

2/18/2020

Lane Snapper (*Lutjanus synagris*)

Description:

Lane snapper is a member of the snapper family (Lutjanidae). It is typically almond-shaped, colored pink-red around the edges with a silvery body color, and has a number of pink and yellow lines running along the body from head to tail. It often has a distinctive spot on its upper side and can be easily confused with mutton snapper. The Gulf of Mexico stock is distinct from the Atlantic. Lane snapper occurs in a variety of habitats such as reefs and inshore sandy bottom vegetated habitats. Lane snapper are experiencing overfishing (2019) but its stock status is unknown (SEDAR 49 2016).



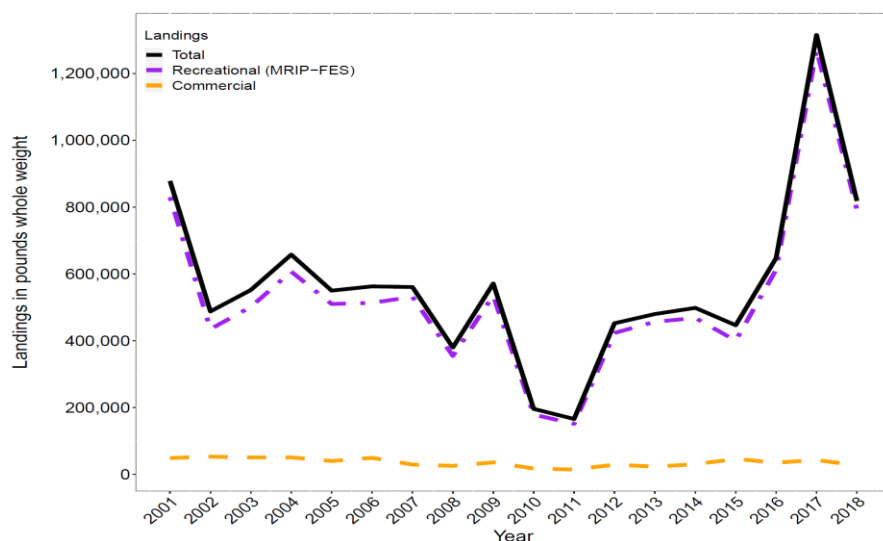
Photo credit: Dylan Hubbard

Gulf Stock Characteristics: (SEDAR 49 2016)

Natural mortality rate (M):	0.33/year (max. age of 19 years)
Reproductive maturity:	50% of females are mature at ~9 inches (24.0 cm) fork length (FL); ~age 1-2
Maximum age:	19 years
Maximum weight:	13 lbs (5.9 kg) whole weight
Maximum length:	18 inches (44.9 cm) FL
Discard mortality:	5-15% (fleet dependent)

Life History and Distribution: (SEDAR 49 2016)

Lane snapper is distributed from the North Atlantic off North Carolina through the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean to Southern Brazil. It generally feeds at night and preys upon a variety of species such as smaller fish, shrimp, and crabs. Peak spawning occurs along shelf habitats from June through August. Larvae settle around 21-66 days on near-shore shell ridge habitats as well as muddy habitats. Adults often occur in high-relief offshore habitats in water depths up to 430 feet (~132 meters) and in areas with high salinity (>30 psu) with variable water temperatures (16-29 °C).



Current Regulations:

The stock is monitored with a combined recreational and commercial annual catch limit (ACL).

Recreationally, lane snapper has a minimum size limit of 8 inches (TL) and a daily bag limit of 20 fish per person per day.

Commercially, lane snapper has a minimum size limit of 8 inches and there is no daily bag limit.

Source: SEFSC Commercial ACL data (Nov. 2019), SEFSC MRIP FES Recreational ACL (Jan. 2020)