



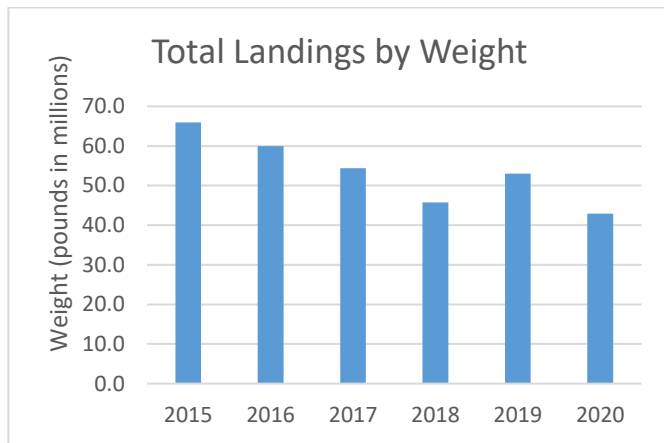
Fish Dealer Report

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

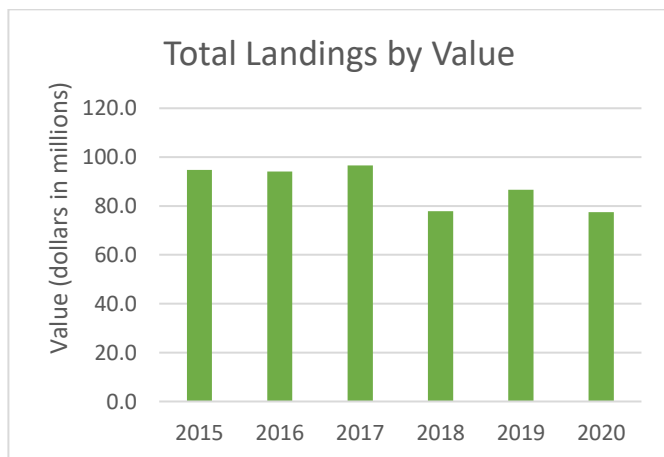
July 2021

2020 COMMERCIAL LANDINGS REVIEW

Commercial fishermen landed 42.9 million pounds of seafood in North Carolina in 2020. This was a 19.0% decrease from 2019 landings of 53.0 million pounds and a 23.1% decrease from the five-year average (2015-2019) of 55.8 million pounds.



The estimated value for landings in 2020 was \$77.4 million, a decrease of 10.7% from the 2019 estimated value of \$86.7 million and a decrease of 14.0% from the five-year average of \$90.0 million. The overall decrease in landings is likely due to impacts from COVID-19.



The top five species landed by weight were blue crab (hard crabs only), 13.1 million pounds; shrimp, 9.7 million pounds; Summer Flounder, 1.8 million pounds; Spiny Dogfish, 1.5 million pounds; and Striped Mullet, 1.3 million pounds. The top five species landed by value were shrimp, \$22.3 million; Blue Crab (hard crabs only), \$19.1 million; Eastern Oyster, \$4.5 million; Summer Flounder, \$3.7 million; and Sea Scallops, \$1.8 million.

NEW DIRECTOR

Kathy Rawls started as the new director of the Division of Marine Fisheries on May 1. With 25 years working for the division, Kathy brings a wealth of knowledge and history to the division. She began as a river herring technician, then as a Striped Bass technician. She worked her way up to biologist supervisor, Northern District Manager, then served as Fisheries Management Section Chief for 7 years. Kathy is a North Carolina native and an avid fisherman herself.

LICENSE SALES

Below are sales, as of May 5, 2021, by license type for the 2020 license year (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). The values below include active licenses only. Totals do not include transfers, replacements, or voids.

Standard Commercial Fishing License	3,863
Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License	1,276
Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration	6,351
Land or Sell License	130
License to Land Flounder from the Atlantic Ocean	157
NC Resident Shellfish License Without SCFL	518
Fish Dealer License	682
Ocean Pier License	20
Recreational Fishing Tournament License	20
Total Licenses for All License Types	13,017

COVID-19 FUNDING

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act authorized the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to provide \$300 million for economic relief to affected fisheries participants due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. On May 7, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce announced the allocation of \$300 million to states, Tribes, and territories with coastal and marine fisheries participants. North Carolina was awarded \$5,416,7731 of these funds to provide relief to the following stakeholder groups: 1) commercial fishermen (including shellfish license holders) and marine aquaculture operators; 2) seafood processors and dealers; and 3) for-hire fishing operators.

