



Annual Fisheries Bulletin

2025 Commercial and Recreational Statistics

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

July 2026

Included in this bulletin are the 2025 landings and harvest information from the commercial and recreational fisheries programs, along with the 2020 to 2024 finalized landings for comparison. The bulletin also contains a summary of commercial fishing trips by major gear.

The North Carolina Trip Ticket Program (TTP) collects commercial fishery landings and effort statistics. This program collects mandatory trip-level fish dealer reports for 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 2025

Commercial	Recreational ¹
41,652,404 pounds	20,214,115 pounds

¹ Bluefin Tuna recreational landings are no longer included due to the retirement of North Carolina's HMS Catch Card program on April 1, 2025.

Top Five Species Caught in Each Fishery in 2025

Commercial		Recreational	
Species	Pounds	Species	Pounds
Hard Blue Crabs	15,513,891	Bluefish	3,061,667
Shrimp (Heads On)	7,055,116	Dolphin	2,453,025
Catfishes	2,616,880	Spanish Mackerel	2,009,677
Mullet, Striped	2,204,060	Yellowfin Tuna	1,785,924
Flounder, Summer	1,789,723	Red Drum	1,027,623

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

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Electronic copies of the dealer report and landings bulletin can be found at
<https://deq.nc.gov/fisheries-statistics>.

2025 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2025

Issued: July 2026

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	257,079	\$320,188
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	7,872	\$6,397
Bluefish	1,305,531	\$975,873
Bonito, Atlantic	33,168	\$49,089
Butterfish	49,113	\$20,318
Carp	10,191	\$2,063
Catfishes	2,616,880	\$1,557,152
Cobia	17,871	\$60,364
Croaker, Atlantic	474,434	\$548,608
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	704,326	\$1,419,631
Dolphinfish	12,186	\$53,923
Drum, Black	169,116	\$226,437
Drum, Red	182,801	\$527,420
Eel, American	1,072	\$1,608
Flounder, Southern	260,930	\$993,968
Flounder, Summer	1,789,723	\$6,253,107
Garfish	24,842	\$2,484
Grouper, Gag	110,058	\$899,420
Grouper, Red	9,422	\$71,425
Grouper, Scamp	19,273	\$155,064
Grouper, Snowy	57,329	\$327,211
Groupers, Other	19,680	\$131,602
Grunts	7,959	\$11,938
Hakes	1,838	\$782
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	112,639	\$220,078
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	18,629	\$111,612
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	5,345	\$6,693
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	4,838	\$2,907
Mackerel, King	323,617	\$978,956
Mackerel, Spanish	772,296	\$1,591,320
Menhaden, Atlantic	458,487	\$132,052
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	595,915	\$1,197,675
Mullet, Striped	2,204,060	\$1,461,174
Perch, White	233,042	\$357,071
Perch, Yellow	13,869	\$25,855
Pigfish	8,594	\$6,914
Pinfish	13	\$3
Pompano	9,113	\$28,984
Porgies	12,646	\$35,667
Pufferfish	293	\$232
Scup	48,954	\$30,292
Sea Basses	315,930	\$1,004,187
Seatrout, Spotted	281,225	\$779,225
Shad, American	18,394	\$27,412
Shad, Gizzard	101,540	\$15,231
Shad, Hickory	74,337	\$21,397
Sharks ²	337,308	\$157,602
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	136,356	\$98,212
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	*	*

2025 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	157,831	\$394,006
Skates	*	*
Skippers	11,328	\$4,782
Snapper, Red ³	32,965	\$230,817
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	97,668	\$517,440
Snappers, Other	17,202	\$86,655
Spadefish	13,719	\$15,216
Spot	454,473	\$588,768
Swordfish	171,043	\$591,073
Tilefish, Blueline	93,372	\$359,795
Tilefishes, Other	37,543	\$220,426
Triggerfishes	34,155	\$137,100
Tuna, Bigeye	281,613	\$1,325,515
Tuna, Bluefin	627,689	\$3,102,602
Tuna, Yellowfin	359,143	\$907,190
Tunas, Other	25,281	\$30,036
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	92,839	\$118,742
Wahoo	4,640	\$24,376
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	65,566	\$98,179
Unclassified Fish for Food	95,539	\$100,179
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	90,409	\$393,968
TOTAL FINFISH	16,994,149	\$31,842,185
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	15,513,891	\$24,391,596
Blue Crabs, Peeler	237,152	\$1,001,543
Blue Crabs, Soft	40,520	\$473,337
Clams, Hard (Meats)	68,983	\$802,333
	3,642,563 (Numbers)	
Oysters (Meats) ⁴	1,679,291	\$10,110,935
	317,446 (Bushels)	
Octopus	135	\$623
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	-	\$0
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	10,368	\$137,549
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁵	7,055,116	\$15,458,852
Squid	12,497	\$10,681
Stone Crabs	7,294	\$42,733
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	25,540	\$69,191
Unclassified Shellfish	9,694	\$26,997
TOTAL SHELLFISH	24,660,668	\$52,527,205
GRAND TOTAL	41,654,816	\$84,369,390

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (Greater Amberjack, Lesser Amberjack, Almaco Jack, and Banded Rudderfish).

