

FREE

NORTH CAROLINA 2018

COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING DIGEST

Saltwater Regulations and More

A silhouette of a person wearing a cap and holding a fishing rod, set against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, looking out over a body of water.

Become Fluent in Flounder

Page 18

Seasons, Size and Creel Limits

Begin on page 12

License Information

Page 3

Catch up on North Carolina coastal fishing

Welcome to fishing on the North Carolina coast. The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries is pleased to introduce the 2018 *Coastal Recreational Fishing Digest*.



This year's digest features an article about the Division of Marine Fisheries' Recreational Water Quality Program. Fish is not all anglers can catch from coastal waters; there are any number harmful bacteria that inhabit our oceans, rivers and sounds. The N.C. Recreational Water Quality Program offers anglers and beach goers a way to know more about bacteria levels not only at the beach, but also in waters where many popular fishing holes are located.

The digest also features more fish identification diagrams than in the past, illustrating the difference between black drum and sheepshead and between three flounder species.

As always, this year's digest contains fishing license options, tips for ethical angling, information on how to measure fish, and a table with recreational size and bag limits and seasons.

Because marine fisheries regulations are subject to change frequently, anglers should check the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' website at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits> for the most up-to-date fishing regulations.

How to Measure a Fish

Total Length (TL) - The length of a fish as measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

Fork Length (FL) - The length of a fish as measured from the tip of its snout to the fork of the tail.

Curved Fork Length (CFL) - The length of a fish as measured on a line tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail.

Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) - The length of a fish as measured from the tip of its lower jaw to the fork of the tail.

Total Length

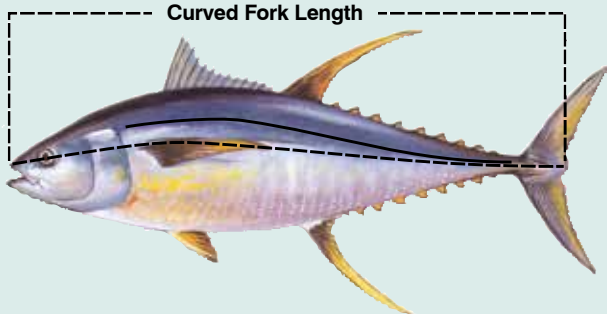


(Pinch tail together when measuring)

Fork Length



Curved Fork Length



Lower Jaw Fork Length



Notable regulatory changes this year include:

Spotted Seatrout

Spotted seatrout season closed Jan. 5 to recreational and commercial harvest in all coastal and joint waters of the state due to widespread cold stun events.

Cold stuns are natural events that occur when there is a sudden drop in water temperature or prolonged periods of cold weather that makes the fish sluggish. Many fish will die from the cold. Others fall prey to birds and other predators. Studies suggest that cold stun events can have a significant impact on spotted seatrout populations.

The intent of the closure is to allow the fish that survive the cold stun event the chance to spawn in the spring before harvest

reopens. Peak spawning occurs in May.

The spotted seatrout season will reopen June 15.

Cobia

Seasons and harvest limits for cobia changed this year. The cobia season will run May 1 to Dec. 31 with a size limit of 36 inches fork length and a bag limit of one per person per day.

The vessel limit for private boats is two fish per vessel per day from May 1 to May 31 and one fish per vessel per day from June 1 through Dec. 31, regardless of the number of anglers on board. For for-hire boats, the vessel limit is four fish per vessel per day from May 1 to Dec. 31 regardless of the number of anglers on board.

Recreational Commercial Gear License

Recreational fishermen who want to use a gill net or other commercial gear in N.C. coastal waters need to purchase a Recreational Commercial Gear License.

The license costs \$70 per year for residents and \$500 per year for nonresidents. It is available at N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' offices and at many bait and tackle shops.

The license authorizes the holder to use limited amounts of commercial gear to harvest seafood for personal consumption.

Seafood harvested under this license cannot be sold and the license holder must adhere to recreational size and possession limits, as well as other gear restrictions.

