



Annual Fisheries Bulletin

2021 Commercial and Recreational Statistics

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

June 2022

Included in this bulletin are the 2021 landings and harvest information from the commercial and recreational fisheries programs, along with the 2016 to 2020 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 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 2021

Commercial	Recreational ¹
42,344,315 pounds	24,915,542 pounds

¹ Bluefin Tuna data are collected from a catch card program, not MRIP, and are therefore not included in the sum of the Recreational Total Pounds Harvested.

Top Five Species Caught in Each Fishery in 2021

Commercial		Recreational	
Species	Pounds	Species	Pounds
Hard Blue Crabs	12,022,826	Spotted Seatrout	3,632,315
Shrimp (Heads On)	9,152,121	Yellowfin Tuna	2,429,665
Striped Mullet	2,135,952	Dolphin	2,149,038
Summer Flounder	2,093,366	Bluefish	2,124,224
Catfishes	1,985,584	Spanish Mackerel	1,843,314

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>.

2021 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2021

Issued: June 2022

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	229,788	\$288,028
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	24,772	\$15,114
Bluefish	1,051,026	\$643,948
Bonito, Atlantic	7,351	\$16,620
Butterfish	38,319	\$16,076
Carp	9,737	\$2,568
Catfishes	1,985,584	\$557,911
Cobia	29,301	\$79,145
Croaker, Atlantic	540,622	\$595,626
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	1,151,706	\$1,929,317
Dolphinfish	26,112	\$111,096
Drum, Black	131,724	\$193,578
Drum, Red	200,364	\$575,138
Eel, American	5,505	\$15,139
Flounder, Southern	478,134	\$1,426,324
Flounder, Summer	2,093,366	\$5,809,099
Flounders, Other	*	*
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	79,316	\$386,312
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)	808,049	\$1,245,082
Mullet, Striped	2,135,952	\$1,333,475
Perch, White	203,230	\$246,160
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	694,784	\$1,755,508
Shad, American	58,884	\$73,446
Shad, Gizzard	229,284	\$17,360
Shad, Hickory	95,372	\$27,476

2021 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Sharks ²	593,665	\$279,421
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	42,147	\$26,657
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	131,501	\$19,796
Sheepshead	85,413	\$137,190
Skates	*	*
Skippers	11,675	\$5,743
Snapper, Red ³	15,750	\$87,603
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	176,193	\$712,412
Snappers, Other	32,226	\$127,360
Spadefish	27,489	\$21,731
Spot	527,468	\$785,727
Striped Bass	27,930	\$72,627
Swordfish	265,446	\$1,039,027
Tilefish, Blueline	99,922	\$381,830
Tilefishes, Other	19,347	\$82,449
Triggerfishes	67,353	\$212,691
Tuna, Bigeye	597,073	\$2,764,770
Tuna, Bluefin	294,646	\$1,141,356
Tuna, Yellowfin	567,000	\$1,521,594
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	82,808	\$53,876
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	44,026	\$161,996
TOTAL FINFISH	18,888,264	\$32,421,471
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	12,022,826	\$20,507,150
Blue Crabs, Peeler	531,071	\$1,643,737
Blue Crabs, Soft	236,522	\$1,753,343
Clams, Hard (Meats)	81,259	\$905,251
	<i>(4,306,526 Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats) ⁴	1,227,310	\$6,904,175
	<i>(232,006 Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	105	\$263
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	22,980	\$373,867
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁵	9,152,121	\$24,690,987
Squid	34,299	\$30,710
Stone Crabs	9,604	\$46,180
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	51,139	\$193,059
Unclassified Shellfish	86,814	\$279,508
TOTAL SHELLFISH	23,456,050	\$57,328,230
GRAND TOTAL	42,344,315	\$89,749,701

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.

