



Fish Dealer Report

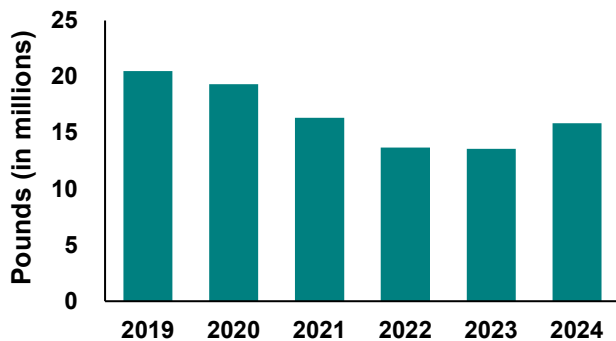
License & Statistics Section, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557

December 2024

2024 COMMERCIAL LANDINGS REVIEW

Preliminary data collected by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries reveals that fishermen landed 15.9 million pounds of seafood from January to June 2024. This was a 5.9% decrease from the previous 5-year average for the same time period. While a decrease from the previous 5-year average, this is a ~16.5% increase from the previous two years.

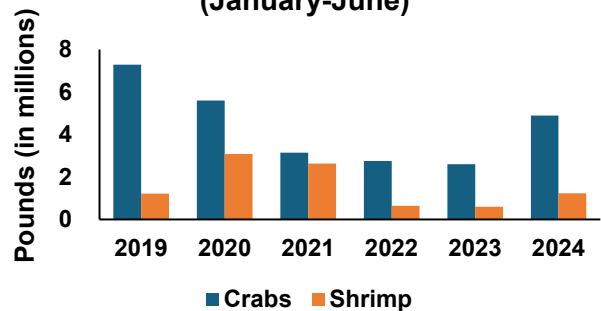
Pounds of Seafood Landed By Year (January-June)



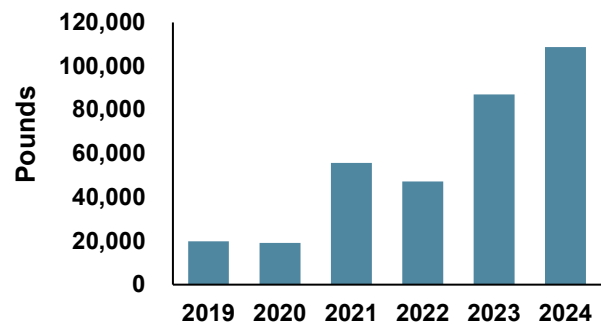
The top five species landed were hard Blue Crab (4.9 million pounds), Summer Flounder (1.4 million pounds), heads on Shrimp (1.2 million pounds), Catfishes (1.3 million pounds), and Bluefish (765,077 pounds).

Hard Blue Crab remains the top landed species in the state. Though not at 2019 or 2020 levels, hard Blue Crab landings are experiencing a bounce back in 2024, with a 14.5% increase compared to the previous 5-year average. Shrimp are experiencing a similar bounce back in 2024 relative to 2022 and 2023 landings, with a 98.4% increase, but landings are still down 24.5% compared to the previous 5-year average. Black Drum continue their steady increase of landings with 2024 representing the highest landings of the time period, with a 137.7% increase compared to the previous 5-year average. On the other hand, King Mackerel are experiencing their lowest year of landings during the time series, down 77.7% from the previous 5-year average.

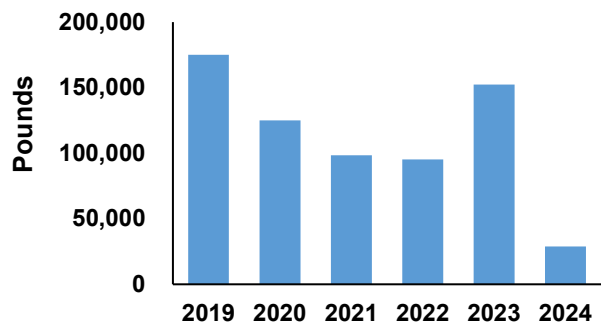
Pounds of Hard Blue Crabs and Shrimp by Year (January-June)



Pounds of Black Drum by Year (January-June)



Pounds of King Mackerel by Year (January-June)



Landings in this report are summarized. To see actual 2024 landings, please see the [2024 Semi-Annual Landings Bulletin](#).

MANDATORY HARVEST REPORTING

New harvest reporting requirements will impact recreational and commercial fishermen starting Dec. 1, 2025.

A [new state law](#) requires anyone holding a commercial fishing license, who is engaged in a commercial fishing operation, to report all fish harvested to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), regardless of sale.

