

WHITE PERCH

Stock Status - *Unknown* - Federal aid project F-80 began March 2004 to fulfill data needs for the upcoming North Carolina fishery management plan. Data show juvenile abundance indices are near historical averages after severe decline in the mid 1980s and early 1990s. Landings have had a positive trend over the last 15 years.

Average Commercial Landings and Value - 2000-2009 – 272,819 lbs./\$186,170

2009 Commercial Landings and Value – 376,820 lbs./\$303,971

Average Recreational Landings - 2000-2009 – Unknown **2009** - Unknown

Status of Fishery Management Plan (FMP) – There is no state or federal plan. A state plan is scheduled for development when adequate data are available.

Data and Research Needs – Validation of juvenile indices, size, age, and sex composition of commercial and recreational harvest, updated maturity estimates, gear selectivity estimates, gut content analysis, spawning area surveys, identify movement and migration patterns, evaluate similarities of age, growth, and productivity between waterbodies

Current Regulations – None

Harvest Season – Year round

Size and Age at Maturity – Males: 3 inches total length (TL)/2 years; Females: 4 inches TL/3-4 years

Historical and Current Maximum Age – 17 years/13 years

Juvenile Abundance Index 2004 – 2009 – 5.3 **2009** – 0.9 (not validated)

Habits and Habitats – Spawning occurs in rivers and tributaries over fine gravel, sand, or mud from late March to early May. Eggs hatch within six days, depending on the water temperature. Young utilize the rivers and sounds as a nursery area, within the same area as the adults.

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