2020 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2020

Updated June 2022

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	150,952	\$153,252
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	37,439	\$24,430
Bluefish	1,112,966	\$668,583
Bonito	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	479,984	\$1,057,708
Flounder, Summer	1,779,861	\$3,753,769
Flounders, Other	435	\$576
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, Rainbow Runner, Blue Runner)	15,733	\$12,446
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)	640,759	\$1,445,430
Mullet, Striped	1,299,464	\$651,104
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

2020 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Sharks ²	704,498	\$325,134
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	49,286	\$27,608
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	1,501,331	\$208,481
Sheepshead	76,630	\$105,114
Skates	46,672	\$9,078
Skippers	9,993	\$5,160
Snapper, Red ³	11,981	\$63,311
Snapper, Vermillion (Beeliner)	239,809	\$879,731
Snappers, Other	25,385	\$96,668
Spadefish	15,007	\$7,919
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
Triggerfish	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	53,061	\$47,671
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	51,795	\$174,724
TOTAL FINFISH	18,493,807	\$26,824,792
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	13,109,720	\$19,094,184
Blue Crabs, Peeler	314,723	\$807,743
Blue Crabs, Soft	124,170	\$765,587
Clams, Hard (Meats)	71,052	\$901,974
	<i>(3,709,724 Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	828,911	\$4,552,915
	<i>(156,694 Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	130	\$219
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	187,324	\$1,842,972
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	9,760,625	\$22,471,679
Squid	22,664	\$23,497
Stone Crabs	5,845	\$17,208
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	20,431	\$54,302
Unclassified Shellfish	58,198	\$237,838
TOTAL SHELLFISH	24,503,793	\$50,770,119
GRAND TOTAL	42,997,600	\$77,594,910

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.

2019 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2019

Updated: June 2022

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	104,411	\$109,992
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	44,149	\$35,487
Bluefish	1,108,205	\$559,833
Bonito, Atlantic	14,045	\$15,556
Butterfish	38,371	\$14,087
Carp	49,440	\$7,530
Catfishes	1,239,152	\$267,301
Cobia	21,553	\$58,500
Croaker, Atlantic	1,278,340	\$1,566,030
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	277,299	\$491,810
Dolphinfish	208,385	\$675,935
Drum, Black	80,049	\$92,318
Drum, Red	56,419	\$163,458
Eel, American	8,154	\$37,603
Flounder, Southern	800,080	\$3,078,601
Flounder, Summer	2,025,401	\$7,292,375
Flounders, Other	*	*
Garfish	29,364	\$2,028
Grouper, Gag	153,175	\$759,664
Grouper, Red	17,786	\$82,972
Grouper, Scamp	26,535	\$135,953
Grouper, Snowy	84,535	\$395,412
Groupers, Other	20,817	\$101,204
Grunts	44,752	\$48,788
Hakes	2,924	\$2,137
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	73,799	\$129,268
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	14,486	\$66,895
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	7,974	\$5,858
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	810	\$330
Mackerel, King	698,252	\$1,570,680
Mackerel, Spanish	722,398	\$998,881
Menhaden, Atlantic	551,849	\$135,682
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	702,328	\$995,249
Mullet, Striped	1,362,217	\$929,285
Perch, White	100,991	\$90,500
Perch, Yellow	6,339	\$7,757
Pigfish	22,569	\$11,534
Pinfish	1,372	\$266
Pompano	25,223	\$75,128
Porgies	48,991	\$90,608
Pufferfish	5,310	\$1,748
Scup	216,776	\$112,878
Sea Basses	385,404	\$1,157,244
Seatrout, Spotted	378,500	\$893,047
Shad, American	40,975	\$70,463
Shad, Gizzard	308,315	\$30,832
Shad, Hickory	111,719	\$32,502

