

SPINY DOGFISH

(06/05 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

Stock Status — *Overfished* The 2003 Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW-37) determined the mature female spawning stock biomass remains well below the rebuilding target of 200,000 metric tons. Historically low estimates of pup production since 1997 indicates recruitment failure.

Average Commercial Landings 1995-2004 and Value — 4,074,691 lbs./\$603,618

2004 Commercial Landings and Value — 552,554 lbs./\$26,164 (NC allocated 500,000 lb. quota by ASMFC for 2003-2004 season)

Average Recreational Landings 1995-2004 — N/A, **2004-N/A** (no landings reported since 1998)

Status of Fisheries Management Plan — In North Carolina, spiny dogfish is currently included in the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Plan, which defers to ASMFC/MAFMC/NEFMC FMP compliance requirements. Currently managed under the joint MAFMC and NEFMC Fishery Management Plan (FMP) in federal waters (3 miles-200 miles) and the ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Interstate FMP in state waters (0 miles-3 miles). Both FMPs establish a 4,000,000 lb. coastwide quota for the May 2005-April 2006 divided into two six-month seasons (May-October: 2,316,000 lbs.; November-April: 1,684,000 lbs.). A 600-lb. trip limit is in effect from May 1- October 31, 2005 and a 300-lb. trip limit is in effect from November 1, 2005-April 30, 2006. Directed fishery eliminated while spawning stock is being rebuilt.

Research and Data Needs — Discard mortality estimates, recreational harvest data, at-sea observer data, commercial fishery sampling, aging, and genetic studies.

Current Size Limit (2005) — No size restrictions

Harvest Season — The North Carolina commercial fishery occurs in the winter, from December — April, when the fishery is active.

Size and Age at Maturity — Males: 23 inches/8 years; Females: 31 inches/12 years. Age at maturity estimates vary due to different aging techniques.

Historical Maximum Age — Males: 35 years; Females: 40 years. Some estimates from the Pacific Ocean studies suggest a maximum age of 95 years. Historical ages are variable due to different aging techniques used. Annual formation of rings on the second dorsal spine not directly validated for Northwest Atlantic fish.

Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1995-2004 — Unknown **2004 -** Unknown

Habits/Habitats — Spiny dogfish are found on both sides of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans in temperate and subarctic waters. 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 approximately four feet. The spiny dogfish gives birth to live pups. The gestation period is approximately 22 months with two pups to 15 pups produced (average six). Fecundity increases with fish length.

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