



# Annual Fisheries Bulletin

## 2023 Commercial and Recreational Statistics

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

May 2024

Included in this bulletin are the 2023 landings and harvest information from the commercial and recreational fisheries programs, along with the 2018 to 2022 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 2023

Commercial	Recreational <sup>1</sup>
42,682,748 pounds	19,948,674 pounds

<sup>1</sup> 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 2023

Commercial		Recreational	
Species	Pounds	Species	Pounds
Hard Blue Crabs	15,345,283	Dolphin	2,129,648
Shrimp (Heads On)	6,576,982	Spotted Seatrout	1,923,165
Catfishes	2,190,386	Bluefish	1,492,689
Summer Flounder	2,096,508	Kingfishes	1,316,752
Striped Mullet	1,863,326	Spanish Mackerel	1,216,236

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

For additional information regarding commercial and recreational statistics, please contact:

**Commercial Statistics**

Alan Bianchi  
 Trip Ticket Coordinator  
 (252) 515-5546  
[Alan.Bianchi@deq.nc.gov](mailto:Alan.Bianchi@deq.nc.gov)

**Recreational Statistics**

Jeff Moore  
 Coastal Angling Program Manager  
 (252) 515-5541  
[Jeff.n.Moore@deq.nc.gov](mailto:Jeff.n.Moore@deq.nc.gov)

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

# 2023 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2023

Issued: May 2024

	<b>POUNDS (Whole Weight)</b>	<b>EX-VESSEL VALUE</b>
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Amberjacks <sup>1</sup>	208,877	\$246,497
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	9,930	\$8,184
Bluefish	1,658,817	\$654,631
Bonito, Atlantic	17,874	\$30,284
Butterfish	52,459	\$22,933
Carp	11,738	\$1,880
Catfishes	2,190,386	\$798,199
Cobia	31,301	\$89,303
Croaker, Atlantic	249,386	\$318,189
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	913,916	\$1,865,806
Dolphinfish	11,710	\$44,278
Drum, Black	240,814	\$325,079
Drum, Red	186,492	\$544,132
Eel, American	1,109	\$1,109
Flounder, Southern	374,279	\$832,861
Flounder, Summer	2,096,508	\$3,462,012
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)	79,723	\$158,195
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	11,776	\$59,685
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	7,708	\$9,586
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	412	\$198
Mackerel, King	559,520	\$1,697,230
Mackerel, Spanish	804,827	\$1,452,276
Menhaden, Atlantic	825,578	\$214,997
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	834,669	\$1,407,707
Mullet, Striped	1,863,326	\$1,388,859
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	434,610	\$1,238,041
Shad, American	27,341	\$31,718
Shad, Gizzard	149,954	\$22,493
Shad, Hickory	104,164	\$25,818
Sharks <sup>2</sup>	641,033	\$270,810
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	67,795	\$44,891
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	6,147	\$861

# 2023 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Sheepshead	114,761	\$215,580
Skates	*	*
Skippers	8,160	\$2,954
Snapper, Red <sup>3</sup>	20,726	\$140,759
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	195,839	\$952,964
Snappers, Other	43,010	\$192,032
Spadefish	25,657	\$24,401
Spot	758,527	\$1,142,748
Striped Bass	20,181	\$44,112
Swordfish	212,546	\$747,123
Tilefish, Blueline	95,491	\$369,408
Tilefishes, Other	24,418	\$111,723
Triggerfishes	74,375	\$268,951
Tuna, Bigeye	767,486	\$3,386,400
Tuna, Bluefin	297,228	\$1,713,066
Tuna, Yellowfin	366,741	\$1,031,190
Tunas, Other	27,226	\$32,534
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	121,842	\$141,668
Wahoo	8,808	\$37,052
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	106,120	\$127,919
Unclassified Fish for Food	123,262	\$101,049
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	65,962	\$38,096
<b>TOTAL FINFISH</b>	<b>18,942,078</b>	<b>\$30,119,325</b>
<b>SHELLFISH</b>		
Blue Crabs, Hard	15,345,283	\$18,176,907
Blue Crabs, Peeler	313,887	\$1,479,474
Blue Crabs, Soft	71,648	\$765,540
Clams, Hard (Meats)	69,348	\$813,853
	<i>3,721,957 (Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats) <sup>4</sup>	1,201,506	\$7,045,007
	<i>227,128 (Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	179	\$552
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	15,995	\$120,409
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	*	*
Shrimp (Heads On) <sup>5</sup>	6,576,982	\$14,105,764
Squid	20,794	\$21,860
Stone Crabs	10,257	\$51,033
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	56,024	\$191,071
Unclassified Shellfish	58,767	\$1,039,420
<b>TOTAL SHELLFISH</b>	<b>23,740,670</b>	<b>\$43,810,890</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>42,682,748</b>	<b>\$73,930,215</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, Shortfin Mako, Spinner, Thresher, Tiger, and Atlantic Sharpnose.

