



Fish Dealer Report

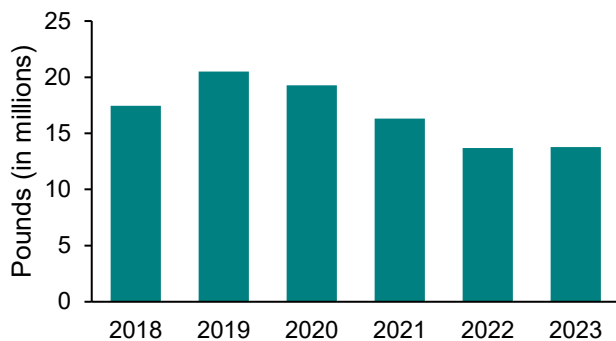
License & Statistics Section, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557

November 2023

2023 COMMERCIAL LANDINGS REVIEW

Preliminary data collected by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries reveals that fishermen landed 13.8 million pounds of seafood from January to June 2023. This was a 21.1% decrease from the previous 5-year average for the same time period.

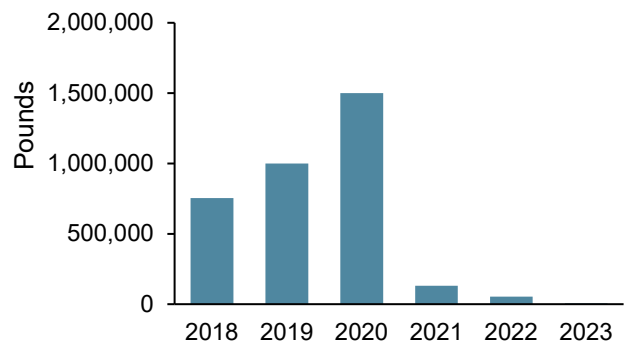
Pounds of Seafood Landed By Year (January - June)



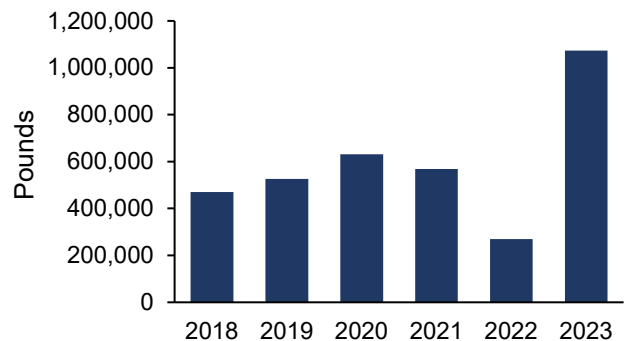
The top five species landed were Hard Blue Crab (2.6 million pounds), Summer Flounder (1.4 million pounds), Catfishes (1.3 million pounds), Bluefish (1.1 million pounds), and Atlantic Cutlassfish (Ribbonfish) (751,465 pounds).

Hard Blue Crab remains the top landed species in the state, landings continue to decline. Hard Blue Crab landings decreased 6% between 2022 and 2023 and 47.7% compared to the previous 5-year average. Similarly, Spiny Dogfish landings continue to decline, having decreased 99% from the previous 5-year average. At this time last year, Bluefish landings had experienced a 59% decrease compared to the previous 5-year average. This year, Bluefish landings have rebounded, displaying an 118% increase compared to the previous 5-year average. Additionally, after more than 10 years of minimal harvest, Bay Scallop landings have jumped to almost 16,000 pounds in 2023.

Pounds of Spiny Dogfish by Year (January - June)



Pounds of Bluefish by Year (January - June)



Landings in this report are summarized. To see actual 2023 landings, please see the [2023 Semi-Annual Landings Bulletin](#).

NORTH CAROLINA CARES ACT FISHERIES RELIEF PROGRAM

In March 2023, North Carolina received \$1.2 million in left over federal funds from the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CARES 2). These funds will be distributed to seafood dealers and processors and commercial fisherman whose losses were not fully covered during initial funding. For-hire operations are not included because their losses were deemed to be fully covered during the initial funding.

Checks are expected to be delivered before the end of the year.

UPCOMING FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN REMINDERS

At the November 2023 business meeting, the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission (NCMFC) will be reviewing draft Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 2 to send out for public and advisory committee review. Amendment 2 management aims to end overfishing and rebuild the stock. The comment period will tentatively occur December 18, 2023 – January 17, 2024 and will include a public listening session giving the public the ability to ask questions about the plan.

