



Annual Fisheries Bulletin

2015 Commercial and Recreational Statistics

License and Statistics Section, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557

June 2016

The Annual Fisheries Bulletin contains the North Carolina commercial and recreational fisheries harvest statistics for 2015. Included in this bulletin are the 2015 landings and harvest information from the commercial and recreational fisheries programs, along with the 2011 to 2014 landings for comparison. The bulletin also contains a summary of commercial fishing trips by major gears.

The North Carolina Trip Ticket Program collects commercial fishery landings and effort statistics. This program mandates trip level fish dealer reporting of all finfish and shellfish landed in the state. Recreational fishery harvest and effort statistics are derived from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) that conducts recreational angler interviews at public access points and telephone/mail surveys.

Total Pounds Harvested in 2015

Commercial
65,953,991 pounds

Recreational
11,631,370 pounds

Top Five Species Caught in Each Fishery

Commercial	
Species	Pounds
Blue Crabs, Hard	31,047,438
Shrimp (Heads On)	9,097,660
Dogfish, Spiny	4,247,213
Flounder, Summer	2,878,753
Croaker, Atlantic	1,819,066

Recreational	
Species	Pounds
Dolphin	3,157,964
Bluefish	769,262
Tuna, Yellowfin	723,127
Cobia	675,859
Wahoo	534,787

Issued by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Department of Environmental Quality.

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2015 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2015

Issued: June 2016

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	146,498	\$161,768
Anglerfish (Monkfish Including Monklivers)	112,863	\$106,081
Bluefish	804,336	\$445,293
Bonito	20,989	\$32,905
Butterfish	62,658	\$28,237
Carp	37,791	\$3,071
Catfishes	917,965	\$262,840
Cobia	52,684	\$113,176
Croaker, Atlantic	1,819,066	\$1,646,374
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	178,077	\$309,752
Dogfish, Smooth	268,429	\$98,113
Dogfish, Spiny	4,247,213	\$532,180
Dolphinfish	321,300	\$975,020
Drum, Black	51,089	\$43,146
Drum, Red	80,390	\$196,136
Eel, American	57,791	\$142,826
Flounder, Southern	1,202,871	\$3,823,512
Flounder, Summer	2,878,753	\$9,092,527
Flounders, Other	7,638	\$26,179
Garfish	37,651	\$5,648
Grouper, Gag	127,151	\$580,727
Grouper, Red	35,203	\$138,453
Grouper, Scamp	36,382	\$161,440
Grouper, Snowy	47,121	\$184,206
Groupers, Other	15,234	\$57,065
Grunts	32,661	\$33,198
Hakes	1,407	\$685
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	164,046	\$221,595
Herring, River (Alewife and Blueback)	0	\$0
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	8,113	\$32,992
Jacks (Crevalle and Blue runner)	7,607	\$4,692
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	1,861	\$796
Mackerel, King	391,774	\$801,747
Mackerel, Spanish	561,423	\$1,034,243
Menhaden, Atlantic	896,891	\$152,237
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	786,515	\$860,461
Mullet, Striped	1,247,044	\$804,675
Perch, White	161,596	\$124,499
Perch, Yellow	41,655	\$54,013
Pigfish	20,765	\$7,508
Pinfish	845	\$304
Pompano	22,085	\$39,973
Porgies	54,450	\$92,754
Pufferfish	9,578	\$5,861
Sharks ²	795,831	\$338,283
Scup	229,696	\$130,029
Sea Basses	467,935	\$1,366,767

