



North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Tournament

Citation Program

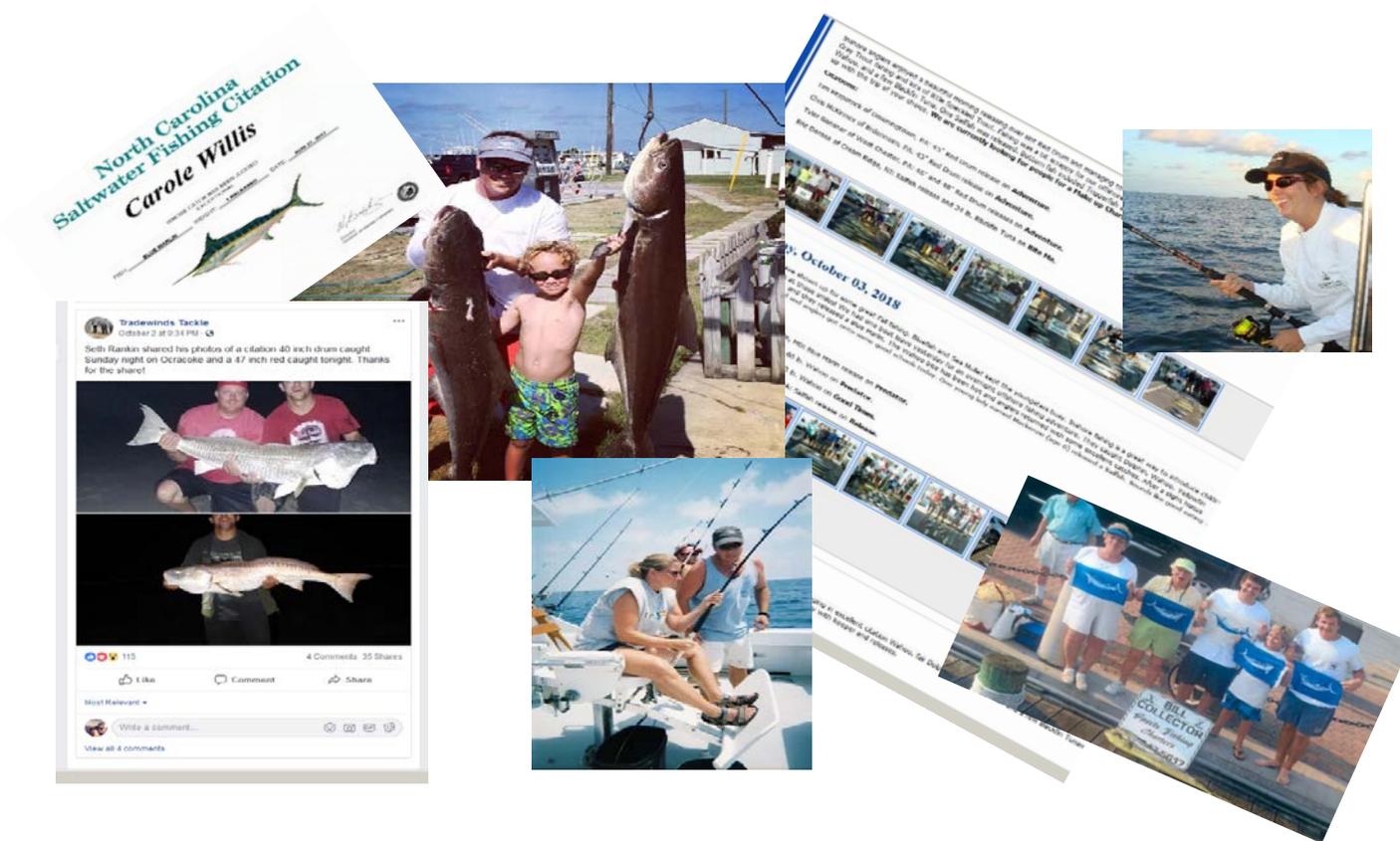
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

Marine Fisheries Commission | Carole Willis | November 14-16, 2018



“That’s a citation!”



