

MS CREEL: OVERVIEW OF METHODOLOGY AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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BACKGROUND: MRIP & MS CREEL

MRIP

Marine Recreational Information Program

- Federal survey that began in the 1980s
 - Multiple phases/revisions (MRFSS, APAIS, CHTS, FES)
- Currently the main currency used in federal and most state assessments of various species
 - States typically administer the dockside portion (APAIS)
 - Office of Science and Technology conducts the effort portion (FES & FHS)

MS Creel

Mississippi-specific survey program

- Adapted methodology from the successful LA Creel program
- Effort sampling began in 2024
- Dockside sampling began in 2025
- Entire estimate process (dockside sampling, effort callouts, and producing estimates) is directed in-house

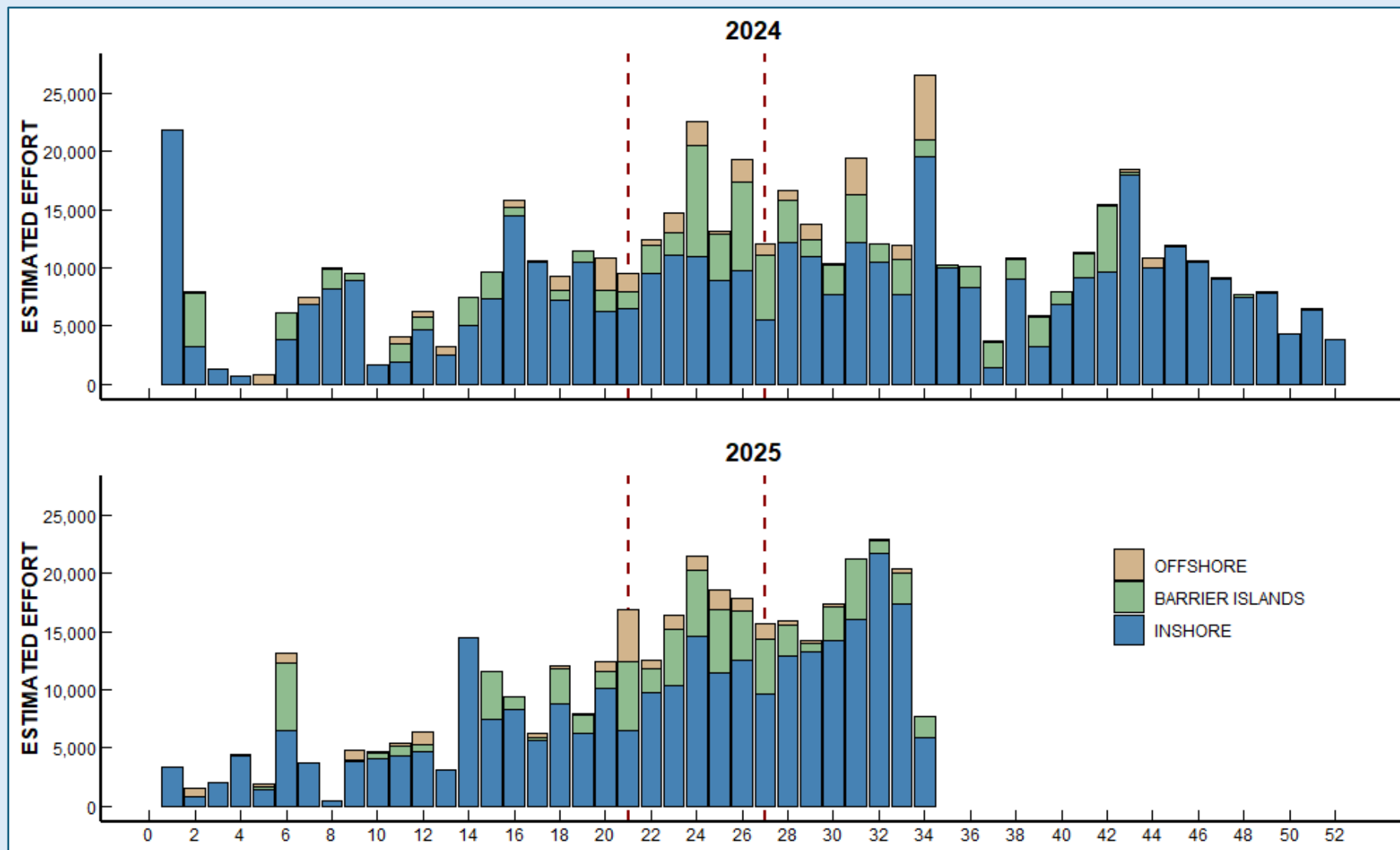
METHODOLOGY: MRIP & MS CREEL

EFFORT	MRIP (FES)	MS Creel
Delivery	Mailout	Phone-based (email option)
Frequency	Bimonthly	Weekly
Population Pool	USPS registered MS households	MS saltwater recreational fishing license holders
Demographic Strata	- Coastal / Matched - Coastal / Unmatched - Non-coastal / Matched - Non-coastal / Unmatched	- Coastal - Non-coastal - Out-of-State - ROLP*
Sample Size	Variance-based	200 per strata (*300 during snapper season)

CATCH	MRIP (AP AIS)	MS Creel
Frequency	Probability-based by month	9 per week
Mode	Proportionally allocated	1 Shore / 1 Charter / 7 Private
Day Type	Probability-based	3 Weekday / 6 Weekend
Survey Length	Individual- 2-page questionnaire (~10 min. / intercept)	Party based – Half page questionnaire (~3 min. / intercept)
Site Selection Pressure	Categorical probabilities (1 – 5)	Continuous probability (informed by trailer counts)

