

Science, Service, Stewardship



Southeast Fisheries Science Center

SAFMC Update – June 2011

June 16, 2011

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



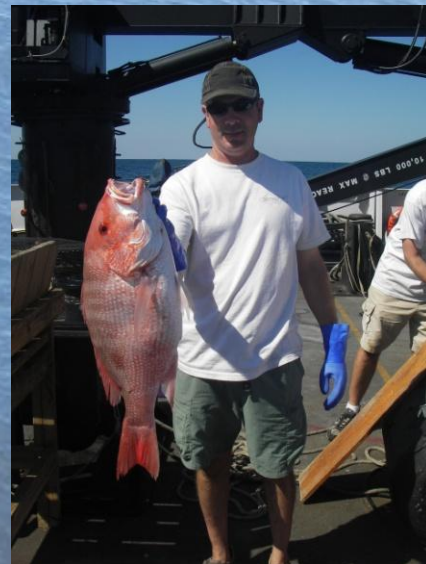
HEADBOAT SURVEY & MRIP PILOT STUDY UPDATE

- **The 2010 estimated headboat landings and angler days for the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico completed in March 15, 2011.**
- **Headboat Survey staff participated in SEDAR 25 Data Workshop. Headboat data will be used to create index of abundance for black sea bass but not for tilefish (due to limited HB data).**
- **Analysis of MRIP Electronic Logbook Reporting Pilot study completed. Final report in review; will be available by June, 2011.**
- **Results of MRIP Pilot study to be used to plan and develop strategy for full implementation of HB electronic logbook reporting.**

Southeast Fishery-Independent Survey (SEFIS)

Created in 2010 in response to:

- Need to strengthen inputs to stock assessments
- Reductions in fishery-dependent data
- Incomplete spatial coverage of MARMAP
- Trap selectivity issues



Objectives of SEFIS

- Increase spatial footprint and sample sizes of fishery-independent surveys in US South Atlantic
- Implement video cameras as a survey gear to address trap selectivity and develop indices of abundance
- Map hardbottom habitats to improve survey design
- Applied research to inform survey methods and address management issues



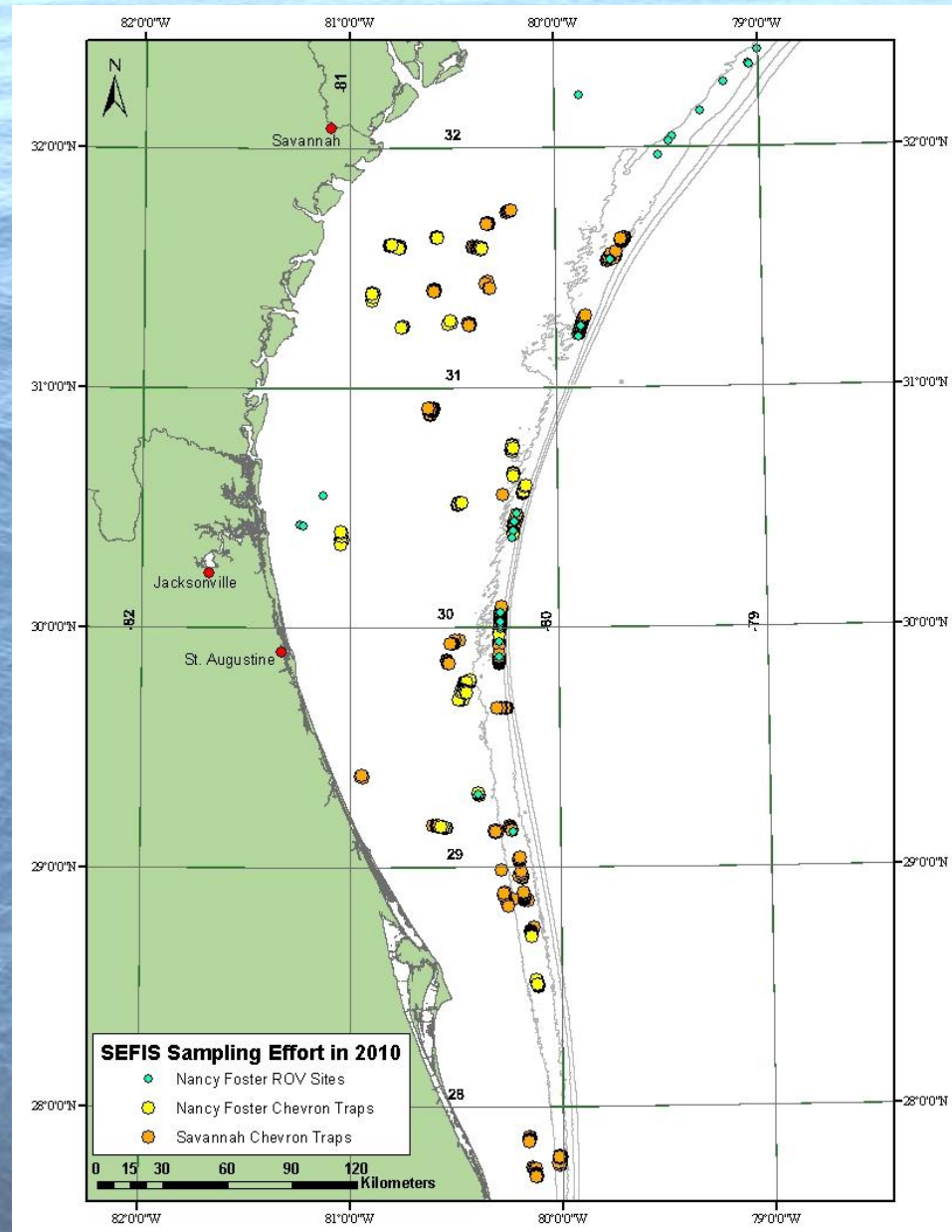
SEFIS sampling approach

- Chevron traps
- Video cameras affixed to traps
- Multibeam mapping (expands sampling universe)
- Directed ROV, longline and fisheries sonar efforts



2010 Results

- 63 days at-sea
- 480 traps deployed (>97% affixed with cameras)
- 37 areas mapped (377 km²) with multibeam sonar
- 200 hours of split-beam sonar surveys
- 32 ROV dives



2011 Plans and Progress

- 12 days at sea on NOAA ship *Pisces* completed in Florida during May
 - 130 trap/video samples
 - 21 areas mapped with multibeam
- ≥ 42 days at sea planned on *R/V Savannah* in June – September
- Video surveys now system-wide
- ≥ 800 trap/video samples likely (from SEFIS and MARMAP sampling combined) each year between NC and FL



Realized and anticipated results

- **100% increase in annual survey sample sizes over historical (solely MARMAP) levels**
 - Improved trap-based abundance indices due to increased survey sample size and spatial footprint
 - Improved size-at-age and sex ratio information due to increase trap-based biological collections (otoliths and gonads)
- **Establishment of video-based abundance indices (more precise than trap-based) for use in future assessments**
- **Improved knowledge of hardbottom distribution (via mapping) = improved survey design**

