

KING MACKEREL

(06/98 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status--Viable - The SSB (spawning stock biomass) and TAC (total allowable catch) continue to increase based on the 1998 South Atlantic assessment.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1987-1997--1,029,734 lb, \$1,386,286

1997 Commercial Landings and Value-- 1,558,528 lb, \$2,375,205

Average Recreational Landings 1987-1997 and 1997-- 1,460,598 lb, 1,801,967 lb

Average Number of Award Citations (30lb) 1987-1997 and 1997-- 385, 542

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-- 20 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 1972-1997 and 1997-- 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](#)