

CATFISHES

(06/05 ARCHIVAL - NCDMF)

Stock Status-Unknown - DMF has not had a directed sampling program since 1980, due to budget and personnel constraints. Federal aid project F-80 began March 2004 to fulfill data needs for upcoming FMP. Commercial landings increased in 2004, however, landings are 41 percent below 10-year average. Data are insufficient to evaluate status.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1995-2004 – 696,424 lbs./\$190,487

2004 Commercial Landings and Value – 414,597 lbs./\$100,486

Average Recreational Landings 1994-2003 and 2003 – Unknown, **2004** - Unknown

Average Number of Award Citations 1994-2004 - N/A, **2004** - N/A

Average RCGL Landings for 2002-2004 and 2004 – 6,127 lbs., **2004** – 5,763 lb.

Status of Fishery Management Plan - No state or federal plan. State FMP scheduled for development beginning in 2007.

Data/Research Needs - All types of fishery dependent and independent data.

Current Regulations (2005) - No regulations in place

Harvest Season - Open year round

Historical and Current Minimum Size Limit - None

Size and Age at Maturity - White and channel catfish – 7 inches-12 inches/3 years-4 years; Bullheads- 8 inches-10 inches/3 years

Historical and Current Maximum Age – 20 years

Juvenile Abundance Index Average (# of individuals per unit of effort) **1995-2004** – N/A, **2004** 1.3

Habits/Habitats - Spawning occurs in nests over sand, gravel, and mud, and under protection of logs, roots, vegetation, from late March through June, in rivers and creeks. Males of some species protect the young once hatching occurs. Juveniles use the rivers and sounds as a nursery area, within the same area as adults.

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