



Annual Fisheries Bulletin

2016 Commercial and Recreational Statistics

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

May 2017

The Annual Fisheries Bulletin contains the North Carolina commercial and recreational fisheries harvest statistics for 2016. Included in this bulletin are the 2016 landings and harvest information from the commercial and recreational fisheries programs, along with the 2012 to 2015 landings for comparison. The bulletin also contains a summary of commercial fishing trips by major gears.

The North Carolina Trip Ticket Program collects commercial fishery landings and effort statistics. This program mandates trip level fish dealer reporting of all finfish and shellfish landed in the state. Recreational fishery harvest and effort statistics are derived from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) that conducts recreational angler interviews at public access points and telephone/mail surveys.

Total Pounds Harvested in 2016

Commercial
59,928,328 pounds

Recreational
12,198,455 pounds

Top Five Species Caught in Each Fishery

Commercial	
Species	Pounds
Blue Crabs, Hard	24,728,819
Shrimp (Heads On)	13,191,155
Dogfish, Spiny	2,271,201
Croaker, Atlantic	2,092,135
Flounder, Summer	2,066,026

Recreational	
Species	Pounds
Dolphin	2,757,490
Tuna, Yellowfin	2,264,871
Bluefish	862,558
Seatrout, Spotted	688,682
Wahoo	640,807

Issued by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Department of Environmental Quality.

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2016 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2016

Issued: May 2017

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	132,496	\$147,331
Anglerfish (Monkfish Including Monklivers)	50,841	\$47,141
Bluefish	1,147,876	\$599,788
Bonito	14,838	\$26,780
Butterfish	63,542	\$31,387
Carp	27,688	\$3,453
Catfishes	992,192	\$238,684
Cobia	48,244	\$107,952
Croaker, Atlantic	2,092,135	\$2,216,106
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	56,723	\$103,316
Dogfish, Smooth	178,574	\$73,183
Dogfish, Spiny	2,271,201	\$235,069
Dolphinfish	356,053	\$1,271,271
Drum, Black	89,886	\$82,084
Drum, Red	76,977	\$202,680
Eel, American	41,678	\$92,011
Flounder, Southern	896,075	\$3,603,688
Flounder, Summer	2,066,026	\$8,218,728
Flounders, Other	1,209	\$3,478
Garfish	16,424	\$4,982
Grouper, Gag	114,902	\$511,245
Grouper, Red	21,011	\$84,600
Grouper, Scamp	41,056	\$190,160
Grouper, Snowy	70,403	\$282,182
Groupers, Other	10,357	\$41,102
Grunts	39,843	\$42,179
Hakes	3,124	\$2,232
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	123,266	\$211,512
Herring, River (Alewife and Blueback)	0	\$0
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	9,195	\$39,452
Jacks (Crevalle and Blue runner)	9,455	\$5,924
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	663	\$305
Mackerel, King	420,088	\$868,542
Mackerel, Spanish	601,515	\$1,068,081
Menhaden, Atlantic	397,725	\$75,167
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	831,974	\$1,004,314
Mullet, Striped	964,186	\$669,188
Perch, White	242,041	\$166,839
Perch, Yellow	29,376	\$41,564
Pigfish	15,331	\$7,556
Pinfish	404	\$138
Pompano	18,594	\$44,075
Porgies	45,918	\$80,872
Pufferfish	4,567	\$2,109
Sharks ²	951,934	\$403,962
Scup	111,908	\$72,871
Sea Basses	421,220	\$1,337,333