You will need this license if you want to use:

- Seine net (30 to 100 feet)
- Shrimp trawl (skimmer or otter)
- Eel, fish, shrimp or crab pots*
- Trotline
- Gill net
- Shrimp pound
- Electronic shocking devices to catch catfish in certain areas of the Cape Fear River

More information about the license and its requirements can be found on the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' website at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-commercial-gear-license>.

For restrictions on specific gears, call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.

* One crab pot per person may be attached to the shore on privately owned land or to a privately owned pier without a license.

Coastal Recreational Fishing License

North Carolina requires people 16 or older to hold a Coastal Recreational Fishing License to fish in coastal waters of the state. A variety of license options are available and they can be purchased at many tackle shops, at N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries and N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission offices and online at <http://www.ncwildlife.org>. A \$2 transaction fee will be added to the price of all licenses.

Revenues from license sales are used to manage, protect, restore, develop, cultivate, conserve and enhance North Carolina's marine resources.



Annual Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses

State Residents* — \$15
Nonresidents — \$30

10-day Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses

State Residents* — \$5
Nonresidents, ages 16 or older — \$10
Blocks of Ten 10-day — \$150

Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses

Infant: younger than one year — \$100
Youth: ages 1-11 — \$150
Resident Adult*: ages 12-senior** — \$250
Nonresident Adult: ages 12 and older — \$500
Resident Senior* ** — \$15
Resident Disabled Veteran*: 50 percent or more disabled — \$10
Resident Totally Disabled*: totally and permanently disabled — \$10

Annual Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License

Resident* — \$40

Annual Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses

Resident* — \$65

Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses

Infant: younger than one year — \$275
Youth: ages 1-11 — \$450
Resident Adult*: ages 12-senior** — \$675
Nonresident Adult: ages 12 and older — \$1550
Resident Senior* ** — \$30
Resident Disabled Veteran* — 50 percent or more disabled — \$110
Resident Totally Disabled*: Totally and permanently disabled — \$110

Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License

Resident Legally Blind — No charge
Resident Adult Care Home — No charge

Exemptions

- N.C. residents serving on full-time active duty in the military or reserves outside of the state are exempt from license requirements while on leave for fewer than 30 days.
- Those who held a Wildlife Resources Commission Lifetime Sportsman License or Lifetime Comprehensive Fishing License prior to Jan. 1, 2006 are exempt from Coastal Recreational Fishing License requirements.
- No license is required to fish on July 4 or for children, ages 0-15.
- Annual Resident Subsistence
Waivers are available at no charge for qualified individuals through their county Department of Social Services.

* Out-of-state students attending a university, college, or community college in North Carolina are considered residents.
Members of the military stationed in North Carolina and their dependents are considered residents.
** Residents born on or before Aug. 1, 1953 are eligible to purchase a senior lifetime license when they turn 65 years of age.
Those born after Aug. 1, 1953 are eligible to purchase a senior lifetime license when they turn 70 years of age.

Tag: You're It!



Ever catch a tagged fish and wonder what it's all about? Why should you report it?

There are several good reasons. You may be eligible for a reward. Another good reason is you can help fisheries biologists collect the information needed to understand and assess fish populations. Fish tagged in North Carolina waters include red drum, striped bass, speckled trout, southern flounder, and cobia.

If you turn in a red tag from a fish released by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, along with all the required information, you will receive a \$100 reward. The tags are marked on one side: "\$100 REWARD" with a unique tag number. The other side gives the phone number to call "NCDMF."

If you turn in a yellow tag with all required information you may choose from a hat, \$5 or other rewards. The tags are marked with a unique tag number and the phone number to call "NCDMF."

You will also receive a letter and personalized certificate that states where and when the fish was tagged, the number of days it was at large and the distance

between the original tagging location and where the fish was recaptured.

Additionally, all who turn in tags are entered in an end-of-year cash drawing.

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' researchers tag more than 15,000 striped bass, red drum, southern flounder and spotted seatrout per year. The information the division collects through returned tags helps researchers answer some very important questions, such as:

- What are the migration patterns of these fish?
- What kinds of habitat do these fish use?
- What is the population structure of these stocks?
- What is the fishing mortality rate?

