



Fish Dealer Report

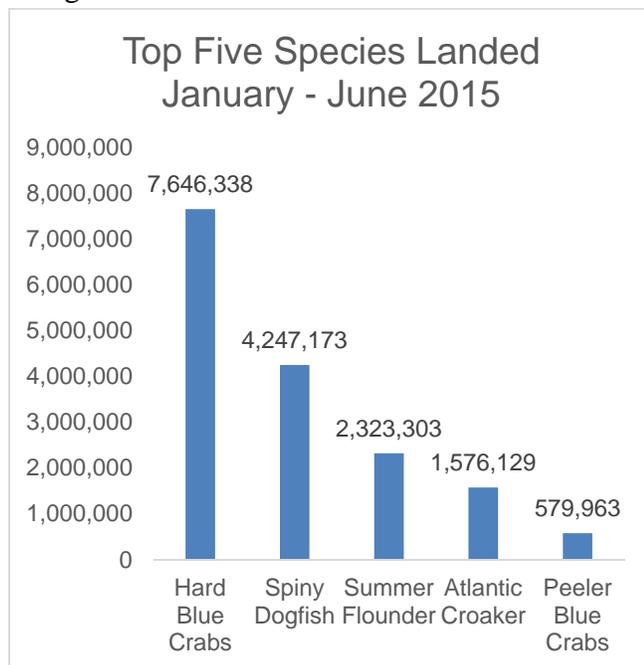


License & Statistics Section, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557

October 2015

JANUARY TO JUNE 2015 PRELIMINARY COMMERCIAL LANDINGS REVIEW

According to the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Trip Ticket Program, North Carolina fishermen landed 24.7 million pounds of seafood in the first half of 2015. These landings represent a 6 percent decline from the first half of last year, and a 6 percent decline from the previous five year average.



The top five species landed accounted for 66 percent of the total landings, which is the same percentage as the first half of last year, but comprises different species. The top five species landed included: hard blue crabs (7.6 million pounds), spiny dogfish (4.2 million pounds), summer flounder (2.3 million pounds), Atlantic croaker (1.6 million pounds), and peeler blue crabs (580 thousand pounds). Hard blue crabs are up 9.8 percent from last year, and peeler blue crabs are up 12.6 percent. Other notable increases

included Atlantic menhaden (54 percent), sea scallops (563 percent), and sea mullet (62 percent). Landings of Atlantic croaker and bluefish decreased 23 percent and 69 percent respectively.

The total number of trips reported by North Carolina dealers was up 6 percent from last year. The largest increases were seen in runaround gill nets (53 percent) and pound nets (56 percent).

REMINDER FOR STRIPED BASS TAGS

As a result of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's striped bass tagging addendum, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries was required to change its tagging and reporting procedures. A copy of Addendum III is on the division website at:

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/fmp-atlantic-states-marine-fisheries-commission-proposals>

The new tags issued for the 2015-2016 season will be marked with the year, minimum size limit for the location of harvest, and unique tag numbers. Fish dealers with a Striped Bass Dealers Permit for Quota Monitoring must contact one of the following division offices and speak with a Marine Patrol officer to obtain harvest tags.

Morehead City: 252-726-7021 or 1-800-682-2632
 Manteo: 252-473-5734 or 1-800-405-7774
 Wilmington: 910-395-3900 or 1-800-248-4536

For more information, or to obtain more logs, contact your quota monitoring liaison.

Striped Bass:
Kim Hewitt: 1-800-338-7805
Or 252-264-3911

Atlantic Ocean flounder, spiny dogfish, and black sea bass north of Cape Hatteras:
Grace Kemp: 1-800-682-2632
Or 252-808-8101

Tags may be picked up at division offices, or, if given 48 hours' notice, a Marine Patrol officer will deliver the tags. Tags will be signed for and given out in numerical sequences for tracking purposes.

ESTUARINE GILL NET PERMIT

On Sept. 1, 2014 the state began requiring an Estuarine Gill Net Permit for the use of any anchored small or large-mesh gill net in internal coastal waters. The permit is a requirement of the federal incidental take permits for sea turtles and Atlantic sturgeon. A condition of the incidental take permits is to maintain certain levels of observer coverage statewide. The Estuarine Gill Net Permit requires fishermen to record an active phone number where they can be reached so that the division can schedule observer trips and maintain the coverage needed to stay in compliance. For fiscal year 2016, there have been 2,492 permits issued. Fishermen can obtain or renew their annual permit when they renew their license at any division office or via mail.

PROGRAM UPDATES AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Name Change

North Carolina's environmental agency has undergone several changes recently, including transferring the zoo, aquariums, state parks, and the Museum of Natural Sciences to the newly named Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The remaining divisions, including the Division of Marine Fisheries, have been rebranded under the Department of Environmental Quality. Future communications

from the division will reflect these changes.

Landings Data

Dealers are reminded that they can request their landings data from the division by submitting a data request to: Alan.Bianchi@ncdenr.gov

This data is also available online, in an anonymous form, through the License-Statistics Annual Report by visiting:

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/commercial-fishing-annual-reports>

The 2015 annual report will be available before the Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting in November.

New Trip Ticket Codes

Due to some recent changes in gear usage and species landings, the Trip Ticket Program will implement new codes for trammel nets (530) and ribbed mussels (986-989). These codes will soon be available for use on paper tickets and the electronic reporting program.

2015 LICENSE SALES

Below is a list of licenses sold for fiscal year 2015 (April 15, 2014 to June 30, 2015) by license type. The list includes active licenses only. Totals do not include transfers, voids or replacements.

Standard Commercial Fishing License	5,404
Retired Standard Commercial Fishing	1,231
Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration	8,103
License to Land Flounder from Atlantic	157
Land or Sell License	114
NC Resident Shellfish License Without	1,319
Fish Dealer License	737
Ocean Pier License	20
Recreational Fishing Tournament License	17
Recreational Commercial Gear License	2,791
Total Licenses For All License Types	19,893