



Fish Dealer Report

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

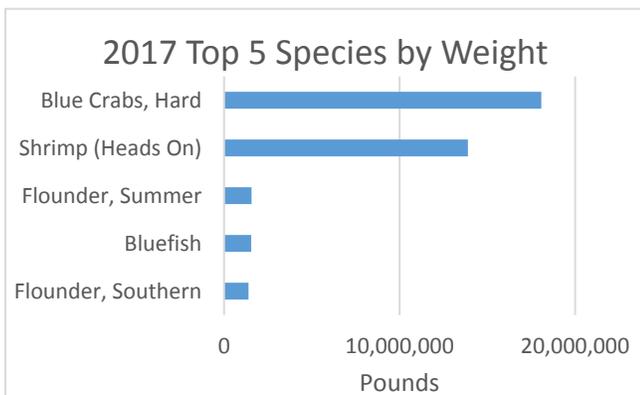
May 2018

2017 COMMERCIAL LANDINGS REVIEW

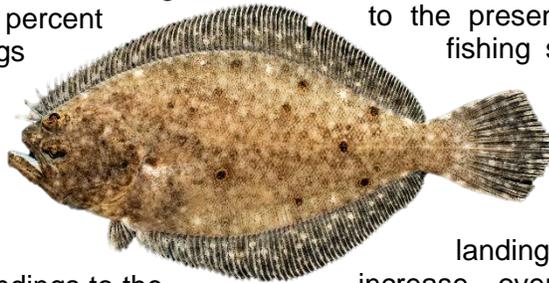
Commercial fishermen landed 54.3 million pounds of finfish and shellfish in 2017, with an estimated dockside value of \$96.5 million dollars, based on data collected through the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Trip Ticket Program. This represents a 9.3 percent decrease in landings compared to 2016, and a 2.6 percent increase in value. The 2017 landings were lower than the five-year average of 58.9 million pounds, and higher than the five-year average value of \$86.9 million dollars.

Dealers in 33 counties reported landings to the Trip Ticket Program in 2017. Dare county had the highest landings (13.8 million pounds), followed by Carteret (8.4 million pounds), Hyde (6.1 million pounds) Pamlico (3.9 million pounds), and Tyrrell (3.4 million pounds). These five counties accounted for 68.6 percent of the statewide landings.

The top five species landed were hard blue crabs (18.1 million pounds), followed by shrimp (13.9 million pounds), summer flounder (1.6 million pounds), bluefish (1.5 million pounds), and southern flounder (1.4 million pounds).

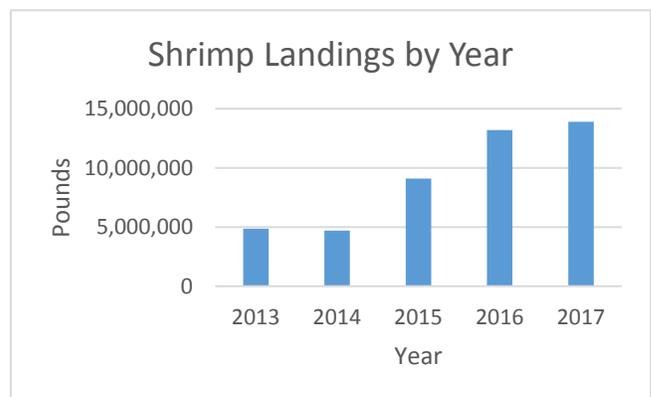


The top five species with landings increases from 2016 to 2017 were red drum (142 percent), bluefin tuna (107 percent), black drum (103 percent), Atlantic menhaden (89 percent), and skates (78 percent).



The increase in bluefin tuna was, in part, due to the presence of the fish during the fishing season, favorable weather, and the availability of quota. Although menhaden experienced an 89 percent increase over the previous year's landings, it was only a 17.4 percent increase over the five-year average. Increases in black drum and red drum were attributed to strong year classes in previous years.

Shrimp landings were also notable in 2017. Although the landings were only up 5 percent from 2016, they remained at an all-time high and are 82.9 percent higher than the five-year average.



The top five species landed by value were shrimp (\$29.6 million), hard blue crabs (\$17.8 million), summer flounder (\$6.3 million), southern flounder (\$5.7 million), and oysters (\$5.6 million).

Other landings increases included spot (76 percent), yellowfin tuna (61 percent), soft blue crabs (50 percent), and king mackerel (50 percent).