If you catch a tagged fish, please cut off the tag and record the following:

1. Species
2. Tag number

3. Date
4. Location captured (water body and nearest landmark or latitude/longitude)
5. Length (total or fork length)
6. Fate of the fish (kept, released alive, etc.)
7. Gear used for capture

Report the information to 800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021.

Red tags must be cut off and returned to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, N.C. 28557 to receive the \$100 reward.

Helpful Hints

- Cut off the tag, do not pull it out.
- If you are releasing the fish, cut the tag as close to the body of the fish as possible.
- Record the tag number in case you misplace the tag before reporting it.
- If the tag has algae growth, do not scrape the algae off. Scraping the algae can lead to tag damage that inhibits the division from recognizing what fish it came from. If you come across algae growth on the tag, either send the tag to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries or let the tag soak in soapy warm water until the algae comes off.
- Be careful when handling fish you intend to release. Handle it as little as possible, using wet hands or wet gloves. Return the fish to the water quickly to give the fish the greatest chance of post-release survival.
- Be alert! Tags are designed to be as unobtrusive as possible, so they don't change the fish's behavior. That means that you might not see one if you're not looking. Please report all tag and species information to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.
- Some fish will have two tags, so check both sides of the fish and report both.

Highly Migratory Species

Vessel owners or operators who recreationally fish for regulated Atlantic tunas (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, albacore and skipjack), roundscale spearfish, sharks, swordfish, and billfish must obtain a Highly Migratory Species Angling Category Permit or a Highly Migratory Species Charter/Headboat Permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service. This requirement applies even for those who fish exclusively in state waters. Highly Migratory Species Permits may be obtained online at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/> or by contacting the Highly Migratory Species customer service representative at 888-872-8862.

Those who land bluefin tuna, blue marlin, white marlin, roundscale spearfish, sailfish or swordfish in North Carolina must participate in a landing tag and reporting procedure. This process takes the place of the National Marine Fisheries Service call-in or website reporting process. Fishermen must stop by one of the Highly Migratory Species Reporting Stations on their way in from fishing, fill out a catch card and receive a landing tag.

The landing tag must be affixed to the fish before it is removed from the vessel. Captains or operators from the trailered vessels must affix the landing tag before the vessel is removed from the water. North Carolina began this reporting program in the mid-1990s when recreational fishermen started landing more bluefin tuna in this state. The number of bluefin tuna landed was so small that the state was unable to estimate the landings through its normal survey process. The state modeled the reporting system after those that wildlife agencies used for big game.

Later, as regulations on billfish became more restrictive, the state added blue marlin, white marlin, roundscale spearfish, sailfish and swordfish to the program. In 2015, sharks were added to the program on a voluntary basis. Anglers may find more information on this reporting system, including a list of reporting stations, on the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' website at <http://portal.ncdenr.gov/web/mf/nmfs-highly-migratory-species-permits>

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries manages two recreational fishing tournament programs:

The North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Tournament, also known as the Citation Program, recognizes exceptional catches of North Carolina's most popular sport fish.

The tournament runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 each year and is open to any angler, except those who captain or work on a for-hire vessel or those who sell their fish.

To qualify for a citation, the fish must be caught on hook-and-line and landed without the use of electric or hydraulic equipment. The fish must meet program size requirements, be weighed at an official weigh station and then recorded on an official application form. For release citations, an angler or mate must touch the fish or the leader. The angler and a witness must fill out and sign an application at an official weigh station. For a list of weigh stations, see the link on this page <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-tournaments>.



The North Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Conservation Series is an annual sport fishing series operating cooperatively with eight major billfish tournaments in the state.

Participating boats or teams earn points cumulatively throughout the series for billfish landed or released. Penalty points are assessed for undersized fish taken.

Trophies are awarded at the conclusion of the tournament series for the most points in both the private boat and charter boat

categories. Individual awards are given to the outstanding junior boy, outstanding junior girl and lady angler.

Additionally, trophies are awarded for the largest blue marlin, yellowfin tuna, wahoo and dolphin.

