

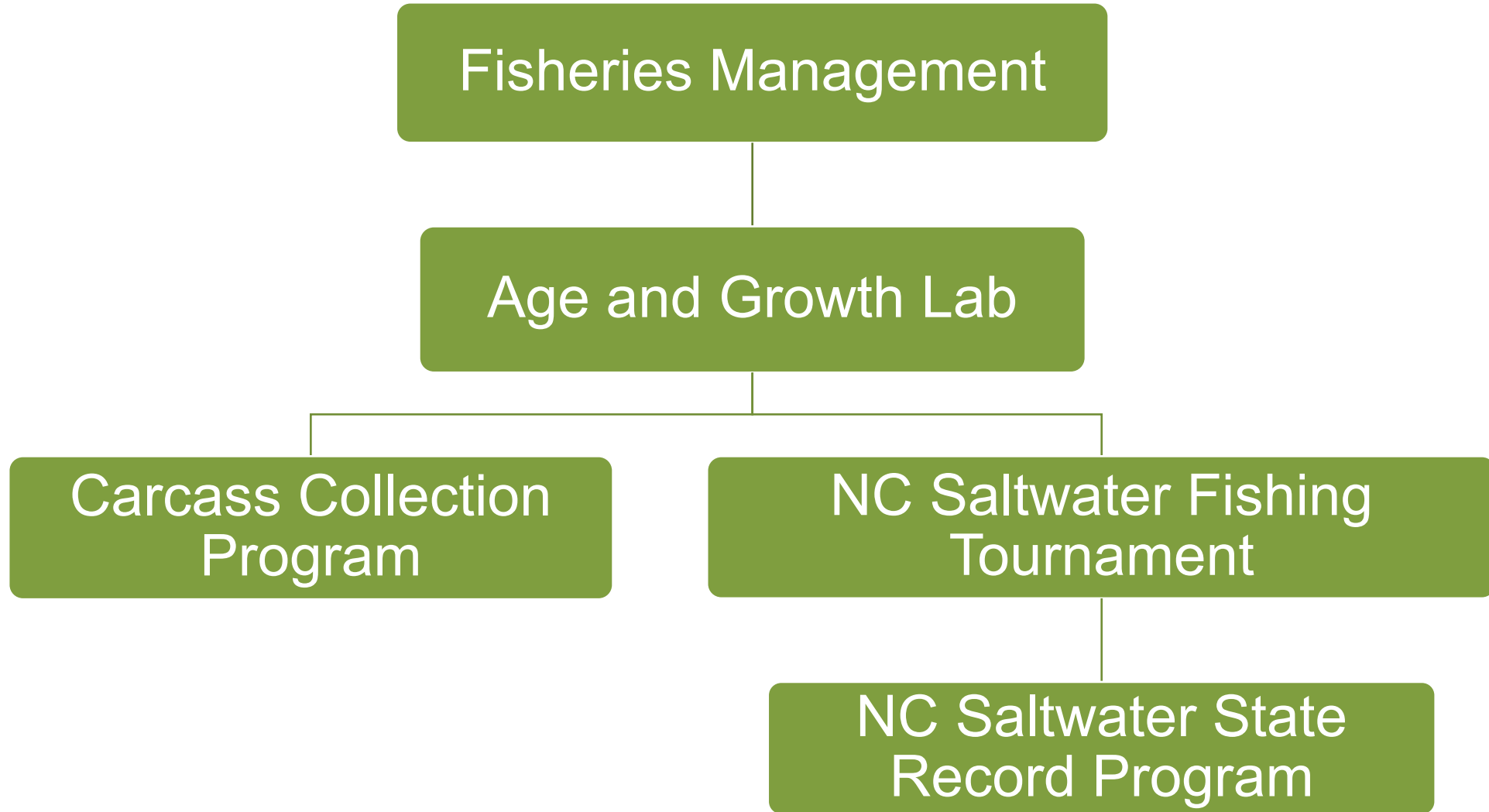


Carcass Collection Program
NC Saltwater Fishing Tournament
NC Saltwater State Record Fish

Amanda Macek, Sportfishing Specialist



Overview



Carcass Collection



- Dependent data collection
 - Supports Fishery Management Plans
 - Fish length, sex, and age structures
- Funded through Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL)
- Public engagement
 - Outreach
 - Cooperative work with fishing piers, tackle shops, and fishing tournaments



Kevin Aman and Sara Pace

Carcass Collection

Coastal Species	Offshore Species
Atlantic Croaker	Almaco Jack
Black Drum	Amberjack
Bluefish	Black Sea Bass
Cobia	Blueline Tilefish
Kingfish (Sea Mullet)	Gag Grouper
King Mackerel	Golden Tilefish
Sheepshead	Gray Triggerfish
Red Drum	Red Grouper
Spanish Mackerel	Red Porgy
Spot	Scamp
Spotted Seatrout	Vermilion Snapper
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	White Grunt
	Misc. Grouper

