



Fish Dealer Report

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

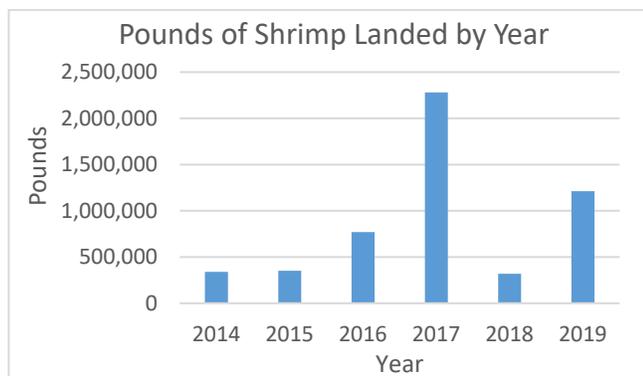
October 2019

2019 COMMERCIAL LANDINGS REVIEW

Fisherman landed 20.6 million pounds of seafood in North Carolina during the first six months of 2019, based on data collected by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. This represents a 24% decrease from the five-year average for January through June landings but a 15% increase over 2018 landings during the same time period.

The top five species collected were Hard Blue Crab (7.1 million pounds), Summer Flounder (1.3 million pounds), Atlantic Croaker (1.2 million pounds), Shrimp (1.2 million pounds), and Spiny Dogfish (1.0 million pounds).

Shrimp landings increased by 49% over the five-year average for January through June period. This is an increase of 286% over 2018 landings of shrimp for the same months. However, the 2019 landings are only 47% of the shrimp landings peak experienced in 2017 during the same time period.



*Data presented is only from January through June of a given year

The total number of trips reported by North Carolina dealers was down by 3% from 2018 and down 20% from the five-year average number of trips.

DEALER SURVEY

All dealers with a valid 2018 or 2019 license should have recently received a mailing from the division containing information on a socioeconomic survey being conducted. The mailing contains a paper copy of the survey that can be completed and returned with the pre-paid envelope or can be completed online by following the steps provided in the mailer. This survey is a follow-up from a study conducted 10 years ago, and is funded by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, a subsection of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. These data will be used to better understand the socioeconomic conditions of the state's seafood dealers, and how those conditions may have changed in the past decade. The division encourages all dealers to complete the survey to generate the most accurate results possible. For any questions, please contact David Dietz, Fisheries Economics Program Manager, at 919-707-8573 or David.Dietz@ncdenr.gov.

STAFF CHANGES

Our previous Port Agent Supervisor, Scott Smith, has moved to the Protected Species Program within the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). Please welcome C.J. Schlick, the new Port Agent Supervisor. Contact C.J. with any questions you have at CJ.Schlick@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8095. Another new face at the division is David Dietz, the Fisheries Economics Program manager. David is responsible for conducting the collection and analysis of socioeconomic data that get included in fishery management plans conducted by the state.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES TO SCFLS AND RSCFLS

The Marine Fisheries Commission has proposed changes to one of its rules that pertains to transfers of Standard Commercial Fishing Licenses (SCFLs) and Retired SCFLs. Proposed changes to this rule clarify the circumstances under which transfers of SCFLs and Retired SCFLs are allowed, including the following:

1. Add grandparents, grandchildren, and legal guardians to the list of immediate family members eligible to receive a transferred license.
2. Codify the existing requirement of a certification statement from the transferee that affirms the information provided to the division is true and accurate.
3. Allow an individual license holder to transfer the license to a business in which the license holder is also an owner.
4. Allow a business that is dissolved to transfer a license to an individual owner of the business.
5. Allow a business that is sold to transfer a license to the successor business at the time of sale.
6. Allow a business to transfer a license back to an owner who is leaving the business, if the owner originally held the license as an individual.
7. Restrict business transfers to corporations and limited liability companies.
8. Define “owner” to include shareholder of a corporation and member of a limited liability company.

The proposed rule changes come at the request of the Marine Fisheries Commission, which

expressed concern about the types of license transfers allowed by statute and rule. The proposed effective date of the rule change is subject to legislative review.

For specific wording of the rule changes, go to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission’s [Proposed Rules page](#). The public may comment on the proposed rule changes in writing to the division’s Rules Coordinator, Catherine Blum, at P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, N.C. 28557 or via email at Catherine.Blum@ncdenr.gov. The deadline for written comments is December 2, 2019.

HURRICANE FLORENCE AID PROGRAM

Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina in September 2018 creating a large disruption in the state’s commercial fisheries. In the aftermath of the storm, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that created an aid program to assist commercial fishermen who were impacted by the storm and directed the division to disperse the aid.

