

BAY SCALLOP

(06/05 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status -*Concern*- Landings and fishery independent sampling showed little recruitment in Core and Bogue sounds. Extremely low abundance indices from 2004 indicate a poor fishing year for 2005. A limited opening during August and September in Core Sound in 2004 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 1995-2004 - 48,407 lbs. of meat/\$132,740

2004 Commercial Landings and Value - 80 lbs. of meat/\$400

Average Recreational Landings 1995-2004 and 2004 -Unknown

Status of Fisheries Management Plan - There is currently no management plan for bay scallops. FMP development is scheduled to begin July 2006.

Research and Data Needs - Recruitment studies, recreational landings data and ray predation studies.

Current Minimum Size Limit (2005) - None

Harvest Season (2005) - When opened from December - May, 20 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

Historical and Current Maximum Age - 2 years/1.5 years

Abundance Indices 2004

Core Sound-18.3 (July), 0.7 (Nov.) per two-minute tow

Bogue Sound-5.2 (July), 1.6 (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° 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](#)