



Modeling Marine Ecosystems With Virtual Reality: Ocean Food Web Module Worksheet #6

Mackerel and Predator Biomass Data

- Use data from the coral reef habitat in the Florida Keys in the Gulf of Mexico region. Record the biomass of Spanish mackerel in 1995 and 2012 in the table below.
- Use the **StockAssessments** scenario and dataset. Switch to the StockAssessments scenario from the Baseline scenario (which loads by default) by clicking the green “SCN” (scenario) folder icon in the upper left in VES-V.
- Next, based on your knowledge of the relationship between the biomass of a prey species (such as mackerel) and a predator species, estimate the biomass of the predator in 2012. The biomass of the predator in 1995 was around 15,000 metric tons.
- Finally, record the actual biomass of the predator in 2012 and compare it to your estimate.

	1995 biomass (metric tons)	2012 biomass (metric tons)	Biomass Ratio 2012/1995
Predator, data	15,000		
Predator, estimate	15,000		
Mackerel			

What is the predator species? _____