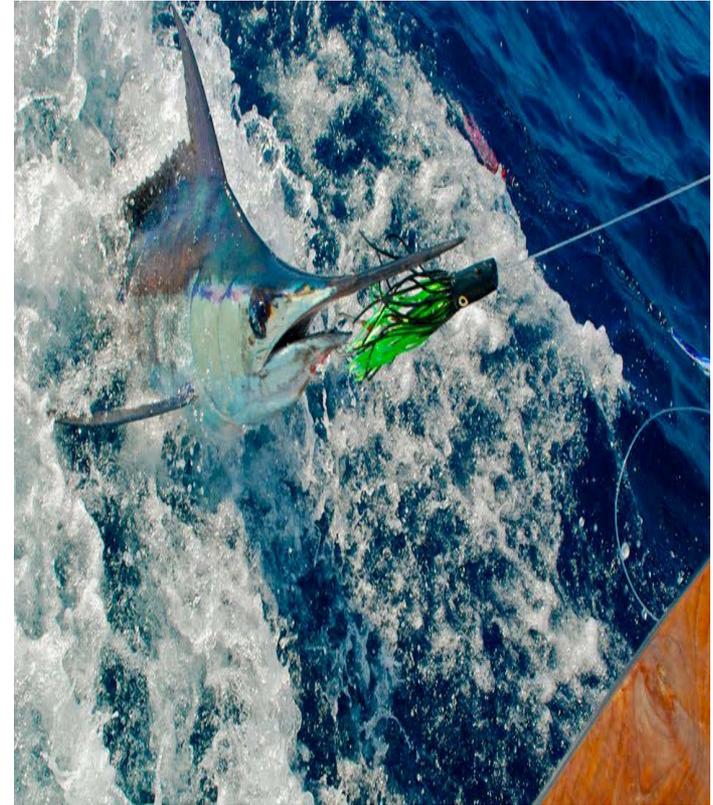
The North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Tournament is an integral part of the fishing community.

Department of Environmental Quality



North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Tournament

- Purpose of the program is to recognize anglers for outstanding catches for fish common to North Carolina waters
- Saltwater state records are also kept as part of this program



Department of Environmental Quality



The Basics



- Citations are offered for 38 different species
- Each species has a weight and/or release requirement that must be met
- Fish must be weighed at an Official Weigh Station

**2018 NORTH CAROLINA SALTWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT
MANAGED BY NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES**

**The Tournament begins January 1, 2018 and ends Midnight, December 31, 2018.
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD, ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 15, 2019.**

Fish shall be caught in accordance with North Carolina State and Federal laws and regulations as well as the NC Saltwater Fishing Tournament rules. Everyone is eligible except a charter boat captain or a crewman of a for-hire boat or anyone who offers fish for sale. Weighmasters or their employees are eligible for awards, provided a witness signs verification. Eligible waters include all North Carolina sounds, estuaries, surf, and the Atlantic Ocean. No registration fee is required.

Certificate Qualifications: All fish must be caught on hook and line and landed or brought to gaff or net by the angler. No electric or hydraulic equipment is allowed. Fish must be weighed by an authorized weighmaster (or his/her representative) at an official weigh station. Each fish must be recorded on an official application form, signed by the angler and by a weighmaster. Snagged, mutilated, scaled, speared, frozen, or shot fish are not eligible. The weighmaster reserves the right to cut, open, or mark the fish after it has been weighed.

Release Rules: Angler or mate must touch the fish or the leader. Application must be completed with exception of length and weight (false albacore, amberjack, atlantic bonito, barracuda, cobia, black drum, jack crevalle, king mackerel, shark, striped bass, gray trout, speckled trout and red drum must have the length recorded). A witness must sign the application.

**The Official 2018 North Carolina
Saltwater Fishing Tournament Minimum Weights & Release Lengths**

| SPECIES | MINIMUM WEIGHT | SPECIES | MINIMUM WEIGHT |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Albacore, False | Release Only E | Pompano, Florida | 2 lbs |
| Amberjack | 50 lbs H | Porgy (Silver Snapper) | 4 lbs |
| Atlantic Bonito | 8 lbs B | Sailfish | Release Only A |
| Barracuda | Release Only G | Shark | 150 lbs J |
| Bass, Black Sea | 4 lbs. | Sheepshead | 8 lbs |
| Bluefish | 15 lbs E | Spearfish | Release Only A |
| Cobia | 40 lbs D | Spot | 1 lb |
| Croaker | 3 lbs | Striped Bass | 35 lbs G |
| Dolphin | 35 lbs | Swordfish | 50 lbs A |
| Drum, Black | 35 lbs F | Tarpon | Release Only A |
| Drum, Red | Release Only F | Tilefish, Gray | 10 lbs |
| Flounder | 5 lbs | Triggerfish | 5 lbs |
| Grouper | 20 lbs | Trout, Gray | 5 lbs B |
| Jack, Crevalle | Release Only C | Trout, Speckled | 5 lbs B |
| Mackerel, King | 30 lbs G | Tuna, Bigeye | 100 lbs |
| Mackerel, Spanish | 6 lbs | Tuna, Blackfin | 20 lbs |
| Marlin, Blue | 400 lbs A | Tuna, Bluefin | 200 lbs I |
| Marlin, White | Release Only A | Tuna, Yellowfin | 70 lbs. |
| Mullet, Sea | 1 1/2 lbs | Wahoo | 40 lbs. |