2019 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Sharks ²	881,401	\$352,391
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	102,592	\$56,826
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	1,124,291	\$137,241
Sheepshead	86,406	\$130,988
Skates	80,039	\$14,512
Skippers	10,973	\$3,830
Snapper, Red ³	9,804	\$52,113
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	380,774	\$1,393,725
Snappers, Other	32,391	\$121,001
Spadefish	12,262	\$6,974
Spot	392,206	\$565,357
Striped Bass	137,555	\$373,152
Swordfish	413,055	\$1,008,928
Tilefish, Blueline	68,379	\$242,462
Tilefishes, Other	21,739	\$92,341
Triggerfishes	165,126	\$467,137
Tuna, Bigeye	319,903	\$1,182,769
Tuna, Bluefin	359,887	\$821,005
Tuna, Yellowfin	537,031	\$1,263,969
Tunas, Other	26,391	\$24,474
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	232,879	\$132,982
Wahoo	31,494	\$108,198
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	115,665	\$181,369
Unclassified Fish for Food	70,582	\$61,806
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	80,318	\$152,207
TOTAL FINFISH	19,213,083	\$32,348,964
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	22,338,954	\$22,193,103
Blue Crabs, Peeler	465,091	\$1,237,065
Blue Crabs, Soft	183,946	\$1,199,842
Clams, Hard (Meats)	118,149	\$1,116,845
	<i>(6,153,713 Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	832,708	\$4,889,462
	<i>(157,412 Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	288	\$478
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	167,209	\$1,477,877
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	9,620,035	\$22,112,792
Squid	29,866	\$33,814
Stone Crabs	5,131	\$13,940
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	39,569	\$115,782
Unclassified Shellfish	46,263	\$73,925
TOTAL SHELLFISH	33,847,210	\$54,464,926
GRAND TOTAL	53,060,292	\$86,813,890

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.

2018 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2018

Updated: June 2022

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	141,824	\$162,910
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	45,166	\$35,652
Bluefish	910,262	\$675,209
Bonito, Atlantic	13,848	\$25,228
Butterfish	48,234	\$23,488
Carp	22,593	\$3,219
Catfishes	1,137,401	\$290,388
Cobia	20,629	\$57,210
Croaker, Atlantic	1,643,646	\$1,631,506
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	152,713	\$270,276
Dolphinfish	144,660	\$494,055
Drum, Black	109,781	\$117,145
Drum, Red	144,610	\$386,639
Eel, American	18,058	\$29,344
Flounder, Southern	903,812	\$3,823,643
Flounder, Summer	1,654,569	\$6,893,316
Flounders, Other	*	*
Garfish	14,057	\$2,928
Grouper, Gag	98,105	\$474,147
Grouper, Red	14,667	\$63,541
Grouper, Scamp	40,724	\$196,932
Grouper, Snowy	76,135	\$334,590
Groupers, Other	9,557	\$42,878
Grunts	36,820	\$39,736
Hakes	5,034	\$4,385
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	100,340	\$152,303
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	13,755	\$60,617
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	9,407	\$8,237
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	1,453	\$616
Mackerel, King	506,933	\$1,146,962
Mackerel, Spanish	796,890	\$1,237,371
Menhaden, Atlantic	713,978	\$176,162
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	407,173	\$504,795
Mullet, Striped	1,314,385	\$955,365
Perch, White	131,920	\$108,241
Perch, Yellow	12,725	\$14,568
Pigfish	6,572	\$3,793
Pinfish	938	\$364
Pompano	15,669	\$43,265
Porgies	59,007	\$114,546
Pufferfish	2,040	\$667
Scup	78,944	\$58,243
Sea Basses	497,056	\$1,518,224
Seatrout, Spotted	128,980	\$346,688
Shad, American	52,113	\$79,812
Shad, Gizzard	262,405	\$14,046
Shad, Hickory	75,481	\$26,399

