

2019 LICENSE AND STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared By:

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

License and Statistics Section

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LICENSE AND STATISTICS SECTION OVERVIEW

Introduction

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) is responsible for the stewardship of the state's marine and estuarine resources. The division's jurisdiction encompasses all coastal waters and extends to 3 miles offshore. NCDMF's mission is to ensure sustainable marine and estuarine fisheries and habitats for the benefit and health of the people of North Carolina. The NCDMF is comprised of nine sections that collectively carry out this mission.

The License and Statistics Section collects, processes, and conducts analyses on commercial and recreational fisheries data, license data, and social and economic impacts, and is responsible for the sale of fishing licenses and issuance of agency permits at all NCDMF offices. This section also administers the Marine Fisheries Commission's license eligibility process.

The section is made up of the following programs:

- License Program
- Commercial Statistics Program
- Coastal Angling Program
- Fishery Economics Program

The License and Statistics Section consists of about 60 employees; 37 permanent employees and varying numbers of temporary employees depending on funding and current project schedules. Employees are funded by appropriations, commercial license sale receipts, recreational license sale receipts, and federal grant monies.

Section Mission

To license fishery participants, obtain accurate and timely data on fishery catch and effort, determine its social and economic importance, analyze, and distribute these data for evaluation and establishment of fishery management plans.

Annual Report Purpose

This document provides summaries of commercial landings and recreational harvest data as well as commercial and recreational fishing licenses issued for the State of North Carolina. The purpose is to disseminate the data in formats most often requested and to illustrate the types of information collected through the various programs within the License and Statistics Section of the NCDMF. Separate and distinct summary reports for each program are released on an annual basis.

It must be noted to take caution when averaging the landings data for both commercial and recreational statistics over large periods of time because of changes in management policies and data collection methods. Creating such an average may not indicate the true characteristics of the fishery. These factors should be taken into account when trying to summarize these data.

More detailed statistics are available upon request by contacting:

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Contacts for specific data related to commercial, recreational, or economics information can be found in each chapter of this document.

Data are also available on the NCDMF website at <http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net>.