Cooperative Black Sea Bass Tagging Project

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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
Generally:

Inshore May – October

Tag recoveries show seasonal change in distribution
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.

Tagging results also proved important in 2016 benchmark stock assessment.
Recent abundance enough that everyone has a chance to catch one!

The end