

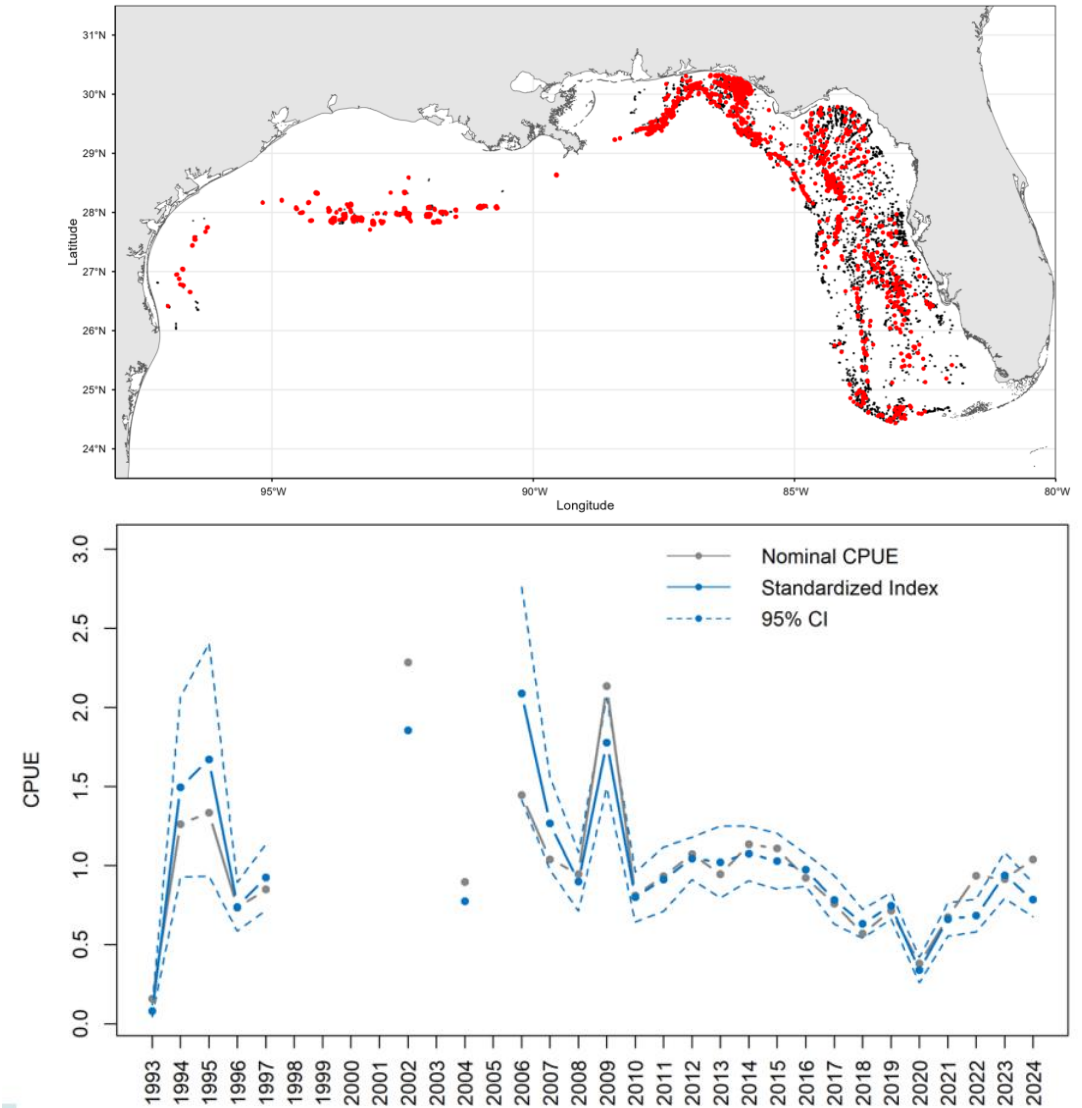
February SSC Meeting

MSE Evaluations of MRIP-FES Recalibrations

- MRIP-FES may overcount recreational fishing trips
 - Telescoping bias and question order study
- SEFSC examined four different scenarios to determine bias
 - Each focused on the treatment of catches as “true” or of variable bias
- In scenarios with consistency in treatment of catches, the model was able to reflect fishery and population dynamics
- In scenarios where recreational catches were variable or uncalibrated in the time series, management advice was worse
- Accurate catch data leads to better-informed catch limits

