

BAY SCALLOP

(06/03 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status—Concern- Landings and fishery independent sampling showed little recruitment in both Core Sound and Bogue Sound. Extremely low abundance indices from 2003 indicate a poor fishing year for 2004. A limited opening during August and September in Core Sound in 2003 allowed harvest before the cow nosed ray migration however, due to unavailability of scallops to the fishery, no landings were made.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1994-2003—55,703 lbs of meat, \$145,997

2003 Commercial Landings and Value—14,194 lbs of meat, \$48,628

Average Recreational Landings 1994-2003 and 2003—Unknown

Status of Fisheries Management Plan—There is currently no management plan for bay scallops. Preparations for a bay scallop plan is scheduled to begin in July 2006

Research and Data Needs—recruitment studies, recreational landings data and ray predation studies.

Current Minimum Size Limit— None

Harvest Season—When opened from December through May, twenty standard U.S. bushels per person per day not to exceed a total of 40 standard U.S. bushels per day in any combined fishing operation. When opened from August 1 through September 15, no more than 10 standard U.S. bushels per person per day not to exceed a total of 20 standard U.S. Bushels per day in any combined fishing operation. Recreational Harvest Limits are a bushel per day, not to exceed 2 bushels per vessel per day.

Size and Age at Maturity— 1.5 inches, (shell height), 6 months old

Historical and Current Maximum Age— 2 years old, 1.5 years old

Abundance Indices 2003

Core Sound-6.5 (July), 1.0 (Nov) per two-minute tow

Bogue Sound-2.8 (July), 3.0 (Nov) per two-minute tow

Habits/Habitats— Bay scallops are estuarine dependent mollusks found in eel grass beds. Bay scallops spawn in early winter and in late spring when water temperatures reach approximately 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The larvae go through several swimming stages before settling onto a suitable substrate such as seagrass. Bay scallops are filter feeders and feed on benthic diatoms. Predators of the bay scallop include the blue crab, starfish and herring gull.

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