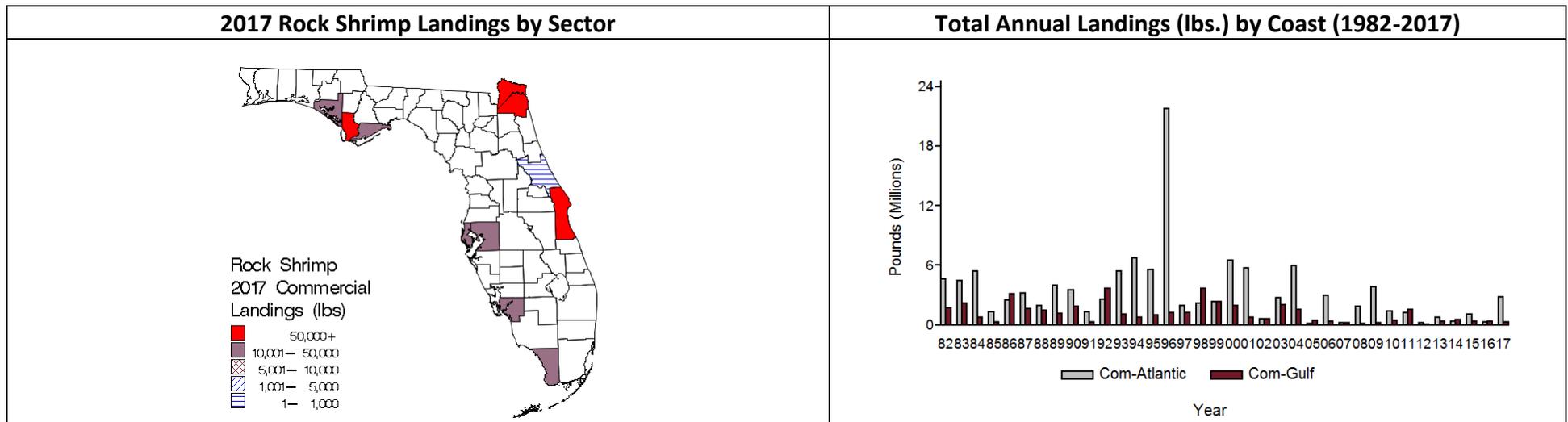




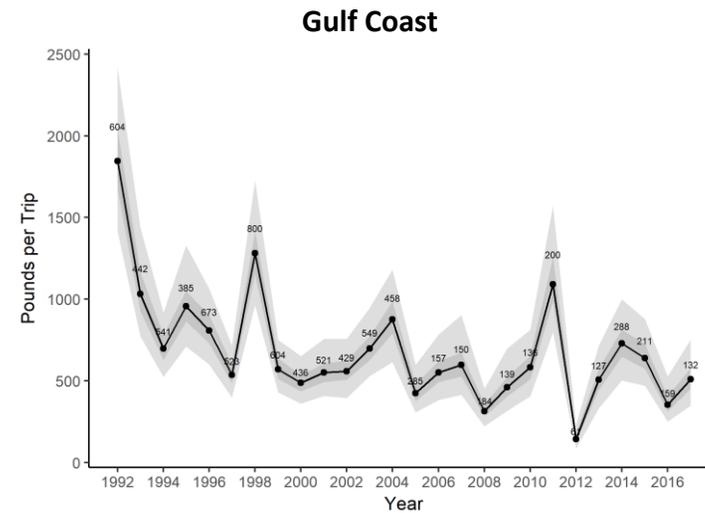
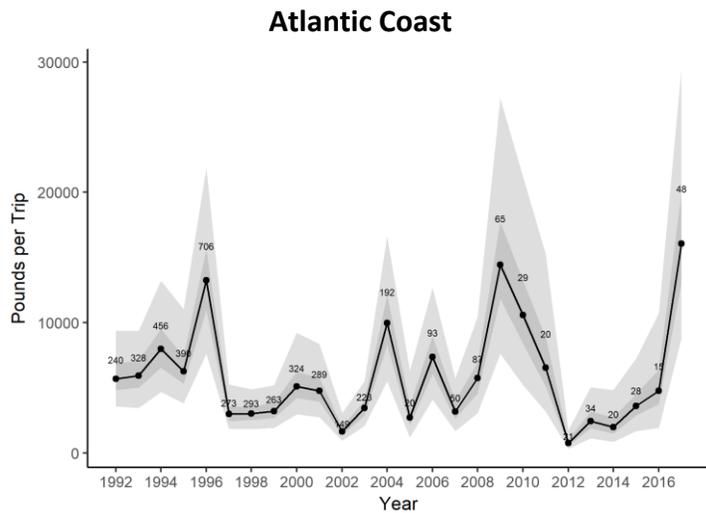
## Rock Shrimp, Family *Sicyoniidae* Brown Rock Shrimp, *Sicyonia brevirostris* (Stimpson, 1871)

### Life History

Rock shrimp occur from about Norfolk, Virginia south throughout the Gulf of Mexico to Cabo Catoche, Yucatan. They are typically found in water 33'–240' deep, but exploitable populations occur between 112' and 180'. The planktonic stage (from spawning until the first postlarval stage) lasts for about 30 days (Cook and Murphy 1965). Animals in this stage can be retained within coastal gyres (Criales and Lee 1995). Maximum life span was estimated to be 20–22 months. Females mature at lengths as small as 0.7 inches carapace length (CL); nearly all females reach maturity by 1.0 inch CL. Spawning occurs from November to January off east-central Florida, and females may spawn up to 3 times in one season (Kennedy *et al.* 1977).



Fishers landed 3,031,758 pounds in 2017 which were 249% higher than the previous 5-year average (2012-2016). Coastwide, 91.3% of these were from the Atlantic and 8.1% were from the Gulf. Commercial landings constituted 100% of the total landings.



**Standardized Commercial Catch Rates:** On the Atlantic coast, commercial catch rates increased dramatically in 1996 then declined and remained low from 1997 to 1999 after a portion of the fishing grounds was closed to protect the *Oculina* reefs. Landings rates then fluctuated through 2012 followed by another increasing trend peaking in 2017. Gulf coast commercial catch rates have variably declined in trend 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:** unknown

**Management History:** While Rock Shrimp are not specifically included in the management unit of the SAFMC’s Shrimp FMP, the Council has taken measures to help protect Rock Shrimp populations and the Rock Shrimp fishery. The Council required the use of certified bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in all penaeid (pink, white and brown) shrimp trawls in the South Atlantic EEZ and established a framework for BRD certification. It also limited the impact of the Rock Shrimp fishery on bottom habitat by prohibiting trawling in specified areas to protect *Oculina* coral off the coast of Florida.