

Commercial Vermilion Snapper Fishing in the Gulf of Mexico States

Vermilion snapper (*Rhomboplites aurorubens*) is also known as Snapper, Beeliner, Clubhead Snapper, Night Snapper, Besugo, and Rubia¹. The species inhabits the western Atlantic from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to southeastern Brazil, including the West Indies, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea^{1,2}. Vermilion snapper can live in water from 60 – 400 feet deep, but are most abundant in water less than 180 feet deep¹. They live on the seafloor and prefer rock, gravel, or sand bottoms near the edge of continental and island shelves^{1,2}. Although they sometimes swim in large schools, they do not travel far^{1,2}.

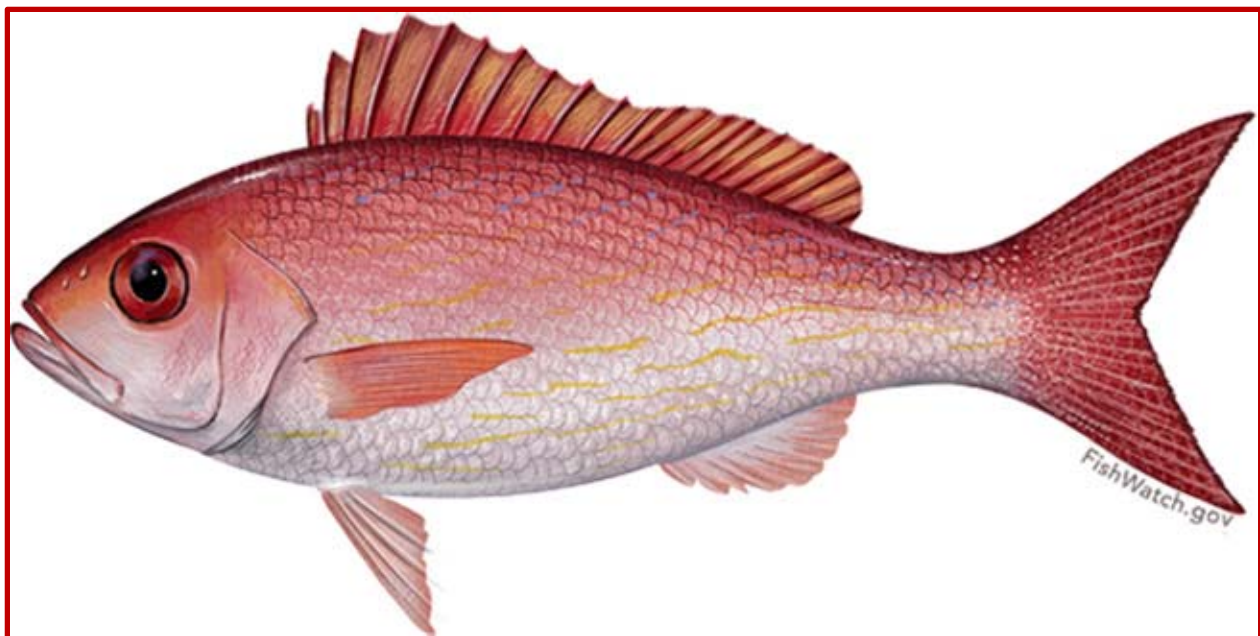


Figure 1. Vermilion snapper (*Rhomboplites aurorubens*). Source: NOAA Fisheries. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/vermilion-snapper>. Last visited: October 3, 2018.

Vermilion snapper grow slowly and can reach a maximum length of 2 feet and a maximum weight of 7 pounds, though they commonly reach 1 foot in length^{1,2}. They live up to 10 years and become sexually mature between 1 and 2 years of age^{1,2}. Each year, vermilion snapper spawn multiple times from April – September; spawning peaks during June – August¹.

Vermilion snapper eat fish, shrimp, crabs, worms, squid, plankton, and bottom-dwelling invertebrates¹.

