

## **SPINY DOGFISH**

(06/00 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

**Stock status** --*Overfished*. Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Stock Assessment shows mature female spawning stock biomass declined from 112,000 metric tons (mt) in 1998 to 57,000 mt in 1999. Other spiny dogfish fisheries (Eastern Atlantic) have become overfished and depressed.

**Average Commercial Landings 1994-1999 and Value\*** -- 7,334,794 lb, \$1,087,959

**1999 Commercial Landings and Value** – 3,718,628 lb, \$510,556

**Average Recreational Landings and Value 1990-1999** -- Unknown

**Status of Fisheries Management Plan** -- Currently managed under the joint NEFMC and MAFMC Fishery Management Plan for spiny dogfish, effective May 1, 2000. It establishes a 4,000,000 lb. quota for the May 2000 – April 2001 that is divided into two six month seasons (May -- October: 2,316,000 lbs.; November --April: 1,684,000 lbs.). Five hundred thousand pounds of the quota is set aside for spiny dogfish research projects. A 600 lb. trip limit is in effect from May 1 – October 31, 2000 and a 300 lb. trip limit is in effect from November 1, 2000 – April 30, 2001. The plan also calls for dealers and commercial fishermen to obtain a Federal permit, and to report landings and fishing activity on a weekly basis. A ban on “finning” is also included. ASMFC recommends states to adopt regulatory measures for spiny dogfish that are consistent with the federal regulations until it develops a plan for state waters.

**Research and Data Needs** -- Commercial fishery sampling, aging, identify pupping areas, discard mortality, identification of separate stocks in Northwest Atlantic

**Current Size Limit** -- No Size Restrictions

**Harvest Season** --Year round, the North Carolina commercial fishery occurs in the winter (November – April).

**Size and Age at Maturity** -- Median size and age at maturity is 23 inches and 8 years for males and 31 inches and 12 years for females. Age at maturity estimates variable due to different aging techniques.

**Historical and Current Maximum Age** — 35 years old for males and 40 years old for females. Some estimates from length/age studies for fish from the Pacific Ocean suggest a maximum age of 95 years. Historical ages variable due to different aging techniques used. Annual formation of rings on the second dorsal spine not directly validated for Northwest Atlantic fish.

**Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1990-1999** -- Unknown **1999** -- Unknown

**Habits and Habitats** -- Spiny dogfish are distributed on both sides of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in temperate and subarctic latitudes. In the Northwest Atlantic, they range from Labrador to Florida, but are most abundant from Nova Scotia to Cape Hatteras. They migrate seasonally, moving into North Carolina waters in the winter and north in the spring. The preferred water temperature is 45° to 55° F. The spiny dogfish is a relatively long-lived, slow growing animal reaching a maximum size of approximately four feet. The spiny dogfish gives birth to live pups. The gestation period last from 18-22 months with 2 to 15 pups produced (average 6). Fecundity increases with fish length.

Spiny dogfish were marketed together with smooth dogfish as “unclassified dogfish” prior to 1994

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