

KING MACKEREL

(06/00 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status--*Viable* - The SSB (spawning stock biomass) is above the target level and TAC (total allowable catch) remains unchanged from 1999.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1989-1999--1,028,886 lb, \$1,484,002

1999 Commercial Landings and Value-- 1,082,419 lb, \$1,695,509

Average Recreational Landings 1989-1999 and 1999-- 1,194,826 lb, 672,466 lb

Average Number of Award Citations (30lb) 1989-1999 and 1999-- 404, 425

Status of Fisheries Management Plan-- Currently managed under Amendment 8 to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Coastal Pelagic Fishery Management Plan. Management measures include commercial and recreational TAC's, minimum size limits, commercial trip limits (3,500 lb/trip), recreational bag limits (3 fish/person/day), gear restrictions, and commercial limited entry.

Research and Data Needs-- Bycatch mortality estimates in the directed shrimp fishery and fishery independent methods of monitoring stock size

Current Minimum Size Limit-- 24 inches (fork length)

Harvest Season-- April 1 to March 31 - Commercial and recreational seasons close when the TAC is reached.

Size and Age at Maturity-- 28 inches (fork length), 2-3 years old

Historical and Current Maximum Age-- 26 years old, 22 years old

Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1972-1999 and 1999-- Unknown

Habits/Habitats-- King mackerel are considered coastal pelagic, meaning they live in the open waters near the coast. They make inshore and offshore migrations triggered by water temperature and prey availability. In the winter and early spring, king mackerel congregate just inside the Gulf Stream along the edge of the continental shelf. During the summer and fall, they move inshore along the beaches and near the mouths of inlets and coastal rivers. They prefer water temperatures between 68 and 78 degrees Fahrenheit.

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