The amount of aid received by each commercial fisherman was based on their average landings from the previous three-year period during the months of September to November compared to their 2018 landings for the same time period. Over \$11.4 million dollars of aid was distributed to 1,176 commercial fishermen. Carteret County had the most commercial fishermen (246) who received aid while commercial fishermen in Dare County received the most aid at just over \$2.3 million.

The final report can be found on the division’s website (<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/marine-fisheries-catch-statistics>) under “Additional Statistics Resources.”

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.

STRIPED BASS COMMERCIAL FISHERY CHARACTERIZATION REPORT

Over the summer, the Trip Ticket Program was fortunate enough to work with an intern through the NC Internship Program. Haley Gambill, a senior at North Carolina State University, analyzed historical commercial fisheries data and Trip Ticket Program data to characterize the commercial Striped Bass fishery. This comprehensive analysis documents trends in landings, ex-vessel value, and participation. The final report can also be found at the link highlighted in the previous section.

TECHNICAL UPDATES

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 hasn't seen any significant upgrades since its release. A new upgrade to the system is scheduled to be released in November 2019.

Trip Ticket Program staff ask for your consideration over the next few months as we launch the new upgrade to FIN. The upgrade will convert FIN into a web-based platform which will facilitate the use of more modern technologies and should enhance the system for the division. Trip Ticket and License program staff are currently undergoing training with the new system. Although we hope to have minimal complications with the launch of the upgraded version of FIN, we thank you in advance for your patience as we complete this transition.

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 will be able to be used on mobile devices and will allow for greater flexibility to account for changing reporting requirements.

TRIP TICKET REMINDERS

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

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 in the data. For electronic dealers, we ask that you verify all of the data match when completing updates in the system. Unless you are adding missed catch to a trip ticket or correcting a typo, the units entered should match between the original ticket and the updated ticket.

PORT AGENT CONTACTS

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

Elizabeth City	Chris Kelly	252-264-3911
Manteo	Marty Brill	252-473-2158
Morehead City	Chuck Davis	252-808-8029
Washington	Jon Anglemeyer	252-948-3881
Wilmington	Pam Zuaboni	252-241-0118

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COOPERATIVE POUND NET DATA CORRECTION PROJECT REPORT

During the November 2015 Marine Fisheries Commission meeting, the MFC requested that Trip Ticket Program staff work with commercial fishermen who use pound net gear to review their data reported on trip tickets. Commercial fishermen were concerned that their landings were being recorded incorrectly. Trip Ticket Program staff worked with commercial fishermen to review their data and to correct any misreported data. After review of the data, pound net landings increased from 3,338,739 pounds to 3,486,884 pounds over the 2011 to 2015 period. The final report for this project can also be found at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/marine-fisheries-catch-statistics>.

TRIP TICKET CODE REMINDERS

The Trip Ticket Program would like to remind dealers of some new codes that were created recently.

The first is a gear code for **Oyster Cage/Rack/Bag** (gear code 395) which should be used to record oysters farmed in cages.

For **Frigate Mackerel**, the following species codes were created: 7260 (mixed), 7261 (extra small), 7262 (small), 7263 (medium), and 7264 (large).

For **Bullet Mackerel**, the following species codes were created: 7280 (mixed), 7281 (extra small), 7282 (small), 7283 (medium), and 7284 (large).

For **Chub Mackerel**, the following species codes were created: 4110 (mixed), 4112 (small), 4113 (medium), 4114 (large), and 4115 (jumbo).

TECH TIPS

How to print out a receipt: On the main screen, select the Find Ticket tab and type in the ticket number or click List All Tickets in the top left of the screen. Find your ticket from the list and double click to open ticket. From the options at the top of the screen, select Print and Print 1 Ticket.

How to password protect software: On the main screen of the Trip Ticket software, click Edit at the top of the screen and then select Users. A User pop-up screen will appear, and you can select Add from the right side. Entry fields will appear at the bottom of the pop-up screen to type in a username, a password, and to confirm the password (the 2 password fields must be identical). You can restrict a user to only have access to data entry (no other functions within the Trip Ticket software), by checking the box for "Data Entry Only." If the user must have access to all of Trip Ticket software functions, make sure the "Data Entry Only" box is NOT checked. Click save. Click Ok and then Close. Once you are back to the main screen, click the Dealer Info tab. On the right side of the screen, check the box next to "Activate sign on screen" and click Update. A warning box will appear to remind you to be sure to create a user list before closing program, otherwise you will be locked out of the program and must contact Brandi Salmon in the Trip Ticket office to unlock it. These steps will prompt a sign-in screen the next time you open the software.

If you have any questions regarding use of the Trip Ticket software, please contact Brandi Salmon at Brandi.Salmon@ncdenr.gov or call 1-800-682-2632.

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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**

