

**Southeast Fisheries Science Center Update
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
13-17 September, 2010**

Stock Assessment Improvement Activities

Fishery-independent Cruise

- Conducted aboard NOAA vessel Nancy Foster
- Leg 1 departed Charleston and will run from Sept. 14 - 25. It is focusing on combined use of fish traps with video cameras as recommended from the South Atlantic Fishery-Independent Sampling Workshop (Nov. 2009) and conducting multibeam and split-beam habitat mapping at night.
- Leg 2: Sept 28-Oct 9 and will focus on ROV ops at the shelf break for red snapper and multibeam mapping at night.
- Leg 3: Oct 13-22 and will be similar to Leg 1.

Enhancement of MARMAP sampling

- Season is wrapping up, with a better than normal number of at-sea days

R/V Savannah cruises

- 15 of 29 at-sea days have been fished, retrieving approximately 190 traps during this time
- video cameras deployed on all 190 traps, but videos have not yet been analyzed
- goal is to use remaining at-sea days by October 3rd - one 7-d trip off of Georgia and one 7-d trip off northern Florida

Red snapper longline project

- Contracts have been awarded to two fishermen.
- Observers experienced with reef fish longline trips in the Gulf of Mexico has been outfitted and briefed by the Panama City lab observer program and are standing by for deployment
- One vessel is fully rigged to fish, and awaiting tropical weather forecasts to leave the dock, and the second vessel will be ready soon

Staffing

- One stock assessment position is filled – candidate begins in January. An offer has been made to a second candidate and response is pending
- A second stock assessment recruitment notice will be released in December
- A fishery-independent data collection coordinator was hired and began work in August
- Enhanced biological sample processing through MARMAP

Headboat Program Update

- Logbook collections ongoing and on target
- Completion of data entry for 2010 anticipated to be on time or early
- MRIP pilot electronic logbook program concludes in October. Eight vessels participating: NC(2), SC(2), GA(1) and FL(3)
- Discussions on conclusions and next steps for electronic reporting will be held with MRIP coordinator soon thereafter