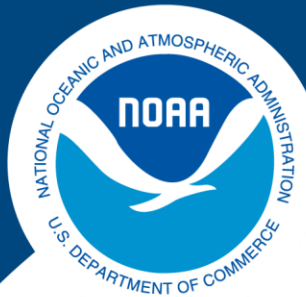


Gulf of Mexico Headboat Collaborative (HBC) Pilot Program



NOAA
FISHERIES

**Southeast
Region**



Biloxi, MS

March-April 2015

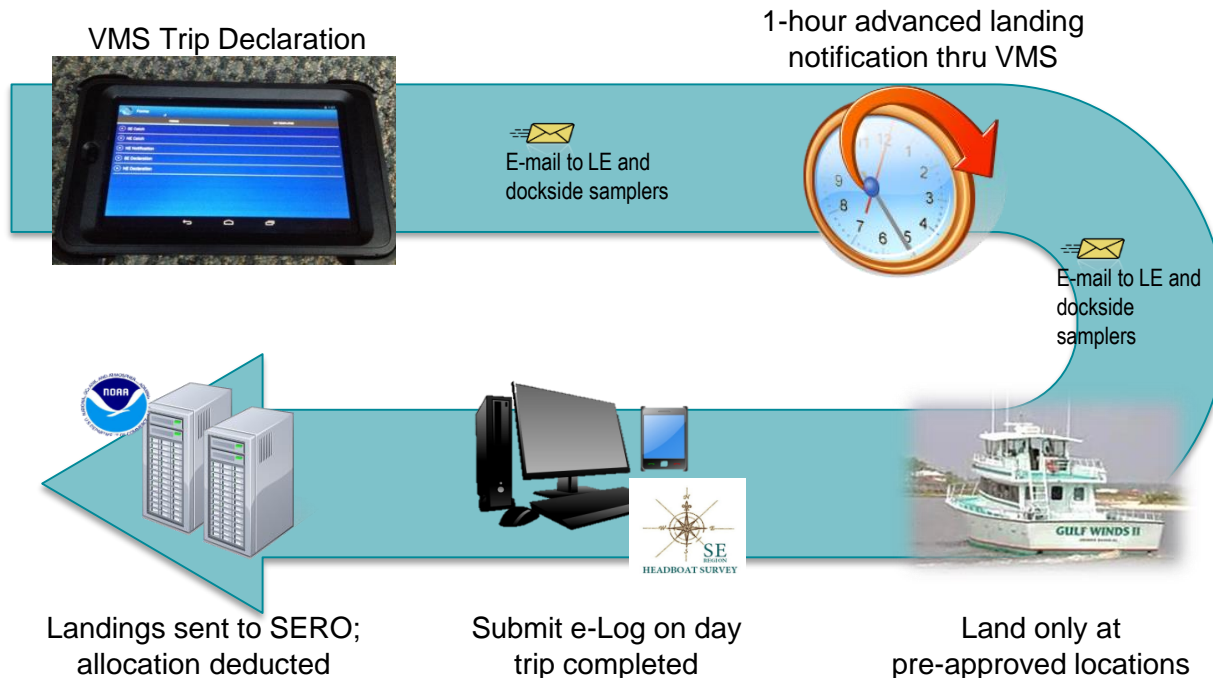
Overview

- Two-year allocation-based program for red snapper and gag
 - 100% catch accountability
 - 17-19 vessels across the Gulf
- Monitoring
 - VMS, hail-out, hail-ins
 - Approved landing locations
 - Trip level reporting



Overview

- NMFS distributed quota to HBC Manager
- HBC manager determined how to distribute to vessels



HBC Tag system

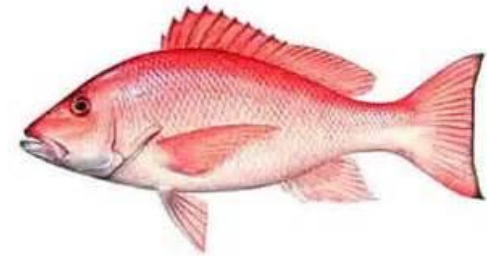
- Developed and managed by HBC participants
- Seton Tyvek tag (weather-proof and tear-proof)
- Color coded for species
- Crew responsible for filling out tags:
 - Vessel name
 - Customer name
 - Date
- Tags attached to fish, stringer, or filet bag

