

BAY SCALLOP

(06/02 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status--Concern- Landings and fishery independent sampling indicate this annual stock showed poor recruitment and low abundance in Core Sound. Bogue Sound had especially low recruitment to the 2001 fishery and may have been affected by ray predation in the fall of 2001. Abundance Indices from 2001 indicate an improvement to Core Sound and Bogue Sound for the 2002 fishery. However, heavy ray predation, especially in Bogue Sound affected these abundances before the fishery opened in 2002.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1992-2001--69,784 lbs of meat, \$176,237

2001 Commercial Landings and Value—2,517 lbs of meat, \$10,423

Average Recreational Landings 1992-2001 and 2001--Unknown

Status of Fisheries Management Plan-- No Plan.

Research and Data Needs--recruitment studies and recreational landings data.

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 2001

Core Sound-19.5 (July), 8.6 (Nov) per two minute tow

Bogue Sound-4.2 (July), 7.3 (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](#)