

## **SCUP**

(06/04 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

**Stock Status—*Recovering*** -The stock is not overfished, but stock status with respect to overfishing cannot currently be evaluated. Survey observations indicate strong recruitment and some rebuilding of age structure in recent years. The stock can likely sustain modest increases in catch, but managers should do so with due consideration of high uncertainty in stock status determination.

**Average Commercial Landings and Value 1994-2003**—30,425 lbs., \$13,467

**2003 Commercial Landings and Value**—143,007 lbs., \$75,455

**Average Recreational Landings 1994-2003**—1,873 lbs. **2003** – 504 lbs.

**Status of Fisheries Management Plan**-- Currently managed under the joint Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission/Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (ASMFC/MAFMC) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Scup. The FMP includes a 7-year plan for reducing fishing effort and restoring the stock, and management measures include commercial quotas, minimum mesh sizes for trawls, and minimum fish size limits. The most recent assessment (SAW-35, 2002) indicated that scup were no longer overfished but stock status with respect to overfishing could not be evaluated. In recognition of a need to address overages in the recreational catch while providing flexibility to the states, the ASMFC approved a state-by-state conservation equivalency system for the scup recreational fishery, Addendum VII (2002). Under this addendum, each state from NC-NJ was assigned size, bag and season regulations, while those states from MA-NY were required to modify their fishing effort based on the performance of their regulations in previous years. Addendum XI further specifies that each state in the MA-NY region will be required to reduce their 2004 recreational landings by 57% relative to their 2003 landings. The FMP was amended to allow for a rollover of the scup quota from the Winter I period (January-April) to Winter II period (November-December), change the starting date of the summer period (May-October) for scup from May 1 to April 15, and allow the transfer of scup at sea.

**Data/Research Needs**-- Reliable estimates of scup discards are essential, as the uncertainty associated with discards seriously impedes the development of a reliable assessment as well as forecasts of catch and stock biomass for the stock.

**Current Regulations**—9 inches (TL) minimum size for commercial, 8 inches (TL) minimum and 50 fish per day for recreational fishermen.

**Harvest Season**—2004 Coastwide TAL: 12.35 million lbs. adjusted commercial quota, with Winter I (150,000 lbs./week Sun-Sat), and Winter II (1,500 lbs./trip) landing limits; 3.99 million lbs. recreational quota. Seasons close by NC proclamation as quota met.

**Size and Age at Maturity** – 50% maturity: 6.1 inches TL, 2 years, both sexes.

**Historical and Current Maximum Age**--20, 10

**Juvenile Abundance Index** -- not available

**Habits/Habitats**--Scup are a schooling continental shelf species found in depths from 40 to 100 fathoms, distributed primarily between Cape Cod, MA and Cape Hatteras, NC.

Scup migrate south and offshore as the water temperature decreases, arriving in offshore wintering areas by December. Spawning occurs from May through August.

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