

Goosefish Cooperative Survey
Preliminary Summary
April 24, 2001

Three legs of surveying were completed as of April 7, 2001. Sampling dates and number of tows successfully completed were:

Vessel	Leg	Dates	Number of successful tows
Mary K	1	Feb 27-March 4	18
	2	March 14-March 21	43
	3	March 27-April 7	64
	Total		125
Drake	1	Feb. 27-March 5	53
	2	March 14-March 21	61
	3	March 26-April 7	62
	Total		176
Both Vessels	Total		301

Catches were as follows. Catch rates (averages per tow) are unadjusted for actual time net was in contact with the bottom and therefore subject to change. SBR=soft bottom rock hopper net, HBR=hard bottom rock hopper net.

Vessel	Leg	Net	Kg caught	Number caught	Average kg/tow	Average no/tow	Average fish weight (kg)
Mary K	1	Franco	4712.7	2305	261.8	128.1	2.0
	2	Franco	3707.3	1879	86.2	43.7	2.0
	3	Franco	4220.8	2029	65.9	31.7	2.1
	Total		12640.8	6213	101.1	49.7	2.0
Drake	1	SBR	766.0	618	38.3	30.9	1.2
	2	SBR	1666.9	1264	53.8	40.8	1.3
	3	SBR	497.5	303	11.8	7.2	1.6
	Total SBR		2930.3	2185	31.5	23.5	1.3
Drake	1	HBR	218.5	238	6.6	7.2	0.9
	2	HBR	630.8	489	21.0	16.3	1.3
	3	HBR	164.1	61	8.2	3.1	2.7
	Total HBR		1013.4	788	12.2	9.5	1.3
	Total Drake		3943.8	2973			
	Total Cruise		16584.6	9186			

The number of vertebrae collected for aging was:

Vessel	Leg	Number of vertebrae	
Mary K	1	329	
	2	452	
	3	605	
	Total		1,386
Drake	1	444	
	2	700	
	3	244	
	Total		1,388
Both Vessels	Total		2,774

Additional samples and data collected included illicia and otoliths for age comparison studies, sex and maturity stages, ovarian samples and egg veil weights for studies of reproduction, individual goosefish lengths, weights, liver weights and head width measurements, stomach contents (composition and quantity), and overall composition of the catch (weight and number of other species caught).

Seven tows done by the Drake using the soft bottom rockhopper net in southern New England were repeated by the Mary K four to five days later. The average ratio of catch rates (Mary K : Drake) was 2.3 : 1 (kg and numbers of goosefish).