 <p>GULF HEADBOAT COLLABORATIVE EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) PERMIT NO 13-SERO-02</p>	 <p>VESSEL NAME: _____ CUSTOMER NAME: _____ DATE: _____ GAG GROUPER # 0001</p>
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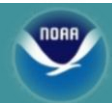
Quota Landed



2014	2015
3,024 fish	1,768 fish
50.3% fish	29.8% fish
22,087 lb gw	15,659 lb gw
51.3% lb gw	37.5% lb gw



2014	2015
54,907 fish	47,111 fish
98.9% fish	84.9% fish
274,443 lb ww	252,407lb ww
95.8% lb ww	89.8% lb ww



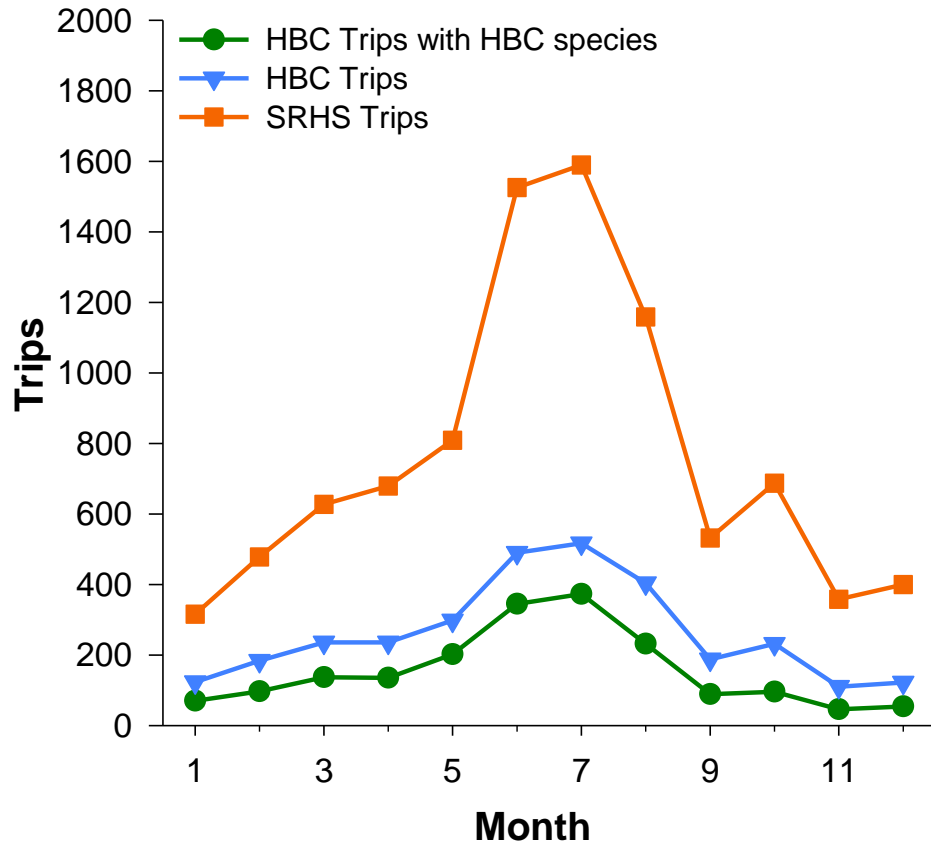
HBC Trips

	2014	2015
Total trips	3,140	3,544
Trips landing HBC species	60%	51%
Trips landing red snapper	41%	38%
Trips landing gag	22%	16%
Half-day trips	35%	36%
$\frac{3}{4}$ day trips	19%	18%
Full day trips	42%	42%
Multi-day trips	4%	4%