2016 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Seatrout, Spotted	253,965	\$661,047
Shad, American	63,286	\$89,335
Shad, Gizzard	173,105	\$30,293
Shad, Hickory	96,543	\$29,418
Sheepshead	93,486	\$116,477
Skates	25,488	\$4,905
Skippers	12,861	\$4,030
Snapper, Red ³	0	\$0
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	266,150	\$909,274
Snappers, Other	9,278	\$32,681
Spadefish	15,231	\$9,189
Spot	235,670	\$295,019
Striped Bass	146,153	\$432,030
Swordfish	445,415	\$1,202,276
Tilefish	111,788	\$395,813
Triggerfish	131,626	\$345,575
Tuna, Bigeye	287,442	\$1,037,207
Tuna, Bluefin	156,198	\$517,114
Tuna, Yellowfin	668,360	\$1,410,177
Tunas, Other	102,854	\$119,272
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	233,501	\$110,271
Unclassified Fish for Bait	43,143	\$30,344
Unclassified Fish for Food	97,325	\$108,618
Wahoo	25,307	\$93,707
Weakfish (Grey Trout)	79,640	\$120,548
TOTAL FINFISH	19,894,546	\$32,667,230
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	24,728,819	\$20,734,724
Blue Crabs, Peeler	445,844	\$1,314,879
Blue Crabs, Soft	284,769	\$2,063,004
Clams, Hard (Meats)	331,508	\$2,580,262
	(17,399,081 numbers)	
Oysters (Meats)	653,863	\$4,045,357
	(123,604 bushels)	
Octopus	230	\$477
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	171,159	\$1,995,270
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	13,191,155	\$28,241,277
Squid	45,784	\$40,632
Stone Crabs	7,906	\$21,587
Unclassified Shellfish	96,496	\$88,536
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	76,249	\$191,124
TOTAL SHELLFISH	40,033,781	\$61,347,353
GRAND TOTAL	59,928,328	\$94,014,583

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (amberjacks, almaco jacks, and banded rudderfish.)

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, bull, finetooth, hammerhead, shortfin mako, spinner, thresher, tiger, and Atlantic sharpnose.

³ The red snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

⁴ Includes brown, pink, white and rock shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise.

2015 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2015

Updated: April 2017

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	146,498	\$161,768
Anglerfish (Monkfish Including Monklivers)	112,863	\$106,081
Bluefish	804,336	\$445,293
Bonito	20,989	\$32,905
Butterfish	62,658	\$28,237
Carp	37,791	\$3,071
Catfishes	917,965	\$262,840
Cobia	52,684	\$113,176
Croaker, Atlantic	1,819,070	\$1,646,377
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	178,077	\$309,752
Dogfish, Smooth	268,429	\$98,113
Dogfish, Spiny	4,247,213	\$532,180
Dolphinfish	320,961	\$973,324
Drum, Black	51,103	\$43,158
Drum, Red	80,393	\$196,144
Eel, American	57,791	\$142,826
Flounder, Southern	1,202,930	\$3,823,707
Flounder, Summer	2,878,753	\$9,092,527
Flounders, Other	7,638	\$26,179
Garfish	37,651	\$5,648
Grouper, Gag	127,194	\$580,929
Grouper, Red	35,258	\$138,669
Grouper, Scamp	36,391	\$161,478
Grouper, Snowy	47,121	\$184,206
Groupers, Other	15,234	\$57,065
Grunts	32,684	\$33,221
Hakes	1,407	\$685
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	164,046	\$221,595
Herring, River (Alewife and Blueback)	0	\$0
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	8,238	\$33,500
Jacks (Crevalle and Blue runner)	7,607	\$4,692
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	1,861	\$796
Mackerel, King	391,315	\$800,688
Mackerel, Spanish	561,409	\$1,034,231
Menhaden, Atlantic	896,919	\$152,241
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	786,515	\$860,461
Mullet, Striped	1,247,044	\$804,675
Perch, White	161,596	\$124,499
Perch, Yellow	41,655	\$54,013
Pigfish	20,763	\$7,507
Pinfish	845	\$304
Pompano	22,085	\$39,973
Porgies	54,464	\$92,779
Pufferfish	9,578	\$5,861
Sharks ²	795,831	\$338,283
Scup	229,696	\$130,029
Sea Basses	467,953	\$1,366,822