More information about the Governor's Cup and Saltwater Fishing tournaments can be found online at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-tournaments>

The Official 2018 North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Tournament Minimum Weights

SPECIES	MINIMUM WEIGHT	SPECIES	MINIMUM WEIGHT
Albacore, False	Release Only E	Pompano, Florida	2 lbs.
Amberjack	50 lbs. H	Porgy (Silver Snapper)	4 lbs.
Atlantic Bonito	8 lbs. B	Sailfish	Release Only A
Barracuda	Release Only G	Shark	150 lbs. J
Bass, Black Sea	4 lbs.	Sheepshead	8 lbs.
Bluefish	15 lbs. E	Spearfish	Release Only A
Cobia	40 lbs. D	Spot	1 lb
Croaker	3 lbs.	Striped Bass	35 lbs. G
Dolphin	35 lbs.	Swordfish	50 lbs. A
Drum, Black	35 lbs. F	Tarpon	Release Only A
Drum, Red	Release Only F	Tilefish, Gray	10 lbs.
Flounder	5 lbs.	Triggerfish	5 lbs.
Grouper	20 lbs.	Trout, Gray	5 lbs. B
Jack, Crevalle	Release Only C	Trout, Speckled	5 lbs. B
Mackerel, King	30 lbs. G	Tuna, Bigeye	100 lbs.
Mackerel, Spanish	6 lbs.	Tuna, Blackfin	20 lbs.
Marlin, Blue	400 lbs. A	Tuna, Bluefin	200 lbs. I
Marlin, White	Release Only A	Tuna, Yellowfin	70 lbs.
Mullet, Sea	1 1/2 lbs.	Wahoo	40 lbs.

A = Award for live release of fish, regardless of size
 B = Award for live release of fish, 24 inches or longer
 C = Award for live release of fish, 32 inches or longer
 D = Award for live release of fish, 33 inches or longer
 E = Award for live release of fish, 34 inches or longer

F = Award for live release of fish, 40 inches or longer
 G = Award for live release of fish, 45 inches or longer
 H = Award for live release of fish, 50 inches or longer
 I = Award for live release of fish, 70 inches or longer
 J = Award for live release of fish, 80 inches or longer

Be An Ethical Angler ...

Hooked on fishing? Practice ethical angling!

Ethical angling is a set of habits practiced by conservation-minded anglers that aim to protect the well-being of North Carolina's fisheries.

Ethical anglers go beyond just obeying the regulations. They fish in a way that minimizes harm to the fish and their environment.

For more information on ethical angling, including sample riggings, videos on ethical techniques and habitat protection, see <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/edu/ethical-angling>.



Protect the environment...

Never throw trash overboard. Never dump raw sewage, oil or gasoline overboard.

Use fish-cleaning stations and trash receptacles.

Report any pollution or environmental damage to the appropriate authorities.

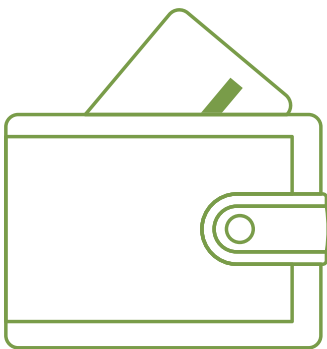
While you fish...

Practice catch and release.

Use circle hooks to help prevent the fish from swallowing the hook.

Pinch the barb down on circle hooks and J-hooks.

Do not discard a previously caught legal fish for a larger fish to remain within the bag limit.



Before you go...

Make sure you have a valid Coastal Recreational Fishing License if you are 16 years old or older.

Check N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries website, <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits>. Size and bag limits change frequently.

Learn to identify fish commonly caught in North Carolina waters.

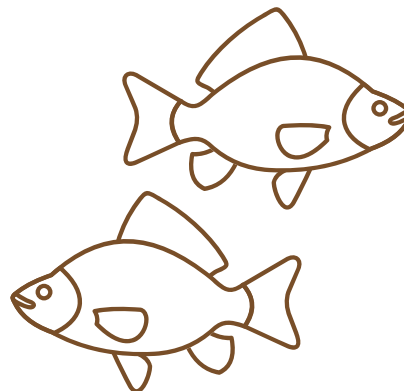
Stock your tackle box with a pair of needle-nose pliers or a de-hooking device, a tape measure and a glove or towel.

To release your catch...

