



Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.



The Fish Finder? How does it work? We've divided the fish which are commonly found in Coastal North Carolina into several categories. These relate to either the type of fish (tunas, billfish, etc) or the locations where they are most commonly caught. Of course, sometimes some of the fish in the Offshore/Reef group might swim closer to shore and be found where you would expect Inshore/Coastal fish. Likewise some of the Inshore/Coastal fish are as much at home offshore as inshore.



All fish illustrations by Duane Raver, Jr.
from the book
Fisherman's Guide
Fishes of the Southeastern United States
N.C. State Museum of Natural History
Raleigh, N.C. 1984

Fish Finder

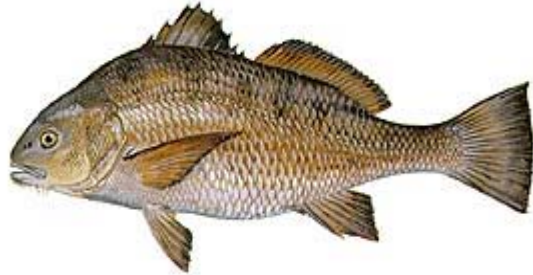
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Black Drum

Pogonias cromis

State Record: 100 lbs. 1 oz. 1998

Citation Size: 40 lbs.



Black Sea Bass, Sea Bass

Centropristis striata

12" TL 25/Day North of Cape Hatteras

Closed season North of Hatteras Sept 2-15,
and All of December

10" TL 20/Day South of Cape Hatteras

State Record: 8 lbs. 12 oz. 1979

Citation Size: 4 lbs.



Bluefish, Snapper, Blue

Pomatomus saltatrix

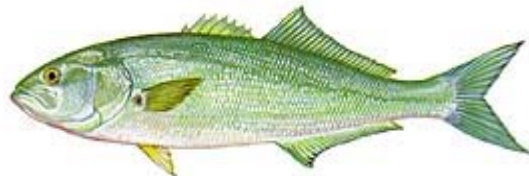
15/Day

Only 5 Greater than 24" TL

State Record: 31 lbs. 12 oz. 1972

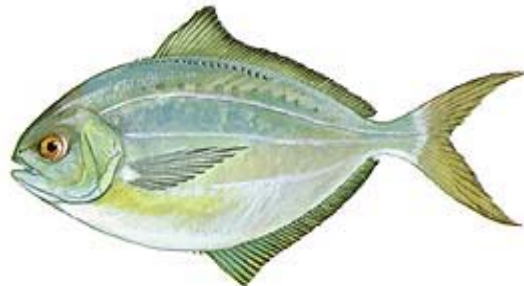
World All Tackle Record

Citation Size: 17 lbs.



Butterfish

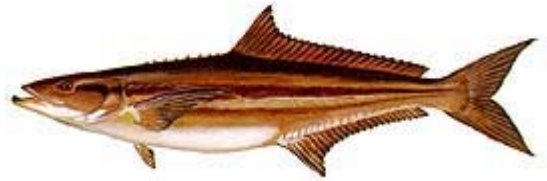
Peprilus triacanthus



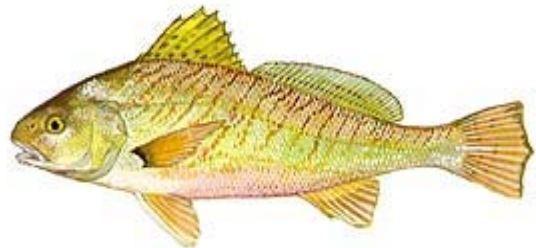
Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

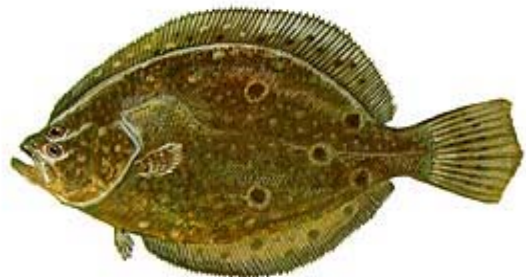
Cobia, Crab Eater, Lemonfish
Rachycentron canadum
33" FL 2/Day
State Record: 105 lbs. 2002
Citation Size: 40 lbs. (D)



Croaker
Micropogonias undulatus
State Record: 5 lbs. 1981
Citation Size: 3 lbs.



Flounder (Summer)*
Paralichthys dentatus
14" TL Inshore
13" TL in Neuse, Pamlico, and Pungo Rivers, along
with Pamlico County Bays and mainland Hyde County
Bays west of Bluff Point ([see Rec Guide](#))
14" TL 8/Day [Ocean](#)
State Record: 20 lbs. 8 oz. 1980
Citation Size: 5 lbs.