Carcass Collection



Carcass Collection



NC Division of Marine Fisheries Carcass Collection Program					
Angler & Trip Information					
<i>Card must be complete and legible in order to receive angler awards for your donation.</i>					
Name: _____		Email: _____			
Date of catch: _____		Phone number: _____			
Complete mailing address: _____			Location of catch: _____		
Tackle Information			Trip Type (Only Select One)		
<input type="radio"/> Hook and Line		<input type="radio"/> Electric/Hydraulic		<input type="radio"/> Gig	
				<input type="radio"/> Charter Boat	
				<input type="radio"/> Pier/Bridge	
				<input type="radio"/> Private Boat	
				<input type="radio"/> Head Boat	
				<input type="radio"/> Surf/Shore	
Number of fish donated-coastal species			Number of fish donated-offshore species		
	Quantity		Quantity		Quantity
Atlantic Croaker	_____	Red Drum	_____	Amberjack	_____
Black Drum	_____	Sheepshead	_____	Almaco Jack	_____
Black Sea Bass	_____	Spanish Mackerel	_____	Black Sea Bass	_____
Bluefish	_____	Spot	_____	Blueline Tilefish	_____
Cobia	_____	Spotted Seatrout	_____	Golden Tilefish	_____
King Mackerel	_____	Weakfish	_____	Gray Triggerfish	_____
Kingfish (Sea Mullet)	_____	Other _____	_____	Gag Grouper	_____
				Misc. Grouper	_____
				Red Grouper	_____
				Red Porgy	_____
				Scamp	_____
				Vermilion Snapper	_____
				White Grunt	_____
				Other _____	_____
To be completed by DMF staff ONLY. Check one.					
		<input type="radio"/> DMF staff		<input type="radio"/> Individual	
				<input type="radio"/> Charter Captain	
Sequence number(s): _____					

Carcass Collection



Vermilion Snapper recreational donation

Carcass Collection



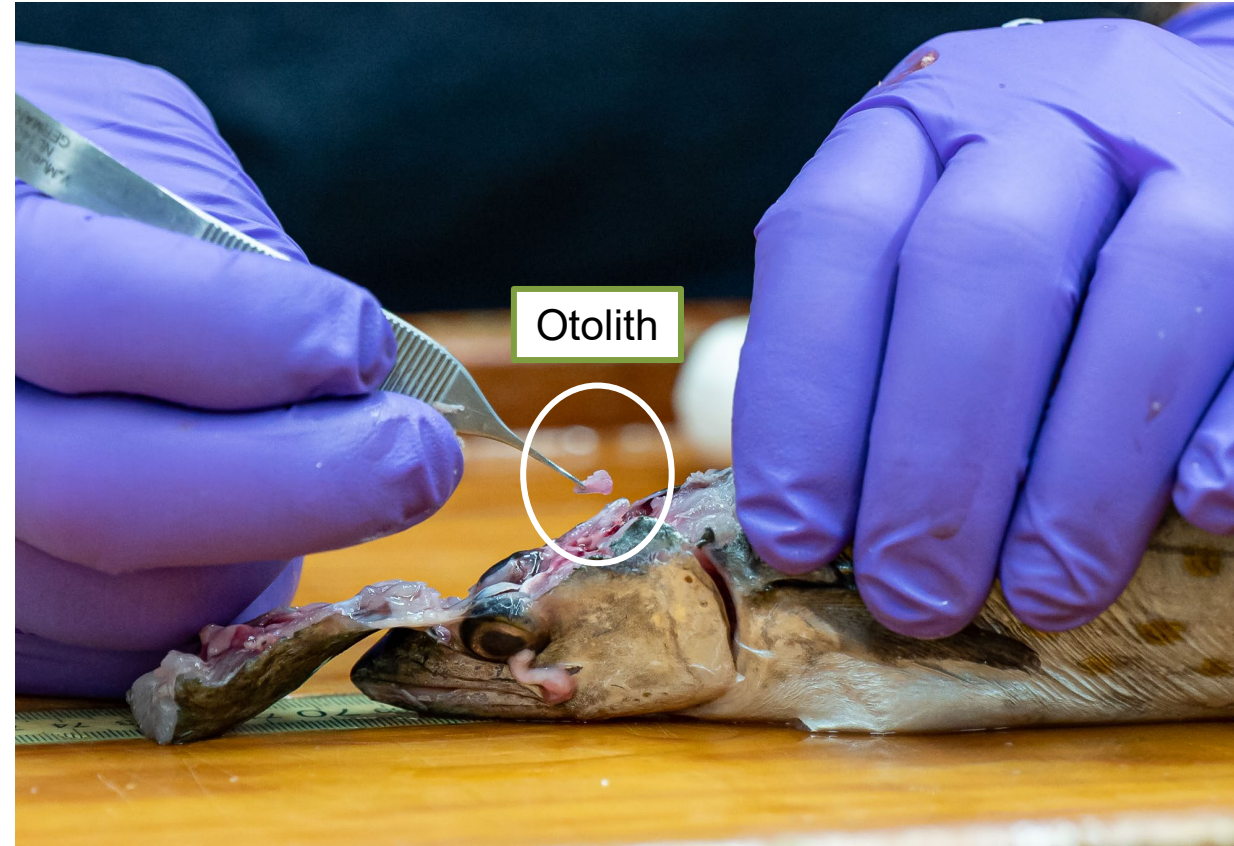
Kevin Aman measuring the fork and total length of a Red Drum.