In November 2020, fisheries participants were able to apply for the NC CARES Act Fisheries Relief Program (CARES Act I). Applicants were required to show a greater than 35% revenue loss from March to May of 2020 compared to their previous five-year March to May average revenue and meet other eligibility requirements listed in the North Carolina spending plan. The division received a total of 291 applications across stakeholder groups. Commercial fisherman and aquaculture operators submitted the most applications, with 217. Seafood dealers and processors submitted 35, and for-hire operators submitted 39 applications.

The division staff finished processing and reviewing applications at the beginning of March 2021. Of the 291 applications, 197 were initially approved and 94 were initially denied. Denied applicants were given the opportunity to appeal, and 16 chose to do so. The division staff finished processing and reviewing these appeals at the beginning of April 2021. After the appeals process, 203 applicants were approved and 88 were denied. Within each stakeholder category, 141 commercial fisherman and aquaculture operators were approved and 76

denied; 28 seafood dealers and processors were approved and seven denied; and 34 for-hire operators were approved and five denied. Over \$5.2 million of relief money was distributed to approved applicants in April 2021.

No more money will be awarded for CARES Act I, but on March 29, 2021 NOAA Fisheries announced the allocation of an additional \$255 million in assistance to fisheries participants through the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CARES Act II), of which North Carolina was awarded \$4.6 million. CARES Act II will likely be open to applicants in Summer 2021. More details will be announced with a press release. If you have any questions, you can email our CARES Act team at: covid19relief@ncdenr.gov.

HURRICANE FLORENCE FUNDING

North Carolina was awarded over \$7.5 million in federal relief funds for Hurricane Florence. The state has submitted a spending plan to NOAA, and it is currently being reviewed by its Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As of now, North Carolina does not have a timetable of when funds will be available.

CRAB AND FISH KILLS

Fishermen are often the first to see dead or dying crabs and fish. If you see unusual behavior from crab or fish please report these to the Division through the [DWR Citizen Report](https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-data/water-sciences-home-page/nc-fish-kill-activity) (website <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-data/water-sciences-home-page/nc-fish-kill-activity>). Anything reported can remain anonymous. Also, if abnormal activity is occurring, you can freeze crab/fish and collect water samples that can be turned over to the division for analysis. For questions or more information, see attached "Report Crab Kills" flyer for contact information.

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.

TRANSFER OF STANDARD AND RETIRED STANDARD COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES RULE CHANGE

A rule change pertaining to the transfer of Standard and Retired Standard Commercial Fishing Licenses became effective March 17, 2021. Rule 15A NCAC 03O.0108, as now amended, clarifies the circumstances under which transfers of Standard and Retired Standard Commercial Fishing Licenses are allowed, including the following changes:

1. Adds grandparents, grandchildren, and legal guardians to the list of immediate family members eligible to receive a transferred license.
2. Codifies the existing requirement of a certification statement from the transferee that affirms the information provided to the division is true and accurate.
3. Allows an individual license holder to transfer the license to a business in which the license holder is also an owner.
4. Allows a business that is dissolved to transfer a license to an individual owner of the business.
5. Allows a business that is sold to transfer a license to the successor business at the time of sale.
6. Allows a business to transfer a license back to an owner who is leaving the business if the owner originally held the license as an individual.
7. Restricts business transfers to corporations and limited liability companies.
8. Defines “owner” to include shareholder of a corporation and member of a limited liability company.

Specific wording of the amended rule in its entirety can be found in the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Rules April 1, 2020 – Supplement – May 1, 2021 on the division Rules and Regulations

webpage. The Marine Fisheries Commission approved the rule in February 2020 after a public comment period in the fall of 2019; however, the rule was subject to legislative review, which delayed the effective date. For more information, contact Catherine Blum, rules coordinator for division, at 252-808-8014.

