

Stock status of important coastal fisheries in North Carolina, 1998

NOTE: This is an archival page. For the most recent stock status report, please [visit our new website](#).

Important Note: Documents containing recreational fishing catch statistics that were prepared before 02/01/2012 will be

updated to reflect changes in the methodology used to produce estimates.

For more information contact Doug.Mumford@ncdenr.gov.

[Stock Report Homepage](#) | [2009 Report](#) | [2008 Report](#) | [2007 Report](#) | [2006 Report](#) | [2005 Report](#) | [2004 Report](#) | [2003 Report](#) | [2002 Report](#) | [2001 Report](#) | [2000 Report](#) | [1999 Report](#) | [1998 Report](#)

Species and Stock	Status					Marine Fisheries Comments
	Viable	Stressed Recovering	Stressed Declining	Depressed	Unknown	
Atlantic Croaker						Concern with lack of fish in sounds and uncontrolled catches in ocean, however ocean fishery appears healthy.
Atlantic Menhaden						Very high spawning stock; reduced fishing effort
Black Sea Bass						
N. of Hatteras						Overfished based on ASMFC assessment
S. of Hatteras						Overfished based on SAFMC assessment
Bluefish						Developing Amendment 1 to ASMFC Plan
Catfishes (A)						No current sampling programs
Southern Flounder						Catch per trip has increased rapidly. Pressure on fisheries is tremendous. No sign of decline. Effort caps are needed.
Summer Flounder						Population consists of mostly young fish, but older fish are increasing. Spawning stock biomass at record levels.
Kingfishes (A)						Growing ocean sinknet fishery south of Hatteras, recreational landings fairly stable.

King Mackerel						The SSB and TAC continues to increase based on the 1998 South Atlantic assessment.
Spanish Mackerel						The SSB and TAC continues to increase based on the 1998 South Atlantic assessment.
Striped Mullet						Catch trends have remained consistent over the long term although effort has increased.
Red Drum						Low recruitment of juvenile fish to the adult stock.
Reef Fish (B)						Of the 73 species (including black sea bass) in the SAFMC unit, 17 species are considered overfished.
River Herring (A)						
Albemarle Sound						Reduced number of age classes in harvest, low juvenile production, fewer number of repeat spawners.
Other Areas						No current sampling program.
Scup						Stock size near record-low levels. Spawning stock biomass declining.
American Shad						No current sampling program.
Hickory Shad						Landings and abundance increasing.
Sharks						Increases in fishing pressure over the past ten years have prompted State and federal fishery management measures.
Dogfish Sharks						Exponential increases in landings since 1991 and decreases in fish size are areas of concern.
Spot						Fluctuating landings not unusual for short-lived species.
Spotted Seatrout						Stock status heavily dependent upon environmental conditions.
Striped Bass						
Albemarle-Roanoke						Viable

Atlantic Ocean						Viabile
Other areas						No sampling program.
Weakfish						Recovery underway under ASMFC Fishery Management Plan
White Perch						No sampling program.
Hard Clam						Although landings data exist on clams, more data are required for stock status
Oyster						Long term decline recently intensified by parasitic mortalities. Majority of state landings from southern sections.
Bay Scallop						Annual Stock
Blue Crab						DMF is currently preparing a FMP for the blue crab fishery. This plan must be adopted by the MFC on or before January 1, 1999.
Shrimp(C)						Annual Stock.
Totals	10 (30.5)	4 (12%)	4 (12%)	5 (15%)	10 (30.5%)	

(A) Catfishes includes 4 species, Sea Mullet includes 3 species, and there are two species of river herrings. (B)The reef fish group includes about 75 species, while there are more than 40 species of sharks. Within these groups, individual species range from healthy to depressed. The status indicated is for the group as a whole. (C)Shrimp consists of 3 species - brown, pink, and white.