Carcass Collection



Otolith removal from a Spanish Mackerel.



Otolith

Carcass Collection

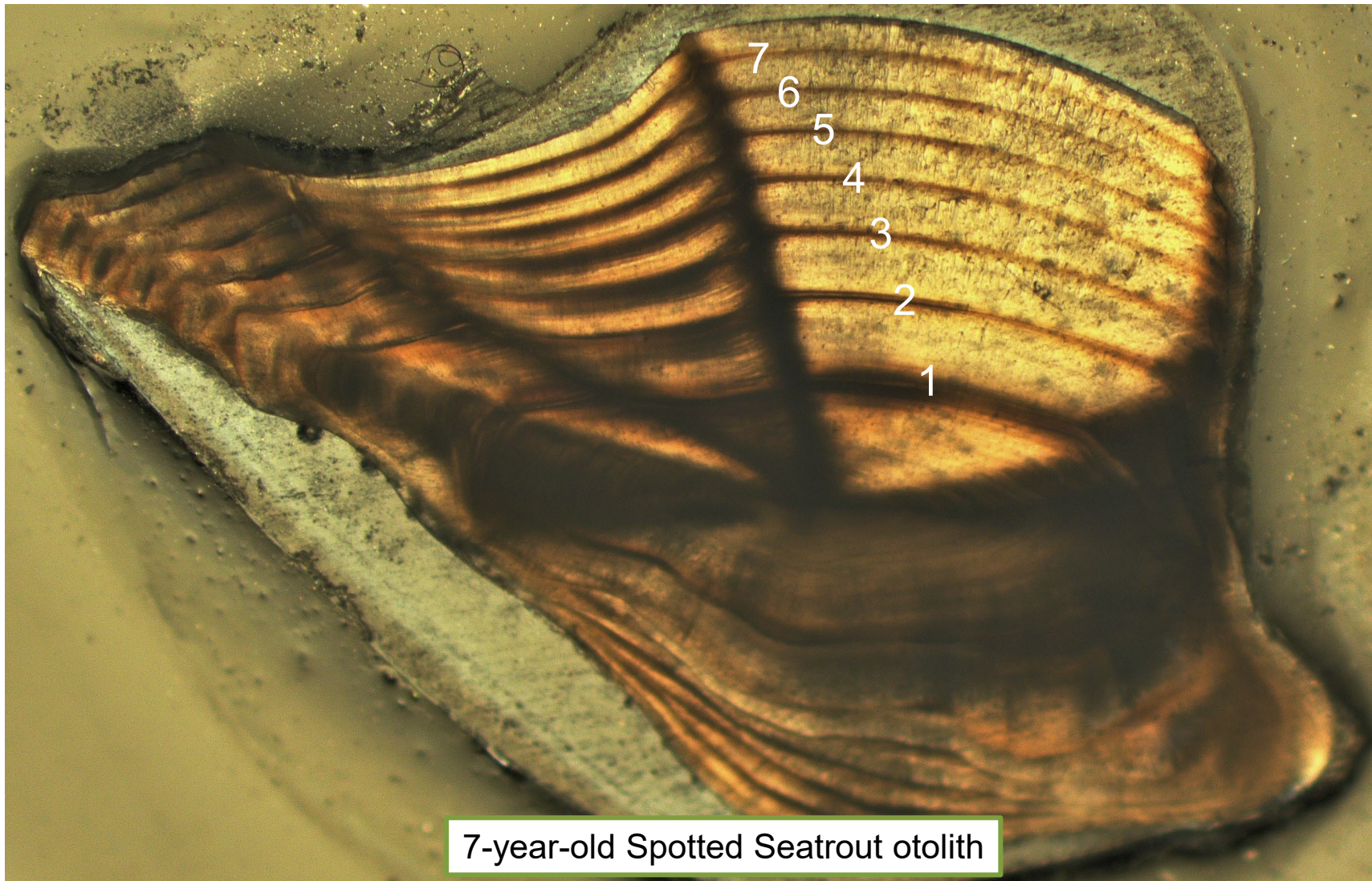


Hilquist saw used to take a thin section from large otoliths.



