



Annual Fisheries Bulletin

2024 Commercial and Recreational Statistics

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

June 2025

Included in this bulletin are the 2024 landings and harvest information from the commercial and recreational fisheries programs, along with the 2019 to 2023 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 2024

Commercial	Recreational ¹
45,660,993 pounds	19,061,981 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 2024

Commercial		Recreational	
Species	Pounds	Species	Pounds
Hard Blue Crabs	18,575,904	Spotted Seatrout	2,789,661
Shrimp (Heads On)	7,704,214	Spanish Mackerel	2,710,335
Striped Mullet	2,357,880	Bluefish	2,512,747
Summer Flounder	2,223,288	Sheepshead	1,427,785
Catfishes	1,646,284	Red Drum	1,354,244

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

Recreational Statistics

Jeff Moore
 Coastal Angling Program Manager
 (252) 515-5541

Jeffrey.n.Moore@deq.nc.gov

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

2024 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2024

Issued: June 2025

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	261,015	\$383,950
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	14,313	\$11,246
Bluefish	1,193,181	\$745,588
Bonito, Atlantic	12,100	\$22,617
Butterfish	48,481	\$27,395
Carp	13,013	\$2,138
Catfishes	1,646,284	\$604,886
Cobia	28,561	\$91,105
Croaker, Atlantic	450,527	\$497,202
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	912,656	\$1,973,806
Dolphinfish	11,087	\$44,846
Drum, Black	240,029	\$312,480
Drum, Red	184,564	\$536,161
Eel, American	2,477	\$1,765
Flounder, Southern	368,517	\$1,196,056
Flounder, Summer	2,223,288	\$6,487,140
Garfish	8,953	\$1,791
Grouper, Gag	29,287	\$228,483
Grouper, Red	5,971	\$41,959
Grouper, Scamp	17,344	\$126,154
Grouper, Snowy	66,630	\$362,283
Grouper, Other	15,960	\$97,461
Grunts	10,349	\$13,427
Hakes	3,866	\$1,363
Harvestfish (Starbutters)	68,395	\$147,116
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	15,962	\$90,397
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	8,400	\$12,522
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	456	\$218
Mackerel, King	462,299	\$1,363,356
Mackerel, Spanish	841,478	\$1,479,190
Menhaden, Atlantic	359,167	\$88,296
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	630,953	\$1,087,787
Mullet, Striped	2,357,880	\$1,826,846
Perch, White	350,877	\$466,776
Perch, Yellow	12,946	\$21,847
Pigfish	18,148	\$12,087
Pinfish	247	\$101
Pompano	11,315	\$42,713
Porgies	12,038	\$34,483
Pufferfish	427	\$269
Scup	64,047	\$41,564
Sea Basses	216,276	\$693,734
Seatrou, Spotted	585,761	\$1,509,984
Shad, American	25,624	\$24,495
Shad, Gizzard	108,678	\$16,302
Shad, Hickory	74,289	\$18,815
Sharks ²	493,918	\$192,451
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	79,376	\$43,297
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	156,831	\$24,440

2024 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	129,702	\$273,577
Skates	*	*
Skippers	9,093	\$3,939
Snapper, Red ³	12,357	\$87,907
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	114,673	\$569,407
Snappers, Other	21,443	\$99,102
Spadefish	24,248	\$25,405
Spot	571,590	\$727,428
Swordfish	227,529	\$795,628
Tilefish, Blueline	99,897	\$391,711
Tilefishes, Other	28,301	\$135,252
Triggerfishes	58,276	\$217,866
Tuna, Bigeye	340,289	\$1,483,622
Tuna, Bluefin	284,794	\$1,472,914
Tuna, Yellowfin	370,361	\$1,052,331
Tunas, Other	30,228	\$34,114
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	114,089	\$154,209
Wahoo	7,914	\$36,032
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	106,571	\$136,340
Unclassified Fish for Food	86,082	\$90,094
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	79,054	\$34,065
TOTAL FINFISH	17,440,727	\$30,871,330
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	18,575,904	\$25,880,237
Blue Crabs, Peeler	283,951	\$1,292,255
Blue Crabs, Soft	83,633	\$938,568
Clams, Hard (Meats)	73,839	\$840,641
	<i>3,899,316(Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats) ⁴	1,416,424	\$8,153,141
	<i>267,755(Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	79	\$456
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	0	0
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	8,644	\$116,550
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁵	7,704,214	\$14,810,133
Squid	10,643	\$10,625
Stone Crabs	8,449	\$49,123
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	45,167	\$151,633
Unclassified Shellfish	9,320	\$17,420
TOTAL SHELLFISH	28,220,266	\$52,260,783
GRAND TOTAL	45,660,993	\$83,132,113

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. Quantities were included in the "Unclassified Fish for Food" or "Unclassified Shellfish" categories.