Blue peeler crab landings, interestingly, experienced a 74 percent increase from 2016, with an increase in value of 25 percent, even with a 30 percent drop in peeler pot trips over the same period.

Noteworthy decreases in landings included spiny dogfish (83 percent), cobia (57 percent), Atlantic croaker (52 percent), American eel (49 percent), and harvestfish (49 percent).

The number of trips by major gear experienced some notable changes from 2016 to 2017. These changes included increases in beach seine (182 percent), drift gill nets (111 percent), trotline (98 percent) and decreases in crab dredges (83 percent), skimmer trawl (47 percent), oyster dredge (43 percent), and peeler pots (30 percent).

BLUE CATFISH LANDINGS

Catfish have seen an overall increase in landings in the past few years, based on data collected through the North Carolina Trip Ticket Program. The 2015 (917,965 pounds), and 2016 (992,439 pounds) landings were nearly double those of previous years. Landings in 2017 (1,165,136 pounds), were the highest in the state since 1994 (1,276,359). The estimated five-year average dockside value since 2013 is \$230,391.

Major gears used to land catfish were gill nets, pound nets and fyke nets. The areas with the highest landings were in the western Albemarle Sound and Chowan River.

At fish houses across coastal North Carolina, it is important to identify catfish to the exact species whenever possible. While the Trip Ticket Program has the ability to record white, channel, blue, and bullhead catfishes, most landings are reported as unclassified catfish. Fish house sampling from

division Fisheries Management staff indicates that most of these unclassified catfish are blue catfish. Blue catfish are native to the Mississippi River Basin, and considered an invasive species in river basins that drain into the Atlantic Ocean.

Blue catfish were introduced into North Carolina and Virginia coastal rivers in the 1960s and 1970s. Although they have been in North Carolina coastal waters for many years, in recent years the population has increased significantly, and blue catfish are now the dominant catfish in the Albemarle Sound and its tributaries, especially the Chowan and Roanoke rivers.

Blue catfish have a long-life span, can exceed 120 pounds, and have an expansive diet that includes many native species that play an important role in North Carolina’s ecosystem and economy, such as blue crab, striped bass, Atlantic menhaden, river herring, and American shad. Once an invasive species like blue catfish has established a population it can be impossible to eradicate. Instead, managers must focus on keeping their overall numbers as low as possible and containing their expansion to minimize adverse impacts on native species. For this reason, the division encourages dealers to report landings to the area as close as possible, and not just the general “Albemarle Sound”.

The trip ticket codes for blue catfish are as follows:

182 Catfish, Blue - whole	183 Catfish, Blue - dressed
----- 1820 Mixed	----- 1830 Mixed
----- 1822 Small	----- 1832 Small
----- 1823 Medium	----- 1833 Medium
----- 1824 Large	----- 1834 Large
----- 1825 Jumbo	----- 1835 Jumbo

VESSEL UPDATE

The North Carolina Trip Ticket Program is working with Bluefin Data, the developer of the current trip ticket software, on a web-based application that will allow trip ticket reporting via your web browser.

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.

Entering tickets through your web browser will allow dealers to use smart phones, computers, or tablets. With the help of North Carolina fish dealers, the Trip Ticket Program has undergone preliminary user testing, and forwarded participants' comments to the developer. The program continues to work with the developer to ensure state requirements are met and the application functions in a user-friendly manner.

DISPOSITION CODE UPDATES

The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission has instructed the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries to add a place to record catch disposition on commercial trip tickets. The intent is to capture commercial harvest that is not being sold to the dealer. This could include situations where a fisherman has kept some of the landed species for personal consumption, or if part of the harvest was kept for bait. The Trip Ticket Program has begun phasing in these new tickets. Examples of them, and how to fill them out, are attached to this report. The electronic reporting software can also record this data, and the division strongly encourages all dealers to use it.

NEW DIRECTOR

Steve Murphey assumed the role of director of the Division of Marine Fisheries in January. Murphey began his career in the division in 1987 as a biologist. He worked for the Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality Section of the Division of Environmental Health from 1999 to 2010 when the section moved under the Division of Marine Fisheries. He became section chief for Habitat and Enhancement in the summer of 2015, where he was responsible for coordinating large-scale marine and estuarine habitat restoration and other programs including shellfish leasing and the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan.