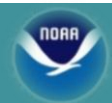
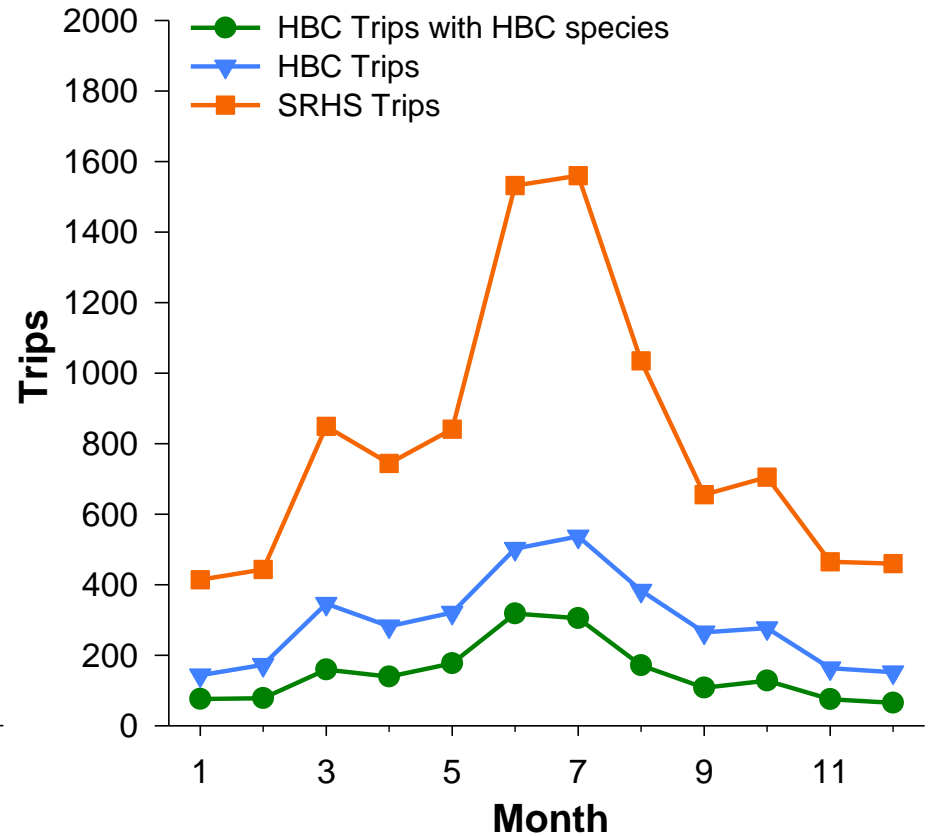