2015 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Seatrout, Spotted	128,762	\$318,307
Shad, American	98,118	\$93,657
Shad, Gizzard	97,970	\$4,899
Shad, Hickory	148,714	\$42,916
Sheepshead	124,836	\$139,237
Skates	44,848	\$8,349
Skippers	16,736	\$4,636
Snapper, Red ³	0	\$0
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	225,479	\$781,204
Snappers, Other	6,552	\$22,778
Spadefish	15,994	\$8,176
Spot	377,358	\$322,198
Striped Bass	141,293	\$448,639
Swordfish	593,258	\$1,277,355
Tilefish	45,354	\$135,228
Triggerfish	131,536	\$331,805
Tuna, Bigeye	369,347	\$1,277,767
Tuna, Bluefin	118,159	\$200,380
Tuna, Yellowfin	515,094	\$1,191,214
Tunas, Other	152,716	\$128,529
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	165,018	\$85,520
Unclassified Fish for Bait	68,023	\$8,069
Unclassified Fish for Food	138,485	\$107,175
Wahoo	18,380	\$65,475
Weakfish (Grey Trout)	80,235	\$115,834
TOTAL FINFISH	23,293,184	\$32,393,336
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	31,047,438	\$29,633,881
Blue Crabs, Peeler	706,688	\$2,106,196
Blue Crabs, Soft	380,375	\$2,247,306
Clams, Hard (Meats)	414,991	\$5,038,539
	(21,124,397 numbers)	
Oysters (Meats)	631,087	\$3,898,358
	(119,298 bushels)	
Octopus	209	\$388
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	198,393	\$2,213,074
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	9,097,660	\$16,835,205
Squid	25,516	\$22,212
Stone Crabs	8,158	\$22,925
Unclassified Shellfish	85,070	\$168,483
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	65,221	\$137,526
TOTAL SHELLFISH	42,660,807	\$62,324,093
GRAND TOTAL	65,953,991	\$94,717,429

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (amberjacks, almaco jacks, and banded rudderfish.)

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, bull, finetooth, hammerhead, shortfin mako, spinner, thresher, tiger, and Atlantic sharpnose.

³ The red snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

⁴ Includes brown, pink, white and rock shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise.

2014 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2014

Updated: June 1, 2016

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	193,001	\$198,899
Anglerfish (Monkfish Including Monklivers)	76,392	\$85,364
Bluefish	2,019,279	\$889,710
Bonito	9,081	\$14,386
Butterfish	53,607	\$27,287
Carp	16,435	\$1,555
Catfishes	521,267	\$158,435
Cobia	41,798	\$87,931
Croaker, Atlantic	2,629,908	\$1,865,595
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	165,375	\$221,870
Dogfish, Smooth	498,904	\$213,763
Dogfish, Spiny	5,650,285	\$566,615
Dolphinfish	423,676	\$1,242,648
Drum, Black	51,217	\$32,298
Drum, Red	90,647	\$208,288
Eel, American	60,755	\$164,797
Flounder, Southern	1,673,511	\$4,839,672
Flounder, Summer	2,911,750	\$8,225,282
Flounders, Other	4,413	\$8,926
Garfish	10,621	\$3,611
Grouper, Gag	168,036	\$739,793
Grouper, Red	53,096	\$202,112
Grouper, Scamp	42,207	\$187,776
Grouper, Snowy	27,553	\$102,830
Groupers, Other	9,125	\$33,799
Grunts	39,312	\$40,117
Hakes	652	\$293
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	155,357	\$187,901
Herring, River (Alewife and Blueback)	989	\$1,319
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	9,767	\$37,920
Jacks (Crevalle and Blue runner)	9,151	\$6,220
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	1,761	\$658
Mackerel, King	549,981	\$1,203,503
Mackerel, Spanish	673,974	\$1,230,410
Menhaden, Atlantic	917,375	\$145,587
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	955,071	\$1,007,496
Mullet, Striped	1,828,351	\$1,112,465
Perch, White	172,293	\$148,576
Perch, Yellow	67,454	\$82,336
Pigfish	38,572	\$15,334
Pinfish	1,431	\$561
Pompano	12,923	\$31,176
Porgies	82,809	\$145,061
Pufferfish	1,611	\$886
Sharks ²	1,005,858	\$473,375
Scup	160,508	\$110,203
Sea Basses	529,075	\$1,413,708