2018 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Sharks ²	817,498	\$355,357
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	209,760	\$96,475
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	1,168,247	\$160,807
Sheepshead	90,398	\$123,854
Skates	47,639	\$8,435
Skippers	13,530	\$4,210
Snapper, Red ³	11,317	\$56,234
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	297,669	\$1,063,669
Snappers, Other	14,291	\$52,560
Spadefish	9,838	\$5,640
Spot	167,696	\$239,186
Striped Bass	136,047	\$439,145
Swordfish	425,501	\$931,382
Tilefish, Blueline	54,426	\$191,196
Tilefishes, Other	14,083	\$59,301
Triggerfishes	174,075	\$479,894
Tuna, Bigeye	328,429	\$1,295,179
Tuna, Bluefin	224,486	\$1,042,249
Tuna, Yellowfin	682,401	\$1,786,625
Tunas, Other	55,393	\$58,076
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	204,177	\$127,204
Wahoo	22,619	\$81,777
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	35,134	\$55,741
Unclassified Fish for Food	79,216	\$74,930
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	85,875	\$152,252
TOTAL FINFISH	17,964,813	\$31,591,031
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	16,410,770	\$17,296,000
Blue Crabs, Peeler	368,259	\$857,909
Blue Crabs, Soft	234,503	\$1,501,315
Clams, Hard (Meats)	199,955	\$1,628,664
	<i>(10,522,001 Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	625,278	\$3,834,874
	<i>(118,200 Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	253	\$446
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	80,117	\$685,229
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	9,729,752	\$20,047,635
Squid	35,684	\$30,723
Stone Crabs	6,900	\$18,938
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	56,154	\$266,132
Unclassified Shellfish	51,342	\$81,575
TOTAL SHELLFISH	27,798,966	\$46,249,441
GRAND TOTAL	45,763,779	\$77,840,471

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.

2017 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2017

Updated: June 2022

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	127,924	\$162,984
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	66,277	\$60,086
Bluefish	1,544,053	\$999,646
Bonito, Atlantic	11,345	\$20,261
Butterfish	76,097	\$38,791
Carp	18,346	\$2,101
Catfishes	1,165,136	\$399,413
Cobia	20,842	\$50,003
Croaker, Atlantic	1,008,015	\$1,133,570
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	49,975	\$86,733
Dolphinfish	198,038	\$719,454
Drum, Black	182,989	\$185,312
Drum, Red	187,039	\$498,260
Eel, American	24,753	\$14,413
Flounder, Southern	1,396,384	\$5,663,116
Flounder, Summer	1,572,707	\$6,354,888
Flounders, Other	*	*
Garfish	22,719	\$3,924
Grouper, Gag	97,733	\$456,170
Grouper, Red	18,330	\$78,489
Grouper, Scamp	34,125	\$164,097
Grouper, Snowy	65,044	\$280,161
Groupers, Other	8,378	\$35,109
Grunts	42,200	\$45,437
Hakes	2,946	\$1,987
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	62,551	\$96,210
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	15,776	\$70,760
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	5,293	\$3,715
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	992	\$470
Mackerel, King	629,703	\$1,266,997
Mackerel, Spanish	816,089	\$1,384,682
Menhaden, Atlantic	752,799	\$157,288
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	942,946	\$1,096,614
Mullet, Striped	1,366,351	\$1,037,533
Perch, White	171,756	\$125,448
Perch, Yellow	16,131	\$21,621
Pigfish	9,259	\$4,558
Pinfish	521	\$145
Pompano	21,562	\$49,468
Porgies	54,531	\$98,794
Pufferfish	4,482	\$1,782
Scup	199,711	\$112,830
Sea Basses	632,730	\$1,863,116
Seatrout, Spotted	299,952	\$779,954
Shad, American	90,868	\$109,340
Shad, Gizzard	166,695	\$8,335
Shad, Hickory	73,627	\$20,190