Vermilion snapper supports valuable commercial and recreational fisheries¹. NOAA Fisheries and the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils manage vermilion snapper, which is divided into a South Atlantic stock and a Gulf of Mexico stock¹. Neither of these is considered overfished or undergoing overfishing, according to two recent assessments (2016 for South Atlantic and 2018 for the Gulf of Mexico)¹.

References:

- <https://www.fishwatch.gov/profiles/vermilion-snapper>
- <https://www.fishbase.de/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?ID=213&AT=vermilion+snapper>

Recipe for Grilled Snapper Vera Cruz



Figure 2. This recipe is courtesy of foodnetwork.com. For ingredients and cooking instructions, please visit <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/bobby-flay/grilled-snapper-vera-cruz-recipe-1949786>. Last visited: October 3, 2018.

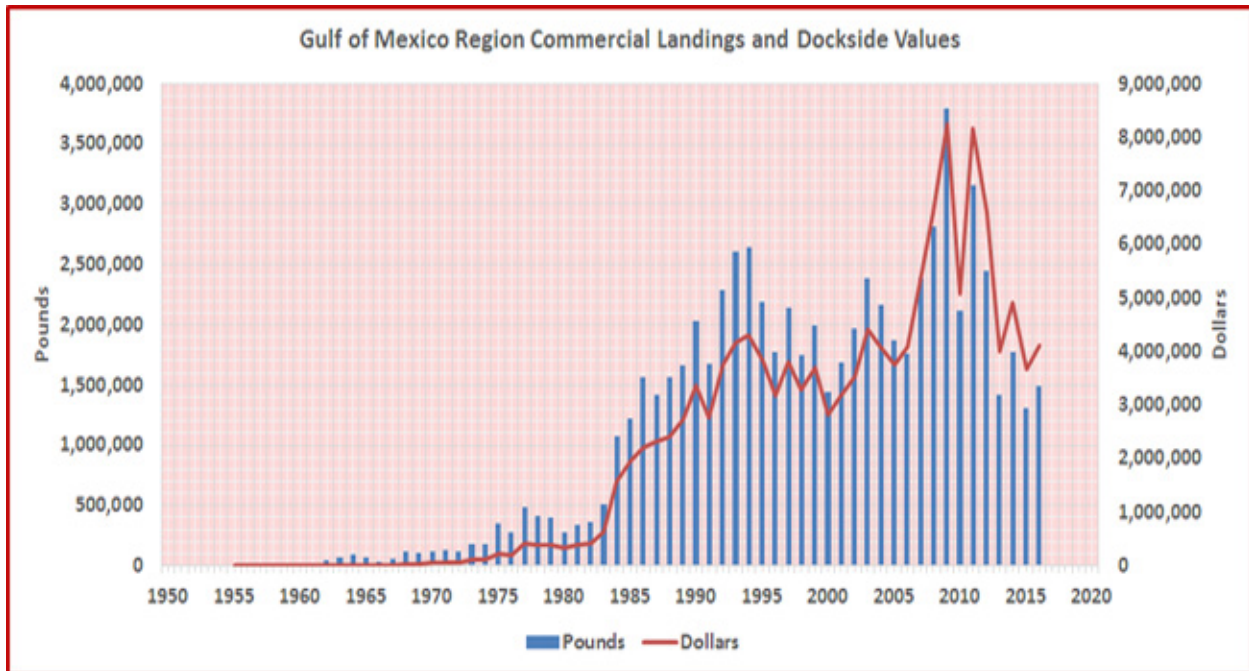


Figure 3. Commercial landings and dockside values of Vermilion snapper in the Gulf of Mexico region. The primary vertical axis shows the yearly commercial landings in pounds while the secondary vertical axis indicates the annual commercial dockside values in dollars. Source of raw data: NOAA Fisheries. Last visited: October 3, 2018. <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

Commercial Landings

The long-term annual commercial Vermilion snapper landings in the Gulf of Mexico states are shown in Fig. 3. Since 2011, the Gulf supplied 66.47% of the total Vermilion snapper domestic landings (Fig. 4) averaging 1.93 million pounds and valued at \$5.23 million annually.