2023 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2023

Updated: June 2025

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	208,877	\$246,497
Anglerfish (Monkfish, including livers)	9,930	\$8,184
Bluefish	1,658,869	\$654,648
Bonito, Atlantic	17,876	\$30,287
Butterfish	52,459	\$22,933
Carp	11,738	\$1,880
Catfishes	2,190,386	\$798,199
Cobia	31,301	\$89,303
Croaker, Atlantic	249,463	\$318,294
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	913,916	\$1,865,806
Dolphinfish	11,710	\$44,278
Drum, Black	240,799	\$325,058
Drum, Red	186,465	\$544,053
Eel, American	1,109	\$1,109
Flounder, Southern	376,031	\$837,570
Flounder, Summer	2,096,443	\$3,461,907
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)	79,798	\$158,342
Hogfish (Hog Snapper)	11,776	\$59,685
Jacks (Crevalle, Blue Runner, Rainbow Runner)	7,708	\$9,586
Mackerel, Atlantic (Boston)	412	\$198
Mackerel, King	565,814	\$1,717,657
Mackerel, Spanish	804,848	\$1,452,310
Menhaden, Atlantic	619,374	\$165,759
Mullet, Sea (Kingfishes)	835,588	\$1,409,264
Mullet, Striped	1,863,337	\$1,394,662
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	434,595	\$1,237,997
Shad, American	27,341	\$31,718
Shad, Gizzard	149,954	\$22,493
Shad, Hickory	104,164	\$25,818
Sharks ²	641,033	\$270,783
Sharks, Dogfish, Smooth	67,795	\$44,891
Sharks, Dogfish, Spiny	6,147	\$861

2023 North Carolina Commercial Landings

(continued)

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	114,751	\$215,563
Skates	*	*
Skippers	8,160	\$2,954
Snapper, Red ³	20,726	\$140,759
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	195,839	\$952,964
Snappers, Other	43,010	\$192,032
Spadefish	25,657	\$24,401
Spot	761,604	\$1,147,409
Striped Bass	20,283	\$44,332
Swordfish	212,546	\$747,123
Tilefish, Blueline	95,491	\$369,408
Tilefishes, Other	24,418	\$111,723
Triggerfishes	74,375	\$268,951
Tuna, Bigeye	768,053	\$3,389,246
Tuna, Bluefin	297,228	\$1,713,066
Tuna, Yellowfin	366,741	\$1,031,190
Tunas, Other	27,224	\$32,531
Tunny, Little (False Albacore)	121,842	\$141,668
Wahoo	8,808	\$37,052
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	106,131	\$127,936
Unclassified Fish for Food	123,262	\$101,049
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	66,023	\$38,249
TOTAL FINFISH	18,748,762	\$30,110,490
SHELLFISH		
Blue Crabs, Hard	15,353,387	\$18,185,103
Blue Crabs, Peeler	313,959	\$1,479,811
Blue Crabs, Soft	71,648	\$765,540
Clams, Hard (Meats)	69,348	\$813,853
	<i>3,721,957 (Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats) ⁴	1,201,432	\$7,044,347
	<i>227,114 (Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	179	\$552
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	15,995	\$120,409
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	*	*
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁵	6,592,568	\$14,151,237
Squid	20,814	\$21,881
Stone Crabs	10,257	\$51,033
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	56,024	\$191,071
Unclassified Shellfish	58,746	\$1,036,702
TOTAL SHELLFISH	23,764,355	\$43,861,620
GRAND TOTAL	42,513,117	\$73,972,110

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. Quantities were included in the "Unclassified Fish for Food" or "Unclassified Shellfish" categories.

2022 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2022

Updated: June 2025

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	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	28,375	\$120,990
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	\$539,806
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	603,112	\$1,712,449
Shad, American	9,443	\$12,211
Shad, Gizzard	152,028	\$15,203
Shad, Hickory	92,198	\$23,136
Sharks ²	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)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	69,381	\$129,453
Skates	6,016	\$1,451
Skippers	10,191	\$4,366
Snapper, Red ³	14,729	\$95,619
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	183,905	\$840,964
Snappers, Other	47,645	\$198,036
Spadefish	19,046	\$16,671
Spot	543,104	\$824,607
Striped Bass	24,026	\$52,966
Swordfish	322,438	\$1,284,761
Tilefish, Blueline	99,354	\$387,773
Tilefishes, Other	7,059	\$29,717
Triggerfishes	88,167	\$300,090
Tuna, Bigeye	782,617	\$3,931,269
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	65,881	\$62,358
Unclassified Fish for Industrial/Bait	68,369	\$182,671
TOTAL FINFISH	19,254,249	\$33,605,764
SHELLFISH		
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)	83,751	\$1,147,667
	<i>4,423,042 (Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats) ⁴	1,143,288	\$6,686,685
	<i>216,122 (Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	355	\$1,080
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	*	*
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	80,200	\$934,063
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁵	4,784,211	\$10,097,164
Squid	18,135	\$16,327
Stone Crabs	7,119	\$33,893
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	75,884	\$348,602
Unclassified Shellfish	6,069	\$92,269
TOTAL SHELLFISH	15,708,203	\$35,001,126
GRAND TOTAL	34,962,452	\$68,606,890

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 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. Quantities were included in the "Unclassified Fish for Food" or "Unclassified Shellfish" categories.