2017 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Sharks ²	862,171	\$424,465
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	154,440	\$72,966
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	393,085	\$39,346
Sheepshead	128,608	\$155,321
Skates	45,467	\$9,007
Skippers	10,507	\$3,484
Snapper, Red ³	9,542	\$47,810
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	269,688	\$944,833
Snappers, Other	7,631	\$27,597
Spadefish	18,834	\$13,414
Spot	415,465	\$523,833
Striped Bass	99,009	\$288,888
Swordfish	458,361	\$1,138,260
Tilefish, Blueline	46,431	\$154,761
Tilefishes, Other	42,323	\$181,226
Triggerfishes	152,958	\$415,997
Tuna, Bigeye	380,039	\$1,350,709
Tuna, Bluefin	323,251	\$1,212,083
Tuna, Yellowfin	1,079,989	\$2,326,057
Tunas, Other	72,220	\$70,813
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	216,557	\$112,474
Wahoo	28,963	\$110,577
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	85,462	\$129,160
Unclassified Fish for Food	77,937	\$105,260
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	112,030	\$66,908
TOTAL FINFISH	19,766,688	\$35,689,505
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	18,059,799	\$17,767,012
Blue Crabs, Peeler	776,161	\$1,649,472
Blue Crabs, Soft	427,742	\$2,791,960
Clams, Hard (Meats)	273,280	\$2,174,491
	<i>(14,417,980 Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	852,848	\$5,634,893
	<i>(161,219 Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	331	\$694
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	104,181	\$913,116
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	13,908,941	\$29,638,702
Squid	41,071	\$35,418
Stone Crabs	7,181	\$20,762
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	55,951	\$161,227
Unclassified Shellfish	150,329	\$217,696
TOTAL SHELLFISH	34,657,815	\$61,005,442
GRAND TOTAL	54,424,502	\$96,694,947

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.

2016 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2016

Updated: June 2022

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	138,712	\$150,501
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	50,883	\$47,173
Bluefish	1,148,643	\$600,172
Bonito, Atlantic	14,838	\$26,780
Butterfish	63,542	\$31,387
Carp	27,688	\$3,453
Catfishes	992,439	\$238,725
Cobia	48,252	\$107,971
Croaker, Atlantic	2,092,287	\$2,216,211
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	56,723	\$103,316
Dolphinfish	356,061	\$1,271,296
Drum, Black	90,055	\$82,240
Drum, Red	77,101	\$203,003
Eel, American	39,911	\$88,195
Flounder, Southern	899,932	\$3,618,196
Flounder, Summer	2,071,100	\$8,238,721
Flounders, Other	1,209	\$3,478
Garfish	16,424	\$4,982
Grouper, Gag	115,117	\$512,231
Grouper, Red	21,082	\$84,893
Grouper, Scamp	41,225	\$190,944
Grouper, Snowy	70,403	\$282,182
Groupers, Other	10,358	\$41,105
Grunts	39,843	\$42,179
Hakes	3,124	\$2,232
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	123,266	\$211,512
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	9,195	\$39,452
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	9,714	\$6,078
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	663	\$305
Mackerel, King	420,869	\$870,011
Mackerel, Spanish	601,623	\$1,068,256
Menhaden, Atlantic	398,044	\$73,766
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	834,771	\$1,007,692
Mullet, Striped	965,337	\$669,843
Perch, White	242,106	\$166,889
Perch, Yellow	29,405	\$41,609
Pigfish	15,424	\$7,602
Pinfish	404	\$138
Pompano	18,601	\$44,092
Porgies	47,319	\$83,923
Pufferfish	4,567	\$2,109
Scup	111,908	\$72,871
Sea Basses	424,051	\$1,346,245
Seatrout, Spotted	254,590	\$662,608
Shad, American	62,245	\$88,729
Shad, Gizzard	174,222	\$30,489
Shad, Hickory	96,121	\$29,309