A = Award for live release of fish, regardless of size
 B = Award for live release of fish, 24 inches or longer
 C = Award for live release of fish, 32 inches or longer
 D = Award for live release of fish, 33 inches or longer
 E = Award for live release of fish, 34 inches or longer
 F = Award for live release of fish, 40 inches or longer
 G = Award for live release of fish, 45 inches or longer
 H = Award for live release of fish, 50 inches or longer
 I = Award for live release of fish, 70 inches or longer
 J = Award for live release of fish, 80 inches or longer



Weigh Stations

- Currently 106 Weigh Stations
- Weigh stations provide certified scales and applications to anglers
- Process applications for weighed fish and released fish
- Participation in the program is used as a business tool



Department of Environmental Quality



Application Process



**OFFICIAL NORTH CAROLINA
SALTWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Managed by North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Incomplete Forms Will Not Be Processed

N^o

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------|
| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | (MI) |
| ADDRESS | | |
| CITY | | STATE |
| ZIP CODE | | |
| (AREA) TELEPHONE | E-MAIL ADDRESS: | |

**Check Type of Fish
(Please Note Minimum Weight & Minimum Release Length)**

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albacore, False RELEASE ONLY *(34 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Amberjack 50 lbs *(50 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Bonito 8 lbs *(24 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Barracuda RELEASE ONLY *(45 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Bass, Black-Sea 4 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Bluefish 15 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Cobia 40 lbs *(33 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Croaker 3 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin 35 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Drum, Black 35 lbs *(40 in) | <input type="checkbox"/> Drum, Red RELEASE ONLY *(40 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Flounder 5 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Grouper 20 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Jack, Crevalle RELEASE ONLY *(32 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Mackerel, King 30 lbs *(45 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Mackerel, Spanish 6 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Marlin, Blue 400 lbs *(any length) <input type="checkbox"/> Marlin, White RELEASE ONLY *(any length) <input type="checkbox"/> Mullet, Sea 1 1/2 lbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Pompano (Florida) 2 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Porgy (Silver Snapper) 4 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Sailfish RELEASE ONLY *(any length) <input type="checkbox"/> Shark 150 lbs *(80 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Sheepshead 8 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Speartfish RELEASE ONLY *(any length) <input type="checkbox"/> Spot 1 lb <input type="checkbox"/> Striped Bass 35 lbs *(45 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Tarpon RELEASE ONLY *(any length) <input type="checkbox"/> Tilefish, Gray 10 lbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Triggerfish 5 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Trout, Gray 5 lbs *(24 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Trout, Speckled 5 lbs *(24 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Tuna, Bigeye 100 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Tuna, Blackfin 20 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Tuna, Bluefin 200 lbs *(70 in) <input type="checkbox"/> Tuna, Yellowfin 70 lbs <input type="checkbox"/> Wahoo 40 lbs |
|--|--|--|--|

For Released Fish: **For the following, record length:** **Release Length**

Released fish live, please check here: *False Albacore, Amberjack, Atlantic Bonito, Barracuda, Bluefin Tuna, Cobia, Black Drum, Red Drum, Jack, Crevalle, King Mackerel, Shark, Striped Bass, Gray Trout, Spangled Trout, **Released fish of any length is eligible.

| Month | | | Day | | | Year | | |
|----------------------|--|--|-----|--|--|------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | |
| DATE REQUIRED | | | | | | | | |

If fish was kept, please record the following:

| Pounds | | | Ozs. | | | Inches | | | Inches | | |
|--------|--|--|--------|--|--|--------|--|--|--------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weight | | | Length | | | Girth | | | | | |

The angler is responsible for ensuring that this application is accurate and complete. Fish shall be caught in accordance with NC State and Federal laws and regulations as well as NC Saltwater Fishing Tournament rules. By signing the above form the angler is consenting to release their information (for educational and/or informational purposes) and attesting that all rules, regulations, and requirements have been met.