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, 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 landings from holders of a Shellfish Lease Restoration Permit (SLRP).

⁵ Includes Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise. Quantities were included in the "Unclassified Fish for Food" or "Unclassified Shellfish" categories.

2024 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2024

Updated: July 2026

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	261,052	\$383,995
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	14,313	\$11,246
Bluefish	1,193,461	\$745,751
Bonito, Atlantic	12,100	\$22,617
Butterfish	48,481	\$27,395
Carp	13,013	\$2,138
Catfishes	1,646,428	\$604,988
Cobia	28,561	\$91,105
Croaker, Atlantic	450,834	\$497,644
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	912,656	\$1,973,806
Dolphinfish	11,087	\$44,846
Drum, Black	240,065	\$312,528
Drum, Red	184,788	\$536,812
Eel, American	2,477	\$1,765
Flounder, Southern	370,257	\$1,201,798
Flounder, Summer	2,223,087	\$6,486,508
Garfish	8,953	\$1,791
Grouper, Gag	29,287	\$228,483
Grouper, Red	6,036	\$42,447
Grouper, Scamp	17,381	\$126,434
Grouper, Snowy	66,630	\$362,283
Groupers, Other	15,960	\$97,461
Grunts	10,382	\$13,470
Hakes	3,866	\$1,363
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	68,395	\$147,116
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	15,962	\$90,397
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	8,400	\$12,522
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	456	\$218
Mackerel, King	462,299	\$1,363,356
Mackerel, Spanish	841,502	\$1,479,235
Menhaden, Atlantic	359,167	\$88,296
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	631,223	\$1,088,253
Mullet, Striped	2,358,321	\$1,827,191
Perch, White	350,892	\$466,798
Perch, Yellow	12,946	\$21,847
Pigfish	18,148	\$12,087
Pinfish	247	\$101
Pompano	11,315	\$42,713
Porgies	12,038	\$34,115
Pufferfish	427	\$269
Scup	64,047	\$41,564
Sea Basses	216,276	\$693,734
Seatrout, Spotted	586,581	\$1,512,065
Shad, American	25,624	\$24,495
Shad, Gizzard	108,678	\$16,302
Shad, Hickory	74,289	\$18,815
Sharks ²	493,918	\$192,451
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	79,376	\$43,297
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	158,667	\$24,724

2024 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	129,704	\$273,581
Skates	*	*
Skippers	9,093	\$3,939
Snapper, Red ³	12,386	\$88,117
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	114,732	\$569,703
Snappers, Other	21,443	\$99,102
Spadefish	24,248	\$25,405
Spot	574,628	\$731,462
Swordfish	227,529	\$795,628
Tilefish, Blueline	99,897	\$391,711
Tilefishes, Other	28,301	\$135,252
Triggerfishes	58,297	\$217,959
Tuna, Bigeye	340,289	\$1,483,622
Tuna, Bluefin	284,794	\$1,472,914
Tuna, Yellowfin	370,361	\$1,052,331
Tunas, Other	30,228	\$34,114
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	114,089	\$154,209
Wahoo	7,914	\$36,032
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	106,571	\$136,340
Unclassified Fish for Food	86,082	\$90,094
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	79,054	\$51,758
TOTAL FINFISH	17,449,985	\$30,903,907
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	18,713,280	\$26,048,087
Blue Crabs, Peeler	283,951	\$1,292,255
Blue Crabs, Soft	83,633	\$938,568
Clams, Hard (Meats)	73,839	\$840,641
	3,899,316 (Numbers)	
Oysters (Meats) ⁴	1,417,043	\$8,158,665
	267,872 (Bushels)	
Octopus	79	\$456
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	-	\$0
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	8,644	\$116,550
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁵	7,729,882	\$14,860,798
Squid	10,656	\$10,638
Stone Crabs	8,449	\$49,123
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	45,167	\$151,633
Unclassified Shellfish	9,320	\$80,876
TOTAL SHELLFISH	28,383,942	\$52,548,289
GRAND TOTAL	45,833,927	\$83,452,196

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (Greater Amberjack, Lesser Amberjack, Almaco Jack, and Banded Rudderfish).