LICENSE SALES

Below are sales as of April 11, by license type for the 2018 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018) license year. The values below include active licenses only. Totals do not include transfers, replacements, or voids.

Standard Commercial Fishing License	4,968
Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License	1,328
Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration	7,270
Land or Sell License	109
NC Resident Shellfish License Without SCFL	988
Fish Dealer License	694
Ocean Pier License	20
Recreational Fishing Tournament License	20
Recreational Commercial Gear License	1,733
Total Licenses for All License Types	17,130

TRIP TICKET CODE ADDITIONS

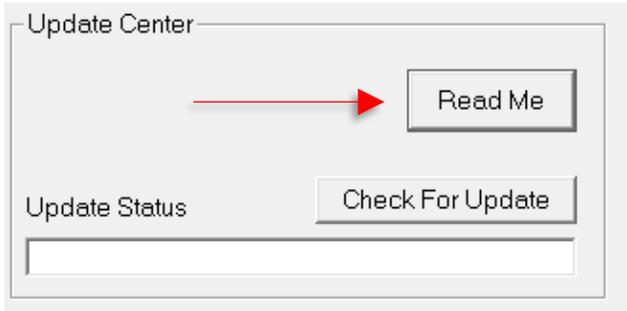
The Trip Ticket Program recently added new species codes. These codes were developed in response to dealer requests and new fishing practices. They are: Caribbean Red Snapper (6420), Frigate Mackerel (7260), Bullet Mackerel (7280), and Chub Mackerel (4110). New gear codes were also implemented to reflect changes in gear use and to help align with federal logbook reporting. These codes include: buoy gear (614), trolling with bandit gear (661), bottom fishing with bandit gear (613), and bottom fishing with rod and electromate reel (616). Dealers should update their software to the latest version (7.0.2) to begin using these codes.

TECH TIPS

The following are tips designed to help electronic dealers enter data on their trip tickets faster and with less hassle.

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.

Did you know that the electronic trip ticket software gets regular updates? The software is updated to fix bugs, add new and updated species codes, and to update the user manual. You can find a list of changes by clicking on the “Read Me” button on the bottom right of the main screen, under the “Update Center” section.



From this screen, you can also find the user manual, by clicking on the menu option on the top right labeled “User’s Manual”. The latest update is version 7.0.2, which incorporated the following changes:

7.0.2

1. Added Mackerel. Frigate, Bullet, and Chub.

If you have any questions regarding use of the Trip Ticket software, please contact Grace Kemp at Grace.Kemp@ncdenr.gov or call (252) 808-8101.

PORT AGENT CONTACTS

The Trip Ticket Program’s commercial port agents act as liaisons between the division and the fishing public. If you have any questions regarding rules, procedures, or requirements, please contact your nearest agent. If they are unable to answer your questions directly, they will put you in contact with someone who can.

Wilmington Tyler McGuire (910) 796-7216 Tyler.mcguire@ncdenr.gov	Morehead City Chuck Davis (252) 808-8029 Chuck.davis@ncdenr.gov
Washington Jon Anglemyer (252) 948-3881 Jon.anglemyer@ncdenr.gov	Manteo Marty Brill (252) 473-2158 Martin.brill@ncdenr.gov
Elizabeth City Chris Kelly (252) 264-3911 Chris.kelly@ncdenr.gov	

STRIPED BASS DEALER TAGS

The division is reminding fish dealers that they must pick up striped bass tags from a Division of Marine Fisheries office. Tags will no longer be delivered to dealers. Fish dealers with a Striped Bass Dealer Permit for quota monitoring must contact Kim Hewitt at the Division of Marine Fisheries’ Elizabeth City office (252-264-3911 or 1-800-338-7805) to obtain or return harvest tags. Tags will be signed for and given out in numerical sequences for tracking purposes. Tags are marked with the harvest season year, harvest area, minimum size limit for that area, and a unique tag number. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requires each state to keep detailed records of how many striped bass tags each dealer receives, uses, and returns to the division annually. It is critical that each dealer save all unused, broken, or defective tags and return them to the division at the end of each calendar year or harvest season. Dealers in the Albemarle Sound Management Area can pick up their tags at the Elizabeth City or Manteo offices while dealers in the Central Southern Management Area can pick up their tags from the Washington office.