In 2015 and 2016, Florida West Coast (38%), Louisiana (12%), and Texas (11%) were the most significant suppliers from the Gulf of Mexico (Fig. 5). The rest of the Vermilion snapper was landed in Florida East Coast (14%). South Carolina landed 13%, and North Carolina added 11% to domestic landings.

Dockside prices of Vermilion snapper in the Gulf of Mexico states averaged about \$2.82 per pound during the past six years (Fig. 6). The ex-vessel prices were deflated by the consumer price index (2016=100).

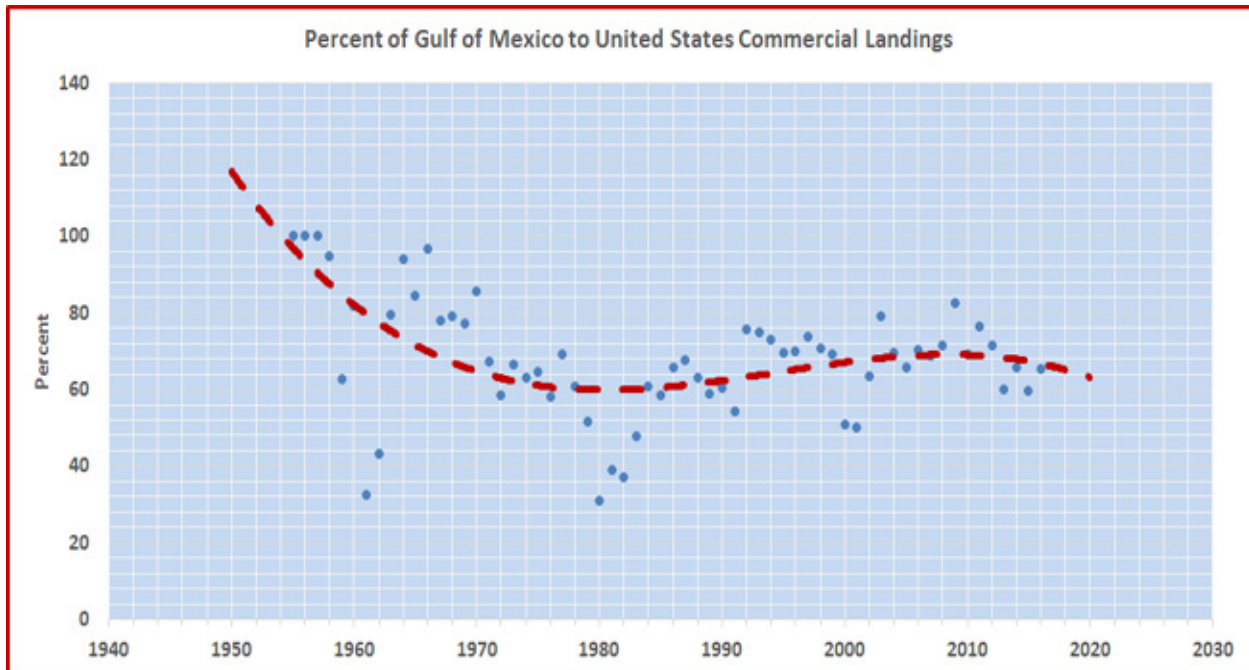


Figure 4. The vertical axis shows the percent of Gulf of Mexico to United States commercial landings of Vermilion snapper. Source of raw data: NOAA Fisheries. Last visited: October 3, 2018. <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