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, 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 landings from holders of a Shellfish Lease Restoration Permit (SLRP).

⁵ Includes Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise. Quantities were included in the "Unclassified Fish for Food" or "Unclassified Shellfish" categories.

2023 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2023

Updated: July 2026

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	208,877	\$246,497
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	9,930	\$8,184
Bluefish	1,658,869	\$654,648
Bonito	17,876	\$30,287
Butterfish	52,459	\$22,933
Carp	11,738	\$1,880
Catfishes	2,190,386	\$798,199
Cobia	31,301	\$89,303
Croaker, Atlantic	249,463	\$318,294
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	913,916	\$1,865,806
Dolphinfish	11,710	\$44,278
Drum, Black	240,799	\$325,058
Drum, Red	186,465	\$544,053
Eel, American	1,109	\$1,109
Flounder, Southern	376,031	\$837,570
Flounder, Summer	2,096,443	\$3,461,907
Garfish	3,762	\$752
Grouper, Gag	76,819	\$575,468
Grouper, Red	4,108	\$27,454
Grouper, Scamp	10,560	\$76,081
Grouper, Snowy	52,960	\$279,422
Groupers, Other	14,369	\$82,702
Grunts	16,021	\$20,870
Hakes	1,655	\$1,536
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	79,798	\$158,342
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	11,776	\$59,685
Jacks (Crevalle, Rainbow Runner, Blue Runner)	7,708	\$9,586
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	412	\$198
Mackerel, King	565,814	\$1,717,657
Mackerel, Spanish	804,848	\$1,452,310
Menhaden, Atlantic	619,375	\$165,759
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	835,588	\$1,409,264
Mullet, Striped	1,863,337	\$1,394,662
Perch, White	443,811	\$512,960
Perch, Yellow	6,318	\$10,034
Pigfish	16,878	\$9,563
Pinfish	242	\$98
Pompano	9,639	\$35,600
Porgies	11,779	\$27,791
Pufferfish	1,401	\$766
Scup	*	*
Sea Basses	119,210	\$367,759
Seatrout, Spotted	434,595	\$1,237,997
Shad, American	27,341	\$31,718
Shad, Gizzard	149,954	\$22,493
Shad, Hickory	104,164	\$25,818
Sharks ²	641,033	\$270,783
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	67,795	\$44,891
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	6,147	\$861

2023 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	114,751	\$215,563
Skates	*	*
Skippers	8,160	\$2,954
Snapper, Red ³	20,726	\$140,759
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	195,839	\$952,964
Snappers, Other	43,010	\$192,032
Spadefish	25,657	\$24,401
Spot	761,604	\$1,147,409
Striped Bass	20,283	\$44,332
Swordfish	212,546	\$747,123
Tilefish, Blueline	95,491	\$369,408
Tilefishes, Other	24,418	\$111,723
Triggerfishes	74,375	\$268,951
Tuna, Bigeye	768,053	\$3,389,246
Tuna, Bluefin	297,228	\$1,713,066
Tuna, Yellowfin	366,741	\$1,031,190
Tunas, Other	27,224	\$32,531
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	121,842	\$141,668
Wahoo	8,808	\$37,052
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	106,131	\$127,936
Unclassified Fish for Food	123,262	\$101,049
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	66,023	\$38,249
TOTAL FINFISH	18,748,763	\$30,110,490
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	15,353,387	\$18,185,103
Blue Crabs, Peeler	313,959	\$1,479,811
Blue Crabs, Soft	71,648	\$765,540
Clams, Hard (Meats)	69,348	\$813,853
	3,721,957 (<i>Numbers</i>)	
Oysters (Meats) ⁴	1,201,432	\$7,044,347
	227,114 (<i>Bushels</i>)	
Octopus	179	\$552
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	15,995	\$120,409
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	*	*
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁵	6,567,140	\$14,091,767
Squid	20,814	\$21,881
Stone Crabs	10,257	\$51,033
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	56,024	\$191,071
Unclassified Shellfish	58,746	\$1,036,782
TOTAL SHELLFISH	23,738,928	\$43,802,150
GRAND TOTAL	42,487,690	\$73,912,640

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (Greater Amberjack, Lesser Amberjack, Almaco Jack, and Banded Rudderfish).

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, 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 landings from holders of a Shellfish Lease Restoration Permit (SLRP).

