



GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR TRIPLETAIL IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AND THE WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC NOW AVAILABLE

Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia – The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) is pleased to announce the completion and final approval of the *Biological Profile for Tripletail in the Gulf of Mexico and the Western Central Atlantic*. The Biological Profile is a cooperative effort to describe the tripletail populations throughout the territorial seas of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and Central Western Atlantic.

Atlantic tripletail (*Lobotes surinamensis*), a pelagic fish species found throughout tropical and subtropical regions of the world's oceans, supports commercial and recreational fisheries throughout much of its geographic range. Tripletail are found throughout the Western Central Atlantic Ocean, including the Southern Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Bermuda, and southward to Argentina. Very little is known about the biology and life history of tripletail, including age and growth, reproductive biology, seasonal movements, and migratory patterns.

The Profile includes a description of the U.S. and world fisheries as well as discussion on the limited information available regarding this species throughout its range in the Atlantic basin as well as its occurrence and importance in the Caribbean and South America. The Profile also includes the five Gulf states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida) and Georgia's management authorities, laws, regulations, and policies regarding tripletail in each state's jurisdictional waters.

The GSMFC is pleased to provide the Profile at our website as a downloadable Adobe PDF file at

<http://www.gsmfc.org/publications/GSMFC%20Number%20258.pdf>

or at

<http://tinyurl.com/TripleTailProfile>.

For more information, please contact Steve VanderKooy at the GSMFC office.

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The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) was established by an act of Congress (P.L. 81-66) in 1949 as a compact of the five Gulf States. Its charge is

“to promote better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the seaboard of the Gulf of Mexico, by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries and the prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries from any cause.”

The GSMFC is composed of three members from each of the five Gulf States; the head of the marine resource agency of each state, a member of the state legislature, and a citizen appointed by the governor. The GSMFC is empowered to make recommendations to the governors and legislatures of the five Gulf States on action regarding programs helpful to the management of the fisheries. The states do not relinquish any of their rights or responsibilities in regulating their own fisheries by being members of the GSMFC. Recommendations to the states are based on scientific studies made by experts employed by state and federal resource agencies and advice from law enforcement officials and the commercial and recreational fishing industries. The GSMFC is also authorized to consult with and advise the proper administrative agencies of the member states regarding fishery conservation problems. In addition, the GSMFC advises the U.S. Congress and may testify on legislation and marine policies that affect the Gulf States. One of the most important functions of the GSMFC is to serve as a forum for the discussion of various problems, issues, and programs concerning marine management.