



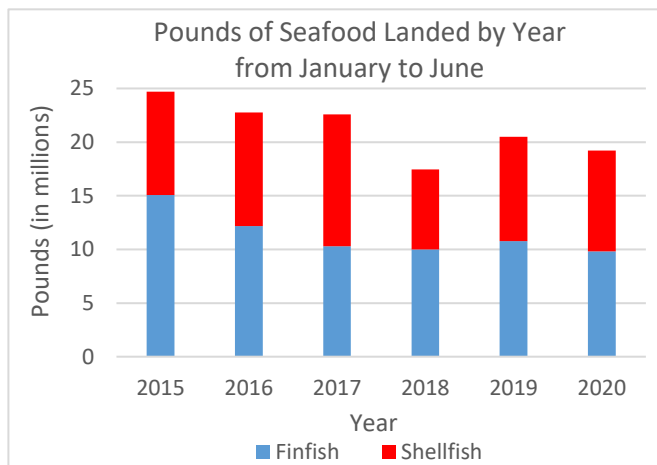
Fish Dealer Report

License & Statistics Section, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557

October 2020

2020 COMMERCIAL LANDINGS REVIEW

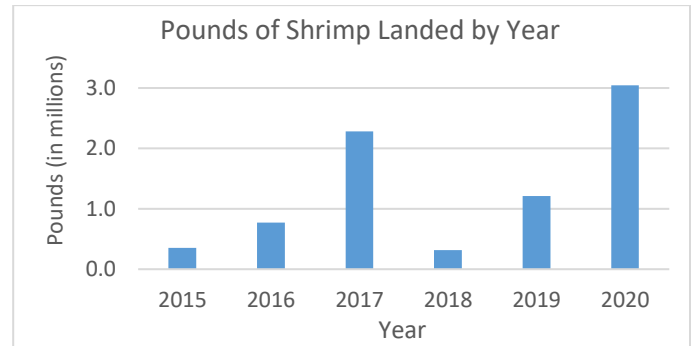
Preliminary data collected by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) reveals that fishermen landed 19.2 million pounds of seafood from January to June 2020. This was an 11% decrease from the previous 5-year average for the same time period.



The top five species landed were Hard Blue Crab (5.5 million pounds), shrimp (3.0 million pounds), Spiny Dogfish (1.5 million pounds), Summer Flounder (896,000 pounds), and catfishes (663,000 pounds).

The number of trips in 2020 decreased by 25% when compared to the 5-year average and decreased 11% from 2019 over the same time period.

Shrimp landings increased by 208% over the 5-year average and 151% over 2019 for the same time period. Other species with higher increases in landings were Spotted Seatrout, which increased 263% over the 5-year average, and Atlantic Cutlassfish, which increased 347% over the 5-year average.



NC CARES ACT FISHERIES RELIEF PROGRAM

As part of the CARES Act, North Carolina received \$5.4 million in assistance to distribute to qualified applicants. These funds will be distributed to commercial fishermen, aquaculture operations, seafood dealers and processors, and the for-hire industry. For applicants to receive funds they must be a North Carolina resident and demonstrate a greater than 35% reduction in revenue during the March to May 2020 period as compared to the average of the previous five years for the same time period of March to May. Applications and required documents have been mailed to all licensed commercial fishermen, lease holders, seafood dealers, and for-hire businesses. These documents will also be available on the NCDMF website (<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/cares-act>) for those businesses that don't have state or federal licenses or permits (such as seafood processors). All applications and required documents must be received by 5 p.m. on Nov. 30 in the Morehead City Headquarters office or postmarked by 5 pm on Nov. 30. Late submissions will not be eligible. If you have any questions about the NC CARES Act Fisheries Relief Program, email covid19relief@ncdenr.gov or call NCDMF staff in Morehead City, NC at (252) 808-8105 or 1-800-682-2632 (toll-free in NC only).

FEDERAL HURRICANE FLORENCE FISHERIES RELIEF PROGRAM

Hurricane Florence made landfall in September 2018 and had a devastating impact on the fishing industry. The N.C. General Assembly passed legislation that was signed into law by Governor Cooper to distribute over \$11 million in assistance to commercial fishermen impacted by the storm. Governor Cooper also submitted a request to US Secretary of Commerce for a federal fishery disaster declaration. This was approved by the Secretary of Commerce in December 2018. The National Marine Fisheries Service conducted a fisheries damage assessment and based on that North Carolina will be eligible to distribute \$7.7 million in federal assistance funds to seafood dealers and processors, pier owners, for-hire businesses, and bait-and-tackle shops.

