NORTH CAROLINA

LICENSE AND STATISTICS SECTION

SUMMARY STATISTICS

OF

LICENSE AND PERMIT PROGRAM

COMMERCIAL TRIP TICKET PROGRAM

NC MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

STRIPED BASS CREEL SURVEY IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT AREA

NC RECREATIONAL SALTWATER ACTIVITY MAIL SURVEY

Prepared By:

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

License and Statistics Section

November 4, 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ii

LICENSE AND STATISTICS SECTION OVERVIEW 1

Chapter I: LICENSE AND PERMIT PROGRAM AND STATISTICS I-1

Chapter II: COMMERCIAL TRIP TICKET PROGRAM AND STATISTICS II-1

Chapter III: NORTH CAROLINA MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM III-1

Chapter IV: STRIPED BASS CREEL SURVEY IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT AREA PROGRAM AND STATISTICS IV-1

Chapter V: NC RECREATIONAL SALTWATER ACTIVITY MAIL SURVEY V-1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to thank all the commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, and licensed dealers in North Carolina who provide harvest, landings, and effort data to us through monthly reports or participating in surveys and interviews. Without their assistance, constructive criticisms, and of course, tolerance, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) commercial and recreational fisheries license and statistics programs would not have achieved the current level of success and acclaim.

We want to thank all the various staff members who enter, compile, edit, and analyze data, and conduct the surveys and interviews that are submitted to our respective offices each year. Without their hard work and perseverance, this document would not have been accomplished. These staff members in alphabetical order are:

Kerry Anderson
Jon Anglemyer
Rene Basnight
Alan Bianchi
Ann Bordeaux-Nixon
Anna Branch
Martin Brill
Roz Camp
Carol Charles
Brenda Clark
Chuck Davis
Emily Davis
Susanne Day
Janice Fulcher
Cheryl Gilgo
Brenda Grogan
Andrew Gross
John Hadley
Brenda Harris
William Hartman
Nicholas Harvey
William Hatfield
Don Hesselman
Jack Holland
Grace Kemp
Meredith Kimble
Lara Klibansky
Larry Lowrimore
Stephanie McInerny
Brian Melott
Sonya Midgette
Doug Mumford
Suzie Pegols
Bobby Peterson
Ann Pierce
Carolyn Piner
Joey Roberts
Pamela Rusher
McLean Seward
Pam Simmons
Scott Smith
Connie Sowers
Mechelle Stone
Sarah Toppen
Dennis Trowell
Dallis Tucker
Kyle Wald
Amos Williams
Travis Williams
Chris Wilson
Kim Worrell
Mary Alice Young
John Zuaboni

We especially want to acknowledge the aid and assistance Cheryl Gilgo provided in preparation of this document.

And lastly we want to thank the assistance of the following agencies for providing funds for the various programs:

- Partial support for the trip ticket program is provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the NC/NOAA Cooperative Statistics Grant and the NC/NOAA Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act.
- The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is supported, in part, by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Sport Fish Restoration Act.
- The Central Southern Management Area Recreational Striped Bass Creel Survey was funded through a cooperative agreement with the North Carolina Wildlife and Resources Commission and, in part, by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Act.
- Funding for the North Carolina Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Catch Card Program was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) HMS Division.
- Partial Funding for the Coastal Angler Program was provided by the N. C. Marine Resources Fund.
- Funding for the NC Recreational Saltwater Activity Survey was also provided by the N.C. Marine Resources Fund.

LICENSE AND STATISTICS SECTION OVERVIEW

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 content and formats most often requested and to illustrate the types of information collected through the various programs within the License and Statistics Section of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. 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 over time and changes in 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 determine such summaries.

This is the ninth year that recreational and commercial landings and fishing license data have been presented in the same report. Separate and distinct summary reports for each program are released on an annual basis.

More detailed statistics are available upon request by contacting the Section Chief, License and Statistics Section, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557, (252) 726-7021 or (800) 682-2632, via e-mail Don.Hesselman@ncdenr.gov, and on the NCDMF website at http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ .

Description

The License and Statistics Section of the NCDMF includes programs that collect, process, and disseminate data on identified populations of users and the harvest and landings of coastal fisheries resources and their economic value and social impacts in North Carolina. North Carolina General Statute 113-181 authorizes these programs.

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.

Section Goals

- License fishery participants

- Collect and analyze recreational and commercial fishery catch, effort, and participation data
- Provide fishery biological data from recreational angler fishery participants
- Provide timely, accurate data on commercial and recreational catch, effort, participation, license, and social and economic information to customers and fishery managers
- Collect, analyze, and disseminate reliable and current social and economic data
- Provide excellent customer service