Commercial fishermen will need to report any catch for personal consumption and bait, in addition to sales, to a seafood dealer using the Trip Ticket Program.

Additionally, any person who recreationally harvests Red Drum, flounder, Spotted Seatrout, Striped Bass and Weakfish (Gray Trout) must report that harvest to DMF using an online reporting form. This applies to Coastal Fishing Waters, Joint Fishing Waters and Inland Fishing Waters adjacent to Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters.

To learn more about these requirements, please visit DMF's [Mandatory Harvest Reporting Page](#).

RULE UPDATES

The current package of Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) proposed rules covers three topics, two of which may be of interest to dealers: False Albacore Management and the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. The third topic would ease pot marking requirements for any stakeholder fishing with pots. Public comments that were submitted this fall will be presented to the MFC at its February business meeting prior to its vote on final approval. If approved, the rules they could become effective as early as May 1, 2025.

Text of the proposed rules can be found on the MFC's [2024-2025 Proposed Rules Page](#).

STAFF CHANGES

The License and Statistics Section has welcomed three new staff members in recent months, specifically in the Trip Ticket program (TTP). The vacant Wilmington Commercial Port Agent position was filled by Mackenzie Stancil (Mackenzie.Stancil@deq.nc.gov, 252-725-8372).

The part-time Data Entry Clerk position was filled by Sharon Bissette-Martin (Sharon.Bissette-Martin@deq.nc.gov). Finally, Joshua Beil (Joshua.Beil@deq.nc.gov, 252-515-5549) moved into the Quota Monitoring Biologist position while Travis Williams (Travis.Williams@deq.nc.gov, 252-515-5550) was subsequently hired as the Assistant Quota Monitoring Biologist. TTP staff are currently working to fill the vacant full-time Data Clerk position.

Long time License Clerk, Carolyn Piner, will be retiring from the Division in December after 26 years of dedicated service. License Program staff are currently working to fill her position in the Morehead City office.

TRIP TICKET REMINDERS

Gear Code: It is important to fill out correct gear information on trip tickets. This is especially true for fisheries managed by gear closures, such as anchored gill nets, gigs, pound nets, etc. Incorrect gear coding could lead to premature season closures, quota overages and unnecessary fishing violations.

With gear code, or any other trip ticket information, it is the responsibility of the fisherman to inform the dealer of their fishing activity. It is still, however, 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, enforcement, and relief programs.

TECH TIPS

Keep Up To Date With The Latest: Make sure you're updating your NC Trip Ticket System Software regularly! Updates may offer improvements for the user and ensure metrics recorded in the software such as species, gear and disposition are up to date with the latest standards. The software displays the installed version at the uppermost left portion of the program window.

Here are a few ways to keep your software updated: 1 – On the front page of the program in the lower right corner of the screen click "Check For Update." If an update is available the program will notify the user. Next click "Update." 2 – On the front page of the program, click

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“Dealer Info Page.” Next, in the top menu bar, select “Check For Update.” If an update is available the program will notify the user. Click “Update” to install the new version. NOTE: After successful update of the NC Trip Ticket System Software, make sure to close and reopen the program; you’ll see the latest version now displayed.

Back It Up: Ensure your data isn’t lost with a catastrophic computer crash! There are some simple ways to ensure your data is remotely backed up: 1 – [AUTOMATIC BACKUP] Click “Dealer Info” on the front page of the program. Within the “Dealer Info” section, ensure the checkbox for “Auto DB Backup with Send” and/or “Auto Backup DB Every 5 Days” is selected (the box will have a checkmark when selected). These options, once selected, will ensure your data are backed up (based on selection) either each 5 days or with each submission of your data to the NCDMF. 2 – [MANUAL BACKUP] On the front page of the program click “Back DB to Bluefin Data.” That’s it! Keep in mind this option only backs up data up to the day the button is clicked, so if this is your chosen method to back up your data remember to perform this action often.

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) 252-423-5258 (office) Haley.Clinton@deq.nc.gov
Morehead City	Chuck Davis	252-808-7935 (cell) 252-515-5548 (office) Chuck.Davis@deq.nc.gov
Washington	Jon Anglemyer	252-908-6786 (cell) Jon.Anglemyer@deq.nc.gov
Wilmington	Mackenzie Stancil	252-241-0118 (cell) 910-796-7216 (office) Mackenzie.Stancil@deq.nc.gov

For supplies, please contact a data clerk at 252-515-5544 or 252-515-5547.

If you have any questions regarding use of the NC Trip Ticket System software, please contact Josh Beil (Joshua.Beil@deq.nc.gov, 252-515-5549).

UPCOMING NC MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

February 19-21, 2025

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

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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: 252-948-3800
Wilmington Office: 910-796-7215

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

