

SPINY DOGFISH

(06/99 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock status--Overfished. Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Stock Assessment Workshop lists Spiny Dogfish as overfished (1997). Other dogfish fisheries (Eastern Atlantic) have become overfished and depressed.

Average Commercial Landings 1989-1998 and Value--6,176,566 lb, \$749,463

1998 Commercial Landings and Value--4,948,379 lb, \$649,114

Average Recreational Landings 1987-1997 --Unknown 1997 --Unknown

Status of Fisheries Management Plan--No State Plan, the Federal Plan is under development

Research and Data Needs--Commercial fishery sampling, ageing, identify pupping areas

Current Size Limit--No Size Restrictions

Harvest Season--Year round, the North Carolina commercial fishery occurs in the winter

Size and Age at Maturity--Median size and age at maturity is 23 inches and 6 years for males and 31 inches and 12 years for females

Historical and Current Maximum Age-- 40 years or older. Some estimates from length/age studies for fish from the Pacific Ocean suggest a maximum age of almost 100 years.

Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1987-1997 and 1997--Unknown

Habits and Habitats--Spiny dogfish are distributed on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. In the Northwest Atlantic, they range from Labrador to Florida, but are most abundant from Nova Scotia to Cape Hatteras. They migrate seasonally, moving into North Carolina waters in the winter and north in the spring. The preferred water temperature is 45° to 55° F. The spiny dogfish is a relatively long-lived, slow growing animal reaching a maximum size of four feet. The spiny dogfish gives birth to live pups. The gestation period last from 18-22 months with 2 to 15 pups produced (average 6). Fecundity increases with fish length.

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