Gray Trout, Weakfish
Cynoscion regalis
12" TL 7/Day
([see Rec Guide](#))
State Record: 14 lbs. 14 oz. 1980
Citation Size: 6 lbs.



(D) Award for live release of fish 33 inches or longer.

*North Carolina is home to three different, but very similar types of flounder:
Summer, Southern, and Gulf Flounder.

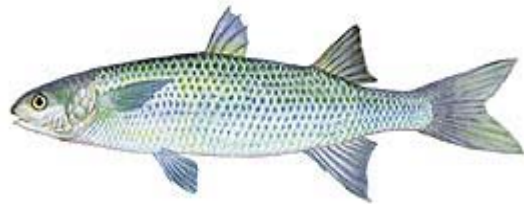
Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Hickory Shad
Alosa mediocris
10/Day



Jumping Mullet, Striped Mullet
Mugil cephalus



King Mackerel, Kingfish
Scomberomorus cavalla
24" FL 3/Day
State Record: 82 lbs. 4 oz. 1999
Citation Size 30 lbs.(C)



Inshore Lizardfish
Synodus foetens



(C) Award for live release of fish 50 inches or longer

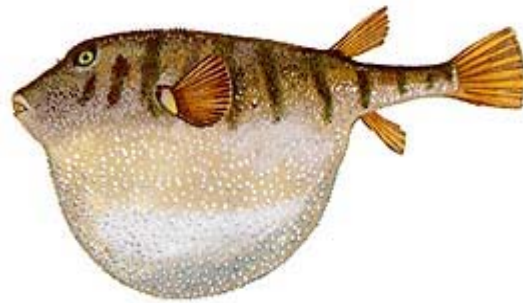
Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

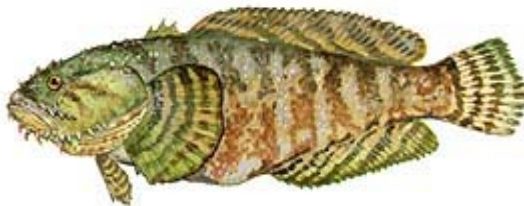
Atlantic Menhaden, Pogy, Bunker
brevoortia tyrannus



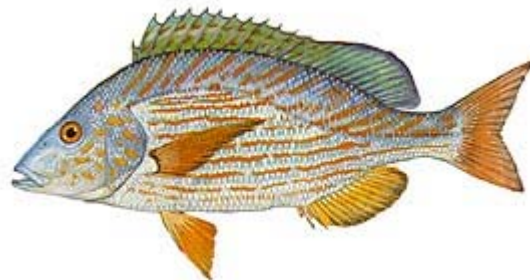
Northern Puffer, Swell Toad, Blowfish
Sphoeroides maculatus



Oyster Toadfish
Opsanus tau



Pigfish, Hogfish
Orthopristis chrysotera
State Record: 2 lbs. 4 oz. 1991



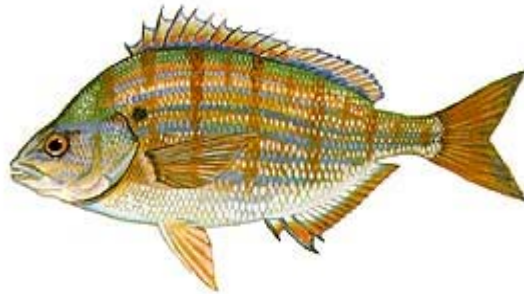
Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Pinfish

Lagodon rhomboides

State Record: 2 lbs. 11 oz. 2002



Pompano

Trachinotus carolinus

State Record: 8 lbs. 0 oz. 2001

Citation Size: 2 lbs.



Red Drum, Channel Bass,
Puppy Drum, Redfish
Sciaenops ocellatus

N.C.'s State Saltwater Fish

18-27" TL 1/Day

No Possession of Fish over 27"

State Record: 94 lbs. 2 oz. 1984

World All Tackle Record

Citation Size: Release Only (B)

More Detailed [Information Here](#)

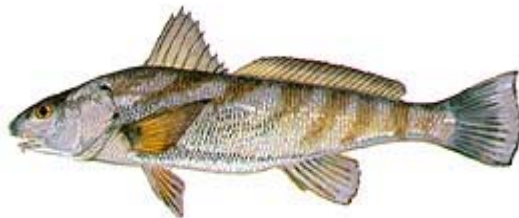


Sea Mullet, Whiting, Southern Kingfish*

Menticirrhus americanus

State Record: 3 lbs. 8 oz. 1971

Citation Size: 1 1/2 lbs.



(B) Award for live release of fish 40 inches or longer

*N.C. is home to several very similar species of Kingfishes commonly referred to as Sea Mullets.

Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Northern Searobin
Prionotus carolinus



Sheepshead

Archosargus probatocephalus
State Record: 19 lbs. 4 oz. 1999
Citation Size: 10 lbs.

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Reef Complex



Silver Perch

Bairdiella chrysoura
2000 Landings: 46,819 Fish 10,512 lbs.



Skate

Raja eglanteria



Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Atlantic Spadefish, Angelfish
Chaetodipterus faber

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Reef Complex



Spanish Mackerel, Spaniard
Scomberomorus maculatus

12" FL 15/Day

State Record: 13lbs.

World All-Tackle Record

Citation Size: 6lbs



Spottail Pinfish
Diplodus holbrooki



Spot

Leiostomus xanthurus

State Record: 1 lb. 13 oz. 1979

Citation Size: 1 lb.



Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Speckled Trout

Cynoscion nebulosus

12" TL 10/Day

State Record: 12 lbs. 4 oz. 1962

Citation Size: 4 lbs.



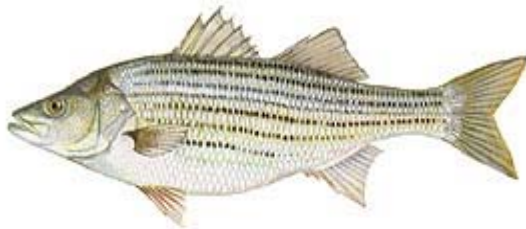
Striped Bass, Rock

Morone saxatilis

Citation Size 35 lbs. (E)

(Contact NCDMF for seasons and limits)

More [Information here](#)



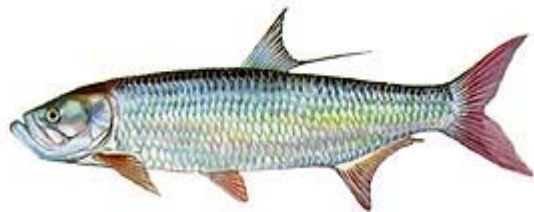
Tarpon

Megalops atlanticus

1/Day

State Record: 164 lbs. 1978

Citation Size: 30 lbs. (A)



Stingray

Dasyatis americana



(E) Citation for live release of fish 35 inches or longer

(A) Citation for live release of fish, regardless of size.

Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Amberjack

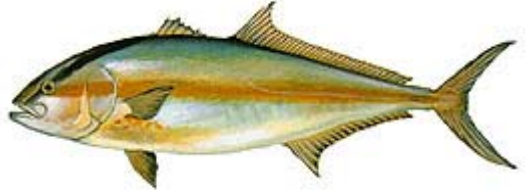
Seriola dumerili

28" FL 1/Day

State Record: 125 lbs. 1973

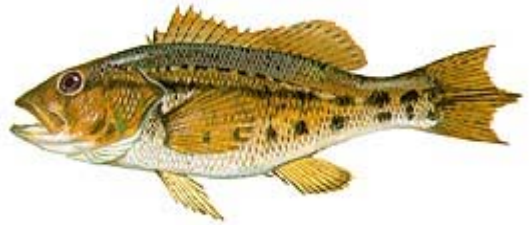
Citation Size: 50 lbs. (C)

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Amberjack



Bank Sea Bass, Yellow Sea Bass

Centropristis ocyurus



Barracuda

Sphyraena barracuda

State Record: 67 lbs. 7 oz. 1985

Citation Size: 20 lbs.



Black Sea Bass, Sea Bass

Centropristis striata

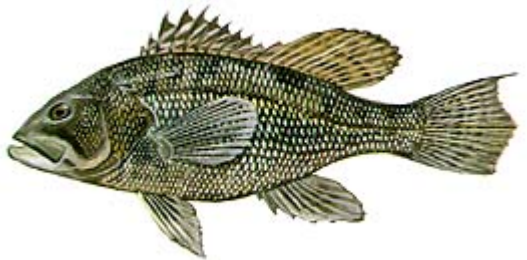
12" TL 25/Day North of Cape Hatteras

Closed season North of Hatteras Sept 2-15,
and All of December

10" TL 20/Day South of Cape Hatteras

State Record: 8 lbs. 12 oz. 1979

Citation Size: 4 lbs.



(C) Award for live release of fish 50 inches or larger.

Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Bluefish, Snapper, Blue

Pomatomus saltatrix

15/Day

Only 5 greater than 24" TL

State Record: 31 lbs. 12 oz. 1972

World All Tackle Record

Citation Size: 17 lbs.