Greater Amberjack Interim Analysis and Catch Advice

- GAJ found overfished in all 5 assessments since 2004
 - Rebuilding plan and future assessment
- GFISHER video survey used to estimate relative abundance
- Interim analysis does not change current catch advice
- Survey gaps exist in Central and Western Gulf
- Poor data quality makes providing management advice difficult

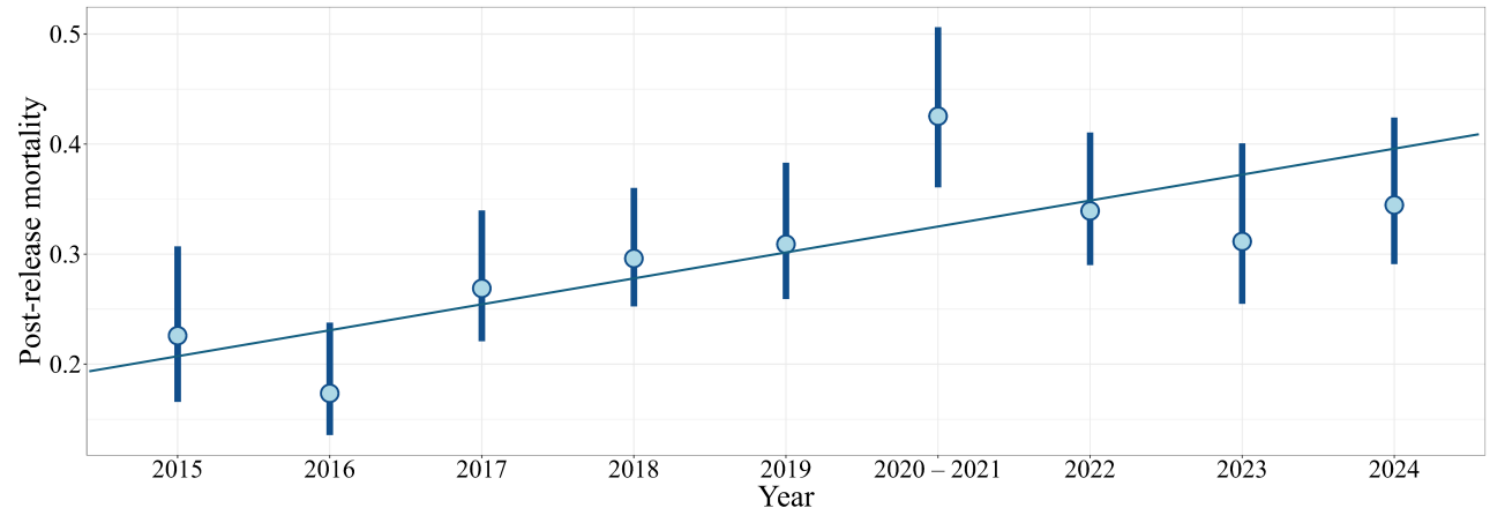
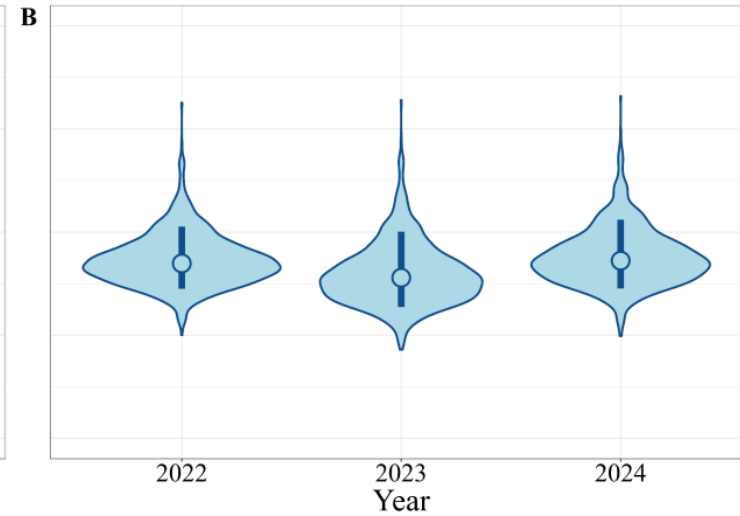
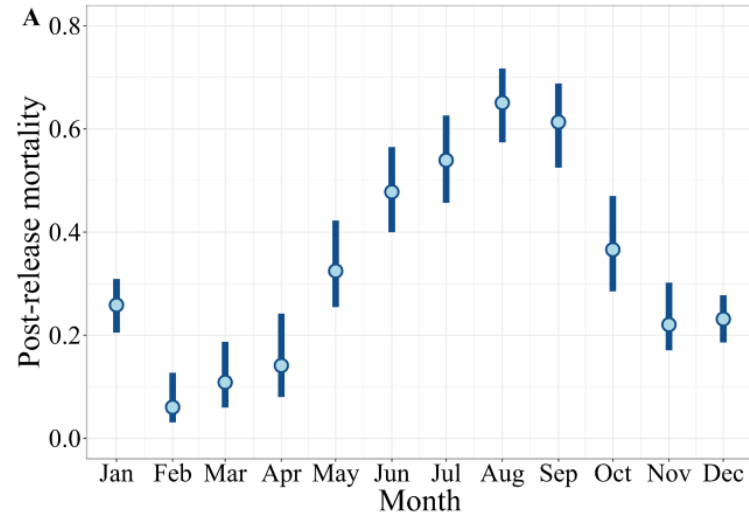