Trip Level Information

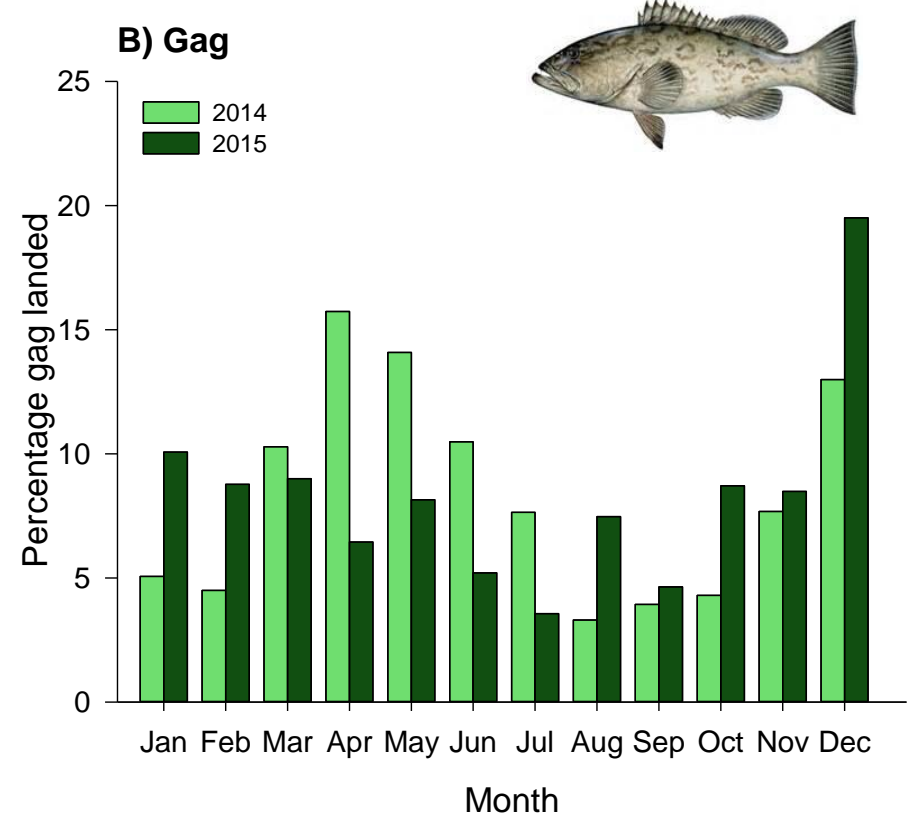
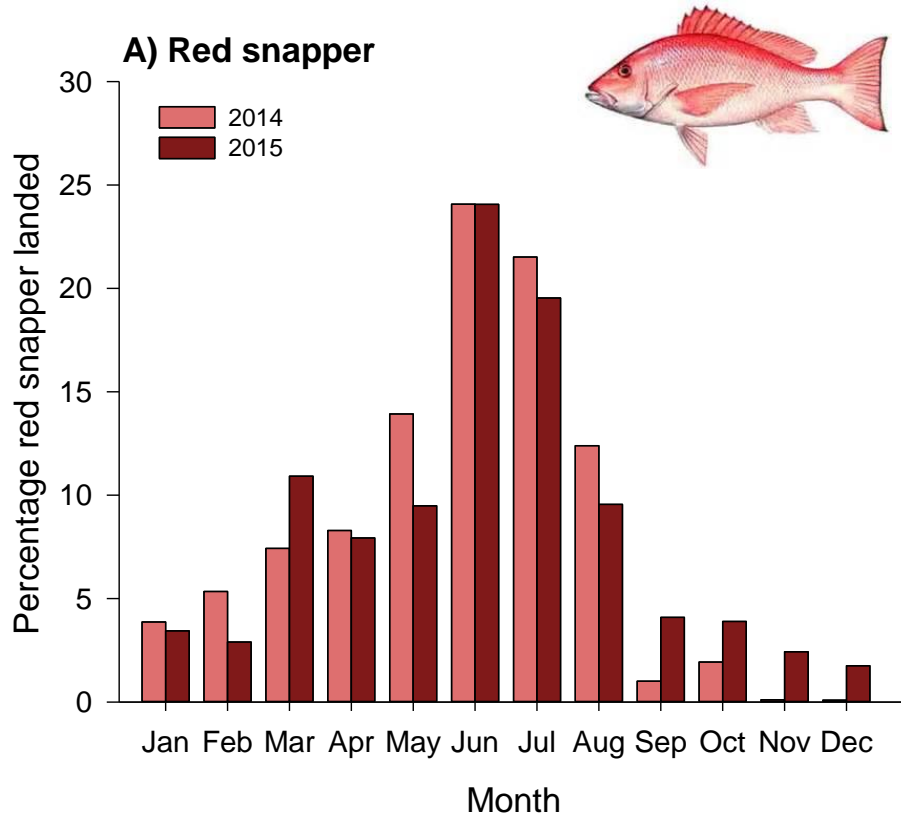
2014



2015



Fish landed per month



Converting Fish to Pounds

- Pre-season conversion
 - Annual conversion: Prior to the start of the program across all months by region
- In-season conversion
 - Monthly conversion: Current year's dockside sampling for HBC vessels per month by region
 - Updated every 15-30 days
- Annual differences
 - Red snapper -3.3% to 5.5% (-12% to 21% monthly)
 - Gag 1.1% to 23.2%(-8.6% to 57.5% monthly)



In-season average weights

Region	2014 Red snapper	2015 Red snapper
AL	5.2 (4.6 – 6.4)	5.8 (4.5 – 7.3)
FL Pan	4.4 (3.9 – 5.1)	4.8 (3.7 – 6.0)
FL Pen	6.2 (2.2 – 13.2)	6.9 (2.7 – 9.5)
TX	5.4 (3.9 – 7.5)	5.4 (4.3 – 8.8)
Gulf-wide	5.0 (2.2 – 13.2)	5.4 (2.7 – 9.5)