⁵ Includes Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise. Quantities were included in the "Unclassified Fish for Food" or "Unclassified Shellfish" categories.

2022 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2022

Updated: July 2026

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	183,009	\$233,713
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	13,035	\$9,423
Bluefish	872,042	\$513,431
Bonito, Atlantic	6,576	\$12,544
Butterfish	58,905	\$25,391
Carp	5,652	\$1,036
Catfishes	2,478,207	\$835,518
Cobia	32,711	\$87,299
Croaker, Atlantic	357,281	\$454,379
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	1,039,489	\$1,839,622
Dolphinfish	28,375	\$120,990
Drum, Black	144,417	\$225,184
Drum, Red	175,090	\$531,185
Eel, American	3,602	\$5,403
Flounder, Southern	366,510	\$940,843
Flounder, Summer	2,107,650	\$4,785,310
Garfish	8,378	\$1,676
Grouper, Gag	65,175	\$481,405
Grouper, Red	3,573	\$24,417
Grouper, Scamp	10,168	\$71,437
Grouper, Snowy	61,061	\$317,408
Groupers, Other	13,137	\$75,884
Grunts	19,555	\$26,014
Hakes	2,108	\$1,555
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	92,779	\$187,676
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	11,987	\$60,745
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	7,962	\$10,043
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	191	\$84
Mackerel, King	409,941	\$1,414,168
Mackerel, Spanish	926,035	\$1,584,313
Menhaden, Atlantic	539,499	\$165,595
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	838,784	\$1,472,622
Mullet, Striped	2,720,440	\$2,119,221
Perch, White	396,316	\$539,806
Perch, Yellow	10,642	\$16,469
Pigfish	13,084	\$9,039
Pinfish	88	\$16
Pompano	13,256	\$49,010
Porgies	23,342	\$57,784
Pufferfish	2,106	\$878
Scup	18,342	\$11,557
Sea Basses	162,027	\$551,559
Seatrout, Spotted	603,112	\$1,712,449
Shad, American	9,443	\$12,211
Shad, Gizzard	152,028	\$15,203
Shad, Hickory	92,198	\$23,136
Sharks ²	533,886	\$248,489
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	25,074	\$16,117
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	70,392	\$10,494

2022 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	69,381	\$129,453
Skates	6,016	\$1,451
Skippers	10,191	\$4,366
Snapper, Red ³	14,729	\$95,619
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	183,905	\$840,964
Snappers, Other	47,645	\$198,036
Spadefish	19,046	\$16,671
Spot	543,104	\$824,607
Striped Bass	24,026	\$52,966
Swordfish	322,438	\$1,284,761
Tilefish, Blueline	99,354	\$387,773
Tilefishes, Other	7,059	\$29,717
Triggerfishes	88,167	\$300,090
Tuna, Bigeye	782,617	\$3,931,269
Tuna, Bluefin	283,574	\$1,445,743
Tuna, Yellowfin	664,311	\$1,596,690
Tunas, Other	20,608	\$27,558
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	147,079	\$165,188
Wahoo	7,924	\$34,748
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	62,201	\$86,217
Unclassified Fish for Food	59,865	\$60,907
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	68,369	\$182,671
TOTAL FINFISH	19,260,265	\$33,607,215
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	9,088,946	\$13,476,509
Blue Crabs, Peeler	289,075	\$956,518
Blue Crabs, Soft	131,341	\$1,210,514
Clams, Hard (Meats)	83,751	\$1,147,674
	4,423,072 (Numbers)	
Oysters (Meats) ⁴	1,143,325	\$6,687,019
	216,129 (Bushels)	
Octopus	355	\$1,080
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	*	*
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	80,200	\$934,063
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁵	4,784,115	\$10,096,743
Squid	18,135	\$16,327
Stone Crabs	7,119	\$33,893
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	75,884	\$348,602
Unclassified Shellfish	6,019	\$92,269
TOTAL SHELLFISH	15,708,265	\$35,001,211
GRAND TOTAL	34,968,530	\$68,608,426

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (Greater Amberjack, Lesser Amberjack, Almaco Jack, and Banded Rudderfish).

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, 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 landings from holders of a Shellfish Lease Restoration Permit (SLRP).

⁵ Includes Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp.