2014 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Seatrou, Spotted	242,245	\$579,343
Shad, American	193,130	\$160,977
Shad, Gizzard	113,841	\$5,692
Shad, Hickory	109,407	\$27,394
Sheepshead	173,376	\$159,274
Skates	18,907	\$6,137
Skippers	19,884	\$5,207
Snapper, Red ³	4,826	\$23,007
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	242,259	\$829,916
Snappers, Other	4,002	\$11,695
Spadefish	22,761	\$10,652
Spot	766,224	\$619,643
Striped Bass	96,233	\$283,241
Swordfish	694,911	\$2,109,549
Tilefish	91,074	\$238,808
Triggerfish	116,782	\$262,199
Tuna, Bigeye	337,269	\$1,222,610
Tuna, Bluefin	114,037	\$375,975
Tuna, Yellowfin	816,077	\$1,798,031
Tunas, Other	155,033	\$115,186
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	225,797	\$107,605
Unclassified Fish for Bait	24,635	\$4,196
Unclassified Fish for Food	122,116	\$132,944
Wahoo	22,715	\$71,612
Weakfish (Grey Trout)	105,246	\$140,573
TOTAL FINFISH	29,448,997	\$37,019,811
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	25,242,648	\$29,954,605
Blue Crabs, Peeler	621,040	\$1,935,462
Blue Crabs, Soft	367,277	\$2,137,335
Clams, Hard (Meats)	430,816	\$2,866,096
	(22,440,617 numbers)	
Oysters (Meats)	727,775	\$4,544,236
	(137,576 bushels)	
Octopus	217	\$276
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	92,976	\$1,011,221
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	4,691,067	\$14,145,616
Squid	16,156	\$13,493
Stone Crabs	7,451	\$19,882
Unclassified Shellfish	74,081	\$146,515
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	53,546	\$112,102
TOTAL SHELLFISH	32,325,043	\$56,886,801
GRAND TOTAL	61,774,040	\$93,906,612

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (amberjacks, almaco jacks, and banded rudderfish.)

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: blacktip, bonnethead, bull, finetooth, hammerhead, shortfin mako, spinner, thresher, tiger, and Atlantic sharpnose.

³ The red snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

⁴ Includes brown, pink, white and rock shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise.

2013 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2013

Updated: June 1, 2016

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	90,180	\$90,035
Anglerfish (Monkfish Including Monklivers)	10,566	\$9,053
Bluefish	1,159,580	\$564,377
Bonito	10,506	\$15,460
Butterfish	93,146	\$53,369
Carp	14,133	\$1,360
Catfishes	548,913	\$92,497
Cobia	35,456	\$73,142
Croaker, Atlantic	1,927,938	\$1,723,578
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	145,362	\$204,869
Dogfish, Smooth	783,053	\$344,182
Dogfish, Spiny	3,010,958	\$302,248
Dolphinfish	178,922	\$534,228
Drum, Black	127,170	\$79,480
Drum, Red	371,949	\$715,685
Eel, American	33,980	\$88,649
Flounder, Southern	2,186,273	\$5,672,904
Flounder, Summer	541,661	\$1,386,627
Flounders, Other	*	*
Garfish	5,893	\$1,208
Grouper, Gag	167,334	\$704,382
Grouper, Red	72,259	\$259,861
Grouper, Scamp	42,711	\$180,679
Grouper, Snowy	20,274	\$72,067
Groupers, Other	8,856	\$31,637
Grunts	44,702	\$47,062
Hakes	614	\$231
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	221,168	\$253,604
Herring, River (Alewife and Blueback)	743	\$743
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	7,847	\$30,640
Jacks (Crevalle and Blue runner)	14,492	\$10,639
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	154	\$61
Mackerel, King	345,177	\$877,497
Mackerel, Spanish	620,752	\$1,015,965
Menhaden, Atlantic	454,172	\$73,490
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	603,186	\$668,480
Mullet, Striped	1,549,157	\$1,402,914
Perch, White	275,652	\$255,633
Perch, Yellow	31,481	\$40,546
Pigfish	62,099	\$28,093
Pinfish	1,536	\$463
Pompano	15,423	\$41,351
Porgies	72,671	\$116,780
Pufferfish	5,846	\$2,858
Sharks ²	553,665	\$282,318
Scup	28,691	\$13,323
Sea Basses	329,731	\$868,920

