

Science, Service, Stewardship



Cooperative Black Sea Bass Tagging Project

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**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

Black Sea Bass
(*Centropristis striata*)

Member of family
Serranidae (groupers)

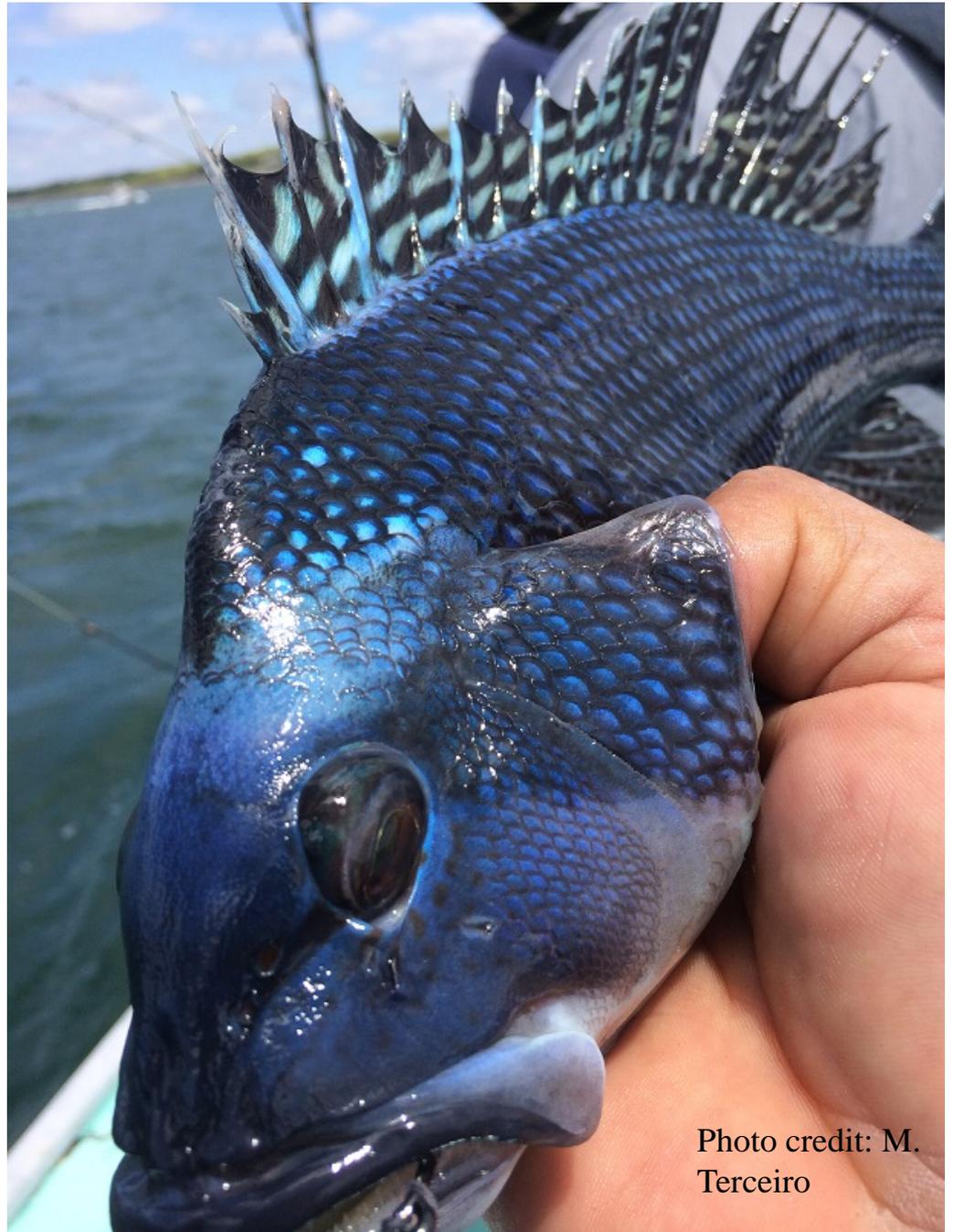


Photo credit: M.
Terceiro



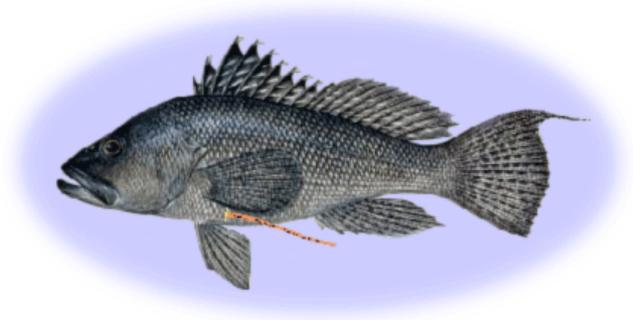
Three genetically distinct groups of black sea bass along the Atlantic coast – north and south of Cape Hatteras, NC

Tagging project in 2002-2004.

Worked with Commercial and Party/Charter vessels to tag black sea bass during 4 two week periods.