2015 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Seatrout, Spotted	128,762	\$318,307
Shad, American	98,118	\$93,657
Shad, Gizzard	97,970	\$4,899
Shad, Hickory	148,714	\$42,916
Sheepshead	124,836	\$139,237
Skates	44,848	\$8,349
Skippers	16,736	\$4,636
Snapper, Red ³	0	\$0
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	225,481	\$781,211
Snappers, Other	6,552	\$22,778
Spadefish	15,994	\$8,176
Spot	377,358	\$322,198
Striped Bass	141,824	\$450,208
Swordfish	593,258	\$1,277,355
Tilefish	45,354	\$135,228
Triggerfish	131,536	\$331,805
Tuna, Bigeye	369,347	\$1,277,767
Tuna, Bluefin	118,159	\$200,380
Tuna, Yellowfin	515,014	\$1,191,039
Tunas, Other	152,716	\$128,529
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	164,853	\$85,437
Unclassified Fish for Bait	67,995	\$8,066
Unclassified Fish for Food	138,824	\$108,871
Wahoo	18,380	\$65,475
Weakfish (Grey Trout)	80,235	\$115,834
TOTAL FINFISH	23,293,365	\$32,394,870
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	31,047,438	\$29,633,881
Blue Crabs, Peeler	706,688	\$2,106,196
Blue Crabs, Soft	380,375	\$2,247,306
Clams, Hard (Meats)	415,027	\$5,038,973
	(21,126,582 numbers)	
Oysters (Meats)	631,061	\$3,898,159
	(119,293 bushels)	
Octopus	209	\$388
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	198,393	\$2,213,074
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	9,097,660	\$16,835,205
Squid	25,516	\$22,212
Stone Crabs	8,158	\$22,925
Unclassified Shellfish	85,071	\$168,487
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	65,221	\$137,526
TOTAL SHELLFISH	42,660,817	\$62,324,331
GRAND TOTAL	65,954,182	\$94,719,201

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (amberjacks, almaco jacks, and banded rudderfish.)

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: blacktip, bonnethead, bull, finetooth, hammerhead, shortfin mako, spinner, thresher, tiger, and Atlantic sharpnose.

³ The red snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

⁴ Includes brown, pink, white and rock shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise.

2014 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2014

Updated: April 2017

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	193,001	\$197,434
Anglerfish (Monkfish Including Monklivers)	76,392	\$66,713
Bluefish	2,019,279	\$1,230,021
Bonito	9,081	\$16,173
Butterfish	53,607	\$30,593
Carp	16,456	\$1,504
Catfishes	521,540	\$112,361
Cobia	41,798	\$85,596
Croaker, Atlantic	2,629,908	\$1,813,374
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	165,375	\$230,796
Dogfish, Smooth	498,904	\$202,433
Dogfish, Spiny	5,650,285	\$564,931
Dolphinfish	422,496	\$1,271,440
Drum, Black	51,217	\$32,387
Drum, Red	90,647	\$174,745
Eel, American	60,755	\$164,797
Flounder, Southern	1,673,511	\$4,298,815
Flounder, Summer	2,911,750	\$7,448,744
Flounders, Other	4,413	\$3,418
Garfish	10,803	\$2,215
Grouper, Gag	168,036	\$706,884
Grouper, Red	53,096	\$191,399
Grouper, Scamp	42,207	\$178,032
Grouper, Snowy	27,553	\$98,764
Groupers, Other	9,125	\$30,086
Grunts	39,312	\$41,387
Hakes	652	\$242
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	155,357	\$180,942
Herring, River (Alewife and Blueback)	1,139	\$1,519
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	9,767	\$38,135
Jacks (Crevalle and Blue runner)	9,151	\$6,274
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	1,761	\$693
Mackerel, King	549,981	\$1,420,312
Mackerel, Spanish	673,974	\$1,099,165
Menhaden, Atlantic	917,375	\$128,194
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	955,071	\$1,067,141
Mullet, Striped	1,828,351	\$1,714,630
Perch, White	172,486	\$158,398
Perch, Yellow	67,454	\$86,598
Pigfish	38,572	\$17,565
Pinfish	1,431	\$431
Pompano	12,923	\$32,991
Porgies	82,809	\$128,480
Pufferfish	1,611	\$792
Sharks ²	1,005,858	\$513,513
Scup	160,508	\$95,727
Sea Basses	529,075	\$1,414,721