2013 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Seatrout, Spotted	367,610	\$818,078
Shad, American	257,869	\$307,475
Shad, Gizzard	112,295	\$4,492
Shad, Hickory	71,326	\$29,144
Sheepshead	180,225	\$145,794
Skates	2,286	\$429
Skippers	15,780	\$4,652
Snapper, Red ³	2,686	\$11,942
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	267,260	\$886,596
Snappers, Other	6,587	\$19,449
Spadefish	20,369	\$9,246
Spot	768,592	\$690,035
Striped Bass	96,935	\$303,486
Swordfish	1,058,089	\$2,935,940
Tilefish	217,079	\$522,652
Triggerfish	160,861	\$342,228
Tuna, Bigeye	243,637	\$939,909
Tuna, Bluefin	106,197	\$608,952
Tuna, Yellowfin	648,039	\$1,434,318
Tunas, Other	96,937	\$113,429
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	189,746	\$114,416
Unclassified Fish for Bait	24,389	\$2,565
Unclassified Fish for Food	119,041	\$116,451
Wahoo	23,380	\$75,577
Weakfish (Grey Trout)	120,188	\$150,725
TOTAL FINFISH	22,003,433	\$29,821,170
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	21,438,077	\$26,465,523
Blue Crabs, Peeler	447,120	\$1,449,542
Blue Crabs, Soft	317,426	\$2,091,382
Clams, Hard (Meats)	347,073	\$2,295,366
	(17,855,759 numbers)	
Oysters (Meats)	586,625	\$3,353,126
	(110,893 bushels)	
Octopus	1,205	\$2,069
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	36,445	\$402,717
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	4,859,833	\$12,947,004
Squid	12,090	\$10,703
Stone Crabs	6,839	\$18,479
Unclassified Shellfish	91,283	\$124,799
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	50,079	\$123,236
TOTAL SHELLFISH	28,194,093	\$49,283,945
GRAND TOTAL	50,197,526	\$79,105,116

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (amberjacks, almaco jacks, and banded rudderfish.)

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: blacktip, bonnethead, bull, finetooth, hammerhead, shortfin mako, spinner, thresher, tiger, and Atlantic sharpnose.

³The red snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

⁴ Includes brown, pink, white and rock shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise.

2012 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2012

Updated: June 1, 2016

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	124,325	\$104,212
Anglerfish (Monkfish Including Monklivers)	21,649	\$25,286
Bluefish	758,858	\$349,288
Bonito	11,343	\$15,833
Butterfish	127,536	\$65,553
Carp	6,199	\$586
Catfishes	489,492	\$116,379
Cobia	31,972	\$61,603
Croaker, Atlantic	3,106,616	\$2,135,458
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	50,867	\$61,601
Dogfish, Smooth	980,275	\$379,946
Dogfish, Spiny	2,728,882	\$640,820
Dolphinfish	249,020	\$756,346
Drum, Black	94,352	\$54,133
Drum, Red	66,519	\$138,833
Eel, American	64,110	\$160,275
Flounder, Southern	1,646,137	\$4,451,482
Flounder, Summer	1,090,218	\$2,969,370
Flounders, Other	0	\$0
Garfish	18,490	\$2,339
Grouper, Gag	187,483	\$758,371
Grouper, Red	111,781	\$363,767
Grouper, Scamp	49,556	\$195,370
Grouper, Snowy	25,740	\$78,235
Grouper, Other	7,542	\$26,152
Grunts	49,734	\$50,044
Hakes	280	\$100
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	161,751	\$202,146
Herring, River (Alewife and Blueback)	678	\$678
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	8,256	\$28,738
Jacks (Crevalle and Blue runner)	16,200	\$13,414
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	1,374	\$567
Mackerel, King	297,423	\$831,297
Mackerel, Spanish	916,439	\$1,374,648
Menhaden, Atlantic	538,783	\$82,974
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	596,249	\$645,607
Mullet, Striped	1,859,587	\$1,041,659
Perch, White	189,448	\$150,940
Perch, Yellow	20,511	\$23,446
Pigfish	37,555	\$19,834
Pinfish	1,017	\$257
Pompano	22,525	\$43,376
Porgies	83,918	\$132,025
Pufferfish	5,531	\$2,799
Sharks ²	701,924	\$376,171
Scup	3,954	\$2,768
Sea Basses	256,007	\$687,905