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2021 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2021

Updated: July 2026

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	229,788	\$288,028
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	24,660	\$15,063
Bluefish	1,051,019	\$643,944
Bonito, Atlantic	7,351	\$16,620
Butterfish	38,319	\$16,076
Carp	9,737	\$2,568
Catfishes	1,985,590	\$557,913
Cobia	29,301	\$79,145
Croaker, Atlantic	540,619	\$595,623
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	1,151,762	\$1,929,414
Dolphinfish	26,314	\$111,702
Drum, Black	131,825	\$193,738
Drum, Red	200,825	\$576,463
Eel, American	5,505	\$15,139
Flounder, Southern	485,024	\$1,446,558
Flounder, Summer	2,081,420	\$5,775,613
Garfish	8,249	\$2,062
Grouper, Gag	69,287	\$449,206
Grouper, Red	5,566	\$33,136
Grouper, Scamp	13,736	\$85,543
Grouper, Snowy	79,288	\$386,412
Groupers, Other	19,068	\$98,862
Grunts	25,051	\$19,341
Hakes	2,354	\$1,246
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	106,728	\$190,608
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	13,147	\$59,431
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	9,750	\$9,172
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	291	\$142
Mackerel, King	430,868	\$1,270,228
Mackerel, Spanish	1,155,289	\$1,846,682
Menhaden, Atlantic	430,623	\$116,424
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	808,066	\$1,245,108
Mullet, Striped	2,140,620	\$1,336,140
Perch, White	203,240	\$246,169
Perch, Yellow	7,207	\$11,375
Pigfish	15,992	\$11,129
Pinfish	153	\$58
Pompano	16,742	\$52,526
Porgies	28,325	\$71,666
Pufferfish	882	\$394
Scup	54,255	\$24,287
Sea Basses	253,867	\$827,269
Seatrout, Spotted	695,970	\$1,758,261
Shad, American	58,884	\$73,446
Shad, Gizzard	229,267	\$17,359
Shad, Hickory	95,372	\$27,476
Sharks ²	593,643	\$279,415
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	42,169	\$26,671
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	131,501	\$19,796

2021 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	85,452	\$137,251
Skates	*	*
Skippers	11,675	\$5,743
Snapper, Red ³	15,726	\$87,478
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	176,217	\$712,508
Snappers, Other	32,226	\$127,360
Spadefish	27,282	\$21,551
Spot	527,464	\$785,721
Striped Bass	27,930	\$72,627
Swordfish	265,391	\$1,038,998
Tilefish, Blueline	99,922	\$381,830
Tilefishes, Other	19,347	\$82,449
Triggerfishes	67,353	\$212,691
Tuna, Bigeye	596,566	\$2,765,667
Tuna, Bluefin	294,646	\$1,141,356
Tuna, Yellowfin	564,095	\$1,512,122
Tunas, Other	31,294	\$27,779
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	105,306	\$106,813
Wahoo	7,343	\$27,599
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	59,534	\$83,089
Unclassified Fish for Food	82,942	\$53,613
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	44,026	\$161,996
TOTAL FINFISH	18,886,243	\$32,406,888
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	12,052,138	\$20,553,734
Blue Crabs, Peeler	531,179	\$1,644,073
Blue Crabs, Soft	236,523	\$1,753,965
Clams, Hard (Meats)	81,182	\$904,462
	<i>4,302,689 (Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	1,227,326	\$6,904,315
	<i>232,009 (Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	105	\$263
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	-	\$0
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	22,980	\$373,867
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	9,152,499	\$24,692,100
Squid	34,299	\$30,710
Stone Crabs	9,637	\$46,330
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	51,112	\$199,589
Unclassified Shellfish	86,814	\$279,508
TOTAL SHELLFISH	23,485,794	\$57,382,916
GRAND TOTAL	42,372,037	\$89,789,804

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (Greater Amberjack, Lesser Amberjack, Almaco Jack, and Banded Rudderfish).

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, 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, and White Shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise. Quantities were included in the "Unclassified Fish for Food" or "Unclassified Shellfish" categories.