Tagged over 13,500 sea bass with traditional internal anchor tags

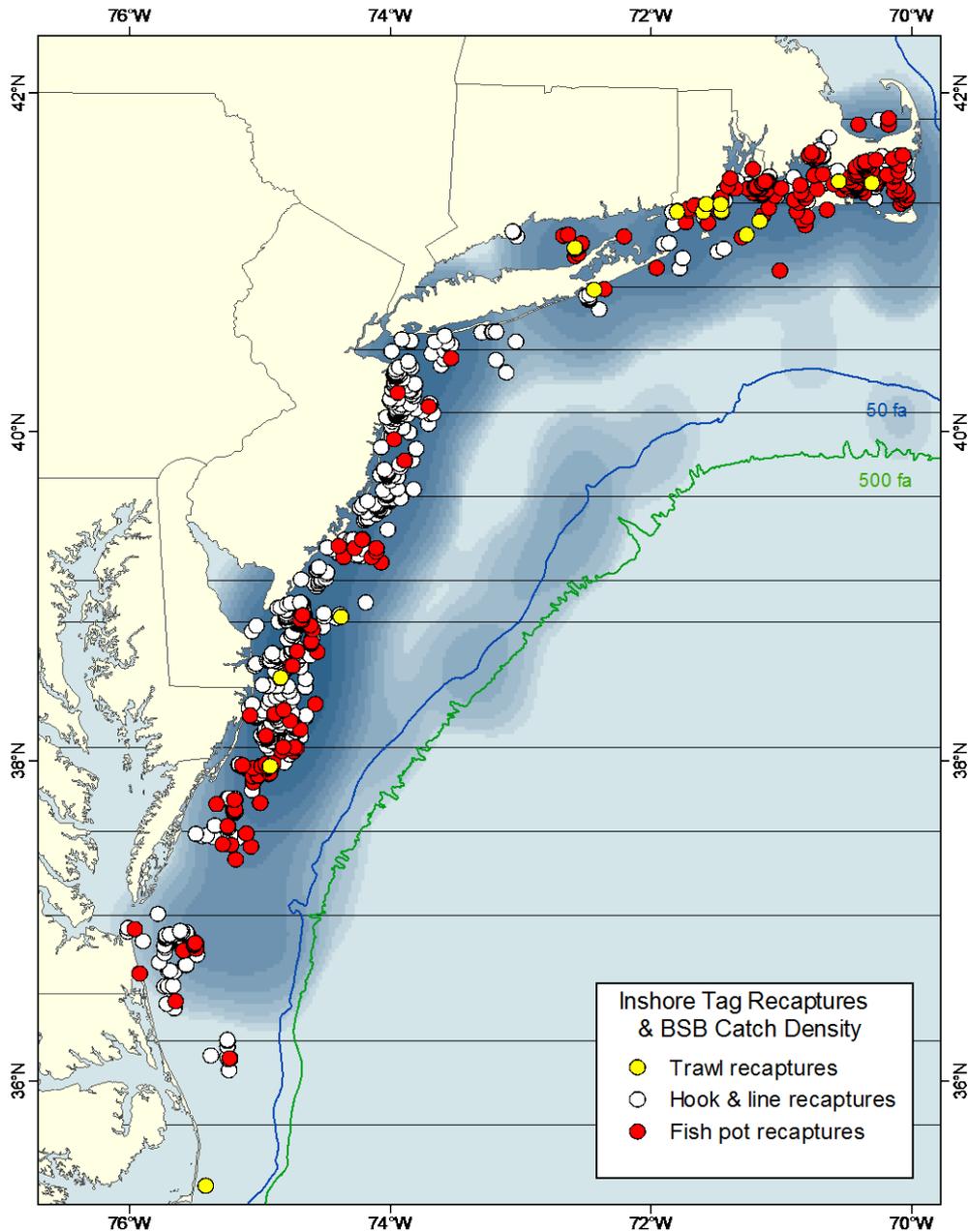


Josh Moser, tagger

Tag recoveries
show seasonal
change in
distribution

Generally:

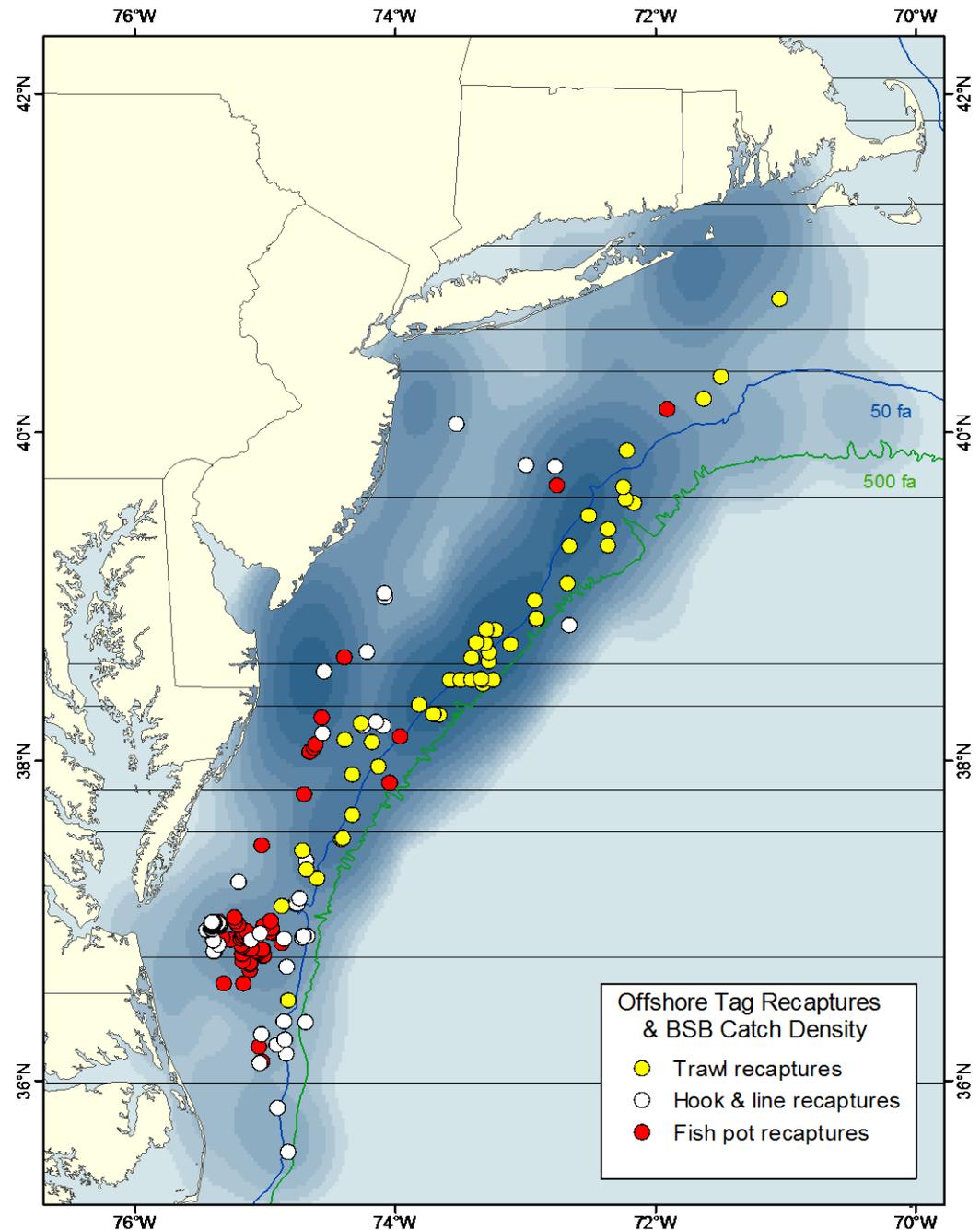
Inshore May
– October