2014 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Seatrout, Spotted	242,245	\$527,514
Shad, American	193,130	\$230,091
Shad, Gizzard	114,594	\$5,730
Shad, Hickory	109,407	\$44,885
Sheepshead	173,376	\$153,529
Skates	18,907	\$122
Skippers	19,884	\$5,862
Snapper, Red ³	4,826	\$21,634
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	242,259	\$809,261
Snappers, Other	4,002	\$11,715
Spadefish	22,761	\$10,222
Spot	766,224	\$687,618
Striped Bass	96,233	\$297,585
Swordfish	694,911	\$1,897,857
Tilefish	91,074	\$212,222
Triggerfish	116,782	\$251,194
Tuna, Bigeye	337,269	\$1,351,096
Tuna, Bluefin	114,037	\$658,404
Tuna, Yellowfin	821,520	\$1,883,509
Tunas, Other	155,033	\$180,868
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	225,797	\$135,287
Unclassified Fish for Bait	24,635	\$2,591
Unclassified Fish for Food	123,386	\$107,347
Wahoo	22,783	\$73,317
Weakfish (Grey Trout)	105,246	\$131,772
TOTAL FINFISH	29,456,169	\$36,992,735
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	25,242,648	\$26,465,523
Blue Crabs, Peeler	621,040	\$1,449,542
Blue Crabs, Soft	367,277	\$2,091,382
Clams, Hard (Meats)	430,816	\$2,295,366
	(22,440,617 numbers)	
Oysters (Meats)	727,775	\$3,353,126
	(137,576 bushels)	
Octopus	217	\$2,069
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	92,976	\$402,717
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	4,691,067	\$12,947,004
Squid	16,156	\$10,703
Stone Crabs	7,451	\$18,479
Unclassified Shellfish	258,093	\$124,799
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	53,546	\$123,236
TOTAL SHELLFISH	32,509,063	\$52,862,816
GRAND TOTAL	61,965,232	\$89,855,552

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (amberjacks, almaco jacks, and banded rudderfish.)

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: blacktip, bonnethead, bull, finetooth, hammerhead, shortfin mako, spinner, thresher, tiger, and Atlantic sharpnose.

³The red snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

⁴ Includes brown, pink, white and rock shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise.

2013 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2013

Updated: April 2017

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	90,180	\$90,035
Anglerfish (Monkfish Including Monklivers)	10,566	\$9,053
Bluefish	1,159,580	\$564,377
Bonito	10,506	\$15,460
Butterfish	93,146	\$53,369
Carp	14,133	\$1,360
Catfishes	548,913	\$92,497
Cobia	35,456	\$73,142
Croaker, Atlantic	1,927,938	\$1,723,578
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	145,362	\$204,869
Dogfish, Smooth	783,053	\$344,182
Dogfish, Spiny	3,010,958	\$302,248
Dolphinfish	178,035	\$529,916
Drum, Black	127,170	\$79,480
Drum, Red	371,949	\$715,685
Eel, American	33,980	\$88,649
Flounder, Southern	2,186,391	\$5,673,190
Flounder, Summer	541,542	\$1,386,338
Flounders, Other	*	*
Garfish	5,893	\$1,208
Grouper, Gag	167,334	\$704,382
Grouper, Red	72,034	\$259,053
Grouper, Scamp	42,711	\$180,679
Grouper, Snowy	20,274	\$72,067
Groupers, Other	8,856	\$31,637
Grunts	44,702	\$47,062
Hakes	614	\$231
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	221,168	\$253,604
Herring, River (Alewife and Blueback)	743	\$743
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	7,847	\$30,640
Jacks (Crevalle and Blue runner)	14,492	\$10,639
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	154	\$61
Mackerel, King	345,177	\$877,497
Mackerel, Spanish	620,752	\$1,015,965
Menhaden, Atlantic	454,172	\$73,490
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	603,186	\$668,480
Mullet, Striped	1,549,157	\$1,402,914
Perch, White	275,652	\$255,633
Perch, Yellow	31,481	\$40,546
Pigfish	62,099	\$28,093
Pinfish	1,536	\$463
Pompano	15,423	\$41,351
Porgies	72,669	\$116,776
Pufferfish	5,846	\$2,858
Sharks ²	553,665	\$282,318
Scup	28,691	\$13,323
Sea Basses	329,691	\$868,811