2016 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
FINFISH		
Sharks ²	951,814	\$403,736
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	178,694	\$73,243
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	2,271,201	\$235,069
Sheepshead	93,513	\$116,510
Skates	25,488	\$4,905
Skippers	12,861	\$4,030
Snapper, Red ³	0	0
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	270,446	\$924,351
Snappers, Other	9,598	\$33,839
Spadefish	15,231	\$9,189
Spot	241,044	\$301,677
Striped Bass	146,189	\$432,127
Swordfish	445,415	\$1,202,276
Tilefish, Blueline	75,536	\$242,806
Tilefishes, Other	36,252	\$153,007
Triggerfishes	135,545	\$356,211
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
Wahoo	25,393	\$93,872
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	79,667	\$120,585
Unclassified Fish for Food	80,835	\$87,777
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	59,776	\$51,317
TOTAL FINFISH	19,934,250	\$32,755,661
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	24,729,421	\$20,736,477
Blue Crabs, Peeler	445,932	\$1,315,141
Blue Crabs, Soft	284,768	\$2,062,996
Clams, Hard (Meats)	331,215	\$2,578,120
	<i>(17,384,413 Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	668,423	\$4,091,155
	<i>(126,356 Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	230	\$477
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	171,159	\$1,995,270
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	13,200,643	\$28,261,523
Squid	45,841	\$40,683
Stone Crabs	7,908	\$21,594
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	76,249	\$191,124
Unclassified Shellfish	96,923	\$119,615
TOTAL SHELLFISH	40,058,712	\$61,414,174
GRAND TOTAL	59,992,961	\$94,169,835

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.

North Carolina Commercial Fishing Trips by Major Gears

(2016 – 2021)

Gear	Trips ¹					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Beach Seine	12	31	33	41	45	64
By Hand	18,779	20,894	15,305	14,869	10,991	11,387
Cast Net	666	710	641	661	544	614
Channel Net	761	776	512	233	359	323
Clam Dredges	213	189	181	108	26	132
Clam Trawl Kicking	39	31	10	13	9	0
Crab Dredge	4	0	0	0	0	0
Crab Pot	46,268	37,199	33,298	34,538	32,550	30,557
Crab Trawl	463	357	165	314	118	71
Eel Pot	63	87	55	21	14	33
Fish Pot	472	577	532	442	336	305
Flounder Trawl	266	201	219	202	147	150
Flynet	19	15	4	7	6	8
Fyke Net	628	546	391	364	387	352
Gigs	2,796	2,896	2,145	1,959	467	423
Gill Net (Anchored)	22,809	25,361	20,470	18,667	16,600	14,795
Gill Net (drift)	287	586	545	711	1,080	1,061
Gill Net (runaround)	3,294	4,120	3,204	4,383	6,631	9,362
Haul Seines ²	93	68	43	96	268	92
Longlines	598	412	404	395	422	424
Other Gears	106	111	115	117	103	60
Oyster Cage/Rack/Bag ³	55	52	76	1,032	1,408	1,913
Oyster Dredge	2,685	1,540	337	162	619	896
Peeler Pot	4,959	3,466	2,735	2,994	2,550	2,682
Peeler Trawl ⁴	14	15	14	8	4	1
Pound Nets	2,557	2,922	2,942	2,283	2,387	1,652
Rakes	11,220	9,293	5,751	3,203	3,305	2,639
Rod-n-Reel	2,294	2,289	2,213	2,572	2,144	2,096
Shrimp Trawl	7,492	7,797	4,959	5,291	5,284	5,015
Skimmer Trawl	1,273	677	446	327	462	173
Spears, Diving	186	168	112	190	169	160
Tongs, Hand	3,163	3,578	2,861	3,456	2,576	3,648
Trolling ⁵	1,885	2,520	2,032	2,938	2,800	2,039
Trotline	86	170	183	262	164	2,238
TOTAL TRIPS⁶	132,286	126,748	100,816	100,612	93,103	93,079

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 Gear code for Oyster Cage/Rack/Bag began in July 2018 to accommodate the increasing use of the gear. Any data provided before July 2018 are edits made to Trip Tickets after the start of the gear code.

⁴ A new code to distinguish peeler trawl gear was put into effect in 2010.

⁵ Includes greenstick trolling.

⁶ 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 (June 2021).

