CATFISHES

(06/04 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status -- *Unknown* - DMF has not had a directed sampling program since 1980, due to budget and personnel constraints. Independent and Dependent data collections began in November 2003. Federal aid project F-80 began March 2004.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1994-2003 -- 782,599 lbs., \$206,911

2003 Commercial Landings and Value -- 385,878 lbs., \$99,693

Average Recreational Landings 1994-2003 – Unknown 2003 – Unknown

Average Number of Award Citations 1994-2003 – N/A 2003 – N/A

Average RCGL Landings for 2002-2003 -- 6,134 lbs. **2003** - 4,650 lbs.

Status of Fishery Management Plan -- No state or federal plan. State plan schedule 2007-2009

Data/Research Needs -- All types of Fishery Dependent and Independent Data

Current Regulations – None

Harvest Season – Open year round.

Size and Age at Maturity -- White and channel catfish--7-12 inches TL at 3-4 years; Bullheads- 8-10 inches TL at 3 years

Historical and Current Maximum Age -- 20

Juvenile Abundance Index Average (numbers of individuals per unit of effort) -- Unknown

Habits/Habitats -- Spawning occurs in nests over sand, gravel, and mud, and under protection of logs, roots, vegetation, from late March through June depending on the species, in rivers and creeks. Males of some species protect the young once hatching occurs. Juveniles utilize the rivers and sounds as a nursery area, within the same area as adults.

For more information, see <u>DMF Species Leads page</u>