<sup>3</sup> The Red Snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

<sup>4</sup> Includes landings from holders of a Shellfish Lease Restoration Permit (SLRP).

<sup>5</sup> 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 May 2024

	<b>POUNDS (Whole Weight)</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Amberjacks <sup>1</sup>	183,009	\$233,713
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	13,035	\$9,423
Bluefish	872,042	\$513,431
Bonito	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	28,379	\$121,005
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, Rainbow Runner, Blue 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	\$539,769
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	603,099	\$1,712,414
Shad, American	9,443	\$12,211
Shad, Gizzard	152,028	\$15,203
Shad, Hickory	92,198	\$23,136
Sharks <sup>2</sup>	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)	VALUE
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Sheepshead	69,381	\$129,453
Skates	6,016	\$1,451
Skippers	10,191	\$4,366
Snapper, Red <sup>3</sup>	14,736	\$95,660
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	183,898	\$840,934
Snappers, Other	47,645	\$198,036
Spadefish	19,046	\$16,671
Spot	543,104	\$824,607
Striped Bass	24,026	\$52,966
Swordfish	322,781	\$1,286,228
Tilefish, Blueline	99,354	\$387,773
Tilefishes, Other	7,059	\$29,717
Triggerfishes	88,167	\$300,090
Tuna, Bigeye	783,132	\$3,933,709
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
<b>TOTAL FINFISH</b>	<b>19,261,115</b>	<b>\$33,611,078</b>
<b>SHELLFISH</b>		
Blue Crabs, Hard	9,088,826	\$13,476,343
Blue Crabs, Peeler	289,075	\$956,518
Blue Crabs, Soft	131,341	\$1,210,514
Clams, Hard (Meats)	83,750	\$1,147,654
	<i>4,442,982 (Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats) <sup>4</sup>	1,143,314	\$6,686,923
	<i>216,127 (Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	355	\$1,080
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	*	*
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	80,200	\$934,063
Shrimp (Heads On) <sup>5</sup>	4,784,207	\$10,097,071
Squid	18,135	\$16,327
Stone Crabs	7,119	\$33,893
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	75,884	\$348,602
Unclassified Shellfish	6,019	\$92,269
<b>TOTAL SHELLFISH</b>	<b>15,708,225</b>	<b>\$35,001,258</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>34,969,340</b>	<b>\$68,612,336</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, Shortfin Mako, Spinner, Thresher, Tiger, and Atlantic Sharpnose.

<sup>3</sup> The Red Snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

<sup>4</sup> Includes landings from holders of a Shellfish Lease Restoration Permit (SLRP).

<sup>5</sup> Includes Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp.

