

SHRIMP

(06/04 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status—*Viable*—this annual stock consists of three species: brown shrimp, pink shrimp and white shrimp.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1994-2003—7,356,983 lbs., \$17,009,009

2003 Commercial Landings and Value—6,167,371 lbs., \$10,939,078

Average Recreational Landings 2002-2003—Not applicable

Average RCGL Landings 2002-2003—74,653 lbs. **2003** – 47,539 lbs.

Status of Fisheries Management Plan—Development of a state FMP began September 2003 and is currently underway.

Data/Research Needs—Continue with Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) research. Trawling issue studies, including continuation of the development and testing of alternative gears for the trawl fishery.

Current Regulations—There are no size limits on shrimp. There are no harvest limits in open areas and a 100 shrimp harvest limit with a cast net only in a closed area.

Harvest Season—It is unlawful to take shrimp with nets until the Fisheries Director, by proclamation, opens the season in various waters. Proclamations may specify any hours of day or night or both and any other conditions appropriate to management of the fishery. Some waterbodies are open year round. Check with NCDMF for what waterbodies are open.

Size and Age at Maturity—3-5 inches, 4-6 months

Historical and Current Maximum Age—18 months old, 18 months old (rare)

Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1994-2003/2003 (validated) Average number of shrimp per one-minute tow (Brown shrimp only)

Southern District—68.6 / 70.1

Central District

South side of Neuse River/Pamlico Sound—91.6 / 28.9

Core Sound—202.0 / 401.4

Pamlico District

Hyde County—76.1 / 47.3

Pamlico County—41.0 / 32.7

Habits/Habitats— Shrimp are spawned offshore in the winter. Post-larval shrimp move from the ocean into the estuaries on wind and tide driven currents in early spring. Shrimp recruit into creek and river bottoms, and grassbeds where they grow rapidly, feeding on plant and animal material such as algae, worms, small fish, crabs and other shrimp. As the shrimp increase in size, they migrate from the upper reaches of small creeks to deeper saltier rivers and sounds. By late summer and fall, they return to the ocean to spawn.

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