**KING MACKEREL**
(06/99 ARCHIVE - NCDMF)

**Stock Status--**Viable - The SSB (spawning stock biomass) and TAC (total allowable catch) continue to increase based on the 1999 South Atlantic assessment.

**Average Commercial Landings and Value 1987-1998**--1,039,201 lb, $1,416,542

**1998 Commercial Landings and Value**-- 1,143,342 lb, $1,749,357

**Average Recreational Landings 1987-1998 and 1998**-- 1,428,655 lb, 1,077,284 lb

**Average Number of Award Citations (30lb) 1987-1998 and 1998**-- 383, 364

**Status of Fisheries Management Plan**-- Currently managed under Amendment 8 to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Coastal Pelagic Fishery Management Plan. Management measures include commercial and recreational TAC's, minimum size limits, commercial trip limits (3,500 lb/trip), recreational bag limits (3 fish/person/day), gear restrictions, and commercial limited entry.

**Research and Data Needs**-- Bycatch mortality estimates in the directed shrimp fishery and fishery independent methods of monitoring stock size

**Current Minimum Size Limit**-- 20 inches (fork length)

**Harvest Season**-- April 1 to March 31 - Commercial and recreational seasons close when the TAC is reached.

**Size and Age at Maturity**-- 28 inches (fork length), 2-3 years old

**Historical and Current Maximum Age**-- 26 years old, 22 years old

**Juvenile Abundance Indices Average 1972-1998 and 1998**-- Unknown

**Habits/Habitats**-- King mackerel are considered coastal pelagic, meaning they live in the open waters near the coast. They make inshore and offshore migrations triggered by water temperature and prey availability. In the winter and early spring, king mackerel congregate just inside the Gulf Stream along the edge of the continental shelf. During the summer and fall, they move inshore along the beaches and near the mouths of inlets and coastal rivers. They prefer water temperatures between 68 and 78 degrees Fahrenheit.

For more information, see DMF Species Leads page