Ageing an otolith under a microscope.

Carcass Collection



7-year-old Spotted Seatrout otolith

Carcass Collection

2023 Review

- 1,077 regular season carcass donations from 104 anglers
- 1,531 carcass samples
- 18 different species
- Staff attended and sampled 14 fishing tournaments
- Outreach at the state fair, fishing & boating expos, fishing clubs, and Jennette's Pier



Carcass Collection

2024 Updates

- New incentives and rewards
 - 1-10 donations: sticker & measuring tape
 - 11-50 donations: waterproof saltwater fish ID brochure
 - 51-100+ donations: soft plastic lure variety pack & fish pin
- End of year grand prize drawing
- PLEASE DONATE!



Saltwater Fishing Tournament



- Commonly known as the Citation Program
- Recognizes anglers for their outstanding catches ~9,000/year
- Inherited from the Department of Travel & Tourism in the 1980s
- Funded through CRFL
- Provides outreach and education opportunities for DMF
- 80 weigh stations at fishing piers and tackle shops
 - deq.nc.gov/citation-program
- Supports Carcass Collection Program and biologists working on FMPs

North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Citation

Cory P. Hippurus

WHOSE CATCH HAS BEEN JUDGED
EXCEPTIONAL

FISH: Dolphin WEIGHT: 38 lbs 8 oz DATE: June 20, 2024



Roy Cooper
Governor
State of North Carolina



Walter B. Rando
Director
Division of Marine Fisheries



Species	Min. Weight	Min. Length	Species	Min. Weight	Min. Length
Amberjack	50	53	Pigfish	1.5	14
Atlantic Croaker	1.5	14	Red Drum	40 inches, release only	
Barracuda	20	45	Red Porgy (Silver Snapper)	4	20
Bigeye Tuna	100	54 (FL)	Sailfish	Any length, release only	
Black Drum	30	40	Sharks	80 inches, release only	
Blackfin Tuna	25	32 (FL)	Sheepshead	8	24
Blue Marlin	Any length, release only		Spadefish	4	16
Black Sea Bass	4	18	Spanish Mackerel	6	25
Bluefin Tuna	200	70 (FL)	Spearfish	Any length, release only	
Bluefish	15	34	Spotted Seatrout	5	24
Cobia	40	50	Spot	1	12
Dolphin (Mahi)	35	57	Swordfish	50	70
False Albacore	20	34	Tarpon	Any length, release only	
Florida Pompano	2	17	Triggerfish	5	20
Gray Tilefish	10	28	Vermilion Snapper (Beeliner)	3	19
Gray Trout (Weakfish)	5	24	Wahoo	40	56
Crevalle Jack	15	32	White Grunt	2	16
Kingfish (Sea Mullet)	1.5	15	White Marlin	Any length, release only	
King Mackerel	30	54	Yellowfin Tuna	70	50 (FL)

Saltwater Fishing Tournament

2023 Review

- 8,163 certificates
 - Red Drum 2,175
 - Sailfish 1,513
 - Spotted Seatrout 1,183

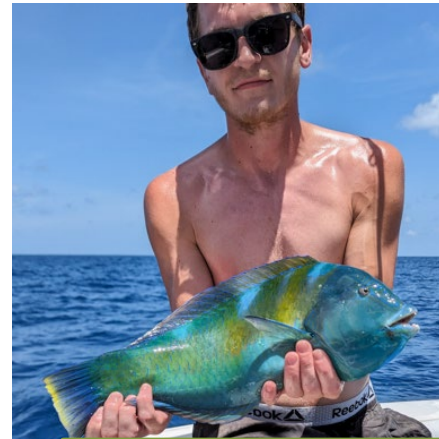
In the future:

- Online portal for applications and leaderboard
- Additional angler recognition and special awards



Saltwater State Record Fish

- Housed within the Citation Program
- 85 current species records
 - 11 confirmed, and 1 application for world record fish (all-tackle)
- 6 new records in 2023
- 4 new records so far in 2024
- Updated in 2023 to allow for release fish (length) records



Websites & Contact Information



Online Citation Application



Carcass Collection Program



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<https://www.deq.nc.gov/carcass-collection>

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