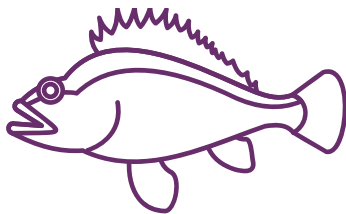
Leave the fish in the water while removing the hook. Use a rubber dip net if you must remove the fish from the water.

Handle fish as little as possible. Return it to water as quickly as possible.

Use a de-hooking device or needle-nose pliers to grip the hook and gently pull the hook free. If the hook has been swallowed, cut the fishing line as close to the hook as possible.



Hook, Line and Sinker

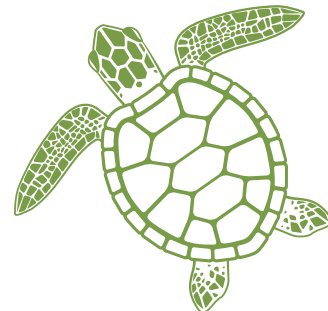


North Carolina Tagging Program...

Division staff tag more than 15,000 striped bass, red drum, southern flounder and spotted seatrout each year. Staff began tagging cobia in the spring of 2017.

The information received on tagged fish helps improve management of these fisheries.

For information on what to do if you catch a tagged fish, see page 4.

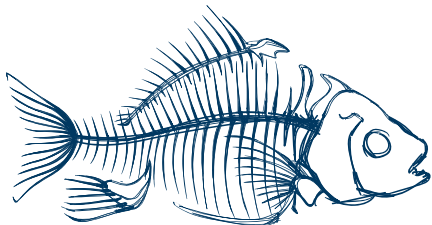


Sea Turtles...

All species of sea turtles found in North Carolina waters are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act, and unpermitted interactions with these animals are illegal. This includes interactions that occur with commercial and recreational fishing gears.

If you come across a stranded or injured turtle, contact the Sea Turtle Stranding Network at 252-241-7367 or N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries at 252-726-7021.

For more information on what to do if you catch a sea turtle, please visit <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/sea-turtle-awareness>.



Carcass Collection Program...

The Carcass Collection Program collects carcasses of 15 species from recreational fishermen. Scientists can determine information, such as age, size and reproductive potential of the fish from the carcass.

When cleaning a fish, leave the head and tail intact on the carcass and take it to one of the division's freezer locations. Instructions on target species and how to deposit the carcasses are posted on the freezer.

Information gathered through this program is used for stock assessments at the state and federal levels.

For more information on this program and what species are collected, see <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/carcass-collection>.

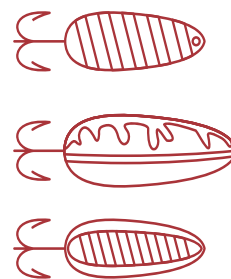


Coastal Angling Program...

The N. C. Coastal Angling Program is the collective title that encompasses a set of recreational fishing sampling and survey programs run by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. It includes mail, telephone and electronic surveys of those who hold a N.C. Coastal Recreational Fishing License. It also includes staff interviewing fishermen at boat ramps, on the beach and at piers, sampling of upper estuarine water species, such as striped bass, and participation in the Marine Recreational Information Program, a federal survey program.

Additionally, anglers may use a web-based tool at <http://www.ncrecfish.com/> to record their individual fishing trips and monitor their fishing success. Information from the Coastal Angling Journal enables the division to better characterize and assess recreational fisheries.

Information gathered through this program is essential for the development of the state's fisheries management plans.



A brief on North Carolina's artificial reefs

Looking for a different, rewarding fishing experience?
Try fishing on one of North Carolina's artificial reefs.



Artificial reef inhabitants



Materials used in AR-430 aboard barge, headed for installation as artificial reef

The North Carolina Artificial Reef Program has been creating reefs since the 1970s. Currently, the program maintains 25 estuarine reefs and 43 ocean reefs. Artificial reefs are placed to provide opportunities for fishing, diving, and as habitat for fish and shellfish species throughout North Carolina. These reefs contain a variety of materials, including rock, recycled concrete, reef balls, and ships. Reefs are built throughout the coastal rivers, sounds, and from one-half mile to 40 miles offshore and are accessible from every maintained inlet in the state.