2020 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2020

Updated: July 2026

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	150,546	\$152,914
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	37,439	\$24,430
Bluefish	1,112,966	\$668,583
Bonito, Atlantic	15,926	\$12,835
Butterfish	29,872	\$15,332
Carp	9,642	\$875
Catfishes	1,227,613	\$296,501
Cobia	38,344	\$90,006
Croaker, Atlantic	570,423	\$673,426
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	499,065	\$865,575
Dolphinfish	51,994	\$178,383
Drum, Black	98,143	\$125,320
Drum, Red	165,666	\$434,984
Eel, American	3,291	\$9,773
Flounder, Southern	479,905	\$1,057,536
Flounder, Summer	1,779,865	\$3,753,777
Garfish	18,958	\$4,740
Grouper, Gag	95,058	\$592,767
Grouper, Red	6,397	\$34,579
Grouper, Scamp	16,301	\$98,845
Grouper, Snowy	66,678	\$308,564
Groupers, Other	14,843	\$74,230
Grunts	35,002	\$36,970
Hakes	2,063	\$1,565
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	47,134	\$93,968
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	11,640	\$52,353
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	16,123	\$12,715
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	823	\$316
Mackerel, King	611,476	\$1,469,914
Mackerel, Spanish	1,033,526	\$1,479,165
Menhaden, Atlantic	599,742	\$122,683
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	641,166	\$1,446,372
Mullet, Striped	1,299,500	\$651,112
Perch, White	215,748	\$240,953
Perch, Yellow	6,237	\$9,487
Pigfish	17,807	\$11,178
Pinfish	1,430	\$250
Pompano	12,210	\$45,378
Porgies	31,789	\$73,562
Pufferfish	1,574	\$506
Scup	38,772	\$20,825
Sea Basses	272,422	\$745,088
Seatrout, Spotted	568,763	\$1,269,024
Shad, American	134,590	\$82,957
Shad, Gizzard	313,562	\$31,356
Shad, Hickory	68,876	\$19,064
Sharks ²	704,498	\$325,134
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	49,286	\$27,608
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	1,501,331	\$208,481

2020 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	76,608	\$105,088
Skates	46,672	\$9,078
Skippers	9,993	\$5,160
Snapper, Red ³	11,981	\$63,311
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	239,809	\$879,731
Snappers, Other	25,385	\$96,668
Spadefish	14,903	\$7,849
Spot	542,870	\$805,387
Striped Bass	123,933	\$337,124
Swordfish	409,267	\$1,320,775
Tilefish, Blueline	87,872	\$308,103
Tilefishes, Other	27,491	\$110,029
Triggerfishes	126,655	\$366,786
Tuna, Bigeye	407,636	\$1,610,175
Tuna, Bluefin	435,317	\$847,238
Tuna, Yellowfin	713,622	\$1,398,583
Tunas, Other	32,293	\$30,172
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	230,685	\$193,782
Wahoo	12,079	\$40,809
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	87,645	\$114,634
Unclassified Fish for Food	53,600	\$48,247
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	51,795	\$174,724
TOTAL FINFISH	18,494,137	\$26,825,414
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	13,109,488	\$19,093,928
Blue Crabs, Peeler	314,723	\$807,743
Blue Crabs, Soft	124,170	\$765,587
Clams, Hard (Meats)	71,003	\$901,525
	<i>3,707,289 (Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	829,106	\$4,553,647
	<i>156,731 (Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	130	\$219
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	*	*
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	187,324	\$1,842,972
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	9,794,724	\$22,593,996
Squid	22,664	\$23,497
Stone Crabs	5,845	\$17,208
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	20,724	\$54,754
Unclassified Shellfish	58,198	\$237,838
TOTAL SHELLFISH	24,538,098	\$50,892,914
GRAND TOTAL	43,032,235	\$77,718,328

¹ Includes species from the genus *Seriola* (Greater Amberjack, Lesser Amberjack, Almaco Jack, and Banded Rudderfish).

² Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, 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, and White Shrimp.

* Units and value not shown to avoid disclosure of private enterprise. Quantities were included in the "Unclassified Fish for Food" or "Unclassified Shellfish" categories.

North Carolina Commercial Fishing Trips by Major Gear

(2020 – 2025)

Gear	Trips ¹					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Beach Seine	55	94	20	20	19	3
By Hand	10,994	11,385	10,892	9,848	9,240	7,803
Cast Net	502	583	689	692	368	399
Channel Net	359	323	351	355	298	315
Clam Dredges	26	132	72	72	126	34
Clam Trawl Kicking	9		6	1	3	3
Crab Pot	32,534	30,618	24,820	28,196	29,525	28,877
Crab Trawl	116	71	47	51	213	108
Eel Pot	14	33	26	15	17	12
Fish Pot	334	305	347	298	226	183
Flounder Trawl	147	149	111	101	162	158
Flynet	6	2	4	1	5	2
Fyke Net	387	352	466	417	364	471
Gigs	468	423	685	639	719	629
Gill Net (Anchored)	16,139	14,372	11,480	9,565	7,320	4,232
Gill Net (drift)	1,448	1,336	1,997	2,339	3,145	3,715
Gill Net (runaround)	6,571	9,326	10,526	11,612	13,291	10,568
Haul Seines ²	268	105	115	95	31	29
Longlines	422	425	609	576	481	420
Other Gears	102	57	57	398	44	22
Oyster Cage/Rack/Bag	1,408	1,913	2,226	2,395	3,599	4,547
Oyster Dredge	619	896	880	962	1,134	1,512
Peeler Pot	2,552	2,682	2,348	2,454	2,180	1,241
Peeler Trawl	4	1	1		8	
Pound Nets	2,384	1,653	1,505	1,597	1,406	1,345
Rakes	3,305	2,639	4,133	3,943	3,329	3,422
Rod-n-Reel	2,144	2,096	2,115	2,299	2,214	2,709
Shrimp Trawl	5,285	5,020	2,787	2,971	3,238	3,010
Skimmer Trawl	462	173	197	223	150	205
Spears, Diving	169	160	121	105	150	164
Tongs, Hand	2,576	3,648	4,962	4,133	3,392	2,540
Trolling ³	2,800	2,045	1,739	1,742	1,368	1,175
Trotline	164	2,241	2,801	1,361	1,158	1,734
TOTAL TRIPS ⁴	92,912	93,027	86,848	87,144	87,126	80,002