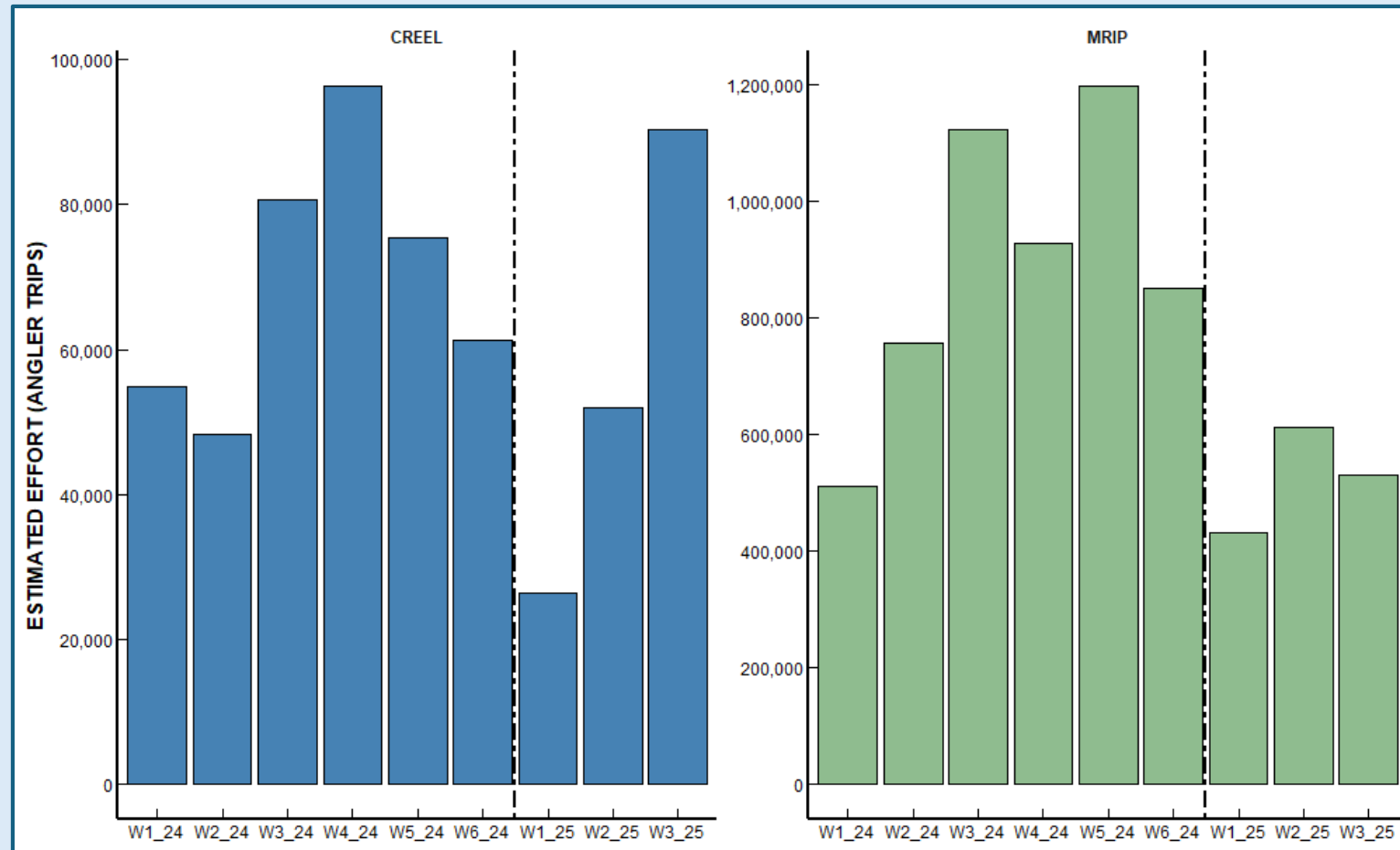
ESTIMATED EFFORT FROM MS CREEL

Weekly estimated number of angler trips by