2021 LICENSE AND STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared By:

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
License and Statistics Section

November 2021
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to thank all the commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, and licensed dealers in North Carolina who provide harvest, landings, and data to us through monthly reports or participating in surveys and interviews. Without their assistance, constructive criticisms, and participation, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) License and Statistics programs would not have achieved the current level of success.

We want to thank all the staff members who enter, compile, edit, and analyze data, and conduct the surveys and interviews that are submitted to our respective offices each year. Without their hard work and perseverance, this document would not have been accomplished. These staff members, in alphabetical order by last name, are:

- Gabriel Albanese
- David Dietz*
- Brandi Salmon
- Jon Anglemyer
- Colin Eimers
- CJ Schlick
- Melissa Anglemyer
- Brenda Gillikin*
- Zachary Smith
- Trey Baranyai
- Patricia Heckler*
- Jacob Stain
- Pam Barker
- Kim Hewitt*
- Ami Staples
- Rene Basnight
- Stephen Jorgensen*
- Mechelle Stone
- Alan Bianchi
- Chris Kelly
- Airell Swanson
- Jesse Bissette
- Lang Kimbrough
- Michael Thompson
- Mary Alice Bittman
- Nancy Marlette
- Amanda Tong*
- Mitchell Blake
- Stephanie McInerny
- Stacy Tripp
- Ann Bordeaux-Nixon
- Brian Melott
- Dennis Trowell
- Anna Branch*
- Caid Menzel*
- Dallis Tucker
- Martin Brill
- Parker Midgett
- Andrew Valmassoi
- Roz Camp
- Sonya Midgett
- Jose Velez
- Andrew Cathey
- Emma Moffitt
- Suporn Waldie
- Rebecca Chapman
- Amanda Mullikin
- Josh Warren
- Carol Charles
- Willow Patten
- Meredith Whitten
- Brenda Clark
- Jonathan Petrigac
- Travis Williams
- Shane Crissey
- Carolyn Piner
- Chris Wilson*
- Eric Crozier*
- Cheryl Russell
- Jim Woolard
- Chuck Davis
- Pamela Zuaboni

*Employee no longer works for NCDMF
We especially want to acknowledge the aid and assistance Rebecca Chapman provided in preparation of this document, and the cover art (photographed) and designed by Jesse Bissette.

Lastly, we want to thank the following agencies for providing funds for various programs:

- Partial support for the Trip Ticket Program is provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the N.C./National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Cooperative Statistics Grant, the Commercial Fisheries Resource Fund, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) one-time funding, and the NOAA Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA).
- The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is supported, in part, by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Sport Fish Restoration Act.
- The Central Southern Management Area Recreational Striped Bass Creel Survey was initially funded through a cooperative agreement with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and, in part, by the USFWS Sport Fish Restoration Act. Since 2011, this survey has been funded through the NC Marine Resources Fund.
- Funding for the North Carolina Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Catch Card Program is provided by the NOAA HMS Division.
- Partial funding for the Coastal Angling Program is provided by the NC Marine Resources Fund.
- Funding for the NC Recreational Saltwater Activity Survey is also provided by the NC Marine Resources Fund.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LICENSE AND STATISTICS SECTION OVERVIEW ................................................................. 1

Chapter I: LICENSE AND PERMIT STATISTICS.......................................................... I-1

Chapter II: COMMERCIAL FISHERY STATISTICS................................................... II-1

Chapter III: MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS................................. III-1

Chapter IV: CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT AREA RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS.......................................................... IV-1

Chapter V: NC RECREATIONAL SALTWATER ACTIVITY MAIL SURVEYS ........ V-1

Chapter VI: FISHERIES ECONOMICS................................................................. VI-1
LICENSE AND STATISTICS SECTION OVERVIEW

Introduction
The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) is responsible for the stewardship of the state’s marine and estuarine resources. The division’s jurisdiction encompasses all coastal waters and extends to three miles offshore. NCDMF’s mission is to ensure sustainable marine and estuarine fisheries and habitats for the benefit and health of the people of North Carolina. The NCDMF is comprised of eight sections that collectively carry out this mission.

The License and Statistics Section collects, processes, and analyzes commercial and recreational fisheries data, license data, and social and economic impacts, and is responsible for the sale of fishing licenses and issuance of agency permits at all NCDMF offices. This section also administers the Marine Fisheries Commission’s license eligibility process.

The section is made up of the following programs:
• License Program
• Commercial Statistics Program
• Coastal Angling Program
• Fishery Economics Program

The License and Statistics Section consists of about 60 employees: 37 permanent employees and varying numbers of temporary employees depending on funding and current project schedules. Employees are funded by appropriations, commercial license sales receipts, recreational license sales receipts, and federal grant monies.

Section Mission
To license fishery participants, obtain accurate and timely data on fishery catch and effort, determine fishery social and economic importance, and to analyze and distribute these data for evaluation and establishment of fishery management plans.

Annual Report Purpose
This document provides summaries of commercial landings and recreational harvest data as well as commercial and recreational fishing licenses issued for the State of North Carolina. The purpose is to disseminate the data in formats most often requested and to illustrate the types of information collected through the various programs within the License and Statistics Section of the NCDMF. Separate and distinct summary reports for each program are released on an annual basis.

It must be noted to take caution when averaging the landings data for both commercial and recreational statistics over large periods of time because of changes in management policies and data collection methods. Creating such an average may not indicate the true
characteristics of the fishery. These factors should be considered when summarizing these data.

When reviewing data provided for 2020, be aware that unexpected trends in the data or missing data may be due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic began in Spring 2020 and brought about numerous precautionary guidelines, as well as state, local, and federal mandates, that limited the ability to collect and process data.

More detailed statistics are available upon request by contacting:

Brandi Salmon, License and Statistics Section Chief
P.O. Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557
(252) 726-7021 or (800) 682-2632
E-mail: Brandi.Salmon@ncdenr.gov

Contacts for specific data related to commercial, recreational, or economics information can be found in each chapter of this document.

Data are also available on the NCDMF website at www.ncdmf.net.