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

# 2021 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2021

Updated: May 2024

	<b>POUNDS (Whole Weight)</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Amberjacks <sup>1</sup>	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	131,761	\$193,641
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)	808,049	\$1,245,082
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 <sup>2</sup>	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)	VALUE
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Sheepshead	85,452	\$137,251
Skates	*	*
Skippers	11,675	\$5,743
Snapper, Red <sup>3</sup>	15,750	\$87,603
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	176,193	\$712,412
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
<b>TOTAL FINFISH</b>	<b>18,886,162</b>	<b>\$32,406,793</b>
<b>SHELLFISH</b>		
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	0
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	22,980	\$373,867
Shrimp (Heads On) <sup>4</sup>	9,152,499	\$24,691,993
Squid	34,299	\$30,710
Stone Crabs	9,637	\$46,330
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	51,112	\$199,589
Unclassified Shellfish	86,814	\$279,508
<b>TOTAL SHELLFISH</b>	<b>23,485,794</b>	<b>\$57,382,809</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>42,371,956</b>	<b>\$89,789,601</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, Shortfin Mako, Spinner, Thresher, Tiger, and Atlantic Sharpnose.

<sup>3</sup> The Red Snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

<sup>4</sup> 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" categories.

# 2020 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2020

Updated: May 2024

	<b>POUNDS (Whole Weight)</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Amberjacks <sup>1</sup>	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)	640,759	\$1,445,430
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 <sup>2</sup>	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)	VALUE
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Sheepshead	76,608	\$105,088
Skates	46,672	\$9,078
Skippers	9,993	\$5,160
Snapper, Red <sup>3</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL FINFISH</b>	<b>18,493,730</b>	<b>\$26,824,472</b>
<b>SHELLFISH</b>		
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
	<b>3,707,289 (Numbers)</b>	
Oysters (Meats)	829,106	\$4,553,647
	<b>156,731 (Bushels)</b>	
Octopus	130	\$219
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	*	*
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	187,324	\$1,842,972
Shrimp (Heads On) <sup>4</sup>	9,742,575	\$22,406,741
Squid	22,664	\$23,497
Stone Crabs	5,845	\$17,208
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	20,724	\$54,754
Unclassified Shellfish	58,198	\$237,838
<b>TOTAL SHELLFISH</b>	<b>24,485,950</b>	<b>\$50,705,659</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>42,979,680</b>	<b>\$77,530,131</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, Shortfin Mako, Spinner, Thresher, Tiger, and Atlantic Sharpnose.

<sup>3</sup> The Red Snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

<sup>4</sup> Includes Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp.

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

# 2019 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2019

Updated: May 2024

	<b>POUNDS (Whole Weight)</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Amberjacks <sup>1</sup>	104,411	\$109,992
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	43,771	\$34,985
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	9,139	\$37,972
Flounder, Southern	800,080	\$3,078,601
Flounder, Summer	2,025,401	\$7,292,375
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)	702,696	\$995,772
Mullet, Striped	1,362,227	\$929,291
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
Sharks <sup>2</sup>	881,401	\$352,391
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	102,592	\$56,826
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	1,124,291	\$137,241

# 2019 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Sheepshead	86,406	\$130,988
Skates	80,039	\$14,512
Skippers	10,973	\$3,830
Snapper, Red <sup>3</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL FINFISH</b>	<b>19,214,068</b>	<b>\$32,349,360</b>
<b>SHELLFISH</b>		
Blue Crabs, Hard	22,377,971	\$22,221,353
Blue Crabs, Peeler	465,091	\$1,237,065
Blue Crabs, Soft	183,946	\$1,199,842
Clams, Hard (Meats)	118,006	\$1,115,605
	<i>6,146,569 (Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	832,708	\$4,889,462
	<i>157,412 (Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	288	\$478
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	*	*
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	167,209	\$1,477,877
Shrimp (Heads On) <sup>4</sup>	9,620,035	\$22,112,792
Squid	29,866	\$33,814
Stone Crabs	5,131	\$13,940
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	40,568	\$116,948
Unclassified Shellfish	46,260	\$73,883
<b>TOTAL SHELLFISH</b>	<b>33,887,080</b>	<b>\$54,493,058</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>53,101,147</b>	<b>\$86,842,419</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, Shortfin Mako, Spinner, Thresher, Tiger, and Atlantic Sharpnose.

<sup>3</sup> The Red Snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

<sup>4</sup> Includes Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp.

