



Marine Fisheries
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Fish Dealer Report

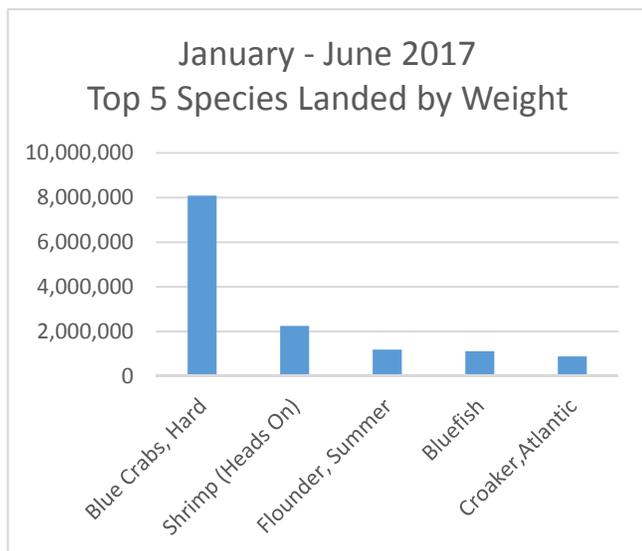
License & Statistics Section, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557

2017 COMMERCIAL LANDINGS REVIEW

According to the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Trip Ticket Program, North Carolina fishermen landed 22.6 million pounds of seafood from January through June, 2017. These landings represent a 1 percent decline in total landings over the same period in 2016, and a 2 percent decline over the previous five-year average.

The top five species landed were Hard Blue Crab (8.1 million pounds), shrimp (2.2 million pounds), Summer Flounder (1.2 million pounds), Bluefish (1.1 million pounds) and Atlantic Croaker (878,466 pounds). The number of trips reported in the first half of 2017 was down 6 percent from the first half of 2016.

Shrimp landings in the first half of 2017 were up 192 percent from the first half of 2016. This increase in landings is due in part to the increase in shrimping effort in northern ocean waters that began in the fall of 2016, and continued through the winter.



DUSKY AND SANDBAR SHARK REPORT

In August 2017, the Trip Ticket Program completed a report that characterizes the commercial sandbar and dusky shark fisheries of North Carolina. Using data collected through trip tickets and the division license program, the report analyzes trends in landings and effort. To date, it is the most comprehensive characterization report that is based on these two data sources. The report can be found here: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/marine-fisheries-catch-statistics> under Additional Statistics Resources at the bottom of the webpage.

COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

The Cooperative Statistics Program is a federal data sharing and grant program that provides funding for commercial fisheries data collection in North Carolina and other South Atlantic states. The grant provided by the program helps pay for the Trip Ticket Program's data clerks and port agents. The five-year grant cycle ended in the spring of 2017, and the completion report was finished in September. The completion report outlines the accomplishments of the trip ticket program, and provides statistics describing the work completed during the previous five years. A copy of this report is available to interested parties upon request by contacting: Scott.Smith@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8095.

ESTUARINE GILL NET PERMIT

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries requires fishermen to obtain an Estuarine Gill Net Permit for any anchored small or large mesh fishing operation in internal coastal waters. The permit is a requirement of federal incidental take permits for sea turtles and Atlantic sturgeon. A condition of the incidental take permits is to

maintain certain levels of observer coverage statewide. The permit requires fishermen to provide an active phone number where they can be reached to schedule observer trips so that the division can maintain the observer coverage needed to stay in compliance with the incidental take permits. If the required coverage is not maintained, large and small mesh anchored gill nets could be prohibited in all internal coastal waters. To date for fiscal year 2018, there have been 2,310 permits issued. Fishermen can obtain or renew their annual permit when they renew their license at division offices or via mail.

WEB-BASED TRIP TICKET REPORTING

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 browser. We are currently evaluating this software and will be soliciting seafood dealer input in the next few weeks. The review of this software is, in part, due to requests from dealers on the 2017 dealer survey sent out in January.

NEW DATA CLERK

The North Carolina Trip Ticket Program has hired a new data clerk, Brooklynne Book. Brooklynne will be handling dealer submittals, entering and validating trip tickets, and any dealer questions. Brooklynne can be reached at 252-808-8105

TECH TIPS

Did you know that you can attach your dock ticket or invoice number to your trip ticket in the electronic trip ticket software? This is useful for keeping better tabs on your data, and allows you to search by trip ticket number or by dock ticket number. On the new ticket window, simply add the dock ticket number to the "Tracking #" field as seen below.

# Crew	Tracking #	Trans #
1		1

For more information, consult the electronic software reporting manual or contact Grace.Kemp@ncdenr.gov.

TRIP TICKET CODE UPDATES

New species and gear codes have been implemented within the past few months to better suit the reporting requirements of North Carolina seafood dealers. These codes are currently available in the electronic reporting software, or can be written in on a paper trip ticket. The codes include: Fiddler Crab, Guttled Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner, Guttled Almaco Jack, Ribbed Mussels, and American Eel market grade 'Glass'. Based on a Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council request, the following codes were also changed: Unclassified Shellfish were split into Unclassified Crustaceans, Unclassified Mollusks, and Unclassified Echinoderms (). These changes were made to better facilitate data sharing between state and federal managers. In addition to species code changes, the trip ticket program created new gear codes in response to changing fishing practices. These gears included: bandit gear, buoy gear, and Elec-tra-mate electronic rod and reel. In January, the program also updated the paper tickets, and included a box for disposition based on a request from the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission. For a full list of codes, please see your electronic software or email Scott.Smith@ncdenr.gov.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to request access to your landings data, please contact the trip ticket coordinator, Alan Bianchi at: Alan.Bianchi@ncdenr.gov.

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.