

## **CATFISHES**

**Stock Status - *Unknown*** – Federal aid project F-80 began March 2004 to fulfill data needs for development of a North Carolina fishery management plan. Commercial landings are 12% below the 10-year average. Data are not sufficient to evaluate stock status.

**Average Commercial Landings and Value 2000-2009** – 469,209 lbs./\$122,915

**2009 Commercial Landings and Value** – 412,075 lbs./\$77,698

**Average Recreational Landings 2000-2009** – Unknown, **2009** - Unknown

**Status of Fishery Management Plan (FMP)** – There is no state or federal plan. A state plan is scheduled for development when adequate data are available.

**Research and Data Needs** – Validation of juvenile indices, size, age, and sex composition of commercial and recreational harvest, fecundity estimates, updated maturity estimates, gear selectivity estimates, gut content analysis, characterize species composition of commercial harvest, characterize species composition between waterbodies, spawning area surveys, identify movement and migration patterns, evaluate similarities of age, growth, and productivity between waterbodies.

**Current Regulations** – No regulations in place

**Harvest Season** - Open year round

**Size and Age at Maturity** – White and channel catfish: 7-12 inches total length (TL)/ 3-4 years;  
Bullheads: 8-10 inches TL/ 3 years

**Historical and Current Maximum Age** – 20 years/19 years

**Juvenile Abundance Index 2004 – 2009** – 0.6 **2009** – 0.8 (not validated)

**Habits and Habitats** –Spawning occurs in nests over sand, gravel, and mud, and under protection of logs, roots, vegetation, from late March through June depending on the species. Males of some species protect the young once hatching occurs. Juveniles utilize the rivers and sounds as a nursery area, within the same area as adults.

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