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To: VanderKooy, Steve
Subject: red drum

ALABAMA RED DRUM <?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

ESCAPEMENT ESTIMATES FOR FISHING YEARS 1999-2003

Escapement as defined by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is a measure of the intensity of fishing on the inshore population of red drum. It is the ratio, expressed as a percent, of the number of fish present at age 4, divided by the number of age 4 fish that would be present if there was no fishery. NMFS has mandated that escapement be equal to or exceed 30%.

Alabama Marine Resources Division's fishery independent data is not sufficient by itself to make an escapement estimate at this time. For the purpose of this red drum escapement estimate, fishery dependent data was used. Data included gillnet samples through 2003, roving creel (95-03), otolith data (02-03), and MRFSS data (95-02). For this escapement estimate, a natural mortality of 0.2 was used. Most of the natural mortality for red drum occurs from age 0 to 1 and is estimated at 0.6 (Porch 1999). Based upon these assumptions, analysis indicates that escapement averaged 41% for red drum in Alabama for the years 1999 - 2003.

Porch, C. E., 1999. Status of the Red Drum stocks of the Gulf of Mexico. Southeast

Fisheries Science Center Miami Laboratory. Sustainable Fisheries Division Contribution: SFD-98/99/