

2022 LICENSE AND STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared By:

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

License and Statistics Section

November 2022

Dedication



Earlier this year, the North Carolina Trip Ticket Program lost one of its members; Chris Kelly passed away in March 2022. Chris was an extremely dedicated employee and a hard worker. He took joy in his job and always went above and beyond to help both his dealers and the Trip Ticket Program. Chris enjoyed talking and assisting the seafood dealers and commercial fishermen in his area. He also took pleasure in learning about the latest fishery developments and passing that information onto the rest of the team. Chris was always willing to participate in special projects like the Hurricane Florence and CARES Act relief programs and made sure the commercial fishing industry had the resources they needed to apply for funds.

Chris started with the Trip Ticket Program in August 2016 and he received his five-year service award in December 2021. Chris worked out of the Elizabeth City office and was the liaison for dealers in the northeast portion of the state. Before working in the Trip Ticket Program, Chris was a temporary fisheries technician and worked in the Fisheries Management Section of Marine Fisheries. His passion and commitment to his seafood dealers and the Trip Ticket Program will be greatly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to thank all the commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, and licensed dealers in North Carolina who provide harvest, landings, and data to us through monthly reports or participating in surveys and interviews. Without their assistance, constructive criticisms, and participation, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) License and Statistics programs would not have achieved the current level of success.

We want to thank all the staff members who enter, compile, edit, and analyze data, and conduct the surveys and interviews that are submitted to our respective offices each year. Without their hard work and perseverance, this document would not have been accomplished. These staff members, in alphabetical order by last name, are:

Rob Adams*	Keri Hernandez*	Michael Simmonds
Gabriel Albanese	Chris Kelly*	Zachary Smith
Jon Anglemyer	Sami Kurchena	Jacob Stain
Melissa Anglemyer	Lang Kimbrough	Mechelle Stone
Pam Barker	Nancy Marlette	Airell Swanson*
Rene Basnight*	Stephanie McInerny	Michael Thompson
Ann Marie Baxter	Brian Melott	Stacy Tripp
Alan Bianchi	Sam McNeely*	Dennis Trowell
Jesse Bissette	Parker Midgett*	Dallis Tucker
Mary Alice Bittman	Sonya Midgette	Grant Tyler
Mitchell Blake	Bridget Mendelson	Andrew Valmassoi
Ann Bordeaux-Nixon	Emma Moffitt	Jose Velez*
Martin Brill	Garrett Newman	Suporn Waldie*
Roz Camp	Willow Patten	Jason Walsh
Andrew Cathey*	Jonathan Petrigac	Josh Warren
Rebecca Chapman	Carolyn Piner	Collin Ward*
Carol Charles	Varun Prakesh	Faith Watkins
Brenda Clark	Marisa Ponte	Meredith Whitten
Shane Crissey*	Alexis Rakestraw	Travis Williams
Chuck Davis	Cheryl Russell	Jim Woolard
Kathy Gonzales	Brandi Salmon	Lilly Zeller
Robert Hansen	Jon Sherman*	Pamela Zuaboni

*Employee no longer works for the License & Statistics Section

We especially want to acknowledge the aid and assistance Garrett Newman & Rebecca Chapman provided in preparation of this document, and the cover art (photographed) and designed by Jesse Bissette.

Lastly, we want to thank the following agencies for providing funds for various programs:

- Partial support for the Trip Ticket Program is provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the N.C./ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Cooperative Statistics Grant, the Commercial Fisheries Resource Fund, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) one-time funding, and the NOAA Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA), Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) one-time funding.
- The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is supported, in part, by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Sport Fish Restoration Act.
- The Central Southern Management Area Recreational Striped Bass Creel Survey was initially funded through a cooperative agreement with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and, in part, by the USFWS Sport Fish Restoration Act. Since 2011, this survey has been funded through the NC Marine Resources Fund.
- Funding for the North Carolina Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Catch Card Program is provided by the NOAA HMS Division.
- Partial funding for the Coastal Angling Program is provided by the NC Marine Resources Fund.
- Funding for the NC Recreational Saltwater Activity Survey is also provided by the NC Marine Resources Fund.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LICENSE AND STATISTICS SECTION OVERVIEW	1
Chapter I: LICENSE AND PERMIT STATISTICS.....	I-1
Chapter II: COMMERCIAL FISHERY STATISTICS.....	II-1
Chapter III: MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS.....	III-1
Chapter IV: CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT AREA RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS	IV-1
Chapter V: NC RECREATIONAL SALTWATER ACTIVITY MAIL SURVEYS.....	V-1
Chapter VI: FISHERIES ECONOMICS.....	VI-1

LICENSE AND STATISTICS SECTION OVERVIEW

Introduction

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) is responsible for the stewardship of the state's marine and estuarine resources. The division's jurisdiction encompasses all coastal waters and extends to three miles offshore. NCDMF's mission is to ensure sustainable marine and estuarine fisheries and habitats for the benefit and health of the people of North Carolina. The NCDMF is comprised of eight sections that collectively carry out this mission.

The License and Statistics Section collects, processes, and analyzes commercial and recreational fisheries data, license data, and social and economic impacts, and is responsible for the sale of fishing licenses and issuance of agency permits at all NCDMF offices. This section also administers the Marine Fisheries Commission's license eligibility process.

The section is made up of the following programs:

- License Program
- Commercial Statistics Program
- Coastal Angling Program
- Fishery Economics Program

The License and Statistics Section consists of about 60 employees: 37 permanent employees and varying numbers of temporary employees depending on funding and current project schedules. Employees are funded by appropriations, commercial license sales receipts, recreational license sales receipts, and federal grant monies.

Section Mission

To license fishery participants, obtain accurate and timely data on fishery catch and effort, determine fishery social and economic importance, and to analyze and distribute these data for evaluation and establishment of fishery management plans.

Annual Report Purpose

This document provides summaries of commercial landings and recreational harvest data as well as commercial and recreational fishing licenses issued for the State of North Carolina. The purpose is to disseminate the data in formats most often requested and to illustrate the types of information collected through the various programs within the License and Statistics Section of the NCDMF. Separate and distinct summary reports for each program are released on an annual basis.

It must be noted to take caution when averaging the landings data for both commercial and recreational statistics over large periods of time because of changes in management policies and data collection methods. Creating such an average may not indicate the true

characteristics of the fishery. These factors should be considered when summarizing these data.

When reviewing data provided for 2020, be aware that unexpected trends in the data or missing data may be due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic began in Spring 2020 and brought about numerous precautionary guidelines, as well as state, local, and federal mandates, that limited the ability to collect and process data.

More detailed statistics are available upon request by contacting:

Brandi Salmon, License and Statistics Section Chief
P.O. Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557
(252) 726-7021 or (800) 682-2632
E-mail: Brandi.Salmon@ncdenr.gov

Contacts for specific data related to commercial, recreational, or economics information can be found in each chapter of this document.

Data are also available on the NCDMF website at: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/science-and-statistics/fisheries-statistics#license-and-statistics-annual-report>