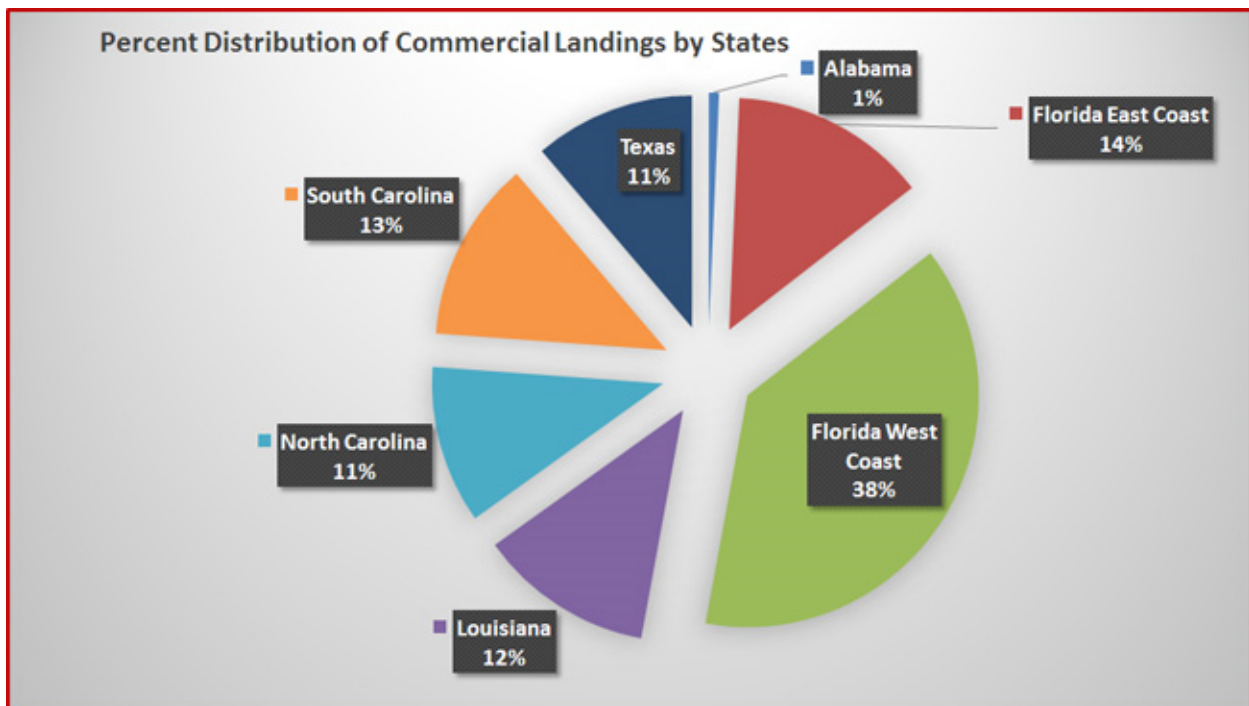


Figure 5. The pie chart shows the 2015-2016 average percent distribution of commercial landings of Vermilion snapper by producing states. Source of raw data: NOAA Fisheries. Last visited: Oct. 3, 2018. <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