★ _____ ★
Signature of Angler

Name of charter boat, marina, or pier (if applicable): _____

Signature of Weighmaster or Release Witness _____ Weigh Station _____

Mail to: Division of Marine Fisheries, North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Award Program,
P.O. Box 769 • Morehead City, NC 28557-0769 • 1-800-682-2632 • 252-726-7021
For Questions, email: denr.dmf.citations@lists.ncmail.net

White: Original-DMF Canary: Weigh Station Pink: Angler
15,000 copies of this form were printed at a cost of \$1,320.16 or \$0.088 per copy.
All applications must be received by January 15 of the next year.

NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality
NC.SOV AGENCIES JOBS SERVICES

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North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Tournament (Citation Program)

Use the form below to submit information about your catch to the Division of Marine Fisheries Citation Program.

Angler Name (First, Middle Initial, Last) *

Enter name here

Please fill out this field.

Mailing Address (Street or P.O. Box, City, State and Zip Code) *

Enter mailing address

Email address *

Enter email address (someone@email.com)

Phone Number (with area code) *

Enter phone number

Species Released *

False Albacore (34 inches)

Length of fish (inches) *

Length of fish (inches with * mark)

Date Released *

Month Day Year

Angler statement *

The angler is responsible for ensuring that this application is accurate and complete. Fish shall be caught in accordance with N.C. State and Federal laws and regulations, as well as N.C. Saltwater Tournament rules. By typing "yes" in the box below, the angler is consenting to release their information (for educational and/or informational purposes) and attesting that all rules, regulations and requirements have been met.

(yes - no)

Submit

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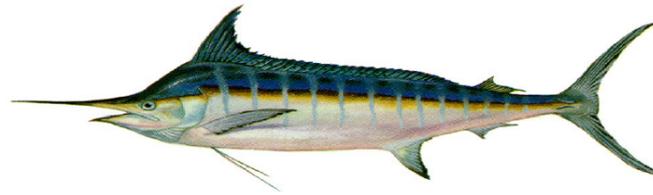


