

## **STRIPED BASS**

(06/98 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

**Stock Status**--Viable Albemarle Sound, Atlantic Ocean (expanding age structure of stock, strong juvenile indices, increased abundance). Other areas unknown.

**Average Commercial Landings and Value 1987-1998**-- 253,293 lb, \$313,500

**1998 Commercial Landings and Value**-- 422,297 lb, \$519,364

**Average Recreational Landings 1987-1998**--213,766 lb (Atlantic Ocean and Internal waters combined)

**1998 Recreational Landings**--576,089 lb (Atlantic Ocean and Internal waters combined)

**Average Number of Citations (1998 only)**-- 140 entries, 130 releases

**Status of Fisheries Management Plan**--Current N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass Management Plan has been extended by ASMFC until December 1999, a new management plan will be completed by December 1999. A fishing plan for the 2000 fishing year will be submitted to ASMFC for approval in October 1999.

**Research and Data Needs**--Expand fishery dependent and independent sampling to areas other than the northern coastal counties.

**Current Minimum Size Limit**--18" TL Coastal, Joint and Inland waters  
28" TL Atlantic Ocean

**Harvest Season**--Albemarle Sound: Spring (January-March/ April 2-April 5)  
Fall (November-December)  
Roanoke River: Spring (March-April)  
Atlantic Ocean: Year round  
Pamlico Sound: Year round

**Size and Age at Maturity**--11-22 inches, Males 2-3 years old, Females 3-6 years old

**Historical and Current Maximum Age**--29 years old, 11 years old

**Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1955-1998 (Albemarle Sound only)**--7.7, 7.0

**Habits/Habitats**--Striped bass are anadromous spending majority of life in saline water, migrating to fresh water to spawn in the spring. Striped bass require flowing fresh water habitats in order to spawn successfully allowing the eggs to remain suspended until they hatch, and to transport larvae to the nursery areas. Spawning takes place during late April until early June. North Carolina is host to several different stocks of striped bass. One is the Atlantic Migratory stock that over winters off the Outer Banks each year. These striped bass originate principally from the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware and Hudson River systems. They remain in their natal systems from 2 to 3 years then begin migrating along the Atlantic Coast, northward in the summer months and southward during the winter months. The Albemarle-Roanoke River area supports the largest spawning population in North Carolina.

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