2013 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Seatrout, Spotted	367,610	\$818,078
Shad, American	257,869	\$307,475
Shad, Gizzard	112,295	\$4,492
Shad, Hickory	71,326	\$29,144
Sheepshead	180,225	\$145,794
Skates	2,286	\$429
Skippers	15,780	\$4,652
Snapper, Red ³	2,686	\$11,942
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	267,260	\$886,596
Snappers, Other	6,587	\$19,449
Spadefish	20,369	\$9,246
Spot	768,592	\$690,035
Striped Bass	96,935	\$303,486
Swordfish	1,058,089	\$2,935,940
Tilefish	217,079	\$522,652
Triggerfish	160,861	\$342,228
Tuna, Bigeye	243,637	\$939,909
Tuna, Bluefin	106,197	\$608,952
Tuna, Yellowfin	648,039	\$1,434,318
Tunas, Other	96,937	\$113,429
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	189,746	\$114,416
Unclassified Fish for Bait	24,389	\$2,565
Unclassified Fish for Food	119,847	\$120,455
Wahoo	23,380	\$75,577
Weakfish (Grey Trout)	120,188	\$150,725
TOTAL FINFISH	22,003,151	\$29,820,232
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	21,438,077	\$26,465,523
Blue Crabs, Peeler	447,120	\$1,449,542
Blue Crabs, Soft	317,426	\$2,091,382
Clams, Hard (Meats)	347,073	\$2,295,366
	(17,855,759 numbers)	
Oysters (Meats)	586,625	\$3,353,126
	(110,893 bushels)	
Octopus	1,205	\$2,069
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	36,445	\$402,717
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	4,859,833	\$12,947,004
Squid	12,090	\$10,703
Stone Crabs	6,839	\$18,479
Unclassified Shellfish	91,274	124,744
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	50,079	\$123,236
TOTAL SHELLFISH	28,194,084	\$49,283,890
GRAND TOTAL	50,197,236	\$79,104,122

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (amberjacks, almaco jacks, and banded rudderfish.)

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: blacktip, hammerhead, lemon, shortfin mako, thresher, and Atlantic sharpnose.

³The red snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

⁴ Includes brown, pink, white and rock shrimp.

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2012 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2012

Updated April 2017

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	124,325	\$104,212
Anglerfish (Monkfish Including Monklivers)	21,649	\$25,286
Bluefish	758,858	\$349,288
Bonito	11,343	\$15,833
Butterfish	127,536	\$65,553
Carp	6,199	\$586
Catfishes	489,492	\$116,379
Cobia	31,972	\$61,603
Croaker, Atlantic	3,106,616	\$2,135,458
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	50,867	\$61,601
Dogfish, Smooth	980,275	\$379,946
Dogfish, Spiny	2,728,882	\$640,820
Dolphinfish	249,020	\$756,346
Drum, Black	94,352	\$54,133
Drum, Red	66,519	\$138,833
Eel, American	64,110	\$160,275
Flounder, Southern	1,646,137	\$4,451,482
Flounder, Summer	1,090,218	\$2,969,370
Flounders, Other	0	0
Garfish	18,490	\$2,339
Grouper, Gag	187,483	\$758,371
Grouper, Red	111,781	\$363,767
Grouper, Scamp	49,556	\$195,370
Grouper, Snowy	25,740	\$78,235
Groupers, Other	7,542	\$26,152
Grunts	49,734	\$50,044
Hakes	280	\$100
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	161,751	\$202,146
Herring, River (Alewife and Blueback)	678	\$678
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	8,256	\$28,738
Jacks (Crevalle and Blue runner)	16,200	\$13,414
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	1,374	\$567
Mackerel, King	297,423	\$831,297
Mackerel, Spanish	916,439	\$1,374,648
Menhaden, Atlantic	538,783	\$82,974
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	596,249	\$645,607
Mullet, Striped	1,859,587	\$1,041,659
Perch, White	189,448	\$150,940
Perch, Yellow	20,511	\$23,446
Pigfish	37,555	\$19,834
Pinfish	1,017	\$257
Pompano	22,525	\$43,376
Porgies	83,918	\$132,025
Pufferfish	5,531	\$2,799
Sharks ²	701,924	\$376,171
Scup	3,954	\$2,768
Sea Basses	256,007	\$687,905