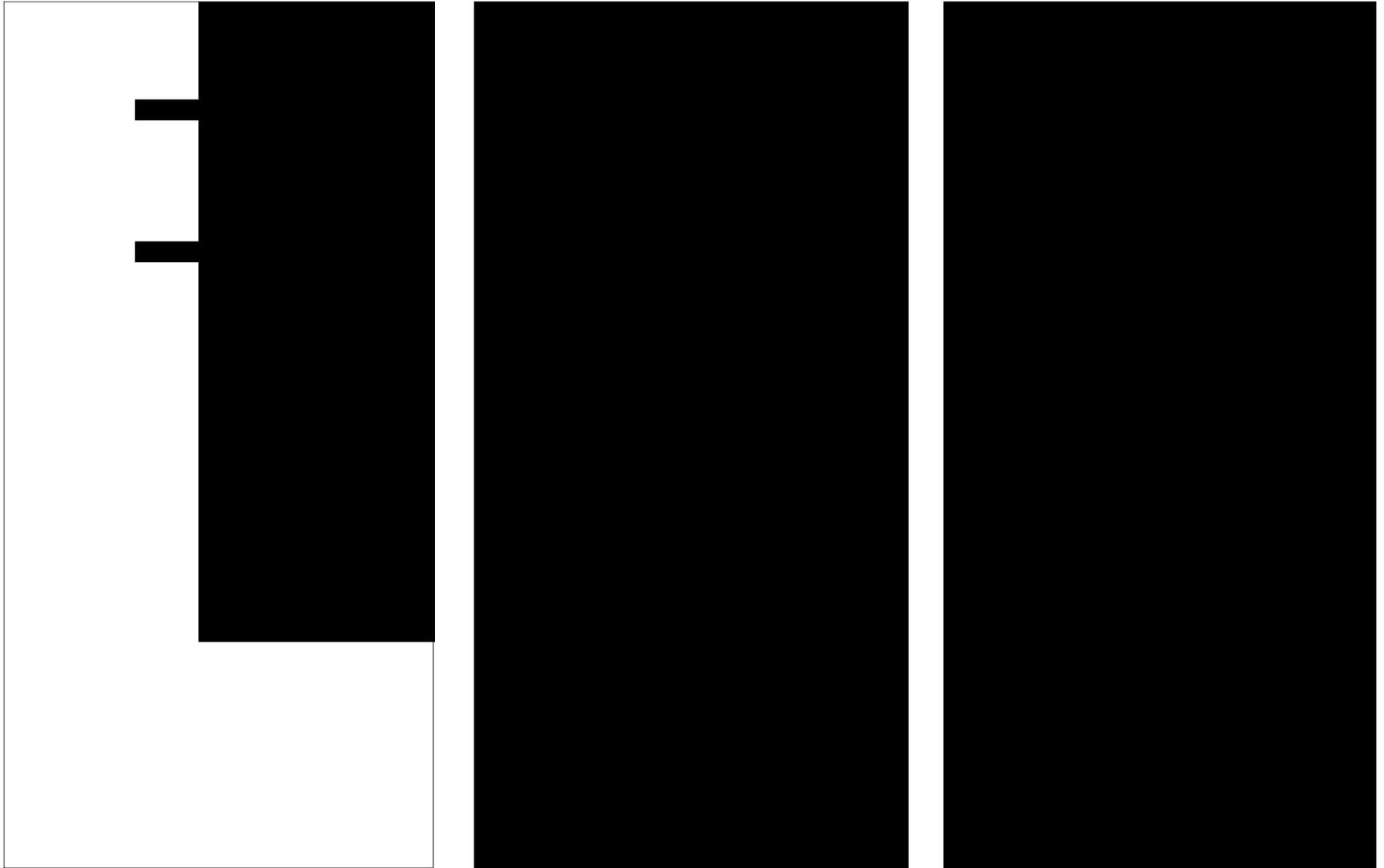
Tag recoveries
show seasonal
change in
distribution

