

SouthEast Fisheries Information Network

SEFIN8i

Data Collection Systems

ALS - Accumulative Landings System

Commercial landings statistics have been collected and processed by various organizations during the 1960 to present period that the SEFIN data set covers. In the early 1980s, the NMFS and the state fishery agencies within the Southeast began to develop a cooperative program for the collection and processing of commercial fisheries statistics. With the exception of two counties, one in Mississippi and one in Alabama, all of the general canvass statistics are collected by the fishery agency in the respective state and provided to the SEFSC under a comprehensive Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP).

CTS - Cooperative Tagging System

Cooperative tagging (mark-recapture) activities in the Southeast region, particularly for red drum and king mackerel, have expanded to include work by most coastal State fishery management agencies, several universities and laboratories, recreational and commercial fishermen, private tagging organizations, and laboratories of the SEFSC of the NMFS.

DLS - Domestic Longline System

The SEFSC has two important data collection efforts for swordfish and other large pelagic: the logbook system and dealer pack-out or weigh-out data. The Domestic Longline System (DLS) or Dealer-Weighout contains size-frequency data from swordfish dealers and vessel captains who submit individual carcass weight information from their weigh-out sheets. The logbook system is referred to as Pelagic Longline System (PLL) and is the result of federally mandated regulations that require all fishermen to submit a written report of their fishing activity.

FLS - Fisheries Logbook System

Federally issued logbook is the result of federally mandated regulations requiring all fishermen to submit a written report of their fishing activity for specific federally managed species. The FLS is a consolidation of all logbook systems under this regulation and under the management of the SEFSC. This also includes logbook data and information from the Northeast where the fisheries overlap. Inclusive in the logbook system is the Pelagic Longline, Snapper, Grouper, Gulf Reef, Shark, and Golden Crab.

FTT - Florida Trip Ticket System

The state of Florida is collecting information on an individual Trip Ticket basis. Quota managed species are required to be reported weekly. Florida currently processes data on all species caught in State waters. The trip ticket system will allow the retention of the trip by trip information collected by the state. Florida data is also summarized and added to the Accumulative Landings System.

GSS - Gulf Shrimp System

Shrimp statistics are collected by port agents that are located in coastal ports along the Gulf of Mexico. There are port agents employed by either state or Federal agencies that are participating in the SEFSC Gulf shrimp program. The SEFSC data collection program for shrimp statistics only includes the commercial harvesting sector. The Gulf shrimp statistics do not include shrimp that are caught by recreational shrimpers for personal or family consumption.

POP - Pelagic Observer Program

The Pelagic Longline Observer Program (POP) was designed to store data collected from U.S. commercial longline vessels. The data collected and stored in this system are used to prepare biological and statistical summary reports with emphasis on Tuna and Swordfish. Observers on the vessels describe gear information, record landings data, and describe the fish and where the fishing took place. Gear characteristics by trip are recorded on a "Long Line/Line Trawl Gear Characteristics Log" form for entry into a Gear Log database file. Haul information is collected and recorded on a "Long Line/Line Trawl Haul Log" form and entered into a Haul Log database file. All fish observed for a haul are recorded on a "Large Pelagic Individual Animal Log" form for entry into an Animal Log database file. All three database files are in the POP System.

PLL - Pelagic Long Line System

The Pelagic Longline System (PLL) is the result of federally mandated. The purpose of this federal regulation is to

collect detailed catch and effort information on the pelagic fishery. There are two types of reports or logbooks that the fishermen must submit. If the vessel was actively fishing for swordfish, then a logbook form must be submitted for each set that the vessel made, even if swordfish were not caught on the set. The second type of report is a non-fishing report which states that the vessel was not actively fishing for swordfish during the specified month. This system is currently being incorporated into the FLS.

RVC - Reef Fish Visual Census

Interest in visual methods for censusing reef fishes has greatly increased in recent years because of the inadequacy of some traditional sampling techniques and the need for reliable nondestructive, fishery-independent sampling methods. The main objectives in conducting reef fish censuses are to: 1) compare fish populations between reefs and other habitats, and 2) quantitatively monitor reef fish composition and relative or absolute abundance over time.

The sampling method is based on censuses of reef fish taken within a cylinder of 7.5m radius by a diver at randomly selected, stationary points. Data is collected on frequency of occurrence, fish length, abundance and community composition. More information about the basic sampling methodology can be found in NOAA Technical Report NMFS 41, dated July 1986, titled, A Stationary Visual Census Technique for Quantitatively Assessing Community Structure of Coral Reef Fishes by James A. Bohnsack and Scott P. Bannerot.

SAS - South Atlantic Shrimp System

The SEFSC, in cooperation with the South Atlantic states, collects South Atlantic shrimp data from dealers and fishermen and archives these data on the Sefhost computer. These data are collected to provide catch, value, area caught, and effort data for individual commercial fishing trips. It should be noted that some states are not providing effort data. Although this objective is never totally achieved, the SEFSC's data do provide a near-census of the commercial catches, the majority of which are for consolidated trips.

TIP - Trip Interview Program System

The Trip Interview Program is for collecting interview and other fishery-dependent biological and socio-economic data required for fishery management is one of the major components of the region-wide State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program in the Southeastern United States. The purpose of the TIP is to collect fishery information by individual trip in order to obtain more detailed catch and effort data than has historically been needed or required. The major impetuses for the TIP were the new federal requirements resulting from the MFCMA but this kind of information has become more and more desirable and necessary simply to monitor and/or evaluate and/or understand the status of the biological stocks and the fishing industry.