AUTOMATED EMAIL REMINDERS FOR TRIP TICKET SUBMISSIONS

In April 2020, the Division of Marine Fisheries started an automated email to all seafood dealers with valid emails on file. These emails are sent at 10 am on the first of each month to remind dealers that trip tickets are due on the tenth of each month. This is a voluntary program that you can participate in or opt out of at any point. If you would like to receive automated reminders, contact your port agent or the Port Agent Supervisor, or call 252-808-8095 to provide your current email address.

STAFF CHANGES

Previous Port Agent Supervisor, CJ Schlick, has moved to the Aging Lab within the division. Meredith Whitten is the new Port Agent Supervisor and can be contacted at Meredith.whitten@ncdenr.gov or 252-808-8095. We also have two new staff members within the Trip Ticket Staff. The first is Willow Patten, our new assistant quota monitoring biologist. Willow is joining us from the Coastal Angling Program and can be reached at willow.patten@ncdenr.gov or 252-904-7810. Travis Williams, the new Administrative Specialist, replaces Anna Branch, who retired after 18 years. Travis also comes from the Coastal Angling Program and is responsible for helping enter and verify trip ticket data. He also provides support for dealers needing supplies or needing to close out seasonally. Travis can be reached at Travis.Williams@ncdenr.gov or at 252-808-8104.

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.

TECH TIPS

The North Carolina Trip Ticket System software has a report feature that dealers can use to print landings by fisherman, species, or boat. These reports can be produced for various date ranges and species, and include the trip ticket number, unload date, and quantity. If the dealer adds prices to trip tickets, the prices will be shown as well. To access the reports, dealers should click “Reports” on the top menu of the software home screen, then select which report to run in the drop-down menu. Dealers with permits for quota monitored species can also print a daily quota monitoring log through the software. The report will automatically fill out the quota log with any landings of relevant species based on what has been entered into trip tickets.

The Trip Ticket software also makes it easy to add prices to trip tickets. Dealers who need to edit any prices after the ticket has been entered can open the ticket and click the small “P” at the top right of the “Price” field on the ticket screen to easily edit multiple prices at one time. Unless a dealer chooses to send the prices with the data, these prices are confidential, and the division does not receive the prices. Adding prices is particularly helpful when fishermen and dealers need to document their records for relief programs, such as the recent NC CARES Act Fisheries Relief Program. The division can only provide fishermen with a statewide average of the previous year’s prices, but these averaged prices may not accurately capture the loss fishermen experience due to events like COVID-19.

For questions or to learn more about the Trip Ticket System software, please contact Meredith Whitten at Meredith.whitten@ncdenr.gov or call 1-800-682-2632.

PORT AGENT CONTACTS

The Trip Ticket Program’s commercial port agents act as liaisons between the Division of Marine Fisheries and the commercial fishing industry. For questions regarding rules, procedures, or requirements, please contact the nearest agent. If they are unable to answer the questions directly, they will refer you to someone who can.

<p>Wilmington Pam Zuaboni Office: (252) 241-0118 Cell: (252) 241-0118 pam.zuaboni@ncdenr.gov</p>	<p>Morehead City Chuck Davis Office: (252) 808-8029 Cell: (252) 808-7935 chuck.davis@ncdenr.gov</p>
<p>Washington Jon Anglemyer Office: (252) 948-3881 Cell: (252) 908-6786 jon.anglemyer@ncdenr.gov</p>	<p>Manteo Marty Brill Office: (252) 473-2158 Cell: (252) 342-0156 martin.brill@ncdenr.gov</p>
<p>Elizabeth City Chris Kelly Office: (252) 264-3911 Cell: (252) 337-5362 chris.kelly@ncdenr.gov</p>	<p>Trip Ticket Office Administrative Team (800) 682-2632 Mechelle.stone@ncdenr.gov Travis.williams@ncdenr.gov</p>

**NC MARINE FISHERIES
 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE
 FOR 2021**

August 25-27, 2021
 November 17-19, 2021

Meetings may be held virtually. Please visit <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/marine-fisheries-commission/marine-fisheries-commission-meetings> for updates and details about the meetings.

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.