

BAY SCALLOP

(06/04 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status—Concern—landings and fishery independent sampling showed little recruitment in both Core Sound and Bogue Sound. Extremely low abundance indices from 2003 indicate a poor fishing year for 2004. A limited opening during August and September in Core Sound in 2003 allowed harvest before the cow nosed ray migration however, due to unavailability of scallops to the fishery, no landings were made.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1994-2003—55,703 lbs. of meat, \$145,997

2003 Commercial Landings and Value—14,194 lbs. of meat, \$48,628

Average Recreational Landings 1994-2003 and 2003—Unknown

Average RCGL Landings 2002-2003—Not applicable

Status of Fisheries Management Plan—There is currently no management plan for bay scallops. Preparations for a bay scallop plan is scheduled to begin in July 2006

Data/Research Needs—recruitment studies, recreational landings data and ray predation studies.

Current Regulations—There are no size limits. Commercial catch limits are dependent on season. Recreational Harvest Limits are a bushel per day, not to exceed 2 bushels per vessel per day.

Harvest Season—May open by proclamation December through May and from August 1 through September 15.

Size and Age at Maturity— 1.5 inches (shell height), 6 months old

Historical and Current Maximum Age— 2 years old, 1.5 years old

Abundance Indices 2003—Core Sound-6.5 (July), 1.0 (Nov) per two-minute tow, Bogue Sound-2.8 (July), 3.0 (Nov) per two-minute tow

Habits/Habitats— Bay scallops are estuarine dependent mollusks found in eel grass beds. Bay scallops spawn in early winter and in late spring when water temperatures reach approximately 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The larvae go through several swimming stages before settling onto a suitable substrate such as seagrass. Bay scallops are filter feeders and feed on benthic diatoms. Predators of the bay scallop include the blue crab, starfish and herring gull.

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