



Fish Dealer Report

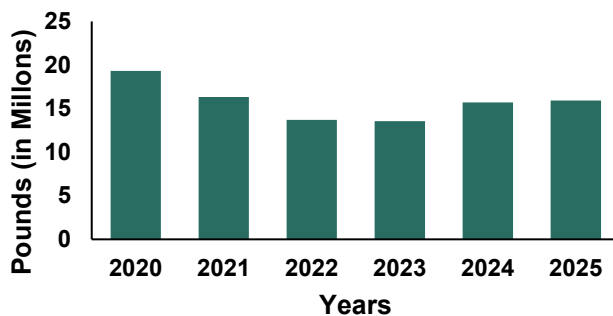
License & Statistics Section, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557

November 2025

2025 COMMERCIAL LANDINGS REVIEW

Preliminary data collected by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries reveals that fishermen landed 15.9 million pounds of seafood from January to June 2025. This was a 1.3% increase from the previous five-year average for the same time period as well as a 1.4% increase from 2024 time period.

**Pounds of Seafood Landed By Year
(January - June)**

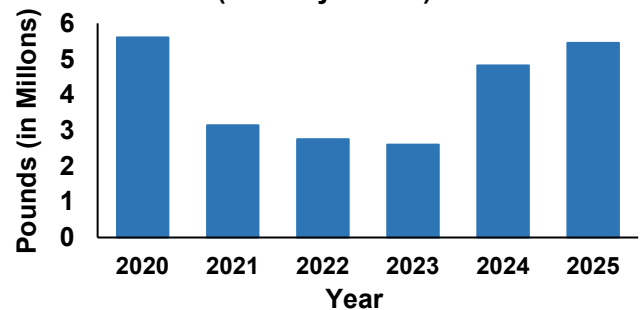


The top five species landed in North Carolina from January - June in 2025 were hard Blue Crabs (5.5 million pounds), Catfishes (1.3 million pounds), Summer Flounder (1.3 million pounds), Oysters (803,252 pounds), and Bluefish (727,022 pounds).

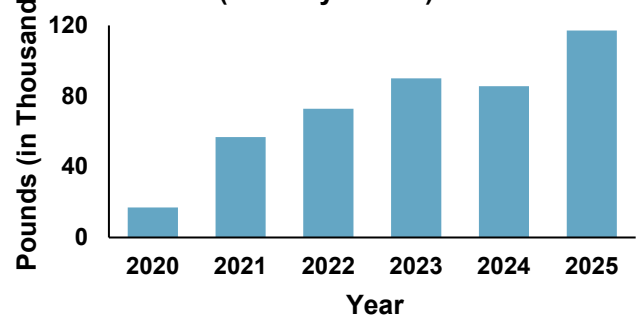
Since 2020, Hard Blue Crabs have remained the top landed species in the state. Landings in 2025 experienced a 44.0% increase compared to the five year average and a 13.1% increase from 2024. Red Drum landings show a steady increase throughout the time series, 2025 representing the highest landings of the time period, with a 81.6% increase compared to the five year average and a 36.7% increase over 2024.

Shrimp have experienced their lowest year of landings during the five year time series, down 71.4% from the previous January - June 5-year average and 62.1% since 2024.

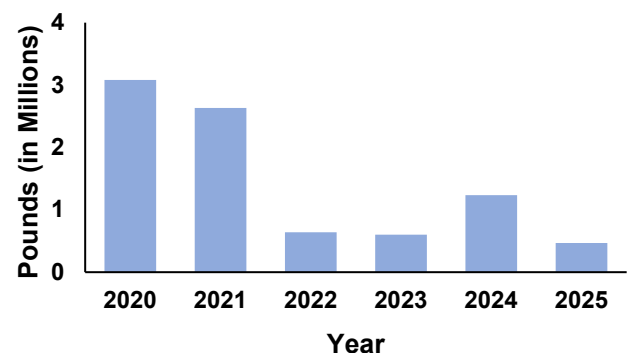
**Pounds of Hard Blue Crabs by Year
(January - June)**



**Pounds Of Red Drum by Year
(January - June)**



**Pounds of Shrimp, Heads On by Year
(January - June)**



Landings in this report are summarized. To see actual 2025 landings, please see the [2025 Semi-Annual Landings Bulletin](#).

MANDATORY HARVEST REPORTING

New harvest reporting requirements will impact recreational and commercial fishermen starting December 1, 2025.

In the fall of 2023, the North Carolina General Assembly passed Session Law 2023-137. Section 6 of this legislation requires anyone holding a commercial fishing license who is engaged in a commercial fishing operation to report all fishes harvested to the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF), regardless of sale. Additionally, it requires any person who recreationally harvests Red Drum, Flounder, Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout), Striped Bass and Weakfish (Gray Trout) to report that harvest to the NCDMF.

