**SPINY DOGFISH**  
(06/98 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

**Stock status**—Overfished. Other dogfish fisheries (Eastern Atlantic) have become overfished and depressed.

**Average Commercial Landings 1987-1997 and Value**—5,481,045 lb, $678,958

**1997 Commercial Landings and Value**—8,135,246 lb, $1,083,263

**Average Recreational Landings 1987-1997 and 1997**—58,673 lb, 1997 unknown

**Average Number of Award Citations 1987-1997 and 1997**—N/A

**Status of Fisheries Management Plan**—No State Plan, the Federal Plan is under development

**Data/Research Needs**—Commercial fishery sampling

**Current Size Limit**—No Size Restrictions

**Harvest Season**—Year Round, the North Carolina fishery occurs in the winter

**Size and Age at Maturity**—Median size and age at maturity is 23 inches and 6 years for males and 31 inches and 12 years or females

**Historical/Current Maximum Age**—40 years or older. Some estimates from length/age studies for fish from the Pacific Ocean suggest a maximum age of almost 100 years

**Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1987-1997 and 1997**—Unknown

**Habits and Habitats**—Spiny dogfish are distributed on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. In the Northwest Atlantic, they range from Labrador to Florida, but are most abundant from Nova Scotia to Cape Hatteras. They migrate seasonally, moving into North Carolina waters in the winter and north in the spring. The preferred water temperature is 45° to 55° F. The spiny dogfish is a relatively long-lived, slow growing animal reaching a maximum size of four feet. The spiny dogfish is live bearing. The gestation period last from 18-22 months and 2 to 15 pups produced (average 6) with fecundity increasing with length.

For more information, see [DMF Species Leads page](#)