2021 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2021

Updated: June 2025

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	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	131,825	\$193,738
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)	808,066	\$1,245,108
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 ²	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)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	85,452	\$137,251
Skates	*	*
Skippers	11,675	\$5,743
Snapper, Red ³	15,726	\$87,478
Snapper, Vermilion (Beeliner)	176,217	\$712,508
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
TOTAL FINFISH	18,886,243	\$32,406,888
SHELLFISH		
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) ⁴	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) ⁵	9,152,499	\$24,692,100
Squid	34,299	\$30,710
Stone Crabs	9,637	\$46,330
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	51,112	\$199,589
Unclassified Shellfish	86,814	\$279,508
TOTAL SHELLFISH	23,485,794	\$57,382,916
GRAND TOTAL	42,372,037	\$89,789,804

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.

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2020 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2020

Updated: June 2025

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	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)	641,166	\$1,446,372
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 ²	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)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Sheepshead	76,608	\$105,088
Skates	46,672	\$9,078
Skippers	9,993	\$5,160
Snapper, Red ³	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
TOTAL FINFISH	18,494,137	\$26,825,414
SHELLFISH		
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
	<i>3,707,289 (Numbers)</i>	
Oysters (Meats)	829,106	\$4,553,647
	<i>156,731 (Bushels)</i>	
Octopus	130	\$219
Scallop, Bay (Meats)	*	*
Scallop, Sea (Meats)	187,324	\$1,842,972
Shrimp (Heads On) ⁴	9,794,724	\$22,593,996
Squid	22,664	\$23,497
Stone Crabs	5,845	\$17,208
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	20,724	\$54,754
Unclassified Shellfish	58,198	\$237,838
TOTAL SHELLFISH	24,538,099	\$50,892,914
GRAND TOTAL	43,032,236	\$77,718,328

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. Quantities were included in the "Unclassified Fish for Food" or "Unclassified Shellfish" categories.

2019 North Carolina Commercial Landings 2019

Updated: June 2025

	POUNDS (Whole Weight)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
Amberjacks ¹	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	38,387	\$14,094
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)	703,288	\$996,613
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 ²	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)	EX-VESSEL VALUE
FINFISH		
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	19,214,676	\$32,350,208
SHELLFISH		
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) ⁴	9,671,548	\$22,202,195
Squid	29,866	\$33,814
Stone Crabs	5,131	\$13,940
Whelks/Conchs (Meats)	40,568	\$116,948
Unclassified Shellfish	46,242	\$73,399
TOTAL SHELLFISH	33,938,575	\$54,581,977
GRAND TOTAL	53,153,251	\$86,932,185

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. Quantities were included in the "Unclassified Fish for Food" or "Unclassified Shellfish" categories.

North Carolina Commercial Fishing Trips by Major Gears

(2019 – 2024)

Gear	Trips ¹					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Beach Seine	41	55	94	20	20	19
By Hand	14,869	10,994	11,393	10,903	9,860	9,413
Cast Net	627	502	583	689	692	368
Channel Net	233	359	323	350	355	298
Clam Dredges	108	26	132	72	72	126
Clam Trawl Kicking	13	9	0	6	1	3
Crab Pot	34,564	32,534	30,618	24,820	28,196	29,455
Crab Trawl	313	116	71	47	51	213
Eel Pot	24	14	33	26	15	17
Fish Pot	443	334	305	347	298	226
Flounder Trawl	202	147	149	111	101	162
Flynet	7	6	2	4	1	5
Fyke Net	364	387	352	466	417	362
Gigs	1,959	468	423	685	639	711
Gill Net (Anchored)	18,362	16,316	14,372	11,480	9,570	7,324
Gill Net (drift)	964	1,272	1,336	1,997	2,334	3,145
Gill Net (runaround)	4,308	6,572	9,326	10,526	11,612	13,252
Haul Seines ²	96	268	105	115	95	31
Longlines	395	422	425	609	576	481
Other Gears	117	102	57	57	398	44
Oyster Cage/Rack/Bag	1,032	1,408	1,905	2,215	2,380	3,425
Oyster Dredge	162	619	896	880	962	1,125
Peeler Pot	2,994	2,552	2,682	2,348	2,454	2,180
Peeler Trawl	8	4	1	1	0	8
Pound Nets	2,283	2,384	1,653	1,505	1,597	1,406
Rakes	3,205	3,305	2,639	4,133	3,943	3,330
Rod-n-Reel	2,572	2,144	2,096	2,115	2,299	2,214
Shrimp Trawl	5,293	5,284	5,020	2,788	2,976	3,229
Skimmer Trawl	327	462	173	197	223	150
Spears, Diving	190	169	160	121	105	150
Tongs, Hand	3,456	2,576	3,648	4,962	4,135	3,392
Trolling ³	2,938	2,800	2,045	1,739	1,742	1,366
Trotline	262	164	2,241	2,801	1,361	1,158
TOTAL TRIPS⁴	100,487	92,912	93,027	86,848	87,149	87,005