Offshore

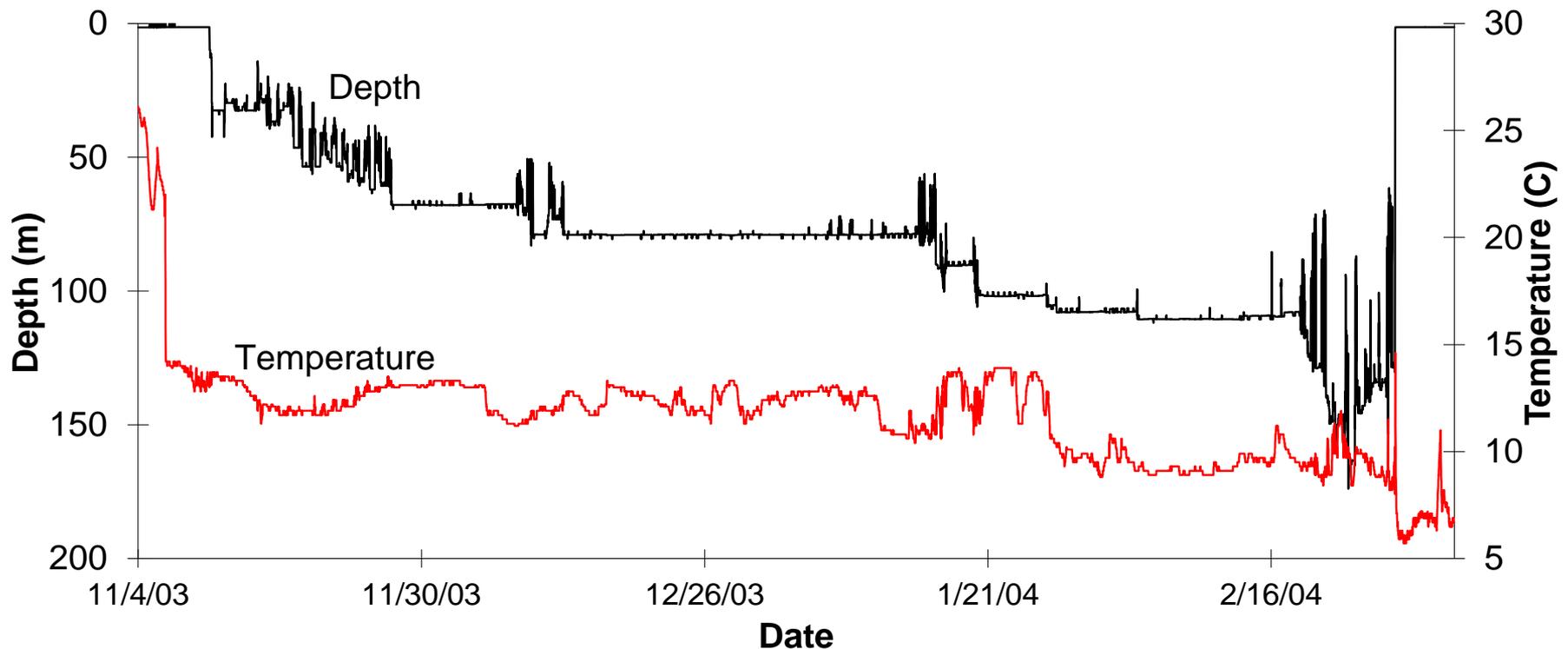
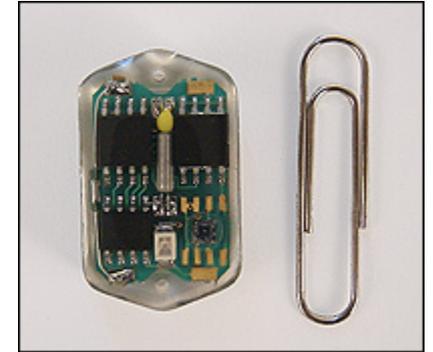
November-
April