Blueline Tilefish

Caulolatilus microps

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for

Federal Size/Catch Limits on Tilefish



Dolphin

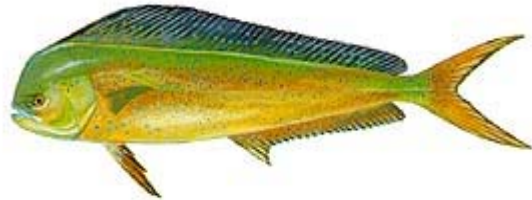
Corypaena hippurus

10/Day

Charter vessel Limit of 60/Trip

State Record: 79 lbs. 1993

Citation Size: 35 lbs.



Gag

Mycteroperca microlepis

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for

Size/Catch Limits on Groupers



Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Hogfish

Lachnolaimus maximus

State Record: 19 lbs. 12 oz. 2003

World All Tackle Record

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Reef Complex



King Mackerel, Kingfish

Scomberomorus cavalla

24" FL 3/Day

State Record: 82 lbs. 4 oz. 1999

Citation Size 30 lbs.(C)



Knobbed Porgy

Calamus nodosus

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Reef Complex



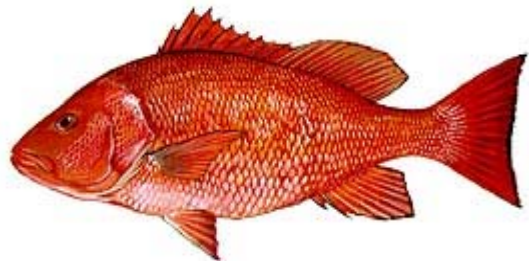
Red Snapper, American Red Snapper

Lutjanus campechanus

State Record: 40 lbs. 1970

Citation Size: 10 lbs.

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Snappers



Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

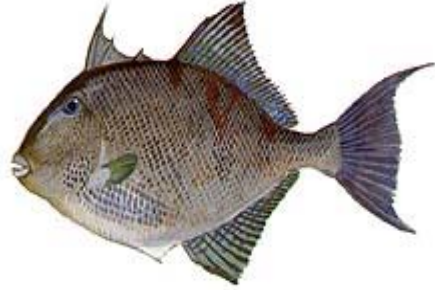
Gray Triggerfish

Balistes capricus

State Record: 11 lbs. 4 oz. 1990

Citation Size: 7 lbs.

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Reef Complex



Scamp

Mycteroperca phenax

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Groupers



Silver Snapper, Red Porgy

Pagrus pagrus

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Porgy



Speckled Hind, Strawberry Grouper, Kitty Mitchell

Epinephelus drummondhayi

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Groupers



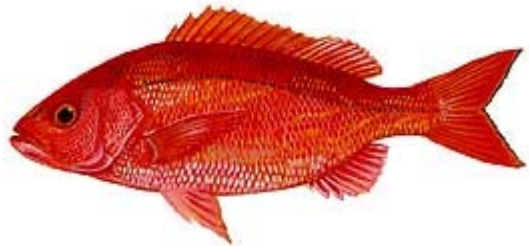
Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Spottail Pinfish
Diplodus holbrooki



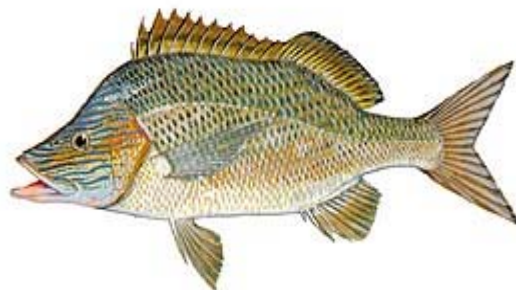
Vermillion Snapper, Beeliner
Rhomboplites aurorubens
See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Snappers



Wahoo
Acanthocybium solanderi
State Record: 150 lbs. 1994
Citation Size: 40 lbs.



White Grunt, Grunt, Redmouth
Haemulon plumieri
See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Reef Complex



Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Yellowedge Grouper, Grouper
Epinephelus flavolimbatus

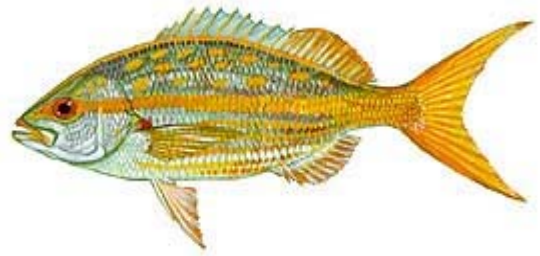
See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Groupers



Yellowtail Snapper

Ocyurus chrysurus

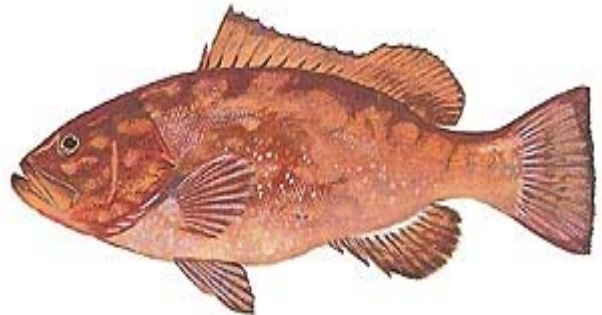
10/Day Species Combined



Red Grouper, Grouper

Epinephelus morio

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Groupers



Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Please see NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for more information on Size/Catch Limits on Tuna and Mackerel.
Also NOTE: Bluefin, Bigeye, and Yellowfin Tuna catches are regulated by NMFS and require Federal Permit.

