

The Status of Southern Flounder, *Paralichthys lethostigma*, in Texas and the Future Needs



Southern flounder is perceived as a species on decline, so we decided to put together a panel of experts to address issues on:

- The status/trends of the species on the Texas coast
- Plans for stock enhancement
- Identify information gaps and research needs

Panel of Scientists

- Dr. Mark Fisher
 - Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
- Dr. Robert Vega
 - Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
- Dr. Greg Stunz
 - Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
- Dr. Joan Holt and Jeff Kaiser
 - University of Texas Marine Science Institute

Questions

- Dr. Fisher, have the relative abundance of southern flounder changed on the Texas coast in the past decade?
- If the relative abundance of southern flounder has decreased what kind of modeling predictions can you formulate for the future of this species in Texas?

Questions cont'd


- Dr. Vega, what are TPWD's southern flounder enhancement plans and goals?
- What are the priorities for the Enhancement Program?

Questions cont'd

- Dr. Stunz, what are the life history traits and fishery issues that might impact this species?
- What can you tell us of about research studies being conducted in Texas?
- Could you identify information gaps and research needs?

Questions cont'd

- Jeff Kaiser, can the current experimental hatchery techniques at UTMSI be implemented on a full scale production basis?



Open Discussion-Questions from the Audience