The division has sent in a proposed spending plan, and it is currently going through review by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Once the plan is approved, the funds will be released to NCDMF to start an application process and distribute the funds to eligible applicants.

STAFF CHANGES

Please join us in congratulating Brandi Salmon, the previous quota monitoring biologist, on her new position as section chief of License and Statistics. She can be contacted at 252-342-0071 or Brandi.Salmon@ncdenr.gov.

The new quota monitoring biologist is Meredith Whitten, who can be contacted at 252-515-6690 or Meredith.Whitten@ncdenr.gov. Meredith is available to help with quota monitoring inquiries or Trip Ticket Software technical support.

Assisting with the relief programs, the new Trip Ticket fisheries biologist is Michael Thompson, and the new Trip Ticket administration assistant is Suporn (Piano) Waldie. Michael can be reached at 252-269-1847 or Michael.Thompson@ncdenr.gov and Piano at 252-808-8105 or Suporn.Waldie@ncdenr.gov.

FMP REMINDERS

Blue Crab closed seasons begin in 2021, replacing the current pot closure period. North of the Highway 58 bridge to Emerald Isle, pots must be out of the water Jan. 1-31. South of the Highway 58 bridge, pots must be out of the water March 1-15.

Additionally, Diamondback Terrapin Management Areas begin March 1, 2021 in Masonboro Sound and the lower Cape Fear River. Crab pots in these areas must be fitted with an approved terrapin excluder device in all funnels.

The Marine Fisheries Commission will be soliciting for Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee members later in 2020. The appointed members will directly advise the division during a workshop style webinar expected to occur in early 2021. Division staff and the plan advisory committee will work together to discuss issues and refine the draft plan amendment.

DEALER SURVEY

The NCDMF Fisheries Economics Program recently completed its final report of a socioeconomic study of the state's licensed seafood dealers. This survey was funded by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and sought to understand the economics, operations, and opinions of the state's seafood dealer population. In all, 199 licensed seafood dealers participated in this study and provided useful insights, as well as an opportunity to compare industry data to a previous NCDMF study conducted in 2009.

The study has been published on NCDMF's website on the "Statistics, Reports, and Data" page (<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/marine-fisheries-catch-statistics>) and is viewable by the public at this link. For any questions on accessibility or the details of the study, please contact David Dietz, fisheries economics program manager, at 919-707-8573.

The Division of Marine Fisheries is dedicated to ensuring sustainable marine and estuarine fisheries and habitats for the benefit and health of the people of North Carolina.

TRIP TICKET REMINDERS

GILL NET CODES: Remember anchored gill nets are defined as any gill net that has been anchored to the shore or bottom by any amount of weight greater than the lead line, even if only on one side. Drift nets and runaround nets do not have any additional weight (other than the lead line) keeping the nets in place. Anchored gill nets are of interest to the NCDMF Observer Program due to requirements of Incidental Take Permits under the Endangered Species Act for this fishery. Please ensure that you are recording the correct gear code for all gill nets.

426-Small Mesh Anchored Gill Net

427-Large Mesh Anchored Gill Net

470-Any Mesh Drift Gill Net

475-Any Mesh Runaround Gill Net

LICENSES: Please ensure that license numbers and Commercial Fishing Vessel Registrations (P-numbers) are correct on your trip tickets. These are the most common errors encountered by the Trip Ticket Program and typically occur as typos when entering and/or not checking for licenses that have expired. Please routinely check the fishing licenses of your clients.

LEASE NUMBER: When a lease number needs to be recorded on a paper trip ticket, please only list one lease number. If landings occurred across multiple leases, please use a separate paper trip ticket for each lease and mark one of the trip tickets with a transaction number of 2.

TRIP TICKETS AT TRIP LEVEL: Remember trip tickets are to be recorded at the occurrence of each trip. A trip is defined as the time a vessel leaves the dock to fish until the vessel returns to the dock. Multiple trips cannot be listed on the same trip ticket.