area fished in 2024 and 2025.



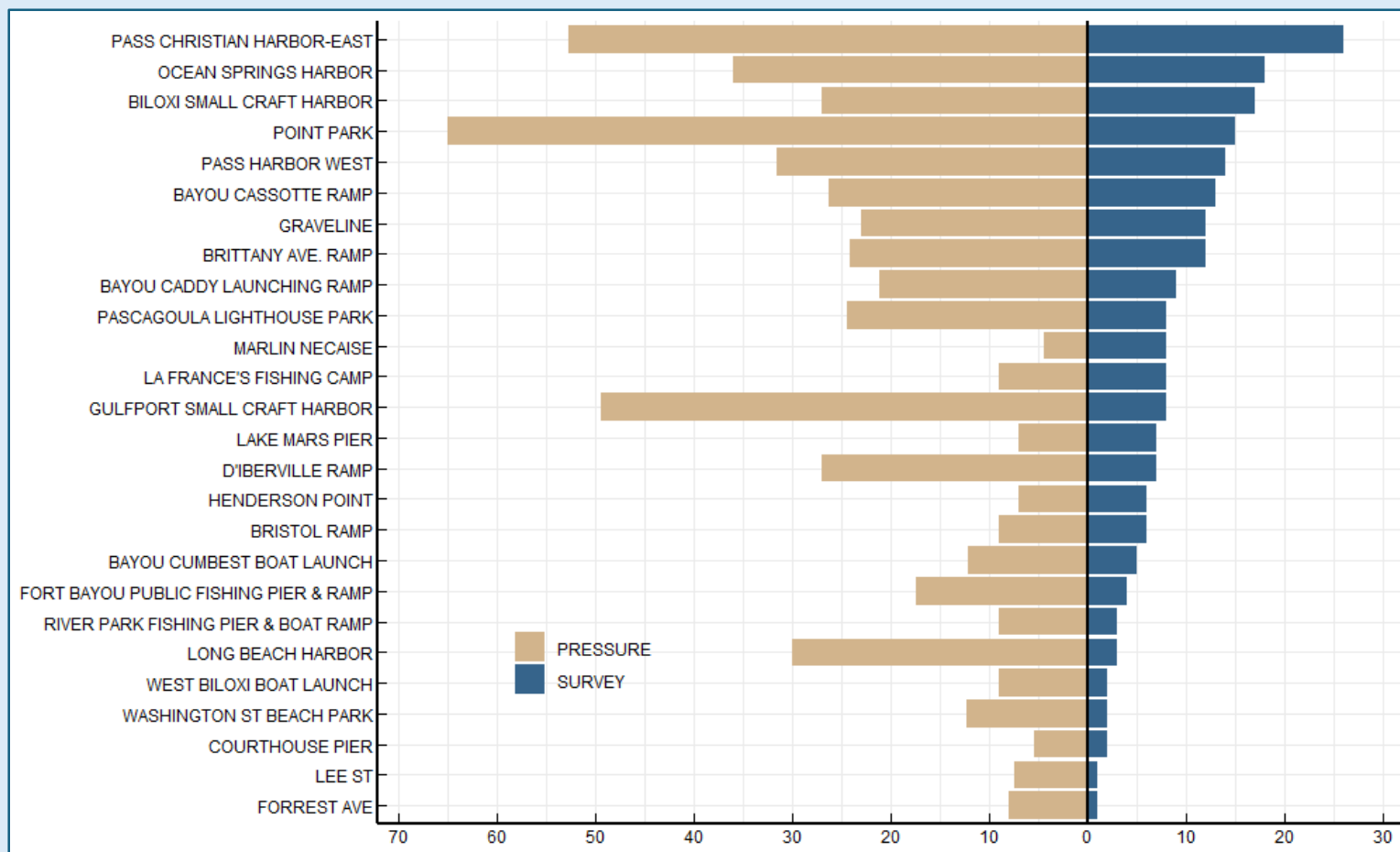
COMPARING MRIP & MS CREEL: ESTIMATED EFFORT