Tagging shows relatively local sub-groups with site fidelity a function of distance migrate



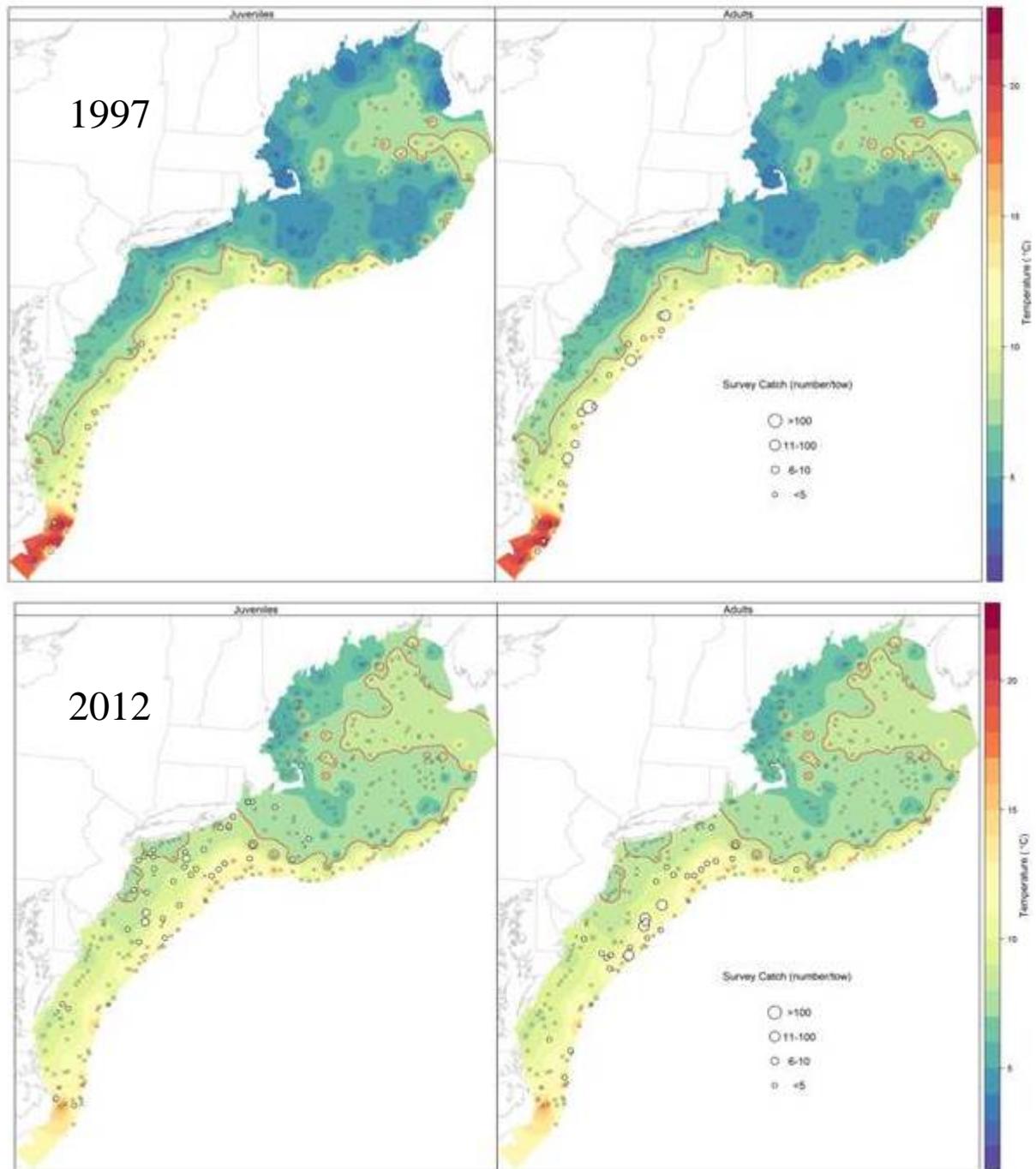
Also some **Data Storage Tags (DST)** -
Record temperature and depth
(pressure) every few seconds up to two
years.