Region	2014 Gag	2015 Gag
AL	11.8 (11.4 – 14.6)	9.6 (8.4 – 10.1)
FL Pan	10.4 (6.0 – 14.6)	15.1 (11.9 -23.7)
FL Pen	7.1 (5.6 – 9.1)	8.4 (6.5 – 16.2)
TX	14.5 (NA)	16.95 (NA)
Gulf-wide	7.3 (5.6 – 14.6)	8.8 (6.5 – 23.7)



Allocation transfers

- Transfers between vessels
- Four different transfer reasons

Transfer Reason	2014	2015
No comment	13	12
Bartered trade	6	2
Sale to another vessel	5	6
Gift	7	3

- 68-70% transfers within the same region



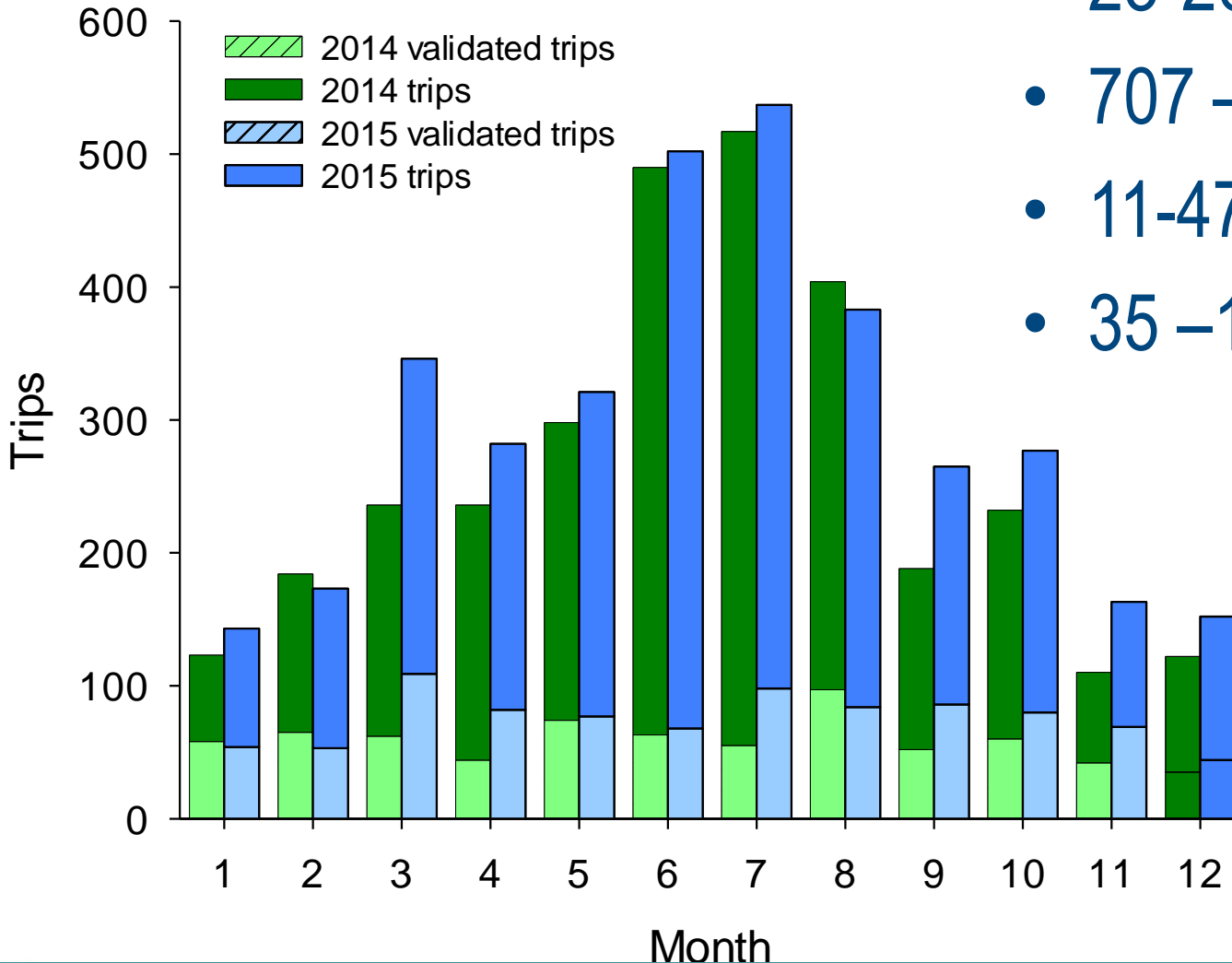
Allocation transfers

Year	Accounts transferring	Transfers	Fish transferred
2014	11	28	3,288 (6% of quota)
2015	10	19	3,008 (5% of quota)

Year	Accounts transferring	Transfers	Fish transferred
2014	2	3	49 (<1% of quota)
2015	3	4	106 (2% of quota)



Trip Validation



- 23-26% per year
- 707 – 904 trips/year
- 11-47% per month
- 35 – 109 trips / month

Landing Validation

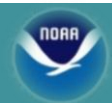
- 30 trips with discrepancies, all red snapper
 - 2014 = 22 trips; 2015 = 8 trips
 - Typically 1-2 fish off hail-in count (max = 6)
 - Captains under-counted 33 fish & over-counted 14 fish
- All discrepancies corrected in IFQ system
- Discrepancies occurred due to:
 - Unfamiliarity with software
 - Identifying species wrong
 - Mixing of same day trips
 - Selecting wrong species
 - Transposing numbers
 - Miscounting



Reporting Compliance

- VMS integral to tracking compliance; validated when a vessel left port
- 8% of trips missed submitting a hail-out (74% tech. errors)
- 7% of trips missed hail-ins (71% tech. errors)
- 4% of e-Logs submitted late
 - Due to technical glitches, new captains unaware of more stringent daily reporting requirement, or forgetfulness

	2014	2015
Missing hail-out	177 (6%)	331 (9%)
Missing hail-in	154 (5%)	337 (10%)
Late e-logs	62 (2%)	212 (6%)



Lessons learned – Harvest

- Trips made year round
 - Both species harvested in every month
- Near real-time landings accounting
 - High reporting compliance
- Allocation transfers allowed for flexibility