Albacore, Tuna
Thunnus alalunga



Atlantic Bonito, Bonito
Sarda sarda



Bigeye Tuna, Tuna
Thunnus obesus
State Record: 300 lbs. 1989
Citation Size 100 lbs.
See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Tuna



Blackfin Tuna, Tuna
Thunnus atlanticus
State Record: 39 lbs. 0 oz. 2002



Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Please see NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for more information on Size/Catch Limits on Tuna and Mackerel.
Also NOTE: Bluefin, Bigeye, and Yellowfin Tuna catches are regulated by NMFS and require Federal Permit.

Bluefin Tuna, Tuna *Thunnus thynnus*

Citation Size 80 lbs. (F)

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Tuna



King Mackerel, Kingfish *Scomberomorus cavalla*

24" FL 3/Day

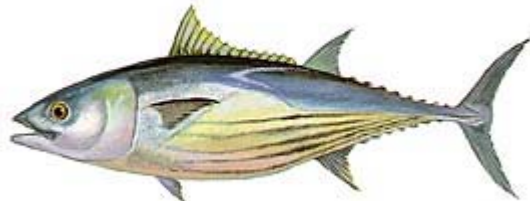
See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Mackerel
State Record: 82 lbs. 4oz. 1999
Citation Size 30 lbs. (C)



Little Tunny, False Albacore, Spotted Bonito *Euthynnus alletteratus*



Skipjack Tuna, Albacore, Oceanic Bonito *Euthynnus pelamis*



(C) Award for live release of fish 50 inches or larger
(F) Award for live release of fish 70 inches or longer

Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Please see NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for more information on Size/Catch Limits on Tuna and Mackerel.
Also NOTE: Bluefin, Bigeye, and Yellowfin Tuna catches are regulated by NMFS and require Federal Permit.

Spanish Mackerel, Spaniard

Scomberomorus maculatus

12" FL 15/Day

State Record: 13lbs.

World All-Tackle Record

Citation Size: 6lbs



Wahoo

Acanthocybium solanderi

State Record: 150 lbs. 1994

Citation Size: 40 lbs.

2000 Landings: 20,650 Fish 439,558 lbs.



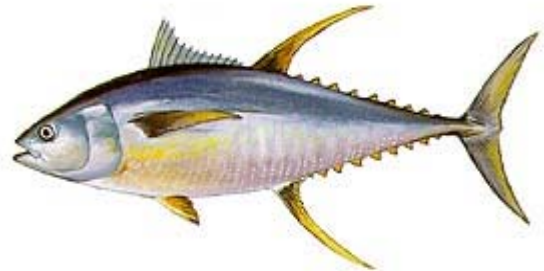
Yellowfin Tuna, Longfin Tuna

Thunnus albacares

State Record: 237 lbs. 1979

Citation Size: 70 lbs.

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for
Size/Catch Limits on Tunas



Fish Finder

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' Guide to what's catching.

Blue Marlin

Makaira nigricans

Citation Size 400 lbs.

Award for live release of fish, regardless of size

State Record: 1,142 Pounds 1974

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for Size/Catch Limits on Marlin



Sailfish

Istiophorus platypterus

Citation Size 30 lbs.

Award for live release of fish, regardless of size

State Record: 100 Pounds 1987

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for Size/Catch Limits on Marlin



Swordfish

Xiphias gladius



White Marlin

Tetrapturus albidus

Citation Size 50 lbs.

