**HICKORY SHAD**
(06/98 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

**Stock Status**--Unknown- Landings and abundance have increased. However, DMF has not conducted and assessment work since 1993.

**Average Commercial Landings and Value 1987-1998**--68,526 lb, $16,478

**1998 Commercial Landings and Value**--92,404 lb, $ 18,117

**Average Recreational Landings 1987-1998 and 1998**--Unknown

**Average Number of Citations 1987-1998 and 1998**--N/A

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

**Research and Data Needs**--All types of Fishery Dependent and Independent Data

**Historical and Current Minimum Size Limit**--12 inches, None

**Harvest Season**--MFC adopted a rule in 1995 establishing a commercial harvest season January 1-April 14, 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, Females- 12.5 inches, Males- 3-4 years old, Females- 4-5 years old

**Historical and Current Maximum Age**--8 years old, 7 years old

**Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1972-1998**-- (un-validated)-0.08, 1998- 0.78

**Habits/Habitats**--Hickory shad are 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 don't 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