North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Citation

Carole Willis

WHOSE CATCH HAS BEEN JUDGED
EXCEPTIONAL

FISH: BLUE MARLIN WEIGHT: 1 RELEASED DATE: AUG 27, 2017



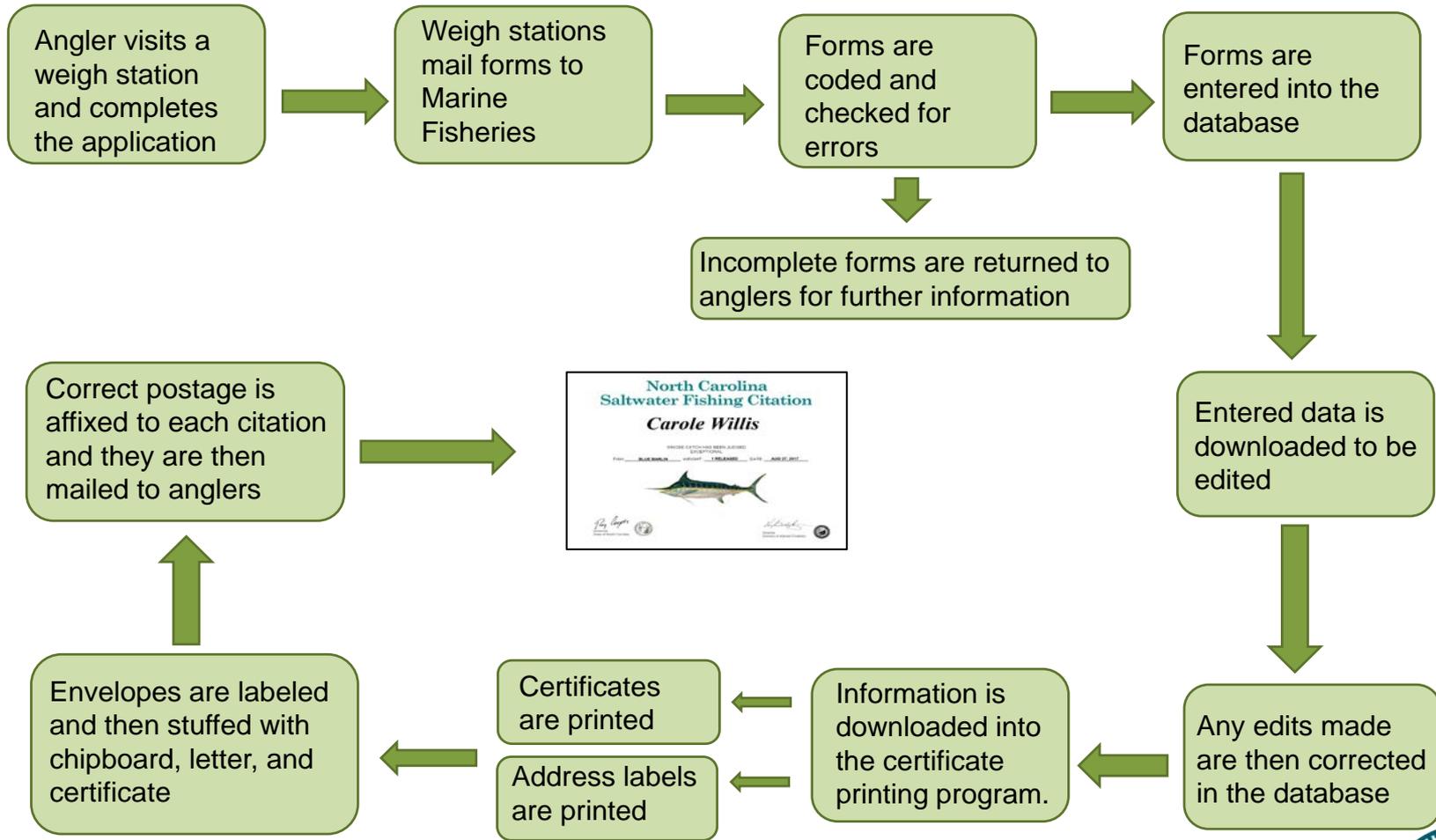
Roy Cooper
Governor
State of North Carolina