2012 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole/Round Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Seatrout, Spotted	265,016	\$522,130
Shad, American	235,861	\$257,748
Shad, Gizzard	123,813	\$4,333
Shad, Hickory	65,645	\$22,389
Sheepshead	109,881	\$92,837
Skates	5,738	\$1,433
Skippers	21,998	\$5,804
Snapper, Red ³	445	\$1,898
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	276,172	\$889,691
Snappers, Other	2,751	\$8,036
Spadefish	24,238	\$9,043
Spot	489,676	\$465,750
Striped Bass	144,555	\$368,516
Swordfish	903,178	\$3,009,107
Tilefish	361,094	\$753,966
Triggerfish	143,114	\$278,968
Tuna, Bigeye	232,943	\$1,036,747
Tuna, Bluefin	130,496	\$1,017,958
Tuna, Yellowfin	855,006	\$2,130,454
Tunas, Other	105,893	\$123,039
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	157,849	\$89,798
Unclassified Fish for Bait	34,775	\$7,615
Unclassified Fish for Food	111,190	\$111,452
Wahoo	23,521	\$73,998
Weakfish (Grey Trout)	91,383	\$111,461
TOTAL FINFISH	22,734,334	\$31,016,802
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	25,991,387	\$20,198,891
Blue Crabs, Peeler	468,855	\$1,112,025
Blue Crabs, Soft	325,426	\$1,496,021
Clams, Hard (Meats)	396,429	\$2,091,067
	(20,074,457 numbers)	
Oysters (Meats)	440,063	\$2,572,073
	(83,188 bushels)	
Octopus	248	\$382
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	58,882	\$567,230
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	6,141,480	\$13,333,150
Squid	11,921	\$10,885
Stone Crabs	5,221	\$17,125
Unclassified Shellfish	77,610	\$79,764
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	39,078	\$75,705
TOTAL SHELLFISH	33,956,601	\$41,554,318
GRAND TOTAL	56,690,935	72,571,121

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (amberjacks, almaco jacks, and banded rudderfish.)

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: blacktip, bull, hammerhead, shortfin mako, sandbar, thresher, tiger, and Atlantic sharpnose.

³ The red snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

⁴ Includes brown, pink, white and rock shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise.

North Carolina Commercial Fishing Trips by Major Gears

(2012 – 2016)

Gear	Trips				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Beach Seine	68	57	21	23	11
By Hand	15,188	16,446	18,019	17,170	18,790
Cast Net	804	703	627	690	666
Channel Net	1,508	1,626	1,078	968	759
Clam Dredges	492	344	388	251	213
Clam Trawl Kicking	188	180	155	77	39
Crab Dredge	4	1	3	14	6
Crab Pot	48,043	48,122	50,527	51,758	46,273
Crab Trawl	21	85	180	470	461
Eel Pot	177	70	143	97	66
Fish Pot	613	623	678	583	471
Flounder Trawl	108	71	257	276	265
Flynet	14	4	40	11	19
Fyke Net	344	428	404	639	627
Gigs	3,148	2,585	2,804	2,739	2,795
Gill Net – Anchored	31,204	36,711	27,862	23,437	22,730
Gill Net – Drift	392	236	296	401	278
Gill Net – Runaround	3,589	3,780	3,377	3,252	3,293
Haul Seines ¹	177	273	204	45	93
Longlines	578	719	634	519	598
Oyster Dredge	2,264	3,763	5,705	4,031	2,684
Peeler Pot	3,516	3,334	4,006	4,743	4,957
Peeler Trawl ²	24	29	26	21	14
Pound Nets	2,740	2,859	2,444	2,856	2,557
Rakes	9,403	9,988	11,779	12,489	11,227
Rod-n-Reel	2,151	2,065	2,271	1,991	2,278
Shrimp Trawl	6,195	5,650	4,598	6,053	7,467
Skimmer Trawl	1,088	1,194	712	1,035	1,273
Spears (Diving)	134	159	195	168	186
Tongs	5,527	4,092	3,896	3,688	3,152
Trolling	1,888	2,184	2,245	1,903	1,808
Trotline	50	38	49	39	86
Other Gears ³	94	238	169	164	172
Total trips⁴	141,734	148,657	145,792	142,601	136,314

A **trip** is defined as the time period beginning when a vessel or fisherman leaves port to conduct fishing activities and ending when that vessel or fisherman returns to land the catch. The duration of a trip can vary from a few hours, as in hand clamming, to several days, as in ocean flounder trawling. An assessment of the number of trips gives an indication of the amount of effort conducted by commercial fishermen within that fishery.

