

• SEX RATIO AND FECUNDITY OF VERMILION SNAPPER, *Rhomboplites aurorubens*, FROM NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA. Churchill B. Grimes. A sample of 874 fish collected from the Outer Continental Shelf from 1972 to 1974 indicated the population sex ratio to be 63:37 ♀:♂ and significantly different from 1:1 ($p < .05$). Sex ratios observed in subsamples varied with latitude of capture, year of capture, and size of fish within the subsamples, but did not vary with water depth at the sampling location. Males and females are apparently equally abundant in the population at hatching, but the proportion of females increases (60 per cent) as the cohort ages, and eventually constitutes 100 per cent of the cohort. Some vermilion snapper are

sexually mature at three years of age and nearly all are mature at age four. Fecundity estimates for individual females varied from about 100,000 to 1.8 million ova. Compared to fish length and age, fish weight is the best predictor of fecundity ($F = e^{10.2183+.0019W}$ where F = fecundity, W = weight (g), and $r = .864$).