Hythyaugh
Director
Division of Marine Fisheries

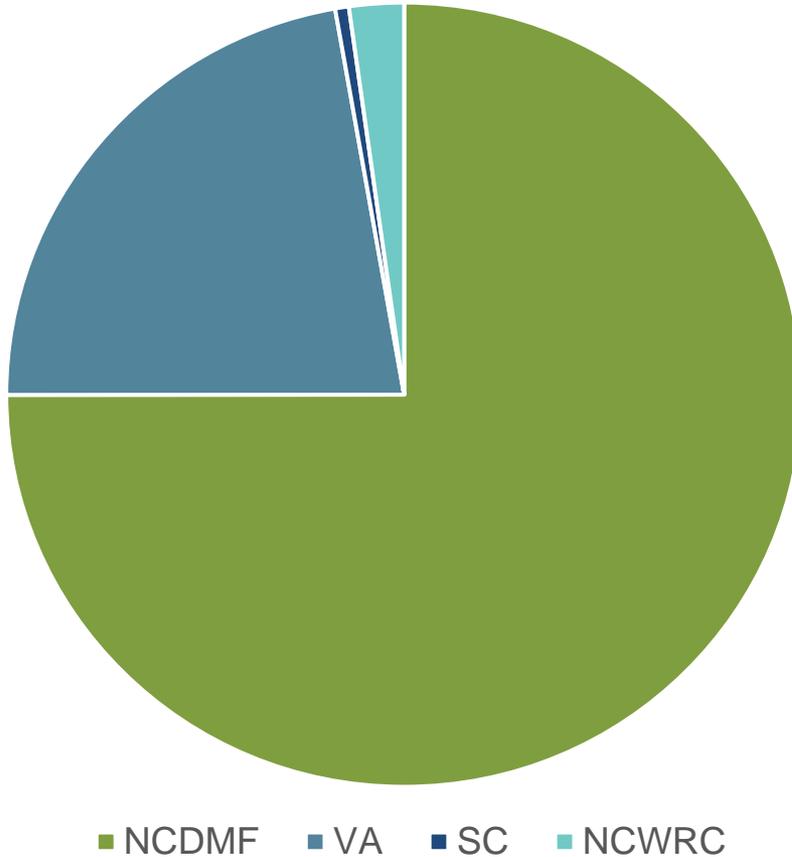


Citation Processing



Program Comparison

Number of Awards



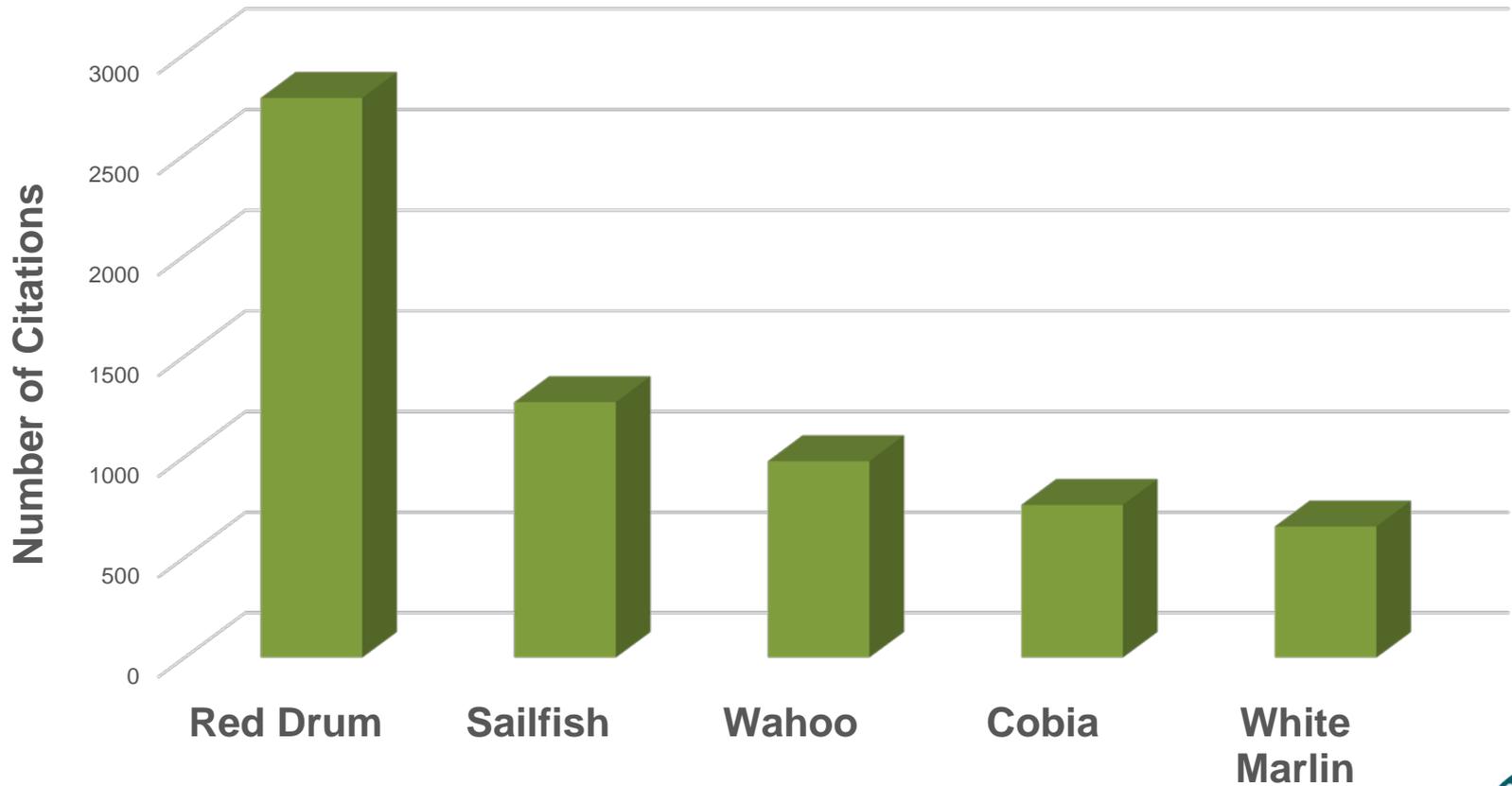
- Largest program of it's kind
- Virginia has the most comparable program
- South Carolina only issues one award for a species annually
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission charges for participation in their program



