

COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE FINAL REPORT*

Grant Number: 2F40 F016

Grant Title: NC DMF Carcass Collection Program

Grant Award Period: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017

Project Costs:

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
	\$ 32800	\$32645
	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$

Final Project Summary:

The Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) established the coast-wide Carcass Collection Program following a pilot program conducted in 2012 for the short-term red snapper recreational harvest season. This pilot program demonstrated a collection program properly conducted and managed is an excellent source of length, age and sex data for recreationally important finfish for use in stock assessment models. The NCDMF Carcass Collection Program deployed 13 chest freezers throughout coastal NC at bait and tackle shops and charter/headboat fishing centers where recreational anglers can deposit fish carcasses. This grant provided funding for the purchase and maintenance of supplies, travel, and angler incentives.

The program met and exceeded goals over the course of the grant. A total of 2,432 individual carcasses from 28 finfish species was collected. Additionally, the samples were provided by 464 different anglers. Anglers received awards for their donations in the form of koozies, hats, and t-shirts. The program has been well received by anglers and tackle shops alike. Data from these fish were entered into the NCDMF biological database and made available for use in stock assessments. One of the greatest benefits of this program are the interactions between NCDMF staff and the public. The program provided an excellent source of outreach and engagement with recreational fisherman as well as valuable recreational samples.