¹ 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.

² Includes long hauls, common seines, and swipe nets.

³ Includes greenstick trolling.

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 (July 2025).

The North Carolina Trip Ticket Program statistics are supported in part by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Cooperative Statistics Program (Grant NA17NMF4340326) and the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Grant NA13NMF4740243).

North Carolina Marine Recreational Finfish Harvest

(2023 – 2025)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>			<u>POUNDS</u>		
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Amberjacks	25,393	36,606	11,859	407,891	248,694	187,386
Barracudas	2,428	16,357	2,501	25,677	107,551	31,383
Bluefish	1,261,404	1,574,579	2,103,764	1,492,689	2,512,747	3,061,667
Bonito, Atlantic	72,973	61,814	99,070	268,260	130,686	297,798
Cobia	629	3,631	12,950	12,523	103,272	379,830
Croaker, Atlantic	597,690	852,372	912,291	201,056	363,595	393,340
Dolphin	292,185	143,210	360,532	2,129,648	763,549	2,453,025
Drum, Black	348,374	187,457	146,295	973,869	893,292	525,366
Drum, Red	232,133	322,307	226,822	1,120,661	1,354,244	1,027,623
Flounder, Southern	77,885	5,713	91,834	192,168	9,446	270,598
Flounder, Summer	20,164	-	10,183	34,192	0	20,712
Groupers	47,993	1,300	4,616	342,872	12,535	34,018
Grunts	43,570	53,387	53,450	63,988	69,880	47,716
Jacks	55,564	26,245	76,697	82,516	46,587	270,062
Kingfishes	3,003,875	3,041,109	2,894,793	1,316,752	516,554	892,704
Mackerel, King	79,987	58,954	18,781	1,130,711	730,700	190,614
Mackerel, Spanish	1,204,175	1,954,067	1,420,254	1,216,236	2,710,335	2,009,677
Perch, Silver	3,811	31,177	-	1,092	7,556	-
Pigfish	490,705	307,722	212,116	197,723	111,512	82,831
Pinfish	1,328,754	1,042,684	1,129,645	352,853	242,630	222,088
Pompano	93,070	89,096	288,795	83,764	58,592	421,327
Porgies	22,117	15,574	8,635	20,354	13,095	13,736
Puffers	1,945,427	589,630	232,252	964,014	228,439	108,238
Sea basses	272,964	101,728	214,654	460,175	159,656	387,204
Seatrout, Spotted	1,002,906	1,464,360	453,866	1,923,165	2,789,661	773,427
Sharks	12,245	758	3,061	25,234	4,783	18,787
Sharks, Dogfish	55,431	19,719	1,506	272,276	94,860	2,158
Sheepshead	263,328	461,480	328,003	619,265	1,427,785	776,407
Snappers	155,816	20,635	56,525	180,881	26,636	97,145
Spot	855,729	388,715	823,587	300,052	120,652	325,512
Striped Bass ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuna, Yellowfin	30,588	26,966	52,224	895,304	794,759	1,785,924
Wahoo	20,434	17,214	11,262	379,586	406,136	334,799
Weakfish	75,329	87,273	93,260	89,115	115,496	94,172

¹ Striped Bass landings reflect Atlantic Ocean catches only.

* Bluefin Tuna recreational landings are no longer included due to the retirement of North Carolina's HMS Catch Card program on April 1, 2025.

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 the NOAA Beaufort Lab's Southeast Region Headboat Survey.