Species Popularity



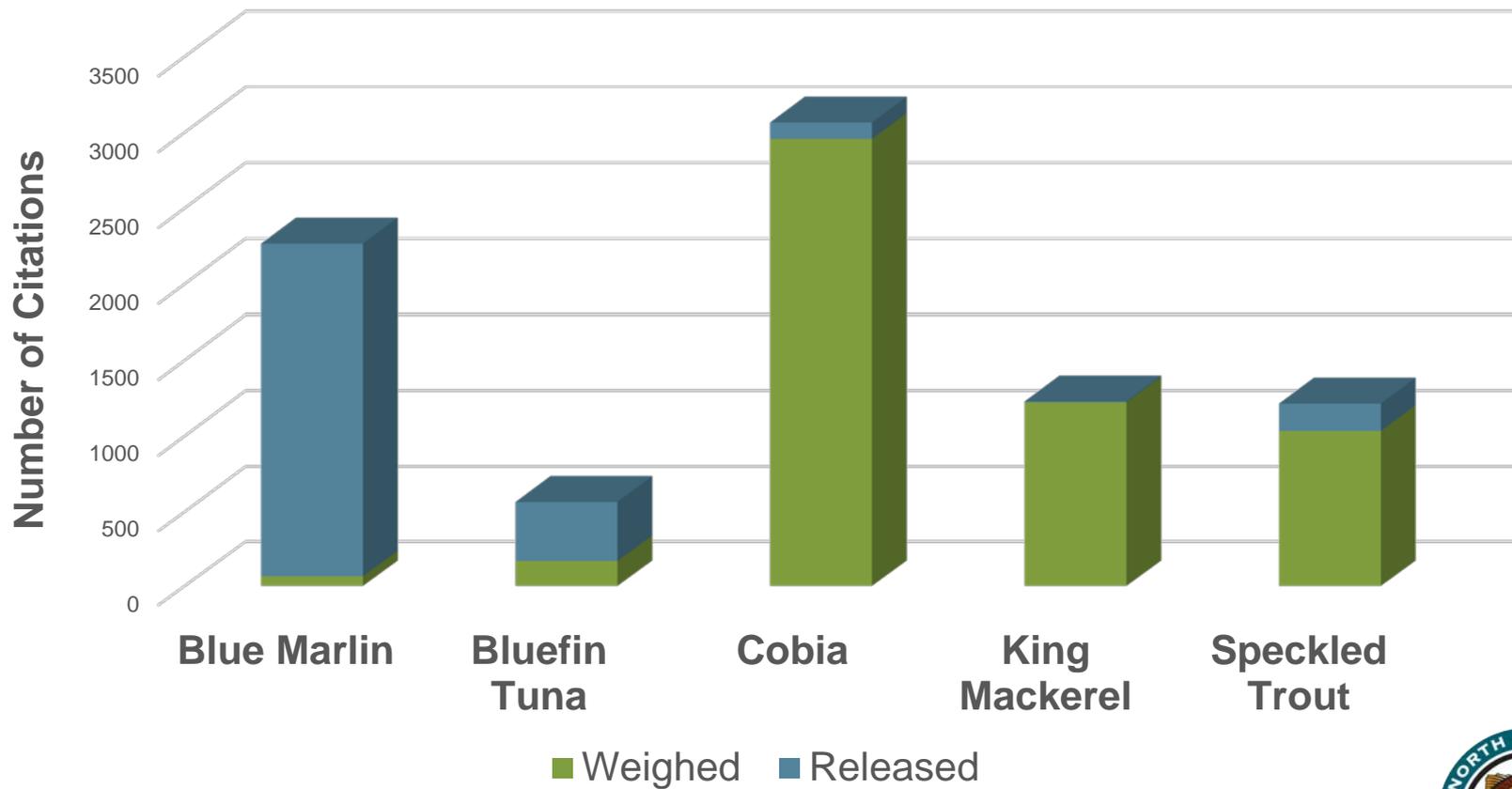
Top Citation Species in 2017



Weigh or Release



Top Species with Weigh and Release Option 2013-2017



Recognizing State Records



- Each year several records are broken
- The program uses the guidelines provided by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) for maintaining records