SEFSC Stakeholder Participatory Workshops

- Scientists used workshops to gather fishermen's input on various management-focused topics
 - Case studies included Red Tide, Red Snapper, Wahoo
- Goal was to reach “outside” of the normal process and engage the angling public
- General discussion centered on determining how representative a group could be
- Participatory models aid in reducing assessment bias and increased input leads to more trusted management decisions

Gray Triggerfish Discard Mortality Study

- 3,700+ gray triggerfish tagged by charter fleet (2022–2024)
- Estimated 31–35% die after being released
- Depth and water temperature are key survival factors
- Fish are being released in deeper water over time
- Accurate discard mortality rates improve stock assessments



Pre-Season Forecasting for Recreational Fisheries

- Novel approach to predicting how long a fishing season will last
 - Uses past harvest and management to inform projection
- Tested on Gag Grouper seasons from 2015–2024
- Correctly predicted 2025 Gag season stayed under limits
- More precise than the current season projection method
- Model is "plug and play"
- Increased accuracy of projections increases likelihood of maximized opportunity and flexibility when determining seasons

Economic Effects of Mid-Year IFQ Quota Changes

- Mid-year quota increases can shift fish prices quickly
- A 1% price rise in red snapper shifts lease prices 0.68%
- Large quota bumps can sharply drop lease values
- Price drops hurt sellers but help small operators
- Predictable quota changes help participants plan better

SEDAR 100: Gulf Gray Triggerfish Stock Assessment Check-In

- First SEDAR to use SSC check-ins before the review workshop
- Aging issues from prior assessment largely resolved
- New model uses updated catch, survey, and age data
- SSC voted to use a single Gulf-wide area model
- Length-based selectivity recommended for all fleets
- Full review workshop scheduled for August 2026

Progress on MRIP Pilot Studies

- MRIP-FES pilot study tested a redesigned survey method
- Private boat mode showed biggest effort estimate differences
- New question order reduces angler overreporting
- Monthly sampling shown to be feasible under new design
- Monthly approach and calibration expected for 2026
- SSC discussion focused on the differences observed in results across states, months, etc...