A scoping period was held in September to receive stakeholder input on the North Carolina Eastern Oyster and Hard Clam fisheries. Scoping is the first and best opportunity to share your input for fishery management decisions. Due to a lack of participation during scoping, the Division is planning additional outreach to coincide with the Habitat and Enhancement culch planting survey. For more information on the upcoming FMPs for Eastern Oyster and Hard Clams, please visit the [scoping document](#) on the Division's website. If anyone has items they would like the Division to consider while drafting the FMP, contact Joe Facendola (Joe.Facendola@deq.nc.gov, 910-796-7291) or Bennett Paradis (Bennett.Paradis@deq.nc.gov, 252-808-8052) for Eastern Oyster, and Lorena de la Garza (Lorena.delaGarza@deq.nc.gov, 252-473-5734) or Jeff Dobbs (Jeffrey.Dobbs@deq.nc.gov, 252-808-8193) for Hard Clam.

The 2023 Revision to the Blue Crab FMP Amendment 3 will be implemented in March. The revision changed the approved diamondback terrapin bycatch reduction devices that may be used in Diamondback Terrapin Management Areas, allowing the narrow funnel design as an acceptable device. The devices are required to be used March 1 - October 31 annually.

STAFF CHANGES

The License and Statistics Section has welcomed three new staff members in recent months. The Trip Ticket program hired Data Analyst Lauren Wilson (Lauren.Wilson@deq.nc.gov, 252-725-8372). The Socio-Economics Program hired Assistant Economist Shelby White (Shelby.White@deq.nc.gov, 252-503-3091). Finally, the Coastal Angling Program hired Data Analyst Brad Johnson (Brad.Johnson@deq.nc.gov, 252-382-7635). The vacant Assistant Quota Monitoring Biologist position should be filled in the next few weeks.

RULE UPDATES

The rules package pertaining to commercial shellfish sanitation and data collection referenced in the 2022 Annual Dealer Report has received public comment and is scheduled to be voted on for final approval at the November 2023 NCMFC business meeting. The earliest effective date of many of the rules is April 1, 2024. Some of the rules, however, are automatically subject to legislative review and would not be effective until a later date.

TECH TIPS

We have added two new codes in the most recent update to the NC Trip Ticket Software – pomfret as a species selection, and Stumpy Point as a port. To update the software to the new version 7.0.36 and use these new options, open the software and click “Check for Updates” in the bottom right corner of the main screen.

E-dealers who close seasonally can close out their trip tickets for up to 3 months through the software. To send in a negative submittal, click the “Send State Data” button in the software, then “No Sales/Negative Reports,” then set the “Send Date Range” to next month's dates (ex- 11/1/23 to 11/30/23). Finally, click “Send Negative Report To State.” Repeat with the following two months. For operations closed more than 3 months, set a reminder to submit further negative reports in 3 months' time.

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

Transaction number is an important trip ticket field for correctly determining the number of trips and fishing effort. Ignoring or incorrectly using the transaction number can overestimate the number of trips and can impact future management decisions. Only trips with a transaction number of 1 are counted as individual trips. When multiple trip tickets are filled out for a single trip, such as two commercial fishermen splitting the catch or one fisherman selling a trip to multiple dealers, the first ticket should be recorded as Transaction Number 1, the subsequent tickets should be filled out with subsequent transaction numbers.

For Transaction number or any other trip ticket information, it is the responsibility of the fisherman to inform the dealer of their fishing activity. However, it is still the dealer's responsibility to make sure trip tickets are filled out correctly. Failure to do so can directly impact businesses as these data are used for items such as management decisions and relief programs.

Additionally, the Trip Ticket program is still working with Bluefin Data, LLC to develop a web-based trip ticket reporting platform called VESL. If you are interested in testing and/or using this product, please contact Michael Thompson at Michael.Thompson@deq.nc.gov or call 252-808-8095.

TRIP TICKET CONTACTS

For questions regarding rules, procedures, or requirements, please contact a port agent at your local Division of Marine Fisheries office.