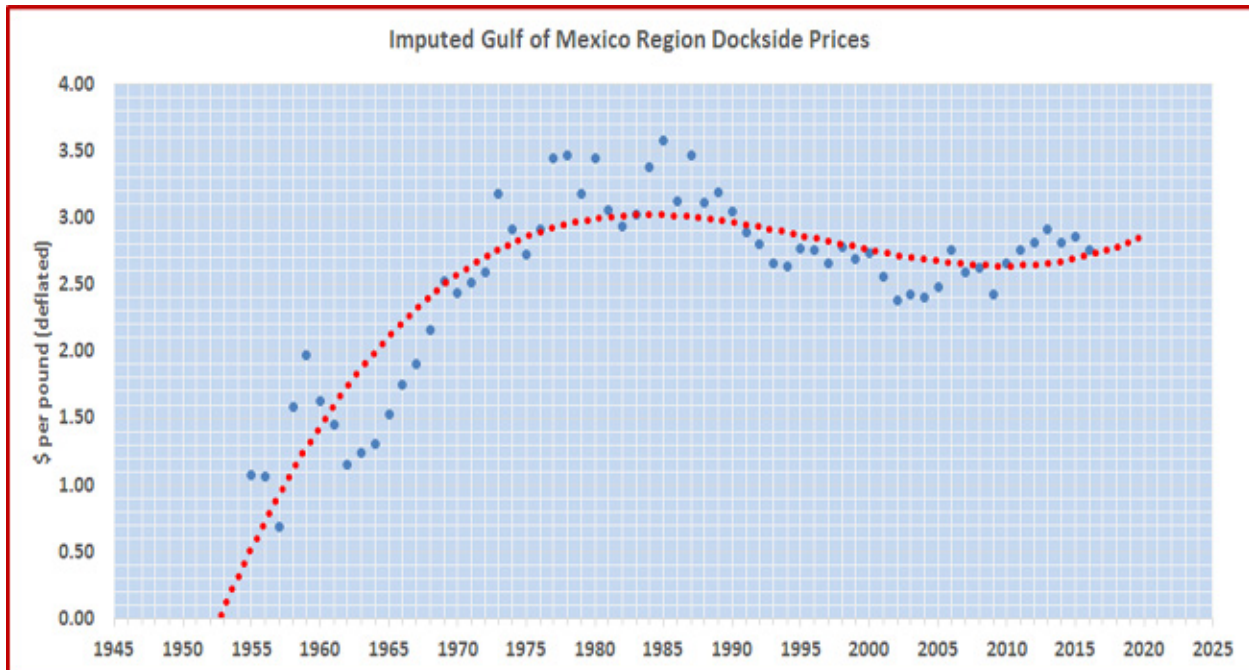


Figure 6. The vertical axis shows the average yearly dockside prices of Vermilion snapper in dollars per pound. Source of raw data: NOAA Fisheries. Last visited: October 3, 2018. <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