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

# 2018 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2018

Updated: May 2024

	<b>POUNDS (Whole Weight)</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Amberjacks <sup>1</sup>	141,824	\$162,910
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	45,045	\$35,537
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	1,650,316	\$1,638,449
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	152,713	\$270,276
Dolphinfish	144,660	\$494,055
Drum, Black	109,781	\$117,145
Drum, Red	144,647	\$386,745
Eel, American	18,058	\$29,344
Flounder, Southern	903,842	\$3,823,767
Flounder, Summer	1,654,569	\$6,893,316
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)	407,201	\$504,830
Mullet, Striped	1,314,431	\$955,390
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	122,310	\$328,939
Shad, American	52,113	\$79,812
Shad, Gizzard	262,405	\$14,046
Shad, Hickory	75,485	\$26,400
Sharks <sup>2</sup>	817,498	\$355,357
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	209,760	\$96,475
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	1,168,247	\$160,807

# 2018 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	VALUE
<b>FINFISH</b>		
Sheepshead	90,406	\$123,865
Skates	47,639	\$8,435
Skippers	13,530	\$4,210
Snapper, Red <sup>3</sup>	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	174,047	\$479,815
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)	35,142	\$55,755
Unclassified Fish for Food	79,244	\$74,970
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	85,875	\$152,252
<b>TOTAL FINFISH</b>	<b>17,964,853</b>	<b>\$31,580,383</b>
<b>SHELLFISH</b>		
Blue Crabs, Hard	16,412,897	\$17,298,274
Blue Crabs, Peeler	368,259	\$857,909
Blue Crabs, Soft	234,503	\$1,501,315
Clams, Hard (Meats)	199,868	\$1,627,998
	<i>10,517,676 (Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	625,278	\$3,834,874
	<i>118,200 (Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	253	\$446
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	0	0
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	80,117	\$685,229
Shrimp (Heads On) <sup>4</sup>	9,729,752	\$20,047,635
Squid	35,684	\$30,723
Stone Crabs	6,900	\$18,938
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	56,673	\$279,107
Unclassified Shellfish	51,342	\$82,281
<b>TOTAL SHELLFISH</b>	<b>27,801,526</b>	<b>\$46,264,730</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>45,766,379</b>	<b>\$77,845,113</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes shark fins and the following sharks: Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Bull, Finetooth, hammerhead species, Shortfin Mako, Spinner, Thresher, Tiger, and Atlantic Sharpnose.

<sup>3</sup> The Red Snapper fishery closed on January 4, 2010 with restricted openings occurring in some years.

<sup>4</sup> Includes Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp.

# North Carolina Commercial Fishing Trips by Major Gears

(2018 – 2023)

Gear	Trips <sup>1</sup>					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Beach Seine	33	41	45	64	19	18
By Hand	15,305	14,869	10,994	11,393	10,905	9,861
Cast Net	597	627	502	583	689	690
Channel Net	512	233	359	323	350	350
Clam Dredges	181	108	26	132	72	72
Clam Trawl Kicking	10	13	9	0	6	1
Crab Pot	33,224	34,564	32,534	30,618	24,822	28,184
Crab Trawl	165	313	116	71	47	51
Eel Pot	55	24	14	33	25	15
Fish Pot	532	443	334	305	347	295
Flounder Trawl	219	202	147	149	111	101
Flynet	4	7	6	2	4	1
Fyke Net	391	364	387	352	466	417
Gigs	2,145	1,959	468	423	681	625
Gill Net (Anchored)	20,432	18,705	16,551	14,704	11,711	9,845
Gill Net (drift)	547	648	1,077	1,059	1,808	2,094
Gill Net (runaround)	3,161	4,281	6,549	9,302	10,495	11,596
Haul Seines <sup>2</sup>	43	96	268	105	115	95
Longlines	404	395	422	425	610	576
Other Gears	115	117	102	57	57	398
Oyster Cage/Rack/Bag <sup>3</sup>	76	1,032	1,408	1,905	2,213	2,380
Oyster Dredge	337	162	619	896	880	963
Peeler Pot	2,735	2,994	2,552	2,682	2,347	2,454
Peeler Trawl <sup>4</sup>	14	8	4	1	1	0
Pound Nets	2,941	2,283	2,384	1,653	1,504	1,597
Rakes	5,751	3,205	3,305	2,639	4,132	3,943
Rod-n-Reel	2,213	2,572	2,144	2,096	2,115	2,299
Shrimp Trawl	4,959	5,291	5,282	5,020	2,787	2,975
Skimmer Trawl	446	327	462	173	197	223
Spears, Diving	112	190	169	160	121	97
Tongs, Hand	2,861	3,456	2,576	3,648	4,962	4,135
Trolling <sup>5</sup>	2,032	2,938	2,800	2,045	1,739	1,738
Trotline	183	262	164	2,241	2,801	1,361
<b>TOTAL TRIPS<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>100,628</b>	<b>100,485</b>	<b>92,910</b>	<b>93,027</b>	<b>86,849</b>	<b>87,114</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Includes long hauls, common seines, and swipe nets.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