Elizabeth City	Alexis Rakestraw	252-337-5362 (cell) Alexis.Rakestraw@deq.nc.gov
Manteo	Haley Clinton	252-342-0156 (cell) 252-473-2158 (office) Haley.Clinton@deq.nc.gov
Morehead City	Chuck Davis	252-808-7935 (cell) 252-808-8029 (office) Chuck.Davis@deq.nc.gov
Washington	Jon Anglemyer	252-908-6786 (office/cell) Jon.Anglemyer@deq.nc.gov
Wilmington	Pam Zuaboni*	252-241-0118 (cell) 910-796-7216 (office) Pam.Zuaboni@deq.nc.gov

For supplies, please contact a data clerk at 252-808-8104.

If you have any questions regarding use of the NC Trip Ticket System software, please contact Marisa Ponte (Marisa.Ponte@deq.nc.gov, 252-808-8109).

*If your Port Agent is Pam Zuaboni and you have questions, until further notice, contact Michael Thompson at Michael.Thompson@deq.nc.gov or call 252-808-8095.

UPCOMING NC MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

November 15-17, 2023

The public may access the meeting virtually. Please visit the [MFC webpage](#) for updates and details.

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.

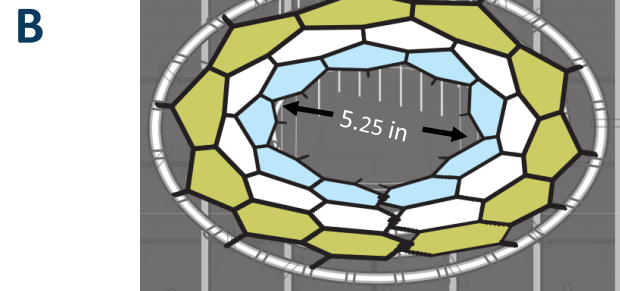
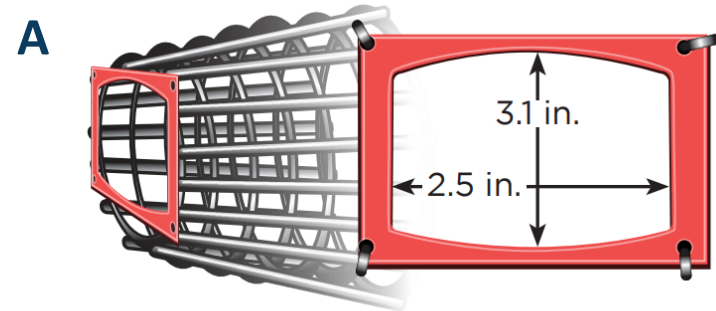
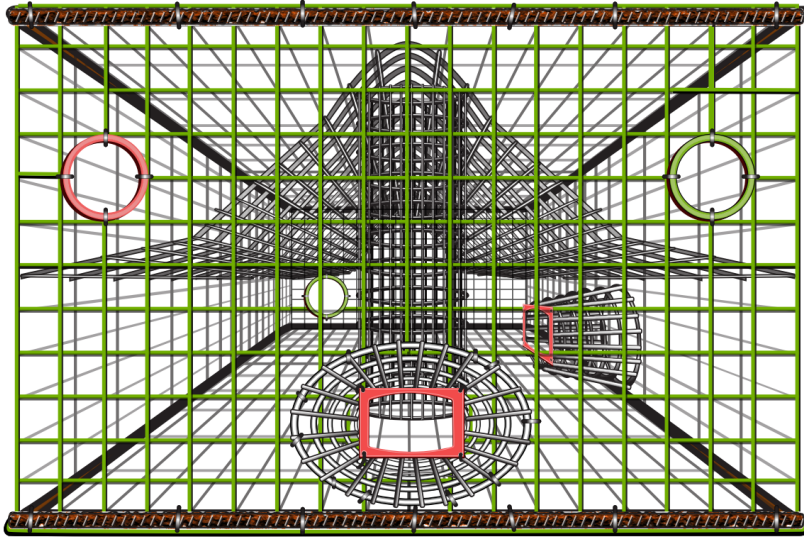


N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries

Approved Terrapin Bycatch Reduction Devices

Devices are required within Diamondback Terrapin Management Areas

March 1 - October 31



APPROVED TERRAPIN BYCATCH REDUCTION DEVICES:

- A. "SC design" : pre-made plastic shell with limiting measuring 5.1-6.4 x 7.5 cm (2-2.5 x 3.1 in) secured by at least the four corners of the device in all pot funnels
- B. "Narrow Funnel Design" : all funnel entrances are constructed out of 1.5 in hexagon mesh, with inner opening of 9 hexagon mesh and outer opening of 11 hexagon mesh. 13.3 cm (5.25 in) maximum inner opening.