Estimated number of **inshore** angler trips by wave in 2024 and 2025.



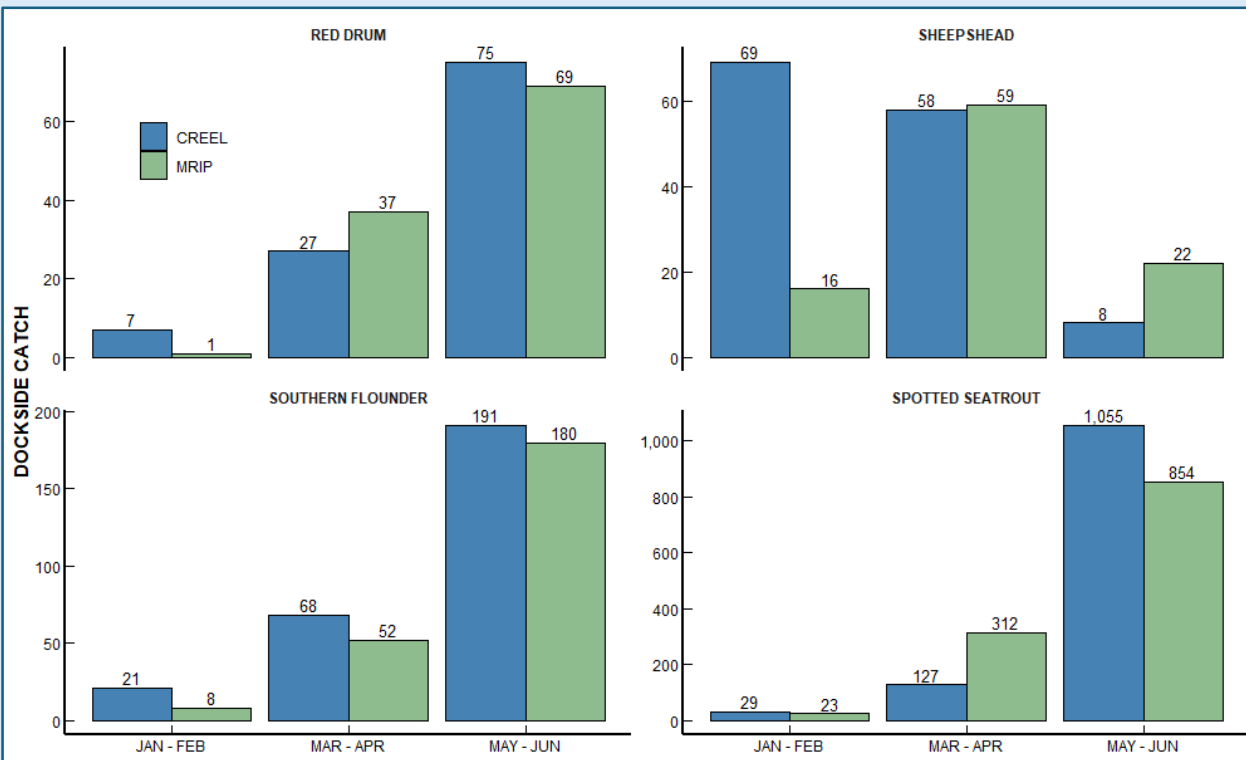
A CASE FOR MS CREEL: DOCKSIDE ASSIGNMENTS

A priori pressure for dockside survey site selection compared to average number of surveys per assignment.

