Estimation of US Atlantic Red Snapper Abundance



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South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program Study Objectives

- 1) Estimate the distribution and density of red snapper across the US Atlantic shelf from North Carolina through the Florida Keys with ROVs in unknown or unconsolidated habitats
- 2) Develop a hierarchical Bayesian integrated abundance model to estimate age-2+ red snapper population size based on Southeast Reef Fish Survey trap-camera and ROV survey data
- 3) Conduct genetic close-kin mark recapture (CKMR) analysis to estimate age-2+ red snapper population size
- 4) Integrate/reconcile study results with the Atlantic red snapper stock assessment model



Bayesian Hierarchical Integrated Modeling

Objective:

 Estimate Atlantic red snapper population size with a CV of ≤0.3 from trap-camera, ROV, and habitat data

Approach:

- Integrate red snapper density estimates from multiple survey methods to jointly estimate red snapper abundance at three spatial scales: i) survey site (~10³ m²), ii) grid cell (25 km²), and iii) study area (~100 x 10³ km²)
- 2) Habitat suitability informed by study video data, fishery-dependent data, and informed priors from previous studies and mapping
- 3) Separate observation models to account for different detection probabilities and effective sampling area of ROV, traps, and cameras mounted to traps





Bayesian Hierarchical Integrated Modeling



Red Snapper Reaction to Trap-Camera or ROV







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PLOS ONE



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Estimating reef fish size distributions with a mini remotely operated vehicle-integrated stereo camera system

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Analysis of Spatial Covariates



Steward et al. (2022)



RS Habitat Suitability

Ongoing Habitat Mapping



Pickens and Taylor (2020)

SERFS Trap-Camera Red Snapper Trends



Bacheler et al. (in review)



SERFS Camera-Trap Red Snapper Trends

Remotely Operated Vehicle Surveys: Cooperative Research



Remotely Operated Vehicle Sampling Across the US Atlantic Shelf



ROV Sampling 2021-2023



Estimating Effective Sampling Area and Fish Density from Camera Data

Data:

- North Carolina, 2019
- VPS array
- 16 tagged red snapper → marked individuals
- 31 camera samples: repeated counts of marked, unmarked, and unknown red snapper
- Developed N-mixture + Marked approach; tested via simulation applied to case study data



Estimating Effective Sampling Area and Fish Density from Camera Data

Data:

- North Carolina, 2019
- VPS array
- 16 tagged red snapper → marked individuals

Detections of marked individuals allow us to estimate ESA.

- 31 camera samples: repeated counts of marked, unmarked, and unknown red snapper
- Developed N-mixture + Marked approach; tested via simulation applied to case study data



Estimating Effective Sampling Area and Fish Density from Camera Data

Simulation study:

Count data alone: Biased, density estimate increases as fish movement increases

Integrated Approach: Unbiased density estimation across multiple levels of fish movement (e.g., differing ESA)

Case study:

ESA varies as a function of current direction.

Estimated 150 (102-235) individuals on reef (1.6 $km^2)$ or ~66 snapper km^{-2}





Red Snapper Telemetry ESA Experiments Summer 2023 and 2024

- Spatial capture-recapture experiments to estimate the effective sample area of trap-cameras for red snapper
- 3D telemetry arrays deployed off seNC (2023) and neFL (2024) to conduct experiments
- Adult red snapper captured with hook and line, tagged with acoustic tags with depth sensors, and tracked in 3D
- Paired sampling with ROV and trap-cameras to conduct spatial capture-recapture analysis





Bacheler et al. (2021)

3D Telemetry and Estimation of ESA via Spatial Capture-Recapture Modeling

- NC 2023: VPS array (n = 20 receivers) deployed in August 2023, -300 m receiver spacing
 -45 red snapper tagged with external telemetry tags
 - -mean TL= 604 mm (range 428-780 mm)

Sampling:

- 8/22: 18 SERFS chevron traps on Pisces, paired ROV
- 9/8: 18 NCSU light chevron traps
- 10/30: 14 NCSU light chevron traps
- Receivers recovered Nov 2023
 - -1.3M detections of tagged RS
 - -196,856 GPS position estimates
- 2023 video analysis completed:

-RS observations: 8/22 (n = 1), 9/8 (n = 10), and 10/30 (n = 13)



Red Snapper Telemetry ESA Experiments Summer 2024





Close-Kin Mark-Recapture

Objectives:

- 1) To estimate red snapper population size in US Atlantic
- 2) To estimate red snapper genetic population structure

Approach:

- Fin clip sampling of Atlantic red snapper; up to 5k per year for 3 years
- Development of genotyping in the thousands (GT-seq) panels to allow high through-put sequencing of 400 microhaplotypes (SNP-containing loci)
- 3) Sequencing of fin clip samples and population size estimation with CKMR model



Reduced representation genomics



Fin Clip Sampling for Genomic Analyses







Red Snapper Atlantic Population Structure and Connectivity with GOM









Expanded Red Snapper Epigenetic Clock Development





- 5.79 billion raw reads (each 150 bp long)
- 3.96 million CpG sites identified
- 224,883 CpG present in >80% of individuals
- 11,254 age-correlated CpG sites identified

Genetic Close-Kin Mark-Recapture





Genetic Close-Kin Mark-Recapture





Close-Kin Mark Recapture Sequencing

- Successfully genotyped 10,347 individuals with a GT-seq panel 5,532 (90.2%) from year 1 (2021)
 4,815 from year 2 (2022)
- Putative related Individuals
 9 pairs of parent-offspring
 33 pairs of full siblings
 107 pairs of half siblings
- Selection of year 1 possible siblings genotyped using ddRAD to confirm kinship
- Confirmed from those individuals: 4 pairs of full siblings 22 pairs of half siblings
- Ongoing ddRAD genotyping of 123 additional putative kinship pairs



Genetic Close-Kin Mark-Recapture: Previous Simulation Studies







ORIGINAL ARTICLE 🔂 Full Access

Close-kin methods to estimate census size and effective population size

Robin S. Waples 🔀 Pierre Feutry

First published: 20 October 2021 | https://doi.org/10.1111/faf.12615 | Citations: 12



RESEARCH ARTICLE 🔂 Open Access

Accounting for unobserved population dynamics and aging error in close-kin mark-recapture assessments

John D. Swenson 🔀 Elizabeth N. Brooks, Dovi Kacev, Charlotte Boyd, Michael J. Kinney, Benjamin Marcy-Quay, Anthony Sévêque, Kevin A. Feldheim, Lisa M. Komoroske 🔀

First published: 07 February 2024 | https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.10854

Genetic Close-Kin Mark-Recapture: SARSRP Simulation Study



Genetic Close-Kin Mark-Recapture



11 The practical magic of close-kin mark-recapture

Mark V. Bravington and Emma L. Carroll

2023

Table 11.1. Summary of completed CKMR studies.

Source: samples from dead (D) and/or alive (L) animals; Genotyping method (Geno): DArTCapTM (Cap), DArTSeqTM (Seq), SNP array or microsatellites (Usat). Model: Fully age structured (Full); Single-cohort adjusted Lincoln-Peterson (Single); exponential change with survival estimated (*N*, *z*, *p*); exponential change assuming quasi-equilibrium stable age composition, plus survival estimated (Stable age); exponential change, no survival estimate (*N*, *z*). Abundance is order-of-magnitude, so $\log_{10}(N_{adult}) = 3$ means closer to 1000 than to 100 or to 10 000.