The North Carolina Trip Ticket Program statistics is 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

(2019 – 2021)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>			<u>POUNDS</u>		
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Amberjacks	4,236	10,714	8,946	81,769	212,826	159,419
Barracudas	1,661	7,694	2,936	15,529	72,196	33,469
Bluefish	2,752,589	2,108,296	982,389	3,011,480	2,124,224	1,031,760
Bonito, Atlantic	35,874	52,337	20,177	122,931	179,803	104,789
Cobia	10,090	15,067	10,970	254,963	407,883	356,340
Croaker, Atlantic	651,268	673,377	1,066,533	224,337	223,685	376,121
Dolphin	458,086	262,372	268,012	3,147,384	2,149,038	1,945,342
Drum, Black	156,401	213,320	121,454	404,452	612,932	359,481
Drum, Red	97,186	413,419	325,662	436,219	1,758,789	1,479,550
Flounder, Southern	163,045	152,244	266,421	387,203	398,769	560,440
Flounder, Summer	34,895	24,699	13,863	52,872	37,935	27,492
Groupers	10,245	5,464	11,721	104,455	25,393	100,450
Grunts	89,057	57,258	36,521	91,273	83,906	34,697
Jacks	14,269	22,914	14,067	54,844	148,307	146,961
Kingfishes	3,370,636	3,865,039	8,425,767	881,104	452,569	1,583,649
Mackerel, King	184,962	146,423	58,174	1,446,939	1,376,229	563,082
Mackerel, Spanish	1,478,890	1,286,131	1,312,929	1,694,247	1,843,314	1,894,535
Perch, Silver	32,444	21,049	156,481	7,520	3,838	34,609
Pigfish	432,005	454,825	301,906	146,570	147,533	119,332
Pinfish	955,550	869,751	1,079,719	217,718	170,160	167,331
Pompano	1,734,862	441,569	348,053	769,603	406,980	218,191
Porgies	8,975	6,514	10,195	9,311	11,485	18,917
Puffers	2,501,094	1,186,892	521,571	1,016,972	507,458	237,736
Sea basses	151,999	133,096	50,612	220,377	195,098	79,195
Seatrout, Spotted	1,937,250	2,053,354	1,223,508	3,334,163	3,632,315	2,241,421
Sharks	15,660	8,336	4,997	110,510	21,664	24,835
Sharks, Dogfish	8,962	3,073	21,587	50,477	16,763	117,447
Sheepshead	221,419	247,390	324,540	590,150	592,774	928,130
Snappers	33,055	54,376	80,284	50,678	83,352	117,205
Spot	2,822,884	920,512	1,199,080	851,998	297,813	435,231
Striped Bass ¹	9	0	0	26	0	0
Tuna, Bluefin ^{2,3}	70	18	29	23,922	4,655	11,258
Tuna, Yellowfin	44,864	83,766	49,158	1,190,484	2,429,665	1,365,679
Wahoo	17,098	19,055	9,760	454,391	462,937	244,048
Weakfish	39,061	82,124	91,032	43,252	105,729	103,449

¹ Striped Bass landings reflect Atlantic Ocean catches only.

² Landings for Bluefin Tuna shown by Highly Migratory Species fishing year.

³ Bluefin Tuna are collected from a catch card program, not MRIP, and are therefore not included in the Recreational Total Pounds Harvested value.