North Carolina Marine Recreational Finfish Harvest

(2020 – 2022)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>			<u>POUNDS</u>		
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Amberjacks	11,550	9,094	5,494	213,091	159,460	79,771
Barracudas	7,694	2,936	1,939	72,196	33,469	29,368
Bluefish	2,108,296	982,389	1,533,911	2,124,224	1,031,760	1,645,410
Bonito, Atlantic	52,337	20,177	12,301	179,803	104,789	70,411
Cobia	15,067	10,970	12,330	407,883	356,340	306,411
Croaker, Atlantic	673,377	1,066,533	1,110,382	223,685	376,121	481,721
Dolphin	262,372	268,012	117,803	2,149,038	1,945,342	962,267
Drum, Black	213,320	121,454	264,634	612,932	359,481	1,710,528
Drum, Red	413,419	325,662	336,280	1,758,789	1,479,550	1,615,108
Flounder, Southern	152,244	266,421	70,945	398,769	560,440	166,102
Flounder, Summer	24,699	13,863	10,591	37,935	27,492	22,151
Groupers	3,327	11,659	4,498	25,393	100,373	54,664
Grunts	57,258	36,521	32,829	83,906	34,697	20,701
Jacks	20,100	5,722	13,135	97,985	13,712	22,876
Kingfishes	3,865,039	8,425,767	5,594,758	452,569	1,583,649	1,631,041
Mackerel, King	146,423	58,174	38,512	1,376,229	563,082	375,164
Mackerel, Spanish	1,286,131	1,312,929	1,898,755	1,843,314	1,894,535	1,841,527
Perch, Silver	21,049	156,481	4,432	3,838	34,609	776
Pigfish	454,825	301,906	1,190,673	147,533	119,332	448,404
Pinfish	869,751	1,079,719	1,016,021	170,160	167,331	151,153
Pompano	443,548	356,243	584,744	457,037	351,332	106,579
Porgies	6,514	10,195	5,287	11,485	18,917	8,994
Puffers	1,186,892	521,571	1,902,765	507,458	237,736	966,751
Sea basses	195,728	51,652	159,979	195,625	79,506	256,867
Seatrout, Spotted	2,053,354	1,223,508	1,963,400	3,632,315	2,241,421	3,756,040
Sharks	8,336	4,997	2,153	21,664	24,835	16,909
Sharks, Dogfish	3,073	21,587	5,214	16,763	117,447	14,461
Sheepshead	247,390	324,540	387,924	592,774	928,130	1,024,623
Snappers	54,351	80,284	60,797	83,330	117,205	135,665
Spot	920,512	1,199,080	1,197,145	297,813	435,231	375,168
Striped Bass ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuna, Yellowfin	83,766	49,158	38,924	2,429,665	1,365,679	1,450,166
Wahoo	19,055	9,760	9,657	462,937	244,048	232,436
Weakfish	82,124	91,032	112,095	105,729	103,449	105,060

¹ Striped Bass landings reflect Atlantic Ocean catches only.

* Bluefin Tuna recreational landings are no longer included due to the retirement of North Carolina's HMS Catch Card program on April 1, 2025.

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

Survey Methods

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

Precision of Estimates

The numbers and pounds presented here are estimates, not actual counts. Currently there is no way to monitor all recreational catch, so landings are estimated for all recreational fisheries through the interviews described above which sample a portion of recreational fishermen. These estimates have varying levels of precision, meaning that the values may be closer to or farther away from the actual true value, depending on factors such as the number of fishermen interviewed.

North Carolina Marine Recreational Finfish Harvest and Release Catch Estimates, 2020 – 2025.¹

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Harvested</u>	<u>Pounds Harvested</u>	<u>Number Released</u>
2020	18,954,501	24,915,542	53,523,311
2021	21,978,023	19,039,915	60,060,649
2022	21,414,770	21,258,305	77,102,244
2023	16,481,811	19,948,674	57,116,843
2024	15,120,442	19,061,981	57,057,195
2025	16,756,153	20,214,115	66,595,408

¹ Totals shown in this table include more species than shown in the tables above. Therefore, totals will not match the above column sums.

North Carolina Marine Recreational Fishing Trip Estimates (number), 2020 – 2025.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Charter Boat</u>	<u>Private Boat</u>	<u>Beach/Bank/Manmade</u>	<u>Total</u>
2020	214,822	5,413,655	10,770,756	16,401,253
2021	158,800	4,482,582	13,303,231	17,946,634
2022	148,488	5,196,023	15,230,702	20,577,235
2023	355,612	4,166,632	11,273,505	15,797,772
2024	131,199	5,217,681	13,221,851	18,572,755
2025	286,673	5,005,593	12,504,138	17,798,429



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.