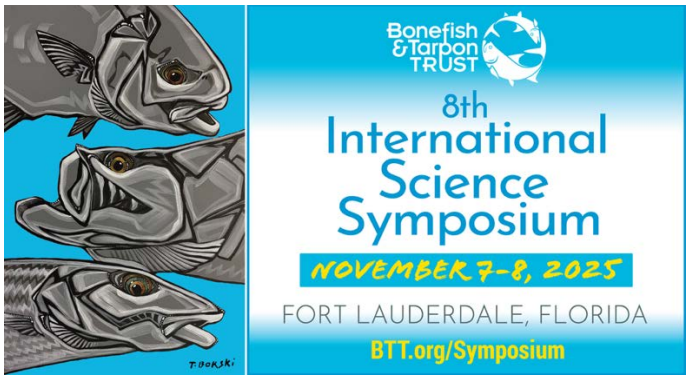


Making the most of angler knowledge in fisheries management

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Globally, the need for data on the status and trends of fisheries is profound. Yet, for most fisheries worldwide, these population estimates remain elusive due to numerous data unknowns and gaps. Importantly, without this information, fisheries management is more or less a 'guessing game.' Thus, to generate data in data-poor scenarios, we need to think outside the box. Arguments for the importance of alternative sources of information are now becoming mainstream, particularly those relying on fisher knowledge. In this study, (1) we review previous fisheries research to examine how fisher's knowledge is treated, 2) we conduct simulations to show that small, diverse respondent group of fishers can yield accurate trend data, and (3) we propose on angler knowledge can be elicited in quantitative ways that can foster better application and integration of fisher's knowledge into fisheries management. Together these efforts highlight that quantitative fisher's knowledge, when properly implemented and standardized, provides robust and credible data that can enhance the management of data-poor fisheries, including our valuable flats fisheries.

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