2012 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Seatrout, Spotted	265,016	\$522,130
Shad, American	235,861	\$257,748
Shad, Gizzard	123,813	\$4,333
Shad, Hickory	65,645	\$22,389
Sheepshead	109,881	\$92,837
Skates	5,738	\$1,433
Skippers	21,998	\$5,804
Snapper, Red ³	445	\$1,898
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	276,172	\$889,691
Snappers, Other	2,751	\$8,036
Spadefish	24,238	\$9,043
Spot	489,676	\$465,750
Striped Bass	144,555	\$368,516
Swordfish	903,178	\$3,009,107
Tilefish	361,094	\$753,966
Triggerfish	143,114	\$278,968
Tuna, Bigeye	232,943	\$1,036,747
Tuna, Bluefin	130,496	\$1,017,958
Tuna, Yellowfin	855,006	\$2,130,454
Tunas, Other	105,893	\$123,039
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	157,849	\$89,798
Unclassified Fish for Bait	34,775	\$7,615
Unclassified Fish for Food	111,190	\$111,452
Wahoo	23,521	\$73,998
Weakfish (Grey Trout)	91,383	\$111,461
TOTAL FINFISH	22,734,334	\$31,016,802
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	25,991,387	\$20,198,891
Blue Crabs, Peeler	468,855	\$1,112,025
Blue Crabs, Soft	325,426	\$1,496,021
Clams, Hard (Meats)	396,429	\$2,091,067
	<i>(20,074,457 numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	440,063	\$2,572,073
	<i>(83,188 bushels)</i>	
Octopus	248	\$382
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	58,882	\$567,230
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	6,141,480	\$13,333,150
Squid	11,921	\$10,885
Stone Crabs	5,221	\$17,125
Unclassified Shellfish	77,602	\$79,721
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	39,078	\$75,705
TOTAL SHELLFISH	33,956,592	\$41,554,275
GRAND TOTAL	50,928,418	\$80,300,692

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (amberjacks, almaco jacks, and banded rudderfish.)

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: blacktip, hammerhead, lemon, shortfin mako, thresher, and Atlantic sharpnose.

³The red snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

⁴ Includes brown, pink, white and rock shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise.

2011 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2011

Updated June 1, 2016

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	72,797	\$62,815
Anglerfish (Monkfish Including Monkclivers)	38,892	\$48,702
Bluefish	1,897,408	\$848,327
Bonito	11,039	\$20,041
Butterfish	59,951	\$31,176
Carp	24,367	\$2,485
Catfishes	444,445	\$85,039
Cobia	19,924	\$34,908
Croaker, Atlantic	5,054,186	\$3,164,034
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	8,439	\$9,397
Dogfish, Smooth	1,241,252	\$401,178
Dogfish, Spiny	2,557,923	\$383,748
Dolphinfish	94,210	\$244,752
Drum, Black	56,083	\$26,432
Drum, Red	91,980	\$166,966
Eel, American	61,960	\$123,920
Flounder, Southern	1,247,450	\$2,753,128
Flounder, Summer	2,854,122	\$6,136,614
Flounders, Other	*	*
Garfish	25,933	\$2,334
Grouper, Gag	201,467	\$790,710
Grouper, Red	154,277	\$481,431
Grouper, Scamp	37,321	\$143,336
Grouper, Snowy	8,999	\$24,680
Groupers, Other	6,454	\$22,869
Grunts	33,443	\$34,344
Hakes	873	\$591
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	106,660	\$102,927
Herring, River (Alewife and Blueback)	1,611	\$1,611
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	10,793	\$37,688
Jacks (Crevalle and Blue runner)	1,068	\$706
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	6,512	\$3,286
Mackerel, King	408,162	\$1,062,081
Mackerel, Spanish	871,217	\$1,188,154
Menhaden, Atlantic	3,529,967	\$336,528
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	486,853	\$520,413
Mullet, Striped	1,627,894	\$1,015,852
Octopus	327	\$501
Perch, White	245,636	\$223,248
Perch, Yellow	27,838	\$38,554
Pigfish	39,838	\$12,838
Pinfish	905	\$252
Pompano	17,016	\$42,724
Porgies	90,792	\$133,648
Pufferfish	1,490	\$916
Sharks ²	584,238	\$327,802
Scup	308,907	\$126,875
Sea Basses	272,280	\$627,825