Many reefs are enhanced with the cooperation of local fishing clubs and reef organizations. These groups identify available materials, donate money, and

provide input on the location for the enhancements.

Artificial Reef Guide

Information about each reef site is available in the Artificial Reef Guide, a spiral bound book which contains coordinates for materials on each reef. All the materials shown are based off high-precision sidescan imagery and corroborated with deployment records. There is also an online Interactive Reef Guide, which contains the same information about material locations, but allows users to view sidescan sonar images of material, measure distances, and create custom maps. Additionally, by Summer 2018, anglers and divers will be able to download information about their favorite reef sites in

GPX format for use on marine chartplotters. This will eliminate the need to manually enter coordinates.

Recent Enhancements

The Artificial Reef Program recently completed several construction projects. Inshore, it concluded the first year of a three-year project to develop Swan Island Oyster Sanctuary near the mouth of Neuse River. In 2017, the program built 15 acres of habitat using 30,000 tons of marine limestone marl. Year two construction begins in Summer 2018 and will use approximately 25,000 tons of granite rock. Another inshore reef, AR-491, was constructed in the Cape Fear River. This is a unique reef as it is in shallow waters and accessible from shore at Carolina Beach State Park. The reef contains 700 tons of crushed concrete, covering about an acre.

The program recently completed several offshore projects, as well. It deployed nine Eternal Reef balls at AR-360, off Topsail Island. Eternal Reefs is a charitable organization that works with families and friends to encase the ashes of departed loved ones into the concrete used to construct reef balls. The Artificial Reef Program works with Eternal Reefs to deploy these memorials. Also, the program sank a barge and placed 1,606 tons of concrete pipe at AR-430, offshore of Oak Island to provide more nearshore fishing and diving opportunities.

Upcoming Enhancements

In 2018, several reef construction projects are planned, pending permits. The program plans to build two new inshore reefs, AR-380 and AR-381, in sheltered areas of Bogue Sound that are easily accessible by kayaks and small boats. The program plans to deploy a 98-foot tugboat and possibly another vessel, along with some recycled concrete on AR-320, offshore of Pine Knoll Shores. The program also continues to plan for use of materials from the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge demolition at Oregon Inlet. Plans call for placing up to 80,000 tons of concrete from this bridge on four offshore reefs, AR-130, AR-140, AR-145, and AR-160, all offshore of Dare County. Demolition of the bridge and reef construction are scheduled to begin in early 2019.

To learn more about the states artificial reefs, go to <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/artificial-reefs-program>. You can also email questions to artificialreefs@ncdenr.gov

Know the Difference Between Sheepshead and Black Drum

Sheepshead



Fully connected first and second dorsal fins

Forked tail



Prominent front teeth

Black Drum



First dorsal fin distinct from second dorsal fin

Rounded tail



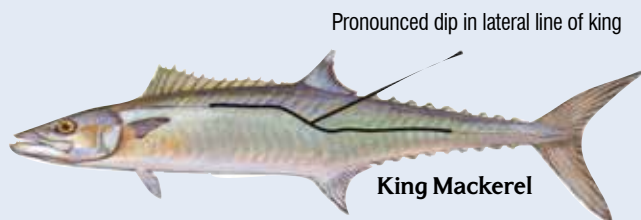
Chin barbels

Identifying Mackerels

They can look a lot alike, but the size limit on king mackerel is twice the length of Spanish, so you need to be able to tell them apart.

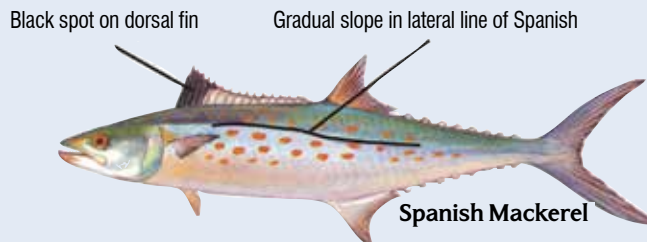
Both the adult Spanish mackerel and a juvenile king mackerel have gold spots on the body. However, the Spanish mackerel features a black spot on the first dorsal fin.

