

## **SCUP**

(06/98 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

**Stock Status**-- Depressed. Aggregate weight of mature females is declining. Less than 1% of the landed fish are over age 5. Total stock size is near record-low abundance levels.

**Average Commercial Landings and Value 1987-1997**-- 139,636 lb, \$72,228

**1997 Commercial Landings and Value** -- 1,420 lb, \$804

**Average Recreational Landings 1987-1997 and 1997**-- 3,165 lb, 4,341 lb

**Average Number of Citations 1987-1997**-- not available

**Status of Fisheries Management Plan**-- Currently managed under the joint ASMFC/MAFMC Fishery Management Plan for Scup. Management measures include commercial quotas, minimum mesh sizes for trawls, and minimum fish size limits.

**Research and Data Needs**-- continue monitoring of catches.

**Current minimum size limit**-- 9 inches (TL) commercial, 7 inches (TL) recreational

**Harvest Season**-- commercial season closes after quota is met.

**Size at maturity, age at maturity**-- 7 inches TL, 2 years old

**Historical maximum age, current maximum age**--19 years old, 10 years old

**Juvenile index**-- not available

**Habits/Habitats**--Scup are a schooling continental shelf species found in depths from 40 to 100 fathoms. Scup are found off North Carolina in late January through April near the canyon areas. This species spawns from May through August in near shore ocean waters from Southern New England to Long Island.

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