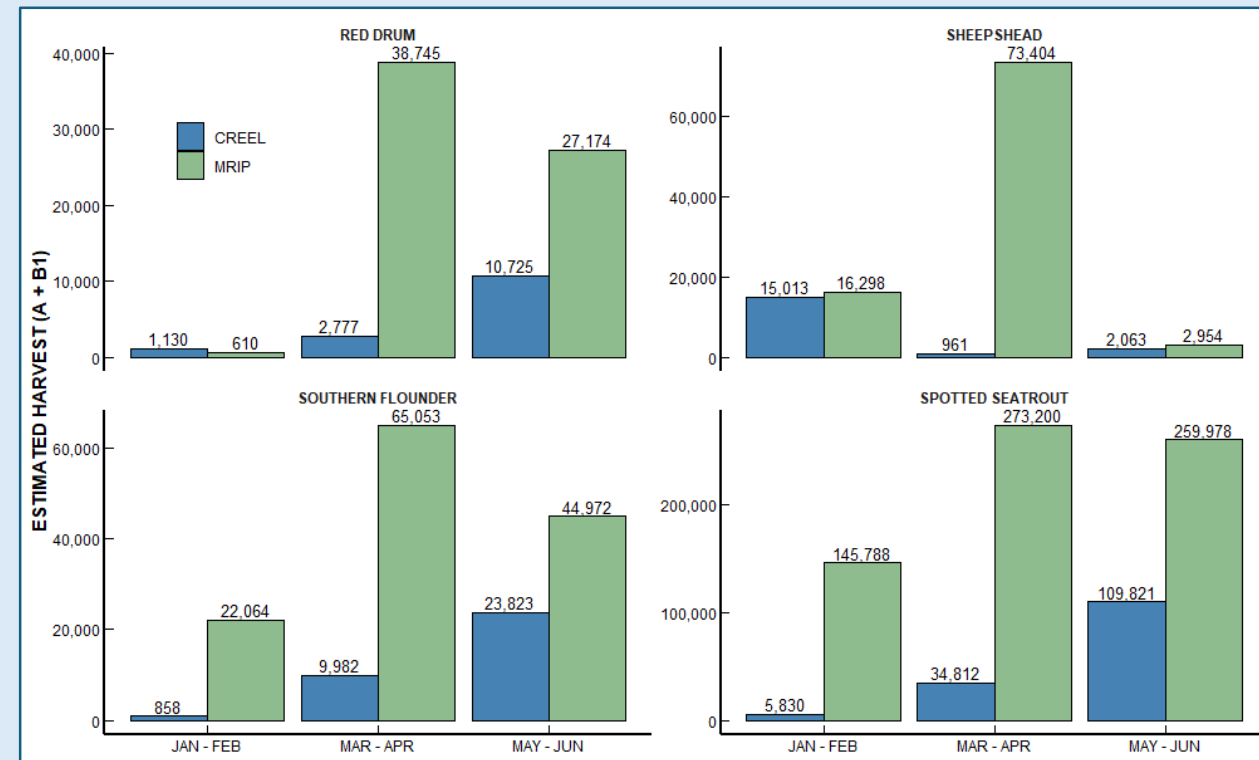


COMPARING MRIP & MS CREEL

Observations of key fish species by wave in 2025



Harvest Estimates of key species by wave in 2025



Summary and Moving Forward

- Most notable differences between MRIP and MS Creel exist in estimations of fishing effort
 - Consistent with arguments and findings of the last decade
- MS Creel results are overall positive
 - Increased survey efficiency and interactions per survey
 - Demographic strata, dockside site selection, etc.
 - More constrained and relative estimates of catch and effort
- Continued improvement of the MS Creel Program
 - Re-evaluation of site pressures and assumptions of the program annually
 - Evaluation of harvest estimates in comparison to fishery performance
 - Benefit the overall management of state fishery resources
- Submission of program for certification by NOAA
 - We have collaborated with our state partners to ensure consistent documentation and process, to ease the transition and review process
 - Awaiting comment and further progression of review process from NMFS staff

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Alabama Marine Resources Division, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Gulf Council, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA Office of Science and Technology, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

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