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FISHERMAN NAME: John Smith	FISH DEALER # 123456
FISHERMAN LICENSE # 1158995	CHECK BOX IF NO VESSEL USED → →
TRIP START DATE: 02 23 2018	CFVR # P 698516
UNLOADING DATE: 02 23 2018	NO. OF CREW: 2

1 - NORTH CAROLINA TRIP TICKET (FINFISH)

TRANSACTION #

KIND	CODE	POUNDS	DSP	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
Gars/Skippers	6100				
Grass Pickerel	5052				
Med.	5053				
Lg.	5054				
Hogfish/Pigfish	4500				
Jumping Mullet	4350				
Mullet	4357				
Red Roe	4357				
White Roe	4358				
Little Tunny Whole (False Alb.)	7300				
Pompano	4652				
Small	4652				
Lg.	4654				
Puffers Whole (Sea Chickens)	6850				
Puppy/ Red Drum/ Redfish	2150				
Sea Mullet / Kingfish / Whiting	4000	28			
Roe Shad (Am. Shad)	5356				
Buck Shad (Am. Shad)	5359				
Jacks (Hickory Shad)	3800				
Sheepshead	6000				
Spadefish	6650				
Spanish Mackerel	6702				
Small	6702				
Med.	6703				
Lg.	6704				
Speckled Trout	5302				
Pan	5302				
Med.					
Lg.					
White Perch	7650				
Menhaden Bait (lb)	4200				
Mixed Bait	7900				
Ladyfish	7000	10	1		
<i>Ladyfish</i>		22	9		
<i>Flounder - 10lbs - Kept for grow out</i>					
Dealer/Fisherman Use					

EXAMPLE

Leaving 'DSP' blank will default it to 'food'.

CIRCLE ALL GEARS USED

020	Beach Seine	345	Fish Pot	610	Rod-n-Reel
030	Haul Seine	426	Sm Msh Set Gill Net (<5 in.)	660	Trolling
025	Swipe Net	427	Lg Msh Set Gill Net (>=5 in.)	735	Cast Net
275	Pound Net	470	Drift Gill Net	760	Gigs
340	Eel Pot	475	Runaround Net		

CIRCLE ONE WATERBODY WHERE MOST OF CATCH WAS MADE

01	Albemarle Sound	10	Currituck Sound	33	Pamlico River
02	Alligator River	11	Lockwood Folly	34	Pamlico Sound
03	Bay River	12	Masonboro Sd.	45	Roanoke Sound
05	Bogue Sound	29	Neuse River	38	Shalotte River
06	Cape Fear			39	Stump Sound
08	Core Sound			41	Topsail Sound
09	Croatan Sound			42	White Oak River
53	Inland Waterway - Onslow				
20	Ocean 0-3 miles (North of Cape Hatteras)				
22	Ocean greater than 3 miles (North of Cape Hatteras)	23	Ocean greater than 3 miles (South of Cape Hatteras)		

If the catch has a disposition other than Food or Bait, fill out the 'DSP' column with the appropriate disposition code.

KIND	CODE	POUNDS	DSP	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
Black Drum	2100	52	2		
Bluefish	1352				
Small	1352				
Med.	1353				
Lg.	1354				
Mixed	1350				
Butterfish	1550				
Catfish Mixed	1700				
Croaker	1952				
Small	1952				
Med.	1953				
Lg.					
Dogfish-Smooth C					
Dogfish-Smooth F					
Dogfish-Spiny Wh					
Eels, American	2200				
Flounder	2300				
Mixed	2300				
Med.	2303				
Lg.	2304				
Jumbo	2305				
TripleTail / Strawberry Bass	7250				

Use a blank line to write in any catch with a disposition not available from the list.

If the catch is split between two separate dispositions, please write in the second portion in the blank lines provided at the bottom.

Flounder - 10lbs - Kept for grow out

Table 1. North Carolina Trip Ticket Program disposition codes.

Disposition Code	Description
0	No Disposition
1	Food
2	Personal Use
5	Aquaculture
6	Canned Pet Food
7	Animal Food
8	Bait
9	Reduction/Meal
10	Aquarium
11	Kept, Disposition Unknown
12	Biomedical Use
13	Packing, Only
14	Fertilizer
15	Research
100	Reason not specified
101	No Market
602	Seized by Law Enforcement

Disposition Codes for use on paper trip tickets.

The disposition codes found in the electronic software, correspond to the disposition codes in the above list.