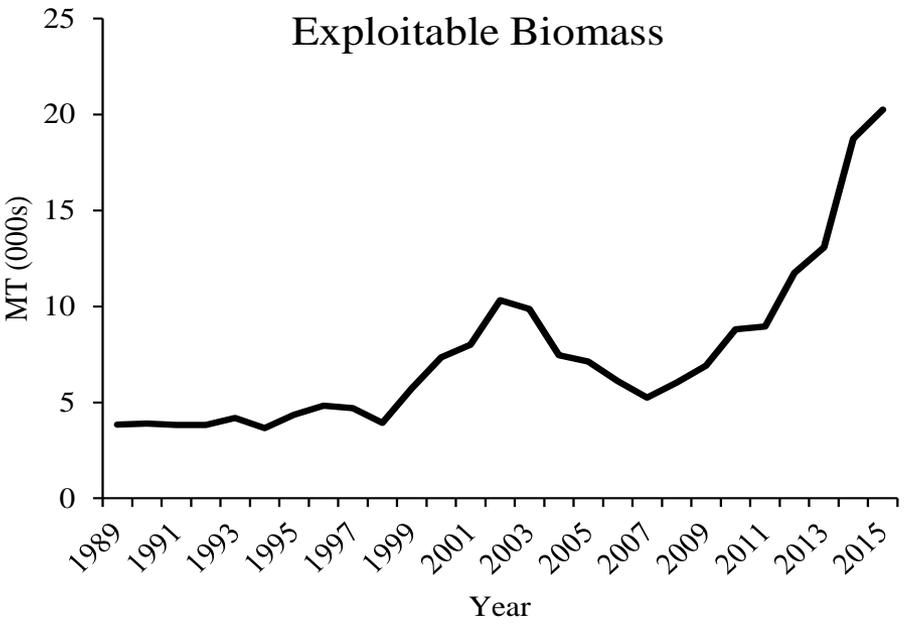
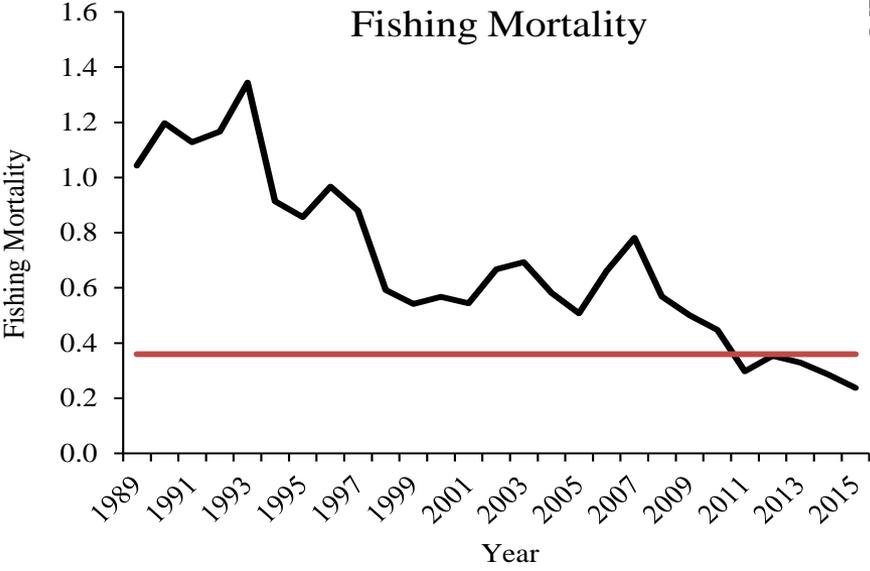
The influence of temperature in sea bass recruitment.

Cold winter (top) yields poor recruitment, while warm winters (bottom) improve juvenile survival

Miller, A.S., G.R. Shepherd, P.S. Fratantoni. 2016. Offshore Habitat Preference of Overwintering Juvenile and Adult Black Sea Bass, *Centropristis striata*, and the Relationship to Year-Class Success. PLoS ONE 11(1): e0147627



Tagging results also proved important in 2016 benchmark stock assessment



Recent abundance enough
that everyone has a chance
to catch one!



The end