

BAY SCALLOP

(06/99 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status--Viable- Landings and fishery independent sampling indicate this annual stock is showing good recruitment and good abundance.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1987-1998--85,745 lbs of meat, \$215,334

1998 Commercial Landings and Value--103,069 lbs of meat, \$289,574

Average Recreational Landings 1988-1998 and 1998--Unknown

Average Number of Award Citations (??lbs) 1988-1998 and 1998--N/A

Status of Fisheries Management Plan-- No Plan.

Research and Data Needs--recruitment studies.

Current Minimum Size Limit-- None

Harvest Season--When opened from December through May, twenty standard U.S. bushels per person per day not to exceed a total of 40 standard U.S. bushels per day in any combined fishing operation. When opened from August 1 through September 15, no more than 10 standard U.S. bushels per person per day not to exceed a total of 20 standard U.S. Bushels per day in any combined fishing operation. Recreational Harvest Limits- ½ bushel per day, not to exceed 2 bushels per vessel per day.

Size and Age at Maturity-- 1.5 inches, (shell height), 6 months old

Historical and Current Maximum Age-- 2 years old, 1.5 years old

Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1972-1998 and 1998--N/A, 16 per 2 min tow.

Habits/Habitats-- Bay scallops are estuarine dependent mollusks found in eel grass beds. Bay scallops spawn in early winter and in late spring when water temperatures reach approximately 60 degrees. The larvae go through several swimming stages before settling onto a suitable substrate such as seagrass. Bay scallops are filter feeders and feed on benthic diatoms. Predators of the bay scallop include the blue crab, and starfish. The herring gull is also an important predator.

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