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

(2016 – 2018)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>			<u>POUNDS</u>		
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Amberjacks	18,608	6,653	11,742	305,372	157,091	227,441
Barracudas	2,420	2,771	5,848	27,950	76,501	52,304
Bluefish	4,489,223	3,173,218	3,304,587	3,356,049	3,634,502	2,630,685
Bonito, Atlantic	3,411	1,999	12,576	22,127	9,578	42,879
Cobia	26,421	25,025	25,331	838,363	872,861	685,962
Croaker, Atlantic	1,109,570	666,930	472,917	443,728	237,160	164,644
Dolphin	480,860	279,932	495,435	5,099,647	2,223,509	3,318,532
Drum, Black	459,078	355,544	134,624	1,322,547	856,081	428,273
Drum, Red	169,195	353,716	299,577	633,496	1,475,852	1,452,358
Flounder, Southern	299,273	221,321	217,805	695,713	451,126	495,289
Flounder, Summer	65,494	91,193	57,913	110,392	147,426	92,032
Groupers	5,370	4,115	1,160	78,007	53,880	8,816
Grunts	52,349	40,077	11,913	86,926	60,245	16,762
Jacks	177,430	86,391	44,467	51,109	77,247	130,220
Kingfishes	4,149,467	3,387,470	1,731,340	1,035,121	915,561	479,739
Mackerel, King	108,151	110,339	102,675	963,139	1,261,775	1,018,459
Mackerel, Spanish	918,352	995,706	1,012,889	907,400	1,094,778	1,156,702
Perch, Silver	55,040	133,676	6,595	11,275	24,532	1,594
Pigfish	1,316,198	656,096	418,174	443,062	218,003	163,686
Pinfish	1,236,741	917,956	886,712	246,720	283,455	188,046
Pompano	411,634	730,412	318,702	258,769	290,660	245,670
Porgies	12,482	34,382	4,045	19,455	52,159	7,592
Puffers	1,827,054	669,528	330,237	783,007	258,605	148,220
Sea basses	194,512	316,925	86,153	302,925	539,910	116,825
Seatrout, Spotted	978,624	1,217,834	449,473	1,724,492	2,157,198	658,555
Sharks	9,497	8,918	4,123	3,645	51,540	169,486
Sharks, Dogfish	33,490	683	7,514	359,844	5,616	43,732
Sheepshead	149,085	282,480	343,772	375,328	810,633	735,738
Snappers	29,519	26,315	20,475	46,391	42,041	29,407
Spot	1,928,716	2,418,331	2,068,865	558,799	909,796	597,511
Striped Bass ¹	4,177	0	25	15,961	0	366
Tuna, Bluefin ^{2,3}	74	39	35	13,576	9,130	11,918
Tuna, Yellowfin	80,458	118,659	61,171	3,164,911	4,040,504	1,977,741
Wahoo	39,565	30,305	10,690	1,056,969	842,604	280,644
Weakfish	77,341	51,795	30,935	83,702	55,944	29,924

¹ Striped Bass landings reflect Atlantic Ocean catches only.

² Landings for Bluefin Tuna shown by Highly Migratory Species fishing year.

³ Bluefin Tuna are collected from a catch card program, not MRIP, and are therefore not included in the Recreational Total Pounds Harvested value.

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, 2016 – 2021.¹

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Harvested</u>	<u>Pounds Harvested</u>	<u>Number Released</u>
2016	29,612,819	28,782,892	79,311,111
2017	24,992,736	27,434,020	73,343,486
2018	16,167,035	20,064,976	62,467,785
2019	22,991,602	23,819,357	58,780,769
2020	18,954,501	24,915,542	53,523,311
2021	21,978,023	19,039,915	60,060,649

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), 2016 – 2021.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Beach/Bank</u>	<u>Charter Boat</u>	<u>Manmade</u>	<u>Private Boat</u>	<u>Total</u>
2016	10,187,550	140,575	5,970,329	4,860,391	21,158,845
2017	7,745,619	149,438	9,512,489	5,044,731	22,452,277
2018	6,879,419	148,004	5,317,495	4,279,389	16,624,306
2019	6,711,048	160,692	6,021,580	4,646,520	17,539,840
2020	5,542,658	214,822	5,228,098	5,413,655	16,399,233
2021	5,397,877	158,800	7,905,354	4,482,582	17,944,614

Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) Sales by Residency, 2016 – 2021.

<u>Year</u>	<u>In-State</u>	<u>Out-of-State</u>	<u>Total</u>
2016	308,879	158,827	467,706
2017	308,220	161,354	469,574
2018	277,765	151,165	428,930
2019	301,714	156,891	458,605
2020	320,373	177,734	498,107
2021	320,943	192,732	513,675



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.