SCUP
(06/99 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status-- *Overfished*. Aggregate weight of mature females is declining. Less than 1% of the landed fish are over age 5. Total stock size is near record-low abundance levels.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1987-1998-- 129,214 lb, $66,877

1998 Commercial Landings and Value -- 14,567 lb, $8,022

Average Recreational Landings 1987-1998-- 2,929 lb. **1998** -- 1,188 lb (Recreational landings and value estimates for scup have very high errors associated with them)

Status of Fisheries Management Plan-- Currently managed under the joint ASMFC/MAFMC Fishery Management Plan for Scup. Management measures include commercial quotas, minimum mesh sizes for trawls, and minimum fish size limits.

Research and Data Needs-- continue monitoring of catches.

Current Minimum Size Limit-- 9 inches (TL) commercial, 7 inches (TL) recreational

Harvest Season-- commercial season closes after quota is met.

Size and Age at Maturity -- 7 inches TL, 2 years old

Historical and Current Maximum Age--19 years old, 10 years old

Juvenile Abundance Index -- not available

Habits/Habitats--Scup are a schooling continental shelf species found in depths from 40 to 100 fathoms. Scup are found off North Carolina in late January through April near the canyon areas. This species spawns from May through August in near shore ocean waters from Southern New England to Long Island.

For more information, see DMF Species Leads page