This law will have direct impacts to seafood dealers, as commercial fishermen will now be required to unload their harvest, including their personal consumption harvest, at a seafood dealer within 48 hours of landing. Seafood dealers must indicate personal consumption harvest on trip tickets using one of the personal consumption disposition codes: 2 (personal use), 31 (personal use for food), 38 (personal use for bait).

Seafood dealers who do not have the appropriate dealer license category will be allowed to write trip tickets for commercial fishermen who are harvesting catch for personal consumption by using the personal consumption disposition codes for most species. Those species managed under a state quota need to be landed and reported by a dealer possessing the appropriate quota monitoring dealer permit (Estuarine Flounder, Ocean Flounder, Striped Bass, Spiny Dogfish, and Black Sea Bass from North of Cape Hatteras). Mandatory harvest reporting will be enforced by NCDMF's Marine Patrol, and enforcement will be phased in over a period of three years beginning December 1, 2025.

Additionally, any person who recreationally harvests Red Drum, Flounder, Spotted (Speckled) Seatrout, Striped Bass and Weakfish (Gray Trout) must report that harvest to NCDMF using an [online reporting form](#). This applies to Coastal Fishing Waters, Joint Fishing Waters and Inland Fishing Waters adjacent to Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters.

If you, or any of your fishermen, have questions about mandatory harvest reporting, please visit NCDMF's [Mandatory Harvest Reporting Page](#) or contact your port agent.

STAFF CHANGES

The Trip Ticket Program has welcomed a new staff member recently. The vacant full-time Data Clerk position was filled by Megan Smith (Megan.Smith@deq.nc.gov). TTP staff are currently working to fill the vacant part-time Data Clerk position.

TRIP TICKET REMINDERS

Trip tickets and signed submittals are due by the 10th of the following month. If you know ahead of time that you will not be purchasing seafood during specific months, you may submit a signed submittal (green form) in advance to close out those months, as long as they are within the current license year.

Please note that each license year begins in July, which can only be closed out in advance if the dealer has renewed their license. For the new license year, a signed submittal for July must be submitted by the 10th of August.

Submitting in advance helps keep records accurate and ensures a smooth process for everyone. If you have any questions, contact your port agent for assistance.

TRANSITION FROM PC TRIP TICKET PROGRAM TO VESL

We have been informed by Bluefin Data, LLC that Claude Peterson, PC Trip Ticket's developer and technical support, will be retiring at the end of 2025. As a result, Bluefin Data has announced that all reporting functionality of the PC Trip Ticket Program will be terminated by end of January 2026.

All North Carolina seafood dealers that are required to report electronically and are currently using the PC Trip Ticket Software will need to transition to VESL, a web-based trip ticket reporting platform. It is recommended that dealers consider transitioning to VESL before the end of the year. VESL was recently launched in North Carolina

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.

UPCOMING NC MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

November 19-20, 2025

The public may access the meeting virtually. Please visit the [MFC webpage](#) for updates and details.

and is designed to meet both state and federal reporting requirements. We will be sending out additional information regarding this transition, so please be on the lookout for these important updates.

To ensure uninterrupted reporting, please contact Josh Beil by phone 252-515-5549 or by email Joshua.Beil@deq.nc.gov to activate your VESL account.

We understand that this may be a major shift from your organization's normal operations. We are dedicated to making this transition as smooth as possible, so if you have any questions or need assistance do not hesitate to reach out.

TECH TIP

Welcome to VESL, North Carolina's new electronic reporting option. One great feature of VESL is the ability to lock fields when entering seafood on a ticket. Next to select fields there is a lock icon, which when selected will enlarge and lock your field selection. When used with the ADD & NEW button this feature can greatly speed up your data entry. It is very useful when you're entering multiple species that were landed in the same waterbody with the same gear; or landing different grades of the same species.

TRIP TICKET CONTACTS

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

Elizabeth City	Alexis Rakestraw	252-337-5362 (cell) Alexis.Rakestraw@deq.nc.gov
Manteo	Haley Clinton	252-342-0156 (cell) 252-423-5258 (office) Haley.Clinton@deq.nc.gov
Morehead City	Chuck Davis	252-808-7935 (cell) 252-515-5548 (office) Chuck.Davis@deq.nc.gov
Washington	Jon Anglemeyer	252-908-6786 (cell) Jon.Anglemeyer@deq.nc.gov
Wilmington	Mackenzie Freeman	252-241-0118 (cell) 910-796-7216 (office) Mackenzie.Freeman@deq.nc.gov

For supplies, please contact the Data Clerk office at 252-515-5544 or 252-515-5547.

If you have any questions regarding use of the NC Trip Ticket System software, please contact Josh Beil (Joshua.Beil@deq.nc.gov, 252-515-5549).

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