Another difference between the fish is that the king mackerel has a pronounced dip in the lateral line below the second dorsal fin. The lateral line on the Spanish mackerel gently curves to the tail.



Pronounced dip in lateral line of king

King Mackerel



Black spot on dorsal fin

Gradual slope in lateral line of Spanish

Spanish Mackerel

Common N.C. Saltwater Fishes



Amberjack
Seriola dumerili



Black Sea Bass
Centropristis striata



Striped Bass
Morone saxatilis



Bluefish
Pomatomus saltatrix



Cobia
Rachycentron canadum



Summer Flounder
Paralichthys dentatus



Gag
Mycteroperca microlepis



King Mackerel
Scomberomorus cavalla



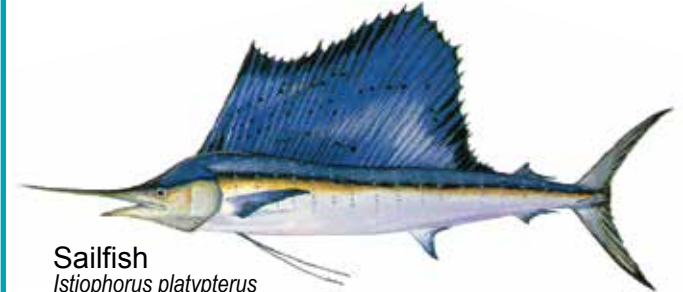
Spanish Mackerel
Scomberomorus maculatus



White Marlin
Tetrapturus albidus



Puffer
Sphoeroides maculatus



Sailfish
Istiophorus platypterus



Sheepshead
Archosargus probatocephalus



Vermilion Snapper
Rhomboplites aurorubens



Spadefish
Chaetodipterus faber



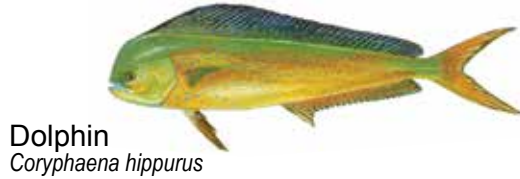
Croaker
Micropogonias undulatus



Blue Marlin
Makaira nigricans



Spot
Leiostomus xanthurus



Dolphin
Coryphaena hippurus



Sea Mullet
Menticirrhus americanus



Speckled Trout
Cynoscion nebulosus



Black Drum
Pogonias cromis



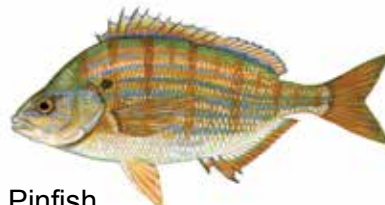
Pigfish
Orthopristis chrysoptera



Gray Trout
Cynoscion regalis



Red Drum
Sciaenops ocellatus



Pinfish
Lagodon rhomboides



Yellowfin Tuna
Thunnus albacares



False Albacore
Euthynnus alletteratus



Southern Flounder
Paralichthys lethostigma



Red Porgy
Pagrus pagrus

**To report fisheries violations, or for
information on rules and regulations call
252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.**



