

Greater Amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*)

Description:

Greater amberjack are a member of the jack family (Carangidae). They are typically a silvery-blue, with yellow shading along the lateral line, and a dark brown diagonal band through the eye. Their tail is deeply forked. The Gulf of Mexico stock is thought to be distinct from the Atlantic. Greater amberjack are a reef-associated species typically caught between depths of 59 to 236 ft (18 and 72 m). Greater amberjack in the Gulf are presently considered overfished and experiencing overfishing (SEDAR 33 2014)

Gulf Stock Characteristics: (SEDAR 33 2014)

Natural mortality rate (M): 0.28/year (max. age of 15 years)
 Reproductive maturity: 50% of females are mature at ~35 inches (90 cm) fork length (FL); age 4
 Maximum age: 15 years
 Maximum weight: 178 lbs (80.6 kg) whole weight
 Maximum length: 58 inches (147.4 cm) FL
 Discard mortality: 20% for both sectors

Life History and Distribution: (SEDAR 33 2014)

Greater amberjack are found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea in temperate to tropical waters. Females grow to larger maximum sizes than males. Peak spawning occurs in March and April in the Gulf. After a brief pelagic stage, newly hatched larva and small juveniles often associate with floating Sargassum. Larger juveniles shift to demersal habitats, where they congregate around reefs, rocky outcrops, and wrecks. Adult greater amberjack are found on both artificial and natural reefs.

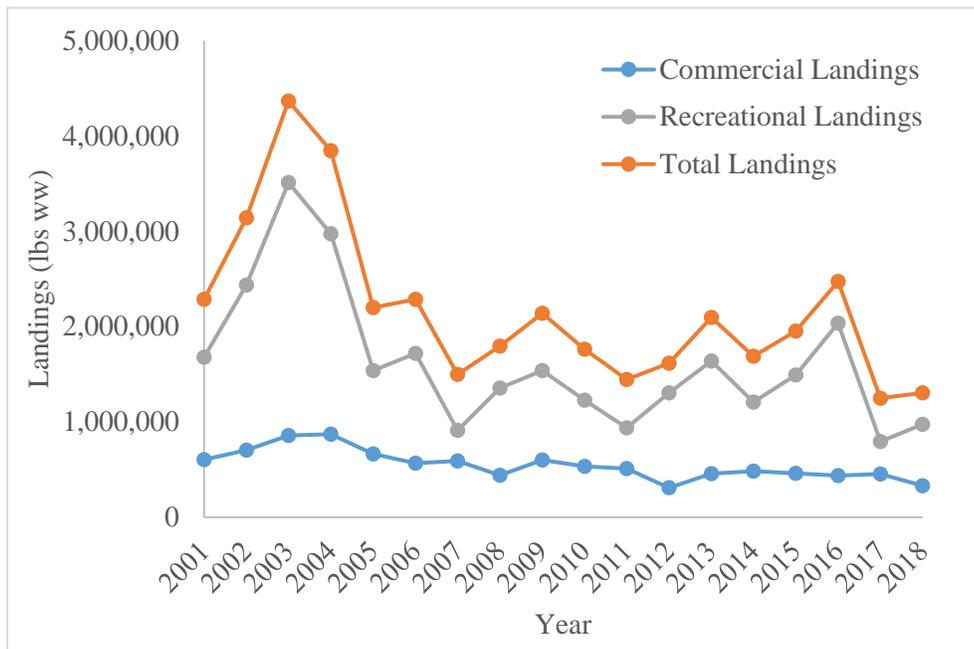


Figure: Gulf Greater Amberjack landings for 2001 – 2018.

Current Regulations:

Recreational: 73% of ACL 1/person, within the 20 fish/person reef fish aggregate bag limit. The minimum size limit is 34 inches FL. Size-limit fish weigh about 19 lbs (8.8 kg). The fishing season is closed from Nov 1 – Apr 30, and from Jun 1 – Jul 30.

Commercial: 27% of ACL 1,500 lb gutted weight trip limit. The minimum size limit is 36 inches FL. The commercial fishing season is closed from Mar 1 – May 31.