2011 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Seatrout, Spotted	75,239	\$144,596
Shad, American	204,085	\$182,894
Shad, Gizzard	101,025	\$5,051
Shad, Hickory	85,096	\$23,607
Sheepshead	120,976	\$90,068
Skates	19,204	\$7,730
Skippers	24,510	\$6,594
Snapper, Red ³	0	\$0
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	323,389	\$997,623
Snappers, Other	2,982	\$7,077
Spadefish	21,535	\$6,839
Spot	936,970	\$728,475
Striped Bass	410,685	\$1,164,426
Swordfish	803,725	\$2,617,201
Tilefish	133,824	\$314,600
Triggerfish	220,204	\$411,373
Tuna, Bigeye	277,659	\$1,094,276
Tuna, Bluefin	48,358	\$270,637
Tuna, Yellowfin	526,238	\$944,099
Tunas, Other	76,661	\$68,578
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	131,549	\$66,986
Unclassified Fish for Bait	55,218	\$9,304
Unclassified Fish for Food	113,326	\$145,410
Wahoo	15,870	\$44,685
Weakfish (Grey Trout)	65,897	\$78,522
TOTAL FINFISH	29,739,093	\$31,278,533
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	28,964,633	\$18,016,736
Blue Crabs, Peeler	624,362	\$1,186,286
Blue Crabs, Soft	446,397	\$2,079,242
Clams, Hard (Meats)	295,466	\$1,896,627
	(15,088,757 numbers)	
Oysters (Meats)	800,543	\$4,486,741
	(151,331 bushels)	
Octopus	327	\$501
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	91,077	\$883,772
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	5,140,360	\$10,885,795
Squid	1,267,192	\$291,060
Stone Crabs	7,630	\$21,926
Unclassified Shellfish	90,932	\$83,407
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	34,002	\$73,456
TOTAL SHELLFISH	37,762,594	\$39,905,049
GRAND TOTAL	67,502,014	\$71,184,083

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (amberjacks, almaco jacks, and banded rudderfish.)

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: blacktip, bull, hammerhead, shortfin mako, sandbar, thresher, tiger, and Atlantic sharpnose.

³ The red snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

⁴ Includes brown, pink, white and rock shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise.

North Carolina Commercial Fishing Trips by Major Gears

(2011 – 2015)

Gear	Trips				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Beach Seine	102	68	57	21	23
By Hand	15,931	15,188	16,446	18,019	17,154
Cast Net	612	804	703	627	690
Channel Net	538	1,508	1,626	1,078	968
Clam Dredges	400	492	344	388	251
Clam Trawl Kicking	286	188	180	155	74
Crab Dredge	69	4	1	3	14
Crab Pot	48,144	48,039	48,120	50,526	51,749
Crab Trawl	228	21	85	180	470
Eel Pot	93	177	70	143	97
Fish Pot	538	613	623	678	583
Flounder Trawl	344	108	71	257	276
Flynet	190	14	4	40	11
Fyke Net	266	329	424	404	639
Gigs	2,183	3,148	2,585	2,804	2,739
Gill Net – Anchored	30,072	31,258	36,948	27,940	23,440
Gill Net – Drift	182	392	236	296	401
Gill Net – Runaround	2,606	3,589	3,785	3,379	3,252
Haul Seines ¹	369	177	273	204	45
Longlines	529	578	719	634	519
Oyster Dredge	7,400	2,264	3,763	5,705	4,031
Peeler Pot	2,908	3,516	3,334	4,006	4,743
Peeler Trawl ²	41	24	29	26	21
Pound Nets	2,267	2,697	2,625	2,356	2,850
Rakes	9,437	9,403	9,988	11,779	12,488
Rod-n-Reel	1,986	2,151	2,066	2,266	1,991
Shrimp Trawl	4,372	6,195	5,650	4,598	6,053
Skimmer Trawl	330	1,088	1,194	712	1,035
Spears (Diving)	57	134	159	195	167
Tongs	6,020	5,527	4,092	3,896	3,688
Trolling	1,866	1,888	2,184	2,245	1,905
Trotline	20	50	38	49	39
Other Gears ³	89	94	238	169	166
Total trips⁴	140,475	141,726	148,660	145,778	142,572

A **trip** is defined as the time period beginning when a vessel or fisherman leaves port to conduct fishing activities and ending when that vessel or fisherman returns to land the catch. The duration of a trip can vary from a few hours, as in hand clamming, to several days, as in ocean flounder trawling. An assessment of the number of trips gives an indication of the amount of effort conducted by commercial fishermen within that fishery.