Award for live release of fish, regardless of size

State Record: 118 Pounds 1976

See NCDMF [Recreational Fishing Guide](#) for Size/Catch Limits on Marlin



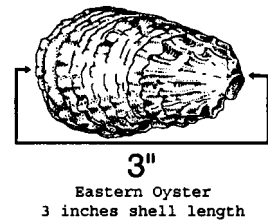
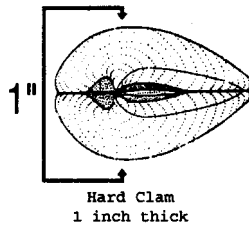
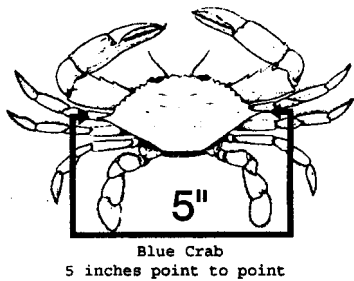
2004 NORTH CAROLINA RECREATIONAL COASTAL WATERS GUIDE FOR SPORTS FISHERMEN October version

****IMPORTANT** CHECK WITH DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES FOR MOST CURRENT MINIMUM LENGTHS AND CREEL LIMITS.
(252) 726-7021 OR (800) 682-2632 (NORTH CAROLINA ONLY). FOR INLAND WATER LIMITS, CALL WILDLIFE RESOURCE COMMISSION (919) 733-3633 OR WWW.NCWILDLIFE.ORG**

	STATE COASTAL WATERS (Internal & 0-3 miles)		EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE-EEZ (3-200 miles) EEZ restrictions noted in <i>italic</i> are Federal Rules	
FINFISH SPECIES (note symbols)	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (per person)	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (per person)
Greater Amberjack	28" FL	1/Day	28" FL	1/Day
Bluefish		15/Day, only 5 greater than 24" TL		15/Day
Cobia	33" FL	2/Day	33" FL	2/Day
Wahoo		(P)		2/Day
Dolphin (B)		10/Day		10/Day
King Mackerel (J)	24" FL	3/Day	24" FL	3/Day
Spanish Mackerel (J)	12" FL	15/Day	12" FL	15/Day
Tuna; Yellowfin, Bluefin, and Bigeye (J) (H)			27" Curved FL	<i>Yellowfin tuna bag limit 3 per person per day</i>
Sharks (excluding spiny & smooth dogfish)(J)	54-84" FL (L)	1/Vessel/Day (private boat) 1/Day (shore, charter, & headboat) (L)	(F) 54" FL	1/Vessel/Day
Sharks, Atlantic Sharpnose (J)	(L)		(F)	1/Day
Blue Marlin (H)	99" LJFL	1 per vessel per trip, either blue marlin or white marlin	99" LJFL	1 per vessel per trip, either blue marlin or white marlin
White Marlin (H)	66" LJFL		66" LJFL	
Sailfish (H)	63" LJFL	1/Day	63" LJFL	1/Day
Red Drum (channel bass, puppy drum)	18-27" TL (D)	1/Day	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	
Flounder	13" TL (internal) Neuse, Pamlico, and Pungo Rivers, along with Pamlico County Bays and mainland Hyde County Bays west of Bluff Pt. (G) No Bag Limit (internal) 14" TL (in all other internal areas) (G)			
	14" TL (ocean) (G)	8/Day (ocean) (G)	14" TL	8/Day
Spotted Seatrout (Speckled)	12" TL	10/Day	12" TL	10/Day
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	12" TL	7/Day	12" TL	7/Day
Tarpon		1/Day		1/Day
Striped Bass	(A)	(A)	UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS	
American and Hickory Shad (M)		10/Day		10/Day
Alewife and Blueback Herring (M)		25/Day		25/Day
American Eel	6" TL	50/Day	6" TL	50/Day
Scup (North of Cape Hatteras)	8" TL	50/Day	10" TL	50/Day (E)
Black Sea Bass (North of Cape Hatteras) (C)	12" TL	25/Day	12" TL	25/Day
Black Sea Bass (South of Cape Hatteras)	10" TL	20/Day	10" TL	20/Day
Red, Scamp, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth Groupers (K & J)	20" TL	5/Day (all groupers combined; includes only 1 speckled hind, 1 warsaw, and no more than 2 black or gag grouper, individual or combined) 2/Day 1/Vessel/Trip 1/Vessel/Trip	20" TL	5/Day (all groupers combined; includes tilefish, only 1 speckled hind, 1 warsaw, and no more than 2 black or gag grouper, individual or combined) 2/Day 1/Vessel Trip 1/Vessel/Trip
Black and Gag Groupers	24" TL		24" TL	
Speckled Hind (Kitty Mitchell)				
Warsaw Grouper				
Red Porgy (Silver Snapper, pinky)	14" TL	1/Day	14" TL	1/Day
Dog, Gray, Cubera, Mahogany, Queen, Schoolmaster & Yellowtail Snappers		10/Day (species combined; includes up to 2 red snapper) 2/Day	12" TL	10/Day (species combined; includes up to 2 red snapper)
Mutton Snapper			16" TL	
Silk & Blackfin Snappers	12" TL		12" TL	
Red Snapper	20" TL		20" TL	
Vermilion Snapper	11" TL	10/Day	11" TL	10/Day
REEF COMPLEX SPECIES Includes sheepshead, spadefish, gray triggerfish, white grunt, knobbed porgy and more (see back note I & J)		20/Day		20/Day

