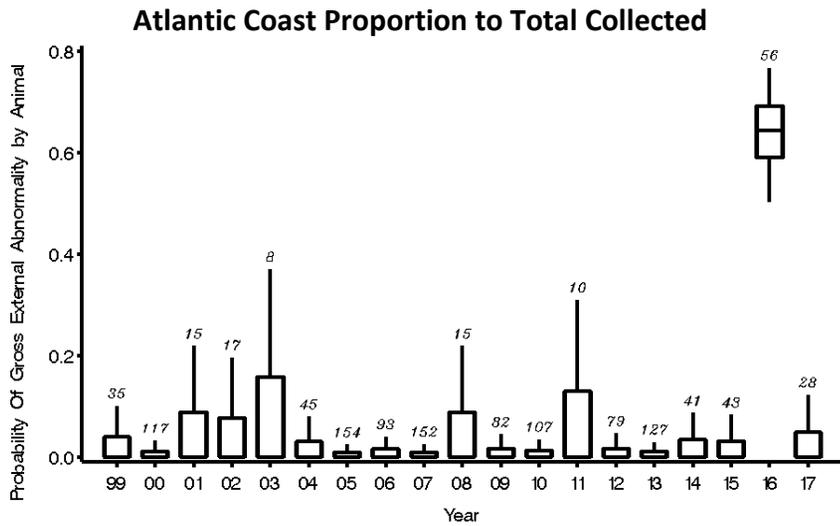
Gulf Coast



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 without trend with notable highs in 1998-1999. Dark grey ribbon represent first and third quartiles while the light grey ribbon represent the 2.5% – 97.5% quantiles.



Fishery-Independent Monitoring: The index of abundance for young-of-the-year (YOY) permit on the Atlantic coast has fluctuated without major trend since 1997 but with recent notable peaks in 2012, and 2017. Gulf coast YOY abundance was generally stable from 1998-2004 before increasing markedly in 2005 and then decreasing to low but stable levels. Post-YOY abundance follows a cyclical pattern on the Atlantic coast with highs in 1998-1999, 2004, and 2013. The Gulf coast post-YOY index has varied without trend over the timeseries with the highest in 1998 and the low in 2011.



Atlantic Coast Percentage of Abnormality Types

No Data Available

Gulf Coast Percentage of Abnormality Types

No Data Available

Fish Health: Incidences of gross external abnormalities on both coasts have been low with a sudden sharp increase on the Atlantic coast in 2016.

Stock Status

Current Condition: There is not enough known about permit life history to conduct a biological assessment of the status of permit in Florida (Armstrong *et al.* 1996b).