

SPOT

(06/00 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status--*Viable*

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1987-1999--2,819,830 lb., \$842, 678

1999 Commercial Landings and Value--2,256,896 lb., \$999,592

Average Recreational Landings 1987-1999 and 1999--873,238 lb., 659,830 lb.

Average Number of Citations (> 1 lb.) 1987-1999 and 1999--2, 0

Status of Fishery Management Plan--A spot management plan was prepared in 1987. The Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC) scientific and statistical committee is currently reviewing and prioritizing research needs. The committee emphasized the need to evaluate the effects of bycatch reduction devices on spot stocks and to increase yield per recruit by delaying entry in the spot fishery until the fish are older than age 1.

Research and Data Needs--Coast wide stock assessment analysis, migration studies (tagging), maturity and fecundity studies, evaluation of unutilized bycatch in fisheries that take significant numbers of spot.

Current Minimum Size Limit--None

Harvest Season--Open year round

Size and Age at Maturity--7-8 inches, between second and third year of life

Historical and Current Maximum Age--5 years old, 5 years old

Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1987-1999 and 1999--191,165 (validated)

Habits/Habitats--Spot are short-lived estuarine dependent members of the drum family, which also includes Atlantic croaker, red drum, black drum, spotted seatrout and weakfish. Spot spawn in the ocean from late fall to early spring. Wind and currents transport the young through the inlets into the upper reaches of the estuaries where they remain throughout the spring. As their size increases and food habits change, they move into deeper waters of the estuary and eventually into the ocean. Adult spot migrate seasonally between estuarine and coastal waters but seldom occur as far up-estuary as do the young. Spot are most vulnerable to commercial and recreational fishing gear during the fall when schools migrate from estuarine to ocean waters.

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