¹ Includes long hauls, common seines, and swipe nets.

² A new code to distinguish peeler trawl gear was put into effect in 2010.

³ Includes greenstick trolling, butterfly nets, conch pots, dip nets, purse seines, bay scallop dredges, scallop scoops and trawls, shrimp pots and turtle pots.

⁴ Total trips are not equal to the sum of trips by gear due to multi-gear trips.

Source: North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Trip Ticket Program (April 2017).

North Carolina Marine Recreational Finfish Harvest

(2015 – 2016)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER 2015</u>	<u>NUMBER 2016</u>	<u>POUNDS 2015</u>	<u>POUNDS 2016</u>
Amberjacks	9,934	10,083	244,797	188,141
Barracudas	2,065	965	17,394	8,603
Bluefish	977,599	1,159,528	868,867	862,558
Bonito	5,619	1,590	37,263	9,998
Cobia	16,166	9,288	695,842	293,544
Croaker, Atlantic	471,869	367,237	190,808	133,603
Dolphin	434,454	263,278	3,170,590	2,757,490
Drum, Red	36,704	61,774	154,496	229,248
Drum, Black	35,529	71,174	115,609	240,156
Flounder, Southern	108,369	117,178	254,132	272,763
Flounder, Summer	40,561	17,783	64,065	30,100
Groupers	1,776	2,609	21,125	36,829
Grunts	24,278	20,862	32,120	31,832
Jacks	20,635	45,946	27,254	35,223
Kingfishes	1,556,068	816,174	493,506	247,436
Mackerel, King	34,330	54,501	320,388	458,975
Mackerel, Spanish	388,157	423,141	431,082	408,312
Perch, Silver	4,849	13,529	1,161	2,556
Pigfish	508,767	462,798	177,093	154,517
Pinfish	333,330	341,827	115,132	64,778
Pompano	142,927	59,592	64,763	41,332
Porgies	7,020	3,997	9,421	8,171
Puffers	860,154	215,593	397,472	90,593
Sea Bass, Black	69,270	57,293	100,146	86,072
Seatrout, Spotted	87,396	386,021	148,926	688,682
Sharks	5,599	1,647	78,482	3,905
Sharks, Dogfish	9,101	3,159	45,596	12,083
Sheepshead	76,496	41,801	217,148	119,119
Snappers	12,965	36,908	15,147	48,348
Spot	1,081,083	510,794	395,268	148,883
Striped Bass ¹	0	375	0	1,407
Tuna, Bluefin ²	44	74	7,747	13,576
Tuna, Yellowfin	24,459	60,134	723,874	2,264,871
Wahoo	19,561	23,809	584,670	640,807
Weakfish	39,842	33,468	50,903	34,708

¹ Striped Bass landings reflect Atlantic Ocean catches only.

² Landings for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (ABT) reflect the Highly Migratory Species fishing year (January 1 through December 31).

NOTE: The number and pounds of finfish listed represent estimated harvest; finfish released alive are not included. Headboat landings are not included but are available upon request from NOAA Beaufort Lab's Southeast Region Headboat Survey.