PROHIBITED FINFISH SPECIES	
COASTAL WATERS (Internal waters and Atlantic Ocean out to 3 miles)	FEDERAL WATERS (Atlantic Ocean more than 3 miles)
Sturgeon, Nassau grouper, and Goliath grouper (jewfish). Prohibited sharks include: basking, white, sand tiger, and whale.	Sharks; (whale, basking, white, sand tiger, bigeye sand tiger, Atlantic angel shark, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sevengill, sixgill, and smalltail), red drum, striped bass, sturgeon, Nassau grouper, Goliath grouper (jewfish), and spearfish.

SHELLFISH	STATE COASTAL AND EEZ WATERS (Internal & 0-200 miles)	
	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (per person)
BLUE CRAB	5" Carapace Width	50 crabs/day not to exceed 100 crabs/vessel/day
HARD CLAM	1 " Thick	100 clams/day not to exceed 200 clams/vessel/day
OYSTER (N)	3" Shell Length	1 bushel/day not to exceed 2 bushels/vessel/day
BAY SCALLOP (N)(Q)		½ bushel/day not to exceed 1 bushel/vessel/day
CONCHS & WHELKS		10/day not to exceed 20/vessel/day
MUSSELS		100/day not to exceed 200/vessel/day
SHRIMP (CAST NET ONLY)		<div>Closed Shrimping Area</div> <div>100 shrimp/day</div> <div>Open Shrimping Area</div> <div>Unlimited</div>



SYMBOLS TO LOOK FOR

- (A) Albemarle Sound Management Area: contact DMF for seasons, areas or other limits; Atlantic Ocean year-round: 2 per person per day at 28" TL minimum; Other coastal areas (excluding Inland Waters-regulations set by Wildlife Resource Commission) year-round: 3 per person per day at 18" TL minimum.
- (B) Charter vessel (licensed by Coast Guard and holding NMFS Charter Vessel Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permit) limit of 60/trip
- (C) Open season January 1 – September 7 and September 22 – November 30.
- (D) Unlawful to possess red drum greater than 27 inches total length. Unlawful to gig, spear, or gaff red drum.
- (E) North of Cape Hatteras Scup recreational season is Jan. 1 – Feb. 29 and August 15 – Nov. 30 in the EEZ.
- (F) See prohibited species list above; Legal sharks include: sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, lemon, bull, nurse, smooth and scalloped and great hammerhead, blacknose, finetooth, bonnethead, shortfin mako, blue, thresher, porbeagle, and oceanic whitetip. One (1) Atlantic sharpnose (no minimum size) and one bonnethead (no minimum size) per person per trip may be landed in addition to allowable bag limits for other sharks.
- (G) Restrictions apply to gigging in the Ocean. The minimum size limit of flounder taken for recreational purposes in internal waters west of a line from Point of Marsh to Bluff Point is 13 inches. The size limit east of that line and in all other internal waters is 14 inches total length.
- (H) In state or federal waters, federal permit required for Highly Migratory Species, excluding Atlantic bonito, little tunny (albacore), and blackfin tuna:(978) 281-9370 or www.nmfspermits.com. Prior to removal from vessel, all billfishes, swordfish and bluefin tuna must be reported at NC HMS reporting stations. DMF website for more details.
- (I) Reef complex species: whitebone porgy, jolthead porgy, knobbed porgy, longspine porgy, sheepshead, gray triggerfish, queen triggerfish, yellow jack, crevalle jacks, bar jack, almaco jack, lesser amberjack, banded rudderfish, white grunt, margates, spadefish,scup, and hogfish, 20 per person per day in combination.
- (J) For seasons or closures for tunas, billfishes, and sharks contact NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division (1-301-713-2347 or www.nmfspermits.com or www.nmfs.noaa.gov). For snapper, grouper, and mackerels contact the South Atlantic Council (1-843-571-4366 or www.safmc.net).
- (K) Groupers in the management unit include: red, yellowfin, yellowmouth, black, warsaw, snowy, yellowedge, and misty grouper; gag, scamp, speckled hind, red hind, rock hind, graybsy, and coney. No possession of Nassau and Goliath grouper.
- (L) Minimum size does not apply to Atlantic sharpnose or dogfish. Creel does not apply to dogfish. Sharks greater than 84 inches are prohibited except for tiger, thresher, bigeye thresher, shortfin mako, and hammerhead sp. Headboat or charterboat Captain or crew are not allowed a creel limit.
- (M) Season, areas, or other limits may be set by DMF. Shad (hickory and American) may only be taken with recreational commercial gear such as drift gill nets from January 1 through April 14 or by hook and line year round.
- (N) Contact DMF for seasons, areas, or other restrictions.
- (P) Pending rule change
- (Q) During the open season, scallop harvest restricted to certain hours of the day, contact DMF for all restrictions.