<sup>5</sup> Includes greenstick trolling.

<sup>6</sup> 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 (May 2024).

*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

(2021 – 2023)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>			<u>POUNDS</u>		
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Amberjacks	9,094	5,494	25,393	159,460	79,771	407,891
Barracudas	2,936	1,939	2,428	33,469	29,368	25,677
Bluefish	982,389	1,533,911	1,261,404	1,031,760	1,645,410	1,492,689
Bonito, Atlantic	20,177	12,301	72,973	104,789	70,411	268,260
Cobia	10,970	12,330	629	356,340	306,411	12,523
Croaker, Atlantic	1,066,533	1,110,382	597,690	376,121	481,721	201,056
Dolphin	268,012	117,803	292,185	1,945,342	962,267	2,129,648
Drum, Black	121,454	264,634	348,374	359,481	1,710,528	973,869
Drum, Red	325,662	336,280	232,133	1,479,550	1,615,108	1,120,661
Flounder, Southern	266,421	70,945	77,885	560,440	166,102	192,168
Flounder, Summer	13,863	10,591	20,164	27,492	22,151	34,192
Groupers	11,659	4,498	47,993	100,373	54,664	342,872
Grunts	36,521	32,829	43,570	34,697	20,701	63,988
Jacks	5,722	13,135	55,564	13,712	22,876	82,516
Kingfishes	8,425,767	5,594,758	3,003,875	1,583,649	1,631,041	1,316,752
Mackerel, King	58,174	38,512	79,987	563,082	375,164	1,130,711
Mackerel, Spanish	1,312,929	1,898,755	1,204,175	1,894,535	1,841,527	1,216,236
Perch, Silver	156,481	4,432	3,811	34,609	776	1,092
Pigfish	301,906	1,190,673	490,705	119,332	448,404	197,723
Pinfish	1,079,719	1,016,021	1,328,754	167,331	151,153	352,853
Pompano	356,243	584,744	93,070	351,332	106,579	83,764
Porgies	10,195	5,287	22,117	18,917	8,994	20,354
Puffers	521,571	1,902,765	1,945,427	237,736	966,751	964,014
Sea basses	51,652	159,979	272,964	79,506	256,867	460,175
Seatrout, Spotted	1,223,508	1,963,400	1,002,906	2,241,421	3,756,040	1,923,165
Sharks	4,997	2,153	12,245	24,835	16,909	25,234
Sharks, Dogfish	21,587	5,214	55,431	117,447	14,461	272,276
Sheepshead	324,540	387,924	263,328	928,130	1,024,623	619,265
Snappers	80,284	60,797	155,816	117,205	135,665	180,881
Spot	1,199,080	1,197,145	855,729	435,231	375,168	300,052
Striped Bass <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuna, Bluefin <sup>2,3</sup>	29	35	106	11,258	9,018	19,311
Tuna, Yellowfin	49,158	38,924	30,588	1,365,679	1,450,166	895,304
Wahoo	9,760	9,657	20,434	244,048	232,436	379,586
Weakfish	91,032	112,095	75,329	103,449	105,060	89,115

<sup>1</sup> Striped Bass landings reflect Atlantic Ocean catches only.