 - Allowed transfer of fish to area needed



Lessons learned – System

- Learning curve for new software
 - New captains/mates need to learn the system
- Vessel owners relied on HBV managers for account balance, did not often check their own accounts
- One system should be used for landings
 - Lag time for data transmission
 - Two system increased monitoring/audit time
 - Corrections had to be made in both system



Lessons learned – VMS

- Good working relationship with the vendor helped to identify and solve issues quickly
- Problems VMS lead to missing hail-outs/hail-ins
 - One accidental switch of tablets between vessels.
- Suggest alternative back-up to VMS for hail-ins
 - VMS data bottle-neck occurred, delayed or missing hail-outs/hail-ins
 - Comm. IFQ has additional hail-in phone and web based services



Lessons learned – Enforcement

- Approved Landing locations
 - Ensures site exists and is accessible
 - Allows site description in hail-in
- Tags identified participants, but not necessary for enforcement
- E-mails of hail-outs and hail-ins helpful
- Additional information on hail-out (e.g., location, expected return time) would be helpful



Lessons learned – Validations

- Hail-outs/hail-ins helpful, predict work schedule
- Catch validation needed, but aiming for 20% may be adequate
 - Current staff may not be able to validate at 20% for all charter/headboats
 - Consideration for seasonal increases in trips
- HBC project improved relationships between agents and captains



Lessons learned – Validations

- In-season weights
 - Can be different from pre-season weights
 - Regional differences
 - Number of samples collected important
- Weights vs fish for allocation
 - Fish easier to count
 - In-season weights needed to convert to pounds
 - Mechanism to account for regional differences
 - E.g., Convert to fish only when allocation transferred to the vessel account. Transfers between shareholder accounts in pounds.



Questions?