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 Includes greenstick trolling.

⁴ 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 2025).

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

(2022 – 2024)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>			<u>POUNDS</u>		
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amberjacks	5,494	25,393	36,606	79,771	407,891	248,694
Barracudas	1,939	2,428	16,357	29,368	25,677	107,551
Bluefish	1,533,911	1,261,404	1,574,579	1,645,410	1,492,689	2,512,747
Bonito, Atlantic	12,301	72,973	61,814	70,411	268,260	130,686
Cobia	12,330	629	3,631	306,411	12,523	103,272
Croaker, Atlantic	1,110,382	597,690	852,372	481,721	201,056	363,595
Dolphin	117,803	292,185	143,210	962,267	2,129,648	763,549
Drum, Black	264,634	348,374	187,457	1,710,528	973,869	893,292
Drum, Red	336,280	232,133	322,307	1,615,108	1,120,661	1,354,244
Flounder, Southern	70,945	77,885	5,713	166,102	192,168	9,446
Flounder, Summer	10,591	20,164	0	22,151	34,192	0
Groupers	4,498	47,993	1,300	54,664	342,872	12,535
Grunts	32,829	43,570	53,387	20,701	63,988	69,880
Jacks	13,135	55,564	26,245	22,876	82,516	46,587
Kingfishes	5,594,758	3,003,875	3,041,109	1,631,041	1,316,752	516,554
Mackerel, King	38,512	79,987	58,954	375,164	1,130,711	730,700
Mackerel, Spanish	1,898,755	1,204,175	1,954,067	1,841,527	1,216,236	2,710,335
Perch, Silver	4,432	3,811	31,177	776	1,092	7,556
Pigfish	1,190,673	490,705	307,722	448,404	197,723	111,512
Pinfish	1,016,021	1,328,754	1,042,684	151,153	352,853	242,630
Pompano	584,744	93,070	89,096	106,579	83,764	58,592
Porgies	5,287	22,117	15,574	8,994	20,354	13,095
Puffers	1,902,765	1,945,427	589,630	966,751	964,014	228,439
Sea basses	159,979	272,964	101,728	256,867	460,175	159,656
Seatrout, Spotted	1,963,400	1,002,906	1,464,360	3,756,040	1,923,165	2,789,661
Sharks	2,153	12,245	758	16,909	25,234	4,783
Sharks, Dogfish	5,214	55,431	19,719	14,461	272,276	94,860
Sheepshead	387,924	263,328	461,480	1,024,623	619,265	1,427,785
Snappers	60,797	155,816	20,635	135,665	180,881	26,636
Spot	1,197,145	855,729	388,715	375,168	300,052	120,652
Striped Bass ¹	0	0	0	0	21,268	3,797
Tuna, Bluefin ^{2,3}	35	169	44	9,018	895,304	794,759
Tuna, Yellowfin	38,924	30,588	26,966	1,450,166	379,586	406,136
Wahoo	9,657	20,434	17,214	232,436	89,115	115,496
Weakfish	112,095	75,329	87,273	105,060	407,891	248,694

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

(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	4,374	11,550	9,094	81,945	213,091	159,460
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	3,327	11,659	104,455	25,393	100,373
Grunts	89,057	57,258	36,521	91,273	83,906	34,697
Jacks	14,049	20,100	5,722	53,282	97,985	13,712
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	1,734,943	443,548	356,243	770,988	457,037	351,332
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	152,454	195,728	51,652	220,575	195,625	79,506
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	33,044	54,351	80,284	50,678	83,330	117,205
Spot	2,822,884	920,512	1,199,080	851,998	297,813	435,231
Striped Bass ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuna, Bluefin ^{2,3}	70	18	29	23,922	4,665	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 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, 2019 – 2024.¹

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Harvested</u>	<u>Pounds Harvested</u>	<u>Number Released</u>
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
2024	15,120,442	19,061,981	57,057,195

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), 2019 – 2024.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Charter Boat</u>	<u>Private Boat</u>	<u>Beach/Bank/Manmade</u>	<u>Total</u>
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
2024	131,199	5,217,681	13,221,851	18,570,731



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.