Species	Source	Geno	POP	HSP	Model	log ₁₀ (N _{adult})	N _{samples}	Ageing	Citation
Southern bluefin tuna	D	Usat	Х		Full	6	13 000	Length	Bravington, Grewe
(Thunnus maccoyii)								(juveniles);	et al. 2016
								Otolith+length	
								(adult)	
Southern bluefin tuna	D	Cap	Х	X			>25 000		Davies et al. 2020
Chinook salmon	D	Usat	X		Single	3	2000	Inspection	Rawding et al. 2014
(Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)									
School shark	D	Cap		X	Full	5	3000	Vertebra	Thomson et al. 2020
(Galeorhinus galeus)									
White shark	L+D	Cap		Х	N, z, p	2	200	Length	Hilary et al. 2018
(Carcharodon carcharias)									
Grey nurse shark	L+D	Seq	Х	X	Stable age	3	378	Length	Bradford et al. 2018
(Carcharias taurus)									
Speartooth shark	L	Seq		X	N, z, p	3	226	Length	Patterson et al. 2022
(Glyphis glyphis)									
Northern River shark	L	Cap		X	N, z, p	3	300	Length	Bravington et al.
(Glyphis garricki)									2019
Brook trout	L	Usat	X		Single	3	300	Length	Ruzzante et al. 2019
(Salvelinus fontinalis)									
Thornback ray	D	SNP	X		N, z	4	>7000	Length	Trenkel et al. 2022
(Raja clavata)		array							

Estimating South Atlantic RS Discards: Tagging Simulations

Objectives:

1) To design a tagging study that can estimate exploitation and the magnitude of discards in the private recreational fleet.

Approach:

- Focus on NE Florida, where >90% of harvest and discarding occurs
- 2) Explore both conventional and genetic tags in a simulation framework
- 3) Operating model: monthly population dynamics with individual based tagging simulation model
- 4) Develop and code Barker joint encounter (i.e., live and dead recoveries) estimation model
- 5) Evaluate precision in catch-release and harvest probability estimates across tag numbers and reporting rates



tstep

Estimating South Atlantic RS Discards: Tagging Simulations

- Workshop held in Cedar Key, FL in June 2023 to discuss modeling approach, initial model development, and tagging logistics
- Follow-up online workshop scheduled for May 2, 2024 to review models and discuss simulation results
- Preliminary findings:
 - -High precision (CV<0.2) and low bias in age-specific survival rate estimates from simulations based on conventional tagging, but affected by reporting rate uncertainty
 - -Gene tagging feasible but would require obtaining tissues samples from private, recreational discards
 - -Gene tagging challenges: angler participation, training, materials, and sample preservation; a large portion of the total catch likely to be inaccessible



Conventional Tags 95% reporting

Integrating Red Snapper Pop Estimates into Assessment and Management

- 1) Evaluate two assessment approaches:
 - A. Scale the current assessment model to the externally derived abundance estimates
 - B. Integrate new data and pop estimation into the assessment model
- Matt Damiano was funded through NOAA-MARFIN to work with Kyle Shertzer at NOAA Fisheries-Beaufort Laboratory as post-doctoral scholar on CKMR integration into BAM assessment model
- 3) Incorporate estimates into next Research Track Assessment, scheduled to start in 2025



Kyle Shertzer

Matt Damiano



Timeline of Study Components

ROV and SERFS surveys and data analysis



Timeline of Study Components









South Carolina Sea Grant **Technical Review Committee** SARSRP Steering Committee Susan Lovelace Susannah Sheldon **Graham Gaines Ryan Bradley Tracey Smart** Jessica Carroll Chris Bradshaw Elizabeth Hunt Agency Scientists **Fishery Observers** Port Agents Paul Conn Joey Rivenbark Josh Livingston **Tim Mullray**

Robert Williams Robert Johnson Hans Kraaz Paul Johnson Jayme Stephenson Tom Baer Wade Fickling **Drew Demaree Greg Sosnow Derek Brown** Chris Gaffney Keith Green **Robert Taylor Robbie Hall** Chris Daniels **Fishermen Interviewees** UF, TAMU, NCSU, SCDNR and FWC accounts personnel





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