

SPOT

(06/03 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status—*Viable*

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1993-2002—2,630,090 lb., \$1,006,902

2002 Commercial Landings and Value—2,183,846 lb., \$931,448

Average Recreational Landings 1993-2002 and 2002—1,086,058 lb., 976,036 lb.

Average Number of Citations (> 1 lb.) 1993-2002 and 2002—41, 112

Status of Fishery Management Plan—A spot management plan was prepared in 1987. The Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC) scientific and statistical committee reviewed the plan during 2002. In the review the committee prioritized research and management recommendations.

Research and Data Needs—Coast wide stock assessment analysis, monitoring of long term changes in spot abundance, growth rates and age structure, 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, 4 years old

Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1993-2002 and 2002—288,217 (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](#)