SPECIES SELECTION: Please ensure that you are identifying fish as the appropriate species when entering the data on trip tickets.

For example, Scamp vs Yellowmouth Grouper, or Scalloped vs Greater Hammerhead.

TRIP TICKETS: Additionally, when filling out paper tickets, please take steps to ensure that the data are transferred onto the additional carbon copies in the trip ticket booklets. Newer trip tickets require you to press harder than before when writing the data, and the use of a ball point pen will help ensure the data transfers between sheets. Dealers who report electronically should verify that all of the data matches when completing updates in the system. Unless missed catch is added or a typo is corrected, the units entered should match in the original ticket and the updated ticket.

TECHNICAL UPDATES

VESL: The Trip Ticket Program also continues to work with Bluefin Data, LLC and the North Carolina Department of Information Technology to implement VESL. VESL is a web-based version of the Trip Ticket Software Program that can be used on mobile devices and will allow for greater flexibility to account for changing reporting requirements.

FIN: The Fisheries Information Network (FIN) is a database that is used for a large number of the division's programs, including the Trip Ticket and License Programs. FIN was first developed and deployed into production in July 1999 and was upgraded in the fall of 2019 and released into production in January 2020. This upgrade converted FIN into a web-based platform, which facilitated the use of more modern technologies and enhanced the system for the division. Thank you for your patience as NCDMF learned, launched, and adapted to this new version of FIN.

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**NC MARINE FISHERIES
COMMISSION MEETING
SCHEDULE FOR 2020**

November 18-20, 2020

Meeting may be held virtually. Please visit

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/mfc-meetings> for updates and details about the meeting

TECH TIPS

COMPUTER CRASH: If your computer crashes or you buy a new computer and the Trip Ticket Software needs to be installed, remember to contact the Trip Ticket office at 1-800-682-2632.

AUTOMATED EMAIL REMINDERS: Automated email reminders are being sent to all seafood dealers who have provided their email addresses to NCDMF. These reminders are sent the first day of each month at 10 a.m. Opt in or out of these emails by contacting CJ Schlick at CJ.Schlick@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8095. If you have provided your email address but have not received an automated reminder, check your spam folder or contact CJ Schlick.

TRIP TICKET CONTACTS

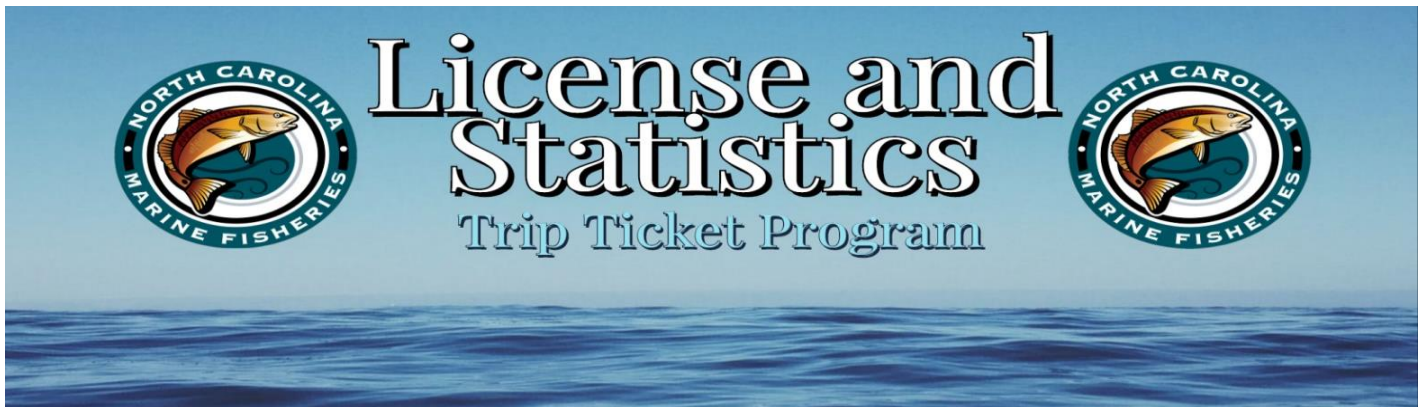
For questions regarding rules, procedures, or requirements, please contact a port agent at your local NCDMF office.