Total length (TL) is measured from tip of snout with mouth closed to top of compressed tail. Fork length (FL) is measured from tip of snout to middle of fork in tail. Lower jaw fork length (LJFL) is measured from lower jaw to middle of fork in tail. Bag limits are not additive for state and federal waters.

Ocean boundary is defined as water seaward of the COLREGS Demarcation Lines as indicated on National Ocean Service navigation charts.

No one may possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing any fish subject to limits without head and tail attached, except for alewife and blueback herring used for bait provided not more than two fish per boat/operation may be cut at any one time – Reference 15A NCAC 3M .0101

Morehead City Office (24 hours)
(800) 682-2632 or
(252) 726-7021
NMFS (Fed. Reg.)
(813) 893-3722

Elizabeth City Office
(800) 338-7805 or
(252) 264-3911

Columbia Office
(800) 405-7774
(252) 796-1322

Washington Office
(800) 338-7804 or
(252) 946-6481

Wilmington Office
(800) 248-4536 or
(910) 395-3900

THIS FLYER IS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 20, 2004 AND IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND HAS NO LEGAL FORCE OR EFFECT. FISHERY RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THESE RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO FISH TAKEN FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSE AND INCLUDE HOOK AND LINE AND RECREATIONAL USERS OF COMMERCIAL GEAR (RCGL). Updated State regulations can be found at www.ncdmf.net/recguide.htm

**2004 NORTH CAROLINA SALTWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT
MANAGED BY NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES**

The Tournament begins January 1, 2004 and ends Midnight, December 31, 2004.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD, ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 15, 2005.

Everyone is eligible except a charter boat captain or a crewman of a for-hire boat or anyone who offers fish for sale. Weighmasters or their employees are eligible for awards, provided a witness signs verification. Eligible waters include all North Carolina sounds, estuaries, surf, and the Atlantic Ocean. No registration fee is required.

Certificate Qualifications: All fish must be caught on hook and line and landed or brought to gaff or net by the angler. No electric or hydraulic equipment is allowed. Fish must be weighed by an authorized weighmaster (or his/her representative) at an official weigh station. Each fish must be recorded on an official application form, signed by the angler and by a weighmaster. Snagged, mutilated, scaled, speared, frozen, or shot fish are not eligible. The weighmaster reserves the right to cut, open, or mark the fish after it has been weighed.

Release Rules: Angler or mate must touch the fish or the leader. Application must be completed with exception of length and weight (amberjack, bluefin tuna, cobia, king mackerel, striped bass and red drum must have the length recorded). A witness must sign the application.

SPECIES LIST	MINIMUM WEIGHT	SPECIES LIST	MINIMUM WEIGHT
Amberjack	50 lb. ^C	Pompano	2 lbs.
Barracuda	20 lbs.	Porgy (Silver Snapper)	4 lbs.
Bass, Black Sea	4 lbs.	Sailfish	30 lbs. ^A
Bluefish	17 lbs.	Shark	150 lbs.
Cobia	40 lbs. ^D	Sheepshead	10 lbs.
Croaker	3 lbs.	Snapper, Red	10 lbs.
Dolphin	35 lbs.	Spot	1 lb.
Drum, Black	40 lbs.	Striped Bass	35 lbs. ^E
Drum, Red	Release Only ^B	Tarpon	30 lbs. ^A
Flounder	5 lbs.	Tautog	8 lbs.
Grouper	20 lbs.	Triggerfish	7 lbs.
Jack, Crevalle	20 lbs.	Trout, Gray	6 lbs.
Mackerel, King	30 lbs. ^C	Trout, Speckled	4 lbs.
Mackerel, Spanish	6 lbs.	Tuna, Bigeye	100 lbs.
Marlin, Blue	400 lbs. ^A	Tuna, Bluefin	80 lbs. ^F
Marlin, White	50 lbs. ^A	Tuna, Yellowfin	70 lbs.
Mullet, Sea	1½ lbs.	Wahoo	40 lbs.

A Award for live release of fish, regardless of size

B Award for live release of fish 40 inches or longer

C Award for live release of fish 50 inches or longer

D Award for live release of fish 33 inches or longer

E Award for live release of fish 35 inches or longer

F Award for live release of fish 70 inches or longer

For more information contact:

NC Division of Marine Fisheries, North Carolina Saltwater Citation Fishing Award Program
PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557-0769, 1-800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021