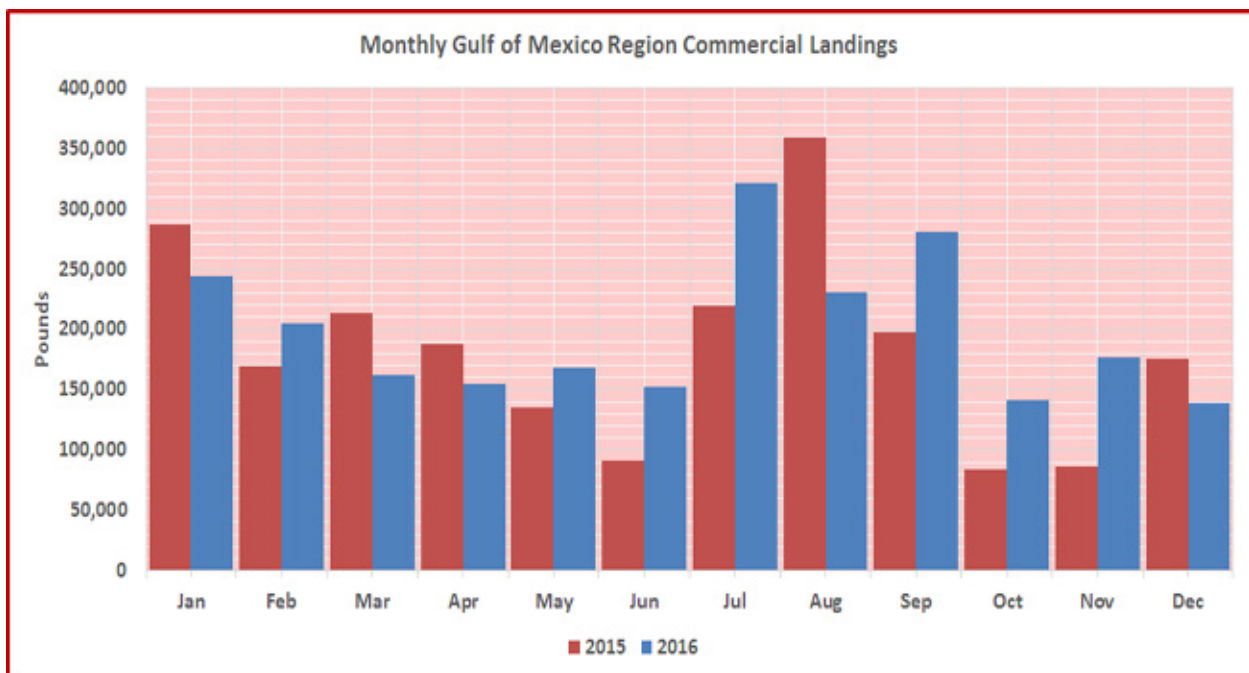


Figure 7. The vertical axis shows the monthly commercial landings of Vermilion snapper in pounds. Source of raw data: NOAA Fisheries. Last visited: October 3, 2018. <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

MarketMaker Seafood Businesses

In 2016, the Gulf-wide commercial landings of Vermilion snapper reached more than 1.49 million pounds with dockside values of \$4.10 million. Vermilion snapper are harvested year-round (Fig. 7). More than 12,000 businesses which catch, process, and sell seafood products are registered in MarketMaker nationwide. There are more than 200 businesses which promote their seafood products and services in Mississippi MarketMaker.

To search for seafood businesses in MarketMaker, perform the following procedures:

1. Go to <https://ms.foodmarketmaker.com/main/mmsearch/>
2. Click “search” and type “**Seafood**” in the product box.
3. You can sort the search results by relevance and name.
4. You can also limit online searches by state, and type of business.

Economic Contributions

The economic contribution that the commercial Vermilion snapper fishing makes region-wide is crucial information in making private investment decisions, formulating government policy, and developing research and extension programs for the industry. The IMPLAN (<http://implan.com/>) software and the 2013 input-output data for the five Gulf States were used in creating the regional economic model of commercial fishing in the Gulf of Mexico in 2016. The economic analysis used sector 17 or commercial fishing of the 2013 IMPLAN input-output data.

The annual commercial dockside values of Vermilion snapper in the Gulf of Mexico states in 2016 reached \$4.10 million, which was 22% less than the average yearly dockside values in the region since 2011. The total output contribution of commercial Vermilion snapper fishing in 2016 amounted to \$7.8 million (Fig. 8). This output of goods and service created by the Vermilion snapper commercial fishing and related industries sustained 109 jobs and generated labor income amounting to \$2.8 million in the Gulf regional economy.

The Vermilion snapper commercial fishing industry generates annual tax revenues for the Gulf States and the U.S. federal government. It was projected that about \$480,000 would have been paid by households and businesses in 2016 to the federal government as social insurance tax, tax on production and imports, corporate profit tax, and personal income tax. The Gulf States were anticipated to have collected taxes from households and businesses in 2016 amounting to about \$235,000 in social insurance tax, tax on production and imports, corporate profits tax, and personal tax.

Economic contribution of commercial Vermilion snapper fishing in the Gulf of Mexico region				
Impact Type	Employment (Jobs)	Labor Income (\$M)	Total Value Added (\$M)	Output (\$M)
Direct Effect	89	1.7	2.1	4.1
Indirect Effect	7	0.4	0.8	1.8
Induced Effect	14	0.6	1.2	1.9
Total Effect	109	2.8	4.1	7.8

Figure 8. The total economic contribution includes direct, indirect and induced effects estimated by using 2016 annual landing values and 2013 IMPLAN data. The local purchases percentage was set at 100%. The number of jobs is rounded off.

Suggested citation:

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