¹ Includes long hauls, common seines, and swipe nets.

² A new code to distinguish peeler trawl gear was put into effect in 2010.

³ Includes greenstick trolling, butterfly nets, conch pots, dip nets, purse seines, bay scallop dredges, scallop scoops and trawls, shrimp pots and turtle pots.

⁴ Total trips are not equal to the sum of trips by gear due to multi-gear trips.

Source: North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Trip Ticket Program (May 2016).

North Carolina Marine Recreational Finfish Harvest

(2014 – 2015)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER 2014</u>	<u>NUMBER 2015</u>	<u>POUNDS 2014</u>	<u>POUNDS 2015</u>
Amberjacks	3,098	9,878	60,260	235,760
Barracudas	852	2,037	10,737	12,455
Bluefish	1,084,292	911,983	966,003	769,262
Bonito	6,700	5,513	30,988	34,692
Cobia	9,804	15,875	247,386	675,859
Croaker, Atlantic	541,657	463,867	227,949	187,590
Dolphin	185,077	430,296	1,329,353	3,157,964
Drum, Red	116,601	36,170	596,447	186,040
Drum, Black	24,058	35,053	60,406	108,279
Flounder, Southern	69,956	106,420	149,723	236,416
Flounder, Summer	45,708	39,827	67,791	63,096
Groupers	1,729	1,573	18,973	21,603
Grunts	26,257	24,108	39,265	32,545
Jacks	8,871	21,554	28,167	25,556
Kingfishes	1,143,212	1,430,478	451,073	471,500
Mackerel, King	23,374	34,327	366,128	279,898
Mackerel, Spanish	398,398	382,619	449,709	421,121
Perch, Silver	11,519	4,758	2,519	964
Pigfish	293,523	489,571	83,741	167,935
Pinfish	332,185	325,117	74,085	112,981
Pompano	166,888	141,408	83,190	72,065
Porgies	7,812	6,966	15,657	8,403
Puffers	49,269	1,069,543	25,416	470,115
Sea Bass, Black	74,648	66,423	132,351	91,445
Seatrout, Spotted	234,045	96,430	433,978	168,533
Sharks	3,340	5,569	23,102	88,050
Sharks, Dogfish	853	8,905	4,296	42,748
Sheepshead	61,379	75,119	143,782	216,307
Snappers	9,110	13,083	15,017	16,931
Spot	2,111,880	1,035,020	704,445	375,642
Striped Bass ¹	0	0	0	0
Tuna, Bluefin ²	69	44	14,492	7,747
Tuna, Yellowfin	27,248	24,306	873,536	723,127
Wahoo	11,639	19,284	322,468	534,787
Weakfish	26,308	39,103	25,957	43,141

¹ Striped Bass landings reflect Atlantic Ocean catches only.

² Landings for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (ABT) reflect the Highly Migratory Species fishing year (January 1 through December 31).

NOTE: The number and pounds of finfish listed represent estimated harvest; finfish released alive are not included. Headboat landings are not included but are available upon request from NOAA Beaufort Lab's Southeast Region Headboat Survey.