<sup>2</sup> Landings for Bluefin Tuna shown by Highly Migratory Species fishing year.

<sup>3</sup> 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

(2018 – 2020)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>			<u>POUNDS</u>		
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Amberjacks	13,251	4,374	11,550	231,293	81,945	213,091
Barracudas	5,848	1,661	7,694	52,304	15,529	72,196
Bluefish	3,304,587	2,752,589	2,108,296	2,630,685	3,011,480	2,124,224
Bonito, Atlantic	12,576	35,874	52,337	42,879	122,931	179,803
Cobia	25,331	10,090	15,067	685,962	254,963	407,883
Croaker, Atlantic	472,917	651,268	673,377	164,644	224,337	223,685
Dolphin	495,435	458,086	262,372	3,318,532	3,147,384	2,149,038
Drum, Black	134,624	156,401	213,320	428,273	404,452	612,932
Drum, Red	299,577	97,186	413,419	1,452,358	436,219	1,758,789
Flounder, Southern	217,805	163,045	152,244	495,289	387,203	398,769
Flounder, Summer	57,913	34,895	24,699	92,032	52,872	37,935
Groupers	1,160	10,245	3,327	8,816	104,455	25,393
Grunts	11,913	89,057	57,258	16,762	91,273	83,906
Jacks	38,102	14,049	20,100	53,576	53,282	97,985
Kingfishes	1,731,340	3,370,636	3,865,039	479,739	881,104	452,569
Mackerel, King	102,675	184,962	146,423	1,018,459	1,446,939	1,376,229
Mackerel, Spanish	1,012,889	1,478,890	1,286,131	1,156,702	1,694,247	1,843,314
Perch, Silver	6,595	32,444	21,049	1,594	7,520	3,838
Pigfish	418,174	432,005	454,825	163,686	146,570	147,533
Pinfish	886,712	955,550	869,751	188,046	217,718	170,160
Pompano	323,558	1,734,943	443,548	318,463	770,988	457,037
Porgies	4,045	8,975	6,514	7,592	9,311	11,485
Puffers	330,237	2,501,094	1,186,892	148,220	1,016,972	507,458
Sea basses	86,540	152,454	195,728	116,926	220,575	195,625
Seatrout, Spotted	449,473	1,937,250	2,053,354	658,555	3,334,163	3,632,315
Sharks	4,123	15,660	8,336	169,486	110,510	21,664
Sharks, Dogfish	7,514	8,962	3,073	43,732	50,477	16,763
Sheepshead	343,772	221,419	247,390	735,738	590,150	592,774
Snappers	20,475	33,044	54,351	29,407	50,678	83,330
Spot	2,068,865	2,822,884	920,512	597,511	851,998	297,813
Striped Bass <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuna, Bluefin <sup>2,3</sup>	35	70	18	11,918	23,922	4,665
Tuna, Yellowfin	61,171	44,864	83,766	1,977,741	1,190,484	2,429,665
Wahoo	10,690	17,098	19,055	280,644	454,391	462,937
Weakfish	30,935	39,061	82,124	29,924	43,252	105,729

<sup>1</sup> Striped Bass landings reflect Atlantic Ocean catches only.

<sup>2</sup> Landings for Bluefin Tuna shown by Highly Migratory Species fishing year.

<sup>3</sup> 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, 2018 – 2023.<sup>1</sup>

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Harvested</u>	<u>Pounds Harvested</u>	<u>Number Released</u>
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
2022	21,414,770	21,258,305	77,102,244
2023	16,481,811	19,948,674	57,116,843

<sup>1</sup> 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), 2018 – 2023.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Charter Boat</u>	<u>Private Boat</u>	<u>Beach/Bank/Manmade</u>	<u>Total</u>
2018	148,004	4,279,389	12,196,914	16,624,307
2019	160,692	4,646,520	12,732,628	17,539,840
2020	214,822	5,413,655	10,770,756	16,399,233
2021	158,800	4,482,582	13,303,231	17,944,613
2022	148,488	5,196,023	15,230,702	20,575,213
2023	355,612	4,166,632	11,273,505	15,795,749



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.