

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
100 Eighth Ave Southeast
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5020



Summary on the variation in 2015 commercial yellowtail snapper landings

A review of 2015 yellowtail snapper commercial landings has been conducted that has identified a coding error in a script used to automatically assign landings to state or federal waters for catches in the vicinity of the Tortugas. Originally for the Tortugas fishing area, we only had one state waters code and two federal codes (one for the South Atlantic and one for the Gulf). We later created a more detailed Tortugas map (*see attached*), and we added a new state code for South Atlantic state waters. The original code for all state waters then became Gulf state waters.

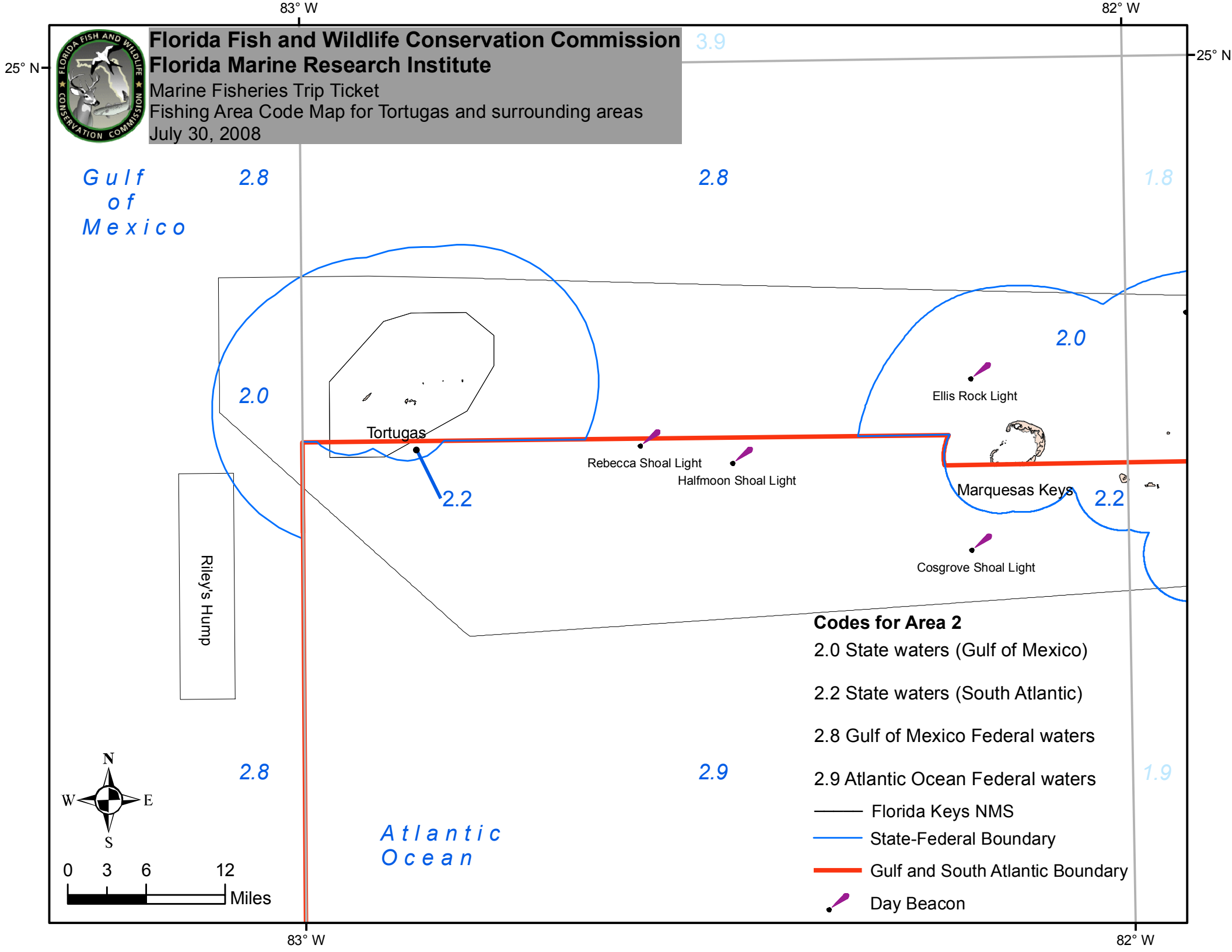
Unfortunately, the Tortugas area updates were not properly coded in the area-depth script which meant that any yellowtail snapper commercial landings data reported from the Tortugas that satisfied the criteria for change either went from South Atlantic federal waters to Gulf state waters, or vice versa. This coding error resulted in preliminary commercial landings for yellowtail snapper being under-reported for the South Atlantic and over-reported for the Gulf of Mexico. A total of 511,928 pounds whole weight (ww) of yellowtail snapper landings were incorrectly assigned to the Gulf that should have been assigned to the South Atlantic.

Prior to correcting the data, we showed 1,184,473 pounds ww of yellowtail snapper from the South Atlantic in 2015. Post corrections, it now shows 1,692,508 pounds ww from the South Atlantic in 2015. The corrected South Atlantic landings exceed the commercial quota by 95,998 pounds ww.

It is important to note that the error in assigning yellowtail snapper landings to each coast did not affect the closure of the fishery on October 31, 2015. This closure was based on data reported directly to NOAA Fisheries by seafood dealers that projected an exceedance of the quota. Since this was first reported to us, both the script and the data for 2015 have been corrected with our data now matching the federal data that was used for monitoring the quota.



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida Marine Research Institute
 Marine Fisheries Trip Ticket
 Fishing Area Code Map for Tortugas and surrounding areas
 July 30, 2008



Gulf of Mexico

2.8

2.8

1.8

2.0

2.0

Tortugas

Rebecca Shoal Light

Halfmoon Shoal Light

Ellis Rock Light

Marquesas Keys

2.2

Cosgrove Shoal Light

2.2

Riley's Hump

Codes for Area 2

2.0 State waters (Gulf of Mexico)

2.2 State waters (South Atlantic)

2.8 Gulf of Mexico Federal waters

2.9 Atlantic Ocean Federal waters

— Florida Keys NMS

— State-Federal Boundary

— Gulf and South Atlantic Boundary

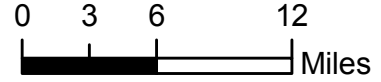
• Day Beacon

2.8

2.9

1.9

Atlantic Ocean



83° W

82° W

25° N

25° N