NCDENR

Division of Marine Fisheries

DMF Home About DMF Contact DMF DMF Offices

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

Stock status of important coastal fisheries in North Carolina, 2002

Click on a species name to get a more detailed report on its status.

Status definitions can be found here. Glossary of fisheries terms can be found here.

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						
	Viable	Recovering	Concern	Overfished		Marine Fisheries Comments	
Bass, Black Sea							
N. of Hatteras				*		Overfished based on ASMFC assessment.	
S. of Hatteras			*			Overfished based on SAFMC assessment; new size and bag limits should address concerns.	
Bass, Striped							
Albemarle- Roanoke	*					1994 Management plan is being amended to manage a recovered stock.	
Atlantic Ocean	*					ASMFC developing Amendment 6 to manage recovered stock	
Central/Southern			*			Stocks are much lower than historical levels. Despite stocking efforts, numbers of mature fish on the spawning grounds are relatively low. NC FMP is being developed.	
Bluefish		* (ASMFC/MAFMC plan developed.Biomass models infer reduced fishing mortality	

						should result in stabilization of the stock.
Catfishes (A)					*	No current sampling program due to budget and personnel constraints
Croaker, Atlantic			← <			A recruitment driven stock where biomass and landings fluctuate in response to large year classes. The ocean fisheries appear viable and there has been a recent expansion of the length distribution from inside waters.
Dolphin/Wahoo	*					SAFMC plan to be approved and implemented in 2002
Drum, Red				*		Low recruitment of juvenile stock to adult stock. NC FMP finalized April 2001.
Eel, American					*	Much remains unknown about American eel life history and fisheries. Juvenile recruitment survey for North Carolina was initiated in 2000 as part of the ASMFC eel FMP
Flounder, Southern				*		Stock is overfished based on updated stock assessment, which indicates a 32% decline in population biomass over the past decade. NC FMP is being developed.
Flounder, Summer		*				Dramatic improvements in age distribution, spawning stock biomass, and fishing mortality have occurred since the early 1990's. The stock appears to be near viable status.
Grouper, Gag	*					New assessment indicates recovery goal has been met.
Herring, River (A)						
Albemarle Sound				*		River Herring FMP approved by MFC February 2000. Reduced number of age classes in harvest, low juvenile production, fewer number of repeat spawners.

Other Areas					*	No current sampling program.
Kingfishes (A)					*	Sink nets and shrimp trawls responsible for most of the commercial ocean catch. Commercial landings decline in 2001 attributed to reduced effort in the shrimp trawl fishery. Recreational landings declined slightly.
Mackerel, King	*					"Based on the 1999 stock assessment, spawning stock biomass is above target and fishing mortality is below target."
Mackerel, Spanish	*					"Based on the 1999 stock assessment, spawning stock biomass is above target and fishing mortality is below target."
Menhaden, Atlantic	*					Very high spawning stock; improved recruitment of juveniles.
Monkfish				*		FMP developed by NE/MAFMC - 10 year recovery period.
Mullet, Striped			*			Large yearly landings and heavy fishing effort during its spawning period are cause for concern. Fishery management plan is currently being written.
Perch, White			*			No sampling programs due to budget and personnel constraints
Perch, Yellow			*			No sampling programs due to budget and personnel constraints
Reef Fish (B)			*			Of the 73 species (including black sea bass) in the SAFMC unit, 17 are considered overfished
Species and Stock	Status					
						Marine
	Viable	Recovering	Concern	Overfished	Unknown	Fisheries
						Comments
Scup				*		Stock size near record-low levels. Spawning stock biomass improving.

1						
Shad, American			*			ASMFC plan in place. DMF conducting fishery dependent and independent sampling.
Shad, Hickory					*	Landings and abundance increasing.
Sharks				*		Increases in fishing pressure over the past eleven years prompted State and federal fishery management measures.
Sharks, Dogfish				*		FMP developed for federal waters by MA/NEFMC; ASMFC plan under development15-20 year recovery period
Spot	*					Fluctuating landings not unusual for short-lived species.
Spotted Seatrout	* (ASMFC plan developed. Stock status heavily dependent upon environmental conditions.
Sturgeon, Atlantic				★		ASMFC is responsible for managing this species and considers the stocks to be depleted along the Atlantic coast. Coast-wide prohibition on possession.
Tautog				*		Current ASMFC coastwide assessment considers tautog overfished. NC statewide assessment has not be conducted.
Weakfish	*					Viable based on all criteria. Record high spawning stock biomass, expanded age structure, and low fishing mortality.
Shellfish and Crustaceans						
Clam, Hard					*	Although landings data exist on clams, more data are required for stock status. NC FMP approved 2001.
Oyster, Eastern			*			Concern status due to high mortality from Dermo infections, evidence of increased oyster habitat loss, low catch-per-unit-effort, and reduced spatfall

http://www.ncfisheries.net/stocks/index2k2.html

						in the northern area. NC FMP approved 2001.
Scallop, Bay			*			Low landings and recruitment were caused by varying environmental conditions and heavy predation by rays.
Crab, Blue			*			Significantly reduced landings of "hard" blue crabs for 2000 and 2001, following the historically record high landings observed during 1996 - 1999, has caused increased industry concern for the health of the resource and fishery. It is still unclear if the decline in crab harvest can be directly attributed to the effects of the 1999 hurricanes (Dennis, Floyd, and Irene), because crab catches are depressed all along the east coast. NC FMP of 1998 is under review.
Shrimp(C)	* (Annual Stock. Abundances may be greatly affected by environmental conditions.
Totals	11	2	11	10	6	
Change Symbols	** (Stock status improved since last report		*	Stock status declined since last report	

(A) Catfishes includes 4 species, Kingfishes (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.

NC Division of Marine Fisheries - 3441 Arendell Street - Morehead City, NC 28557 - 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632