Elizabeth City	Chris Kelly	252-264-3911 (cell) 252-337-5362 (office) Chris.Kelly@ncdenr.gov
Manteo	Marty Brill	252-342-0156 (cell) 252-473-2158 (office) Martin.Brill@ncdenr.gov
Morehead City	Chuck Davis	252-808-7935 (cell) 252-808-8029 (office) Chuck.Davis@ncdenr.gov
Washington	Jon Anglemyer	252-908-6786 (cell) 252-948-3881 (office) Jon.Anglemyer@ncdenr.gov
Wilmington	Pam Zuaboni	252-241-0118 (cell) 910-796-7216 (office) Pam.Zuaboni@ncdenr.gov

For supplies, please contact our data clerks at 252-808-8104.

If you have any questions regarding use of the Trip Ticket Software, please contact Meredith Whitten at Meredith.Whitten@ncdenr.gov or call 252-515-6690 or 1-800-682-2632.

To be added to our automated Trip Ticket reminder emails, please contact CJ Schlick at cj.schlick@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8095.



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REPORT CRAB KILLS

Why? Fishermen are often the first to see dead or dying crabs. Such events may occur due to weather or human-induced causes. Water quality conditions that can contribute to crab kills include low dissolved oxygen, rapid salinity change and elevated levels of pesticides in the water. Distress or mortality of peeler crabs in shedders can be an early sign of water quality problems. Rapid reporting of kills helps state agencies determine the cause and how to prevent them in the future.

What to look for: Blue crabs exposed to pesticides may exhibit unusual behavior, such as difficulty moving (flipping over, legs falling off) prior to dying. Crabs stressed by low oxygen or extreme changes in temperature or salinity are more likely to become inactive.



What to do: Immediately report crab or fish kills when observed at your shedder or on the water. Calls may be anonymous. When abnormal behavior is observed, freeze several crabs and collect water samples. Store the water sample in a clean jar or bag and keep cold.

Who to contact:

Weekdays: N.C. Department of Environmental Quality
Washington Office: 252-946-6481; 800-338-7804
Wilmington Office: 910-796-7215; 800-248-4536

Weekends/evening: **Environmental Emergency hotline: 800-858-0368**



Which numbers to use on Trip Tickets

State of North Carolina
Division of Marine Fisheries

Standard Commercial Fishing License

License No. 427989

Joe Fisherman
PO Box 6201
Fishtowne, NC 28516
PID: 4279899
DOB 4/30/1987

Shellfish Endorsement
Menhaden Endorsement

Issue Date: 11/27/2009
Expiration Date on Back

State of North Carolina
Division of Marine Fisheries

Shellfish License for NC Residents w/out SCFL

MATT FRANK WATKINS
123 SOME RD.
HOLLY RIDGE NC 28445
United States

PID: 111111
DOB: 01/11/1983

License Number: 4567890
Issue Date: 7/16/2015
Expiration Date: 6/30/2016

Fisherman License #
(FNO)

State of North Carolina
Division of Marine Fisheries

Land or Sell License

JOYCE SEAFOOD
123 SOME RD.
ABINGDON MD 21009
United States

PID: 456789
License Number: 123678
DOB: 7/27/2010
VM: BORIS RICHARD COE
Expiration Date: 6/30/2011

State of North Carolina
Division of Marine Fisheries

Recreational Fishing Tournament License to Sell Fish
21ST ANNUAL SNEADS FERRY ROTARY KMT

COBB SEAFOOD
123 SOME RD.
APT. 3B
SNEADS FERRY NC 28460

PID: 123456
License Number: 965723
Issue Date: 7/22/2012
Expiration Date: 8/24/2012

(Carefully remove card and read reverse side)

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Commercial Vessel Registration

Participant ID# 7 8901	Commercial Vessel ID# P-123456	
Vessel Number NC-1111-UM	Vessel Name and Year NC-1111 UM 1995	Length 17

PIERS RICHARD RIVERA
123 SOME RD.
CLINTON, NC 28328

Expires 6/30/2000

Commercial Fishing
Vessel Registration #
(CFVR)

North Carolina Division of
Marine Fisheries

**Commercial Fishing
Vessel Registration**

Expires June 30, 2017

P-123456
NC-1111-UM

Please
do not use
Participant
ID (PID) for
P#