North Carolina Marine Recreational Finfish Harvest

(2012 – 2014)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>			<u>POUNDS</u>		
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Amberjacks	8,976	10,078	3,098	154,734	172,647	60,260
Barracudas	683	224	852	8,535	1,276	10,737
Bluefish	888,888	1,183,627	1,084,292	1,010,575	988,664	966,003
Bonito	4,281	9,219	6,700	38,551	133,163	30,988
Cobia	2,050	19,224	9,804	104,106	506,067	247,386
Croaker, Atlantic	288,813	411,882	541,657	105,530	141,880	227,949
Dolphin	327,116	212,388	185,077	2,559,382	1,562,755	1,329,353
Drum, Red	52,948	164,218	116,601	238,312	676,050	596,447
Drum, Black	139,363	363,466	24,058	243,965	713,047	60,406
Flounder, Southern	118,614	178,178	69,956	298,043	409,086	149,723
Flounder, Summer	63,135	44,941	45,708	101,642	70,874	67,791
Groupers	10,198	5,390	1,729	126,567	54,418	18,973
Grunts	62,734	16,374	26,257	95,724	26,769	39,265
Jacks	19,239	25,164	8,871	20,463	24,835	28,167
Kingfishes	1,050,826	1,377,835	1,143,212	383,427	343,454	451,073
Mackerel, King	27,353	22,613	23,374	333,614	235,436	366,128
Mackerel, Spanish	491,238	497,329	398,398	665,201	625,035	449,709
Perch, Silver	22,053	13,345	11,519	3,988	2,366	2,519
Pigfish	334,052	299,065	293,523	117,021	101,014	83,741
Pinfish	259,674	355,871	332,185	40,471	61,148	74,085
Pompano	107,260	471,156	166,888	57,882	171,860	83,190
Porgies	15,857	8,460	7,812	26,249	16,720	15,657
Puffers	268,515	209,770	49,269	134,113	126,039	25,416
Sea Bass, Black	75,638	49,258	74,648	127,621	68,225	132,351
Seatrout, Spotted	500,522	369,265	234,045	817,551	649,158	433,978
Sharks	2,350	13,426	3,340	44,170	20,386	23,102
Sharks, Dogfish	316	4,986	853	1,454	10,143	4,296
Sheepshead	119,899	273,211	61,379	293,570	500,096	143,782
Snappers	27,822	9,852	9,110	60,163	14,013	15,017
Spot	784,272	1,464,592	2,111,880	230,250	460,928	704,445
Striped bass ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuna, Bluefin ²	189	201	69	31,861	40,979	14,492
Tuna, Yellowfin	57,100	44,688	27,248	1,579,260	1,441,122	873,536
Wahoo	30,885	9,370	11,639	854,568	255,306	322,468
Weakfish	40,299	33,851	26,308	46,081	34,731	25,957

¹ Striped bass landings reflect Atlantic Ocean catches only.

² Landings for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna represent Highly Migratory Species fishing year January 1 through December 31.

NOTE: The number and pounds of finfish listed represent estimated harvest; finfish released alive are not included. Headboat landings are not included but are available upon request from NOAA Beaufort Lab's Southeast Region Headboat Survey.

North Carolina Coastal Angling Program

North Carolina Marine Recreational Finfish Harvest and Release Catch Estimates, 2012 – 2016.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Harvested</u>	<u>Pounds Harvested</u>	<u>Number Released</u>
2012	8,472,954	12,059,556	18,536,492
2013	11,479,525	11,968,710	20,963,650
2014	9,572,612	8,788,702	19,765,129
2015	10,363,367	11,917,061	21,137,129
2016	8,494,662	12,198,455	21,444,250

North Carolina Marine Recreational Fishing Trip Estimates (number), 2012 – 2016.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Beach/Bank</u>	<u>Charter Boat</u>	<u>Manmade</u>	<u>Private Boat</u>	<u>Total</u>
2012	1,599,759	160,097	1,482,635	2,060,989	5,303,480
2013	1,212,558	111,366	1,543,314	2,100,515	4,967,753
2014	1,665,273	96,620	1,484,850	1,707,330	4,954,073
2015	1,205,413	114,061	1,285,166	2,041,020	4,645,660
2016	2,018,682	143,644	1,461,579	1,774,666	5,398,571

Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) Sales by Residency, 2012 – 2016.

<u>Year</u>	<u>In State</u>	<u>Out-of-State</u>	<u>Total</u>
2012	304,840	155,457	460,297
2013	317,649	162,351	480,000
2014	320,663	165,624	486,287
2015	316,376	164,469	480,845
2016	308,883	158,826	467,709

Survey Methods

The survey consists of telephone/mail and on-site angler interviews. Telephone/mail interviews are used to collect data on number of trips, fishing location, and when these trips were made. Information on actual catch (species, number, weight, and length) is collected through on-site angler interviews. Information from both types of interviews is combined to produce estimates of total number and pounds of finfish caught.

Precision of Estimates

Numbers and pounds presented are estimates, not actual counts, therefore having varying levels of precision.



Coastal recreational fishery statistics are provided through participation in the Marine Recreational Information Program. In North Carolina, this project is supported in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Sport Fish Restoration Program, Grant F-31.