

Vermilion Snapper (*Rhomboplites aurorubens*)

Description:

Vermilion snapper, also known as “mingo” and “beeliner”, is found from North Carolina south to Florida, including the Gulf of Mexico, and farther south through the Bahamas and the Caribbean Sea to southern Brazil. It is a deep vermilion red color, hence its name, on the sides above the lateral line and a pale pinkish to silver below. The sides may have narrow yellow lines below the lateral line. This species is also one of the smaller fish in the snapper family. Other distinguishing characteristics include large red eyes, a short snout and a broadly rounded anal fin. The stock is not overfished nor experiencing overfishing (SEDAR 67 2020).



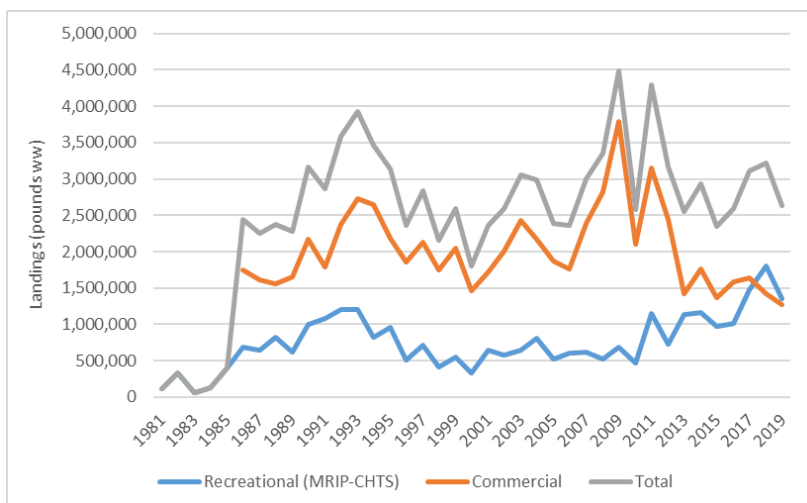
Photo Credit: Jim Green

Gulf Stock Characteristics: (SEDAR 45 2016)

Natural mortality rate (M):	0.25/year
Reproductive maturity:	50% of females are mature at ~5.4 inches (13.8 cm) fork length (FL); ~age 1
Maximum age:	26 years
Maximum weight:	6.6 lbs (3.0 kg) whole weight
Maximum length:	18 inches (34.4 cm) FL
Discard mortality:	~15% (based on South Atlantic studies)

Life History and Distribution: (SEDAR 9 2006; SEDAR 45 2016)

Vermilion snapper is abundant over rocky reefs, gravel, and sand bottoms off the edges of continental shelves at deeper depths. Although the spawning behavior of vermilion snapper is poorly understood, spawning appears to occur at offshore sites all along the continental shelf of the U.S. Gulf from depths of approximately 98 – 197 feet (30 – 60 meters). In the Gulf of Mexico, vermilion snapper spawn from mid-April to mid-September; peak spawning occurs May to August. Eggs are pelagic; larvae are planktonic and juveniles are found in nearshore and offshore waters, occupying hard bottom and reef habitats.



Source: Recreational FES landings from the MRIP FES database and LA Creel. Commercial landings from the ACL database.

Current Regulations:

The stock is monitored with a combined recreational and commercial annual catch limit (ACL). The current ACL is 3.11 mp ww.

Recreationally, vermilion snapper has a 10-inch minimum size limit (TL) and a daily bag limit of 10 fish per person per day within the 20-reef fish aggregate bag limit.

Commercially, vermilion snapper has a 10-inch minimum size limit and there is no trip limit.