

HICKORY SHAD

(06/04 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status--Unknown- Landings increased slightly for 2003, but are the second lowest reported since 1997. Juvenile abundance remains low, however, the current alosid seine survey is not a reliable stand alone indicator of juvenile abundance for hickory shad. DMF has not conducted any assessment work since 1993.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1994-2003--104,176 lbs., \$22,687

2003 Commercial Landings and Value- 68,928 lbs., \$18,540

Average RCGL Landings 2002-2003-- 28,197 lbs. **2003-**13,159 lbs.

Status of Fishery Management Plan- The ASMFC Fishery Management Plan for American Shad and River Herring was approved in 1985. Amendment #1 of this plan was approved in October 1998. DMF currently does not have a hickory shad assessment program.

Data/Research Needs- All types of fishery dependent and independent data

Current Regulations- None

Harvest Season- The MFC adopted a rule in 1995 establishing a commercial harvest season January 1-April 14; it is unlawful to take hickory shad and American shad by any method except hook-and-line from April 15-December 31, bag limits for hickory (and American) shad of 10 fish- aggregate (hickory and American combined) per person per day.

Size and Age at Maturity- Males- 11.5 inches FL, Females- 12.5 inches FL, Males- 3-4 years old, Females- 4-5 years old

Historical Maximum Age- 8 years

Juvenile Abundance Index Average (number of individuals per unit of effort) **1972-2003-** (unvalidated)-0.08, **2003-** 0.07

Habits/Habitats--Hickory shad are an anadromous (spending majority of life in the ocean, returning to fresh water to spawn) species. Spawning occurs from March - May in the coastal river and tributaries. It has been postulated that juvenile hickory shad do not use the same nursery areas as river herring and American shad, but move quickly to more saline waters. Hickory shad will remain in the ocean until reaching sexual maturity, then return to fresh water to spawn.

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