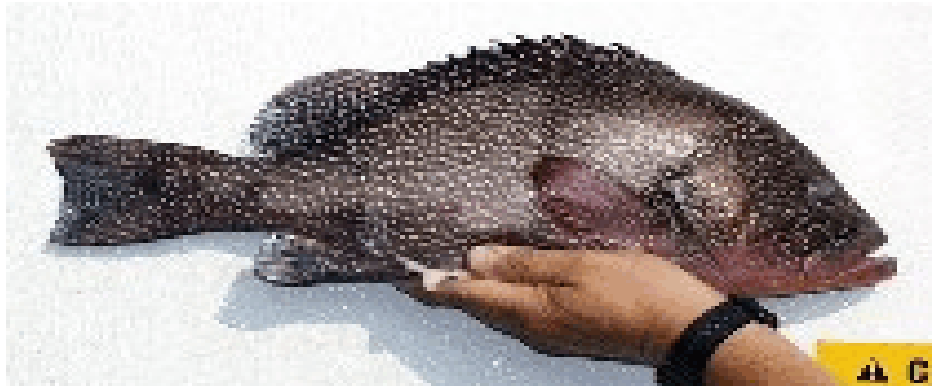


Common Name: **Speckled Hind**



Photograph by Robert Wiggers at [www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org)

Scientific Name: *Epinephelus drummondhayi*

Area of Concern: Western Atlantic: south Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico

Year First Listed as a “Species of Concern”: 1997

Species Description:

Speckled hind derive their name from the multitude of tiny white spots that cover their reddish-brown head, body and fins. Speckled hinds are deep-water groupers: adults inhabit offshore rocky bottoms in depths of 25 to 183 m but are most common between 60 and 120 m. Speckled hind are protogynous hermaphrodites (change from female to male); females mature at 4 or 5 years of age (45-60 cm TL). Spawning occurs from July to September. Maximum size is about 110 cm TL and maximum weight is 30 kg. Prey items, which can be engulfed whole, include fishes, crabs, shrimps, lobsters and mollusks

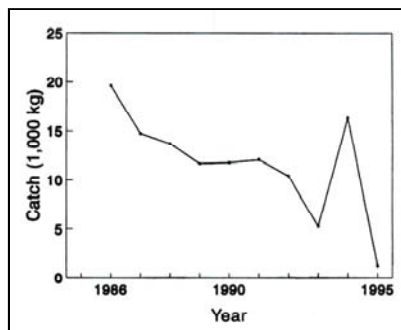
Rationale for “Species of Concern” Listing:

Demographic and Diversity Concerns:

Speckled hind are caught as bycatch from the deepwater snapper/grouper fisheries off the coast of N.C. through Texas. There is a paucity of data for this species: the stock structure is not characterized, population size is unknown and much of their life history has not been thoroughly investigated.

Factors for decline:

The major threat to the speckled hind is mortality as a result of fishing or by-catch release mortality (due to barotrauma). Both recreational and commercial fisheries for speckled hind are currently regulated in the south Atlantic; the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council considers the species as overfished and undergoing overfishing. In the Gulf of Mexico commercial fishery, there are no possession limits for the species for federally permitted reef fish vessels, and both species are managed under the Deep-water grouper commercial quota. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council classifies the status of speckled hind as “unknown.”



Last updated\_4/13/2004

Figure 1. Speckled hind catch (kg), all fisheries combined (Parker and Mays 1998).

Status Reviews/Research Completed or Underway:

NMFS funded, via Recover Protected Species funds to SEFSC in 2000, a project entitled “Identifying aggregations of candidate grouper species through acoustic signatures.”

*For further information on this Species of Concern, or on the Species of Concern Program in general, please contact Ms. Marta Nammack, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-1401, [Marta.Nammack@noaa.gov](mailto:Marta.Nammack@noaa.gov); Dr. Stephania Bolden, NMFS, Southeast Region, Protected Resources Division, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702, (727)570-5312, [Stephania.Bolden@noaa.gov](mailto:Stephania.Bolden@noaa.gov); or Dr. Anne Marie Eklund, NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Dr., Miami FL 33149 (305) 361-4271 [anne.marie.eklund@noaa.gov](mailto:anne.marie.eklund@noaa.gov)*

Web Links:

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/species/fish/Speckled\\_hind.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/species/fish/Speckled_hind.html)

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