

SPANISH MACKEREL

(06/00 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status--*Viable* - The SSB (spawning stock biomass) is above the target level of 40% SPR (spawning potential ratio) and TAC (total allowable catch) remained the same based on the 1999 South Atlantic assessment.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1989-1999--595,686 lb, \$278,983

1999 Commercial Landings and Value-- 459,047 lb, \$265,806

Average Recreational Landings 1989-1999 and 1999-- 685,084 lb, 470,414 lb

Average Number of Award Citations (6lb) 1989-1999 and 1999-- 174, 82

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 (10 fish/person/day), and gear restrictions.

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

Current Minimum Size Limit-- 12 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-- 12 inches (fork length), 2 years old

Historical and Current Maximum Age-- 12 years old, 8 years old

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

Habits/Habitats-- Spanish mackerel are considered coastal pelagic, meaning they live in the open waters near the coast. They make north and south migrations depending on water temperature, with 68 degrees Fahrenheit being a preferred minimum. In North Carolina's waters, Spanish mackerel can be found from April to November. They migrate south to the Florida coast in the late fall. In the summer months, they may be found as far inland as the sounds and coastal river mouths. Spanish mackerel spawn from May to September.

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