Department of Environmental Quality



State Record Certificate

NORTH CAROLINA STATE RECORD FISH

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

Certifies that



holds the current state record for

Species Bluefin Tuna

Weight 877 lbs 0 oz

On March 17, 2018


Governor
State of North Carolina




Director
Division of Marine Fisheries



Department of Environmental Quality



Establishing a New Saltwater Record

- Caught in accordance with program requirements
- Weighed at an Official NC Saltwater Fishing Tournament weigh station



Department of Environmental Quality



Current Records



- Currently 69 state records being maintained
- North Carolina Anglers currently hold five all-tackle world records recognized by the IGFA and countless line-class records

Department of Environmental Quality



Program Maintenance



N.C. Saltwater Fishing Tournament

Eligible Species and Minimum Weights

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Albacore, False | Release Only (E) | Grouper | 20 lbs. | Snapper, Red | 10 lbs. |
| Amberjack | 50 lbs. (H) | Jack, Crevalle | Release Only (C) | Spot | 1 lb. |
| Atlantic Bonita | 8 lbs. (B) | Mackerel, King | 30 lbs. (G) | Striped Bass | 35 lbs. (G) |
| Barracuda | Release Only (G) | Mackerel, Spanish | 6 lbs. | Tarpon | Release Only (A) |
| Bass, Black Sea | 4 lbs. | Marlin, Blue | 400 lbs (A) | Tiefish, Gray | 10 lbs. |
| Bluefish | 15 lbs. | Martin, White | Release Only (A) | Triggerfish | 5 lbs. |
| Cobia | 40 lbs. (D) | Mullet, Sea | 1 1/2 lbs. | Trout, Gray | 5 lbs. (B) |
| Croaker | 3 lbs. | Pompano, Florida | 2 lbs. | Trout, Speckled | 5 lbs. (B) |
| Dolphin | 35 lbs. | Porgy | 4 lbs. | Tuna, Bigeye | 100 lbs. |
| Drum, Black | 35 lbs. (F) | Sailfish | Release Only (A) | Tuna, Blackfin | 20 lbs. |
| Drum, Red | Release Only (F) | Shark | 150 lbs. (I) | Tuna, Bluefin | 80 lbs. (A) |
| Flounder | 5 lbs. | Sheepshead | 8 lbs. | Tuna, Yellowfin | 70 lbs. |
| | | | | Wahoo | 40 lbs. |

(A)-Award for live release of fish, regardless of size. (B)-Award for live release of fish 24 inches or longer. (C)-Award for live release of fish 32 inches or longer. (D)-Award for live release of fish 20 inches or longer. (E)-Award for live release of fish 36 inches or longer. (F)-Award for live release of fish 40 inches or longer. (G)-Award for live release of fish 45 inches or longer. (H)-Award for live release of fish 50 inches or longer. (I)-Award for live release of fish 60 inches or longer.

Official Weigh Station

For more information call:
800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021
 North Carolina
 Division of Marine Fisheries
www.ncdmf.net

- Program is housed within Fisheries Management Section
- Funding for one full-time staff is provided by a federal grant
- Funding for program supplies including postage are provided through Coastal Recreational Fishing License grant



Program Future

- Upgrade database to streamline data entry process.
- Work with weigh stations to streamline the process of receiving citations.
- Review requests from anglers and weigh stations to add additional state record and citation species and update requirements as needed.
- Provide anglers something they will value.



Program Sustainability

- The citation program is currently operating at maximum capacity.
- Additional live releases would not be beneficial at this time
- Already adapts to changes in regulations and size limits
- Not intended to be a management tool or conservation program

| Release Only | Weight Only | Weight or Release |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| False Albacore | Black Sea Bass | Amberjack |
| Barracuda | Atlantic Croaker | Atlantic Bonito |
| Red Drum | Dolphin | Bluefish |
| Creville Jack | Flounder | Cobia |
| White Marlin | Grouper | Black Drum |
| Sailfish | Spanish Mackerel | King Mackerel |
| Spearfish | Sea Mullet | Blue Marlin |
| Tarpon | Florida Pompano | Sharks |
| | Porgy (Silver Snapper) | Gray Trout |
| | Sheepshead | Speckled Trout |
| | Spot | Bluefin Tuna |
| | Gray Tilefish | Striped Bass |
| | Triggerfish | Swordfish |
| | Bigeye Tuna | |
| | Blackfin Tuna | |
| | Yellowfin Tuna | |
| | Wahoo | |

Questions



Department of Environmental Quality