North Carolina Marine Recreational Finfish Harvest

(2011 – 2013)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>			<u>POUNDS</u>		
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Amberjacks	5,752	8,976	10,078	112,991	154,734	172,647
Barracudas	916	683	224	10,882	8,535	1,276
Bluefish	1,152,105	888,888	1,183,627	999,240	1,010,575	988,664
Bonito	11,144	4,281	9,219	147,403	38,551	133,163
Cobia	4,478	2,050	19,224	145,796	104,106	506,067
Croaker, Atlantic	246,676	288,813	411,882	99,298	105,530	141,880
Dolphin	472,174	327,116	212,388	3,538,922	2,559,382	1,562,755
Drum, Red	45,143	52,948	164,218	212,245	238,312	676,050
Drum, Black	211,396	139,363	363,466	151,407	243,965	713,047
Flounder, Southern	152,557	118,614	178,178	380,158	298,043	409,086
Flounder, Summer	60,422	63,135	44,941	100,543	101,642	70,874
Groupers	9,676	10,198	5,390	107,853	126,567	54,418
Grunts	27,490	62,734	16,374	44,214	95,724	26,769
Jacks	15,548	19,239	25,164	25,712	20,463	24,835
Kingfishes	587,151	1,050,826	1,377,835	246,886	383,427	343,454
Mackerel, King	14,220	27,353	22,613	180,014	333,614	235,436
Mackerel, Spanish	367,086	491,238	497,329	470,541	665,201	625,035
Perch, Silver	33,909	22,053	13,345	6,261	3,988	2,366
Pigfish	225,472	334,052	299,065	73,538	117,021	101,014
Pinfish	143,300	259,674	355,871	27,601	40,471	61,148
Pompano	122,819	107,260	471,156	47,406	57,882	171,860
Porgies	6,683	15,857	8,460	11,117	26,249	16,720
Puffers	156,916	268,515	209,770	91,384	134,113	126,039
Sea Bass, Black	95,004	75,638	49,258	143,234	127,621	68,225
Seatrout, Spotted	215,922	500,522	369,265	403,517	817,551	649,158
Sharks	5,831	2,350	13,426	21,241	44,170	20,386
Sharks, Dogfish	4,334	316	4,986	12,086	1,454	10,143
Sheepshead	66,689	119,899	273,211	180,145	293,570	500,096
Snappers	13,376	27,822	9,852	25,167	60,163	14,013
Spot	1,207,335	784,272	1,464,592	410,317	230,250	460,928
Striped bass ¹	94,182	0	0	2,042,981	0	0
Tuna, Bluefin ²	329	189	201	53,941	31,861	40,979
Tuna, Yellowfin	25,039	57,100	44,688	811,673	1,579,260	1,441,122
Wahoo	14,798	30,885	9,370	396,775	854,568	255,306
Weakfish	13,464	40,299	33,851	17,621	46,081	34,731

¹ Striped bass landings reflect Atlantic Ocean catches only.

² Landings for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna represent Highly Migratory Species fishing year January 1 through December 31.

NOTE: The number and pounds of finfish listed represent estimated harvest; finfish released alive are not included. Headboat landings are not included but are available upon request from NOAA Beaufort Lab's Southeast Region Headboat Survey.

North Carolina Coastal Angling Program

North Carolina Marine Recreational Finfish Harvest and Release Catch Estimates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Harvested</u>	<u>Pounds Harvested</u>	<u>Number Released</u>
2011	8,564,946	13,240,808	15,865,229
2012	8,472,954	12,059,556	18,536,492
2013	11,479,525	11,968,710	20,963,650
2014	9,572,612	8,788,702	19,765,129
2015	10,222,704	11,631,370	20,934,805

North Carolina Marine Recreational Fishing Trip Estimates (number)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Beach/Bank</u>	<u>Charter Boat</u>	<u>Manmade</u>	<u>Private Boat</u>	<u>Total</u>
2011	1,404,886	151,681	1,284,670	1,898,507	4,739,744
2012	1,599,759	160,097	1,482,635	2,060,989	5,303,480
2013	1,212,558	111,366	1,543,314	2,100,515	4,967,753
2014	1,665,273	96,620	1,484,850	1,707,330	4,954,073
2015	1,187,482	114,521	1,298,254	2,006,268	4,606,525

Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) Sales by Residency, 2011 - 2015.

<u>Year</u>	<u>In State</u>	<u>Out-of-State</u>	<u>Total</u>
2011	289,925	149,321	439,246
2012	304,840	155,457	460,297
2013	317,650	162,351	480,001
2014	320,662	165,623	486,285
2015	316,380	164,474	480,854
Grandfathered ¹	250,239	6,460	256,699

¹ All lifetime inland state fishing licenses sold prior to 2007 were grandfathered into the new CRFL requirement on January 01, 2007.

Survey Methods

The survey consists of telephone/mail and on-site angler interviews. Telephone/mail interviews are used to collect data on number of trips, fishing location, and when these trips were made. Information on actual catch (species, number, weight, and length) is collected through on-site angler interviews. Information from both types of interviews is combined to produce estimates of total number and pounds of finfish caught.

Precision of Estimates

Numbers and pounds presented are estimates, not actual counts, therefore having varying levels of precision.



Coastal recreational fishery statistics are provided through participation in the Marine Recreational Information Program. In North Carolina, this project is supported in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Sport Fish Restoration Program, Grant F-31.