

STRIPED MULLET

(06/00 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock status -- *Concern*. Historically, this was a fall dominated fishery for roe mullet. It has expanded to a year-round effort in bays, sounds and rivers with run-around gillnets. This new, year-round activity, coupled with the historical fall gillnet and beach seine/stop net fishery for roe striped mullet creates concern for this economically important species.

Average Commercial Landings and Value 1990-1999 -- 2,124,080 lb, \$1,356,496

1999 Commercial Landings and Value -- 1,452,348lb, \$832,576

Average Recreational Landings -- Unknown

Status of Fisheries Management Plan -- No State or Federal Plan.

Data/Research Needs -- Life History (age, maturity, and migration information) and fishery independent and dependent data. Recreational catch statistics.

Current Size Limit -- None

Harvest Season -- Year Round

Size and Age at Maturity -- 11 inches at 2-3 years

Historical /Current Maximum Age -- Eleven years or older with the population's age structure shifted towards younger fish in recent years.

Juvenile Abundance Indices 1990-1999 and 1999 Index -- Juvenile Indices are unknown. Striped mullet specific index sampling for sub-adult fish has occurred for three years and data from other sources may be of use.

Habits and Habitats -- Striped mullet are highly fecund (produce numerous eggs) and spawn offshore in large aggregations following mass migrations in the fall. Estimated fecundity is between 4 and 5 million eggs for a large female; with the range of number of eggs per female between 0.5 and 4.0 million for fish between 12 and 22 inches fork length. Striped mullet are a schooling fish, therefore they are often targeted by fishermen. Striped mullet feed mainly on micro-crustaceans and algae throughout their range that extends throughout the southeastern U.S., Gulf of Mexico and other tropical and temperate regions of the world. Striped mullet are most common in estuaries with average salinities and temperatures, however, they can tolerate wide ranges of salinity (freshwater to full strength ocean seawater) and temperatures (5° to 35° Celsius).

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