Wahoo
Acanthocybium solanderi

2018 Recreational Size and Bag Limits for N.C. Coastal Waters				
STATE COASTAL WATERS — (Internal and 0 – 3 miles)				
FINFISH SPECIES	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (per person)	Seasons	Comments
Amberjack, Greater	28" FL	1/day	Fishing year runs March 1 - Feb.28 Season closes when quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	Regulations subject to change. Contact the National Marine Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Office (978-231-9315) or http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/bsbass/index.html . Non-stainless steel circle hooks must be used when fishing for snapper-grouper species using natural baits.
Bass, Black Sea				
North of Cape Hatteras	12.5" TL	15/day	May 15 - Dec. 31	Regulations subject to change. Contact the National Marine Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Office (978-231-9315) or http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/bsbass/index.html . Non-stainless steel circle hooks must be used when fishing for snapper-grouper species using natural baits.
South of Cape Hatteras	13" TL	7/day	Fishing year runs April 1 - March 31 Season closes if quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	Regulations subject to change. See South Atlantic Fishery Management Council regulations page at http://safmc.net/regulations/regulations-by-species/ Non-stainless steel circle hooks must be used when fishing for snapper-grouper species using natural baits.
Bass, Striped				
Atlantic Ocean	28" TL	1/day	Open year round	All striped bass landed from the ocean May 1 - Oct. 31 are required to have a landings tag affixed through the mouth and gill cover. Landing tags may be obtained at N.C. Striped Bass Reporting Stations, ocean fishing piers, most tackle shops and from N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Recreational Port Agents. No gigging allowed.
Roanoke River Management Area	18" TL Unlawful to possess between 22"-27" TL	2/day, only one may be larger than 27" TL	March 1 - April 30 unless closed by proclamation when quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	
Albemarle Sound Management Area	18" TL	2/day	Open Oct. 1 - April 30 unless closed by proclamation when quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	
Cape Fear River	NO POSSESSION			Includes Cape Fear River and all tributaries.
Central Southern Management Area (All waters other than above)	18" TL and in joint and inland waters, unlawful to possess between 22"-27" TL	2/day	Oct.1-April 30	
Bluefish	None	15/day, only 5 greater than 24" TL		Regulations subject to change. Check website at http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ for updates.
Cobia	36" FL	1/person/day not to exceed 2/vessel/day	May 1-May 31	Regulations subject to change — See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations-current
		1/person/day not to exceed 1/vessel/day	June 1-Dec. 31	
		For-hire Vessels only 1/person/day not to exceed 4/vessel/day	For-hire Vessels only May 1-Dec. 31	
Dolphin	None	10/day or 60 fish/vessel, whichever is less	Closes when quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	Regulations subject to change. See South Atlantic Fishery Management Council regulations page at http://safmc.net/regulations/regulations-by-species/
Drum, Black	14" - 25" TL	10/day 1/person/day over 25" TL		

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Drum, Red (channel bass, puppy drum)	18" - 27" TL (slot)	1/day		Unlawful to gig, spear or gaff red drum. It is unlawful to use any hook larger than 4/0 from July 1 through Sept. 30 in the internal coastal fishing waters of Pamlico Sound and its tributaries south of the Albemarle Sound Management Area and north of a line beginning at a point 34° 59.7942' N - 76° 14.6514' W on Camp Point; running easterly to a point 34° 58.7853' N - 76° 09.8922' W on Core Banks while using natural bait from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. unless the terminal tackle consists of: (1) A circle hook defined as a hook with the point of the hook directed perpendicularly back toward the shank, and with the barb either compressed or removed; and (2) A fixed sinker not less than two ounces in weight, secured not more than six inches from the fixed weight to the circle hook.
Eel, American	9" TL	25/day	Open Jan. 1 - Aug. 31	Eel taken by baited pots allowed year round
Flounder	15" TL	4/day		
Groupers		3/day in any combination, including:	Closes when quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	Regulations subject to change. See South Atlantic Fishery Management Council regulations page at http://safmc.net/regulations/regulations-by-species/ Non-stainless steel circle hooks must be used when fishing for snapper-grouper species using natural baits.
Black	24" TL	1 black or 1 gag/day	Closed Jan. 1 - April 30	
Blueline tilefish	None		Open May 1 - Aug. 31	
Gag	24" TL	1 black or 1 gag/day	Closed Jan. 1 - April 30	
Golden tilefish	None	1/day		
Goliath	NO POSSESSION			
Nassau	NO POSSESSION			
Red grouper	20" TL		Closed Jan. 1 - April 30	Regulations subject to change. See South Atlantic Fishery Management Council regulations page at http://safmc.net/regulations/regulations-by-species/ Non-stainless steel circle hooks must be used when fishing for snapper-grouper species using natural baits.
Sand tilefish	None			
Scamp	20" TL		Closed Jan. 1 - April 30 See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	
Snowy	None	1/vessel/day	Open May 1 - Aug. 31	
Yellowfin	20" TL		Closed Jan. 1 - April 30	
Yellowmouth	20" TL		Closed Jan. 1 - April 30	
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	NO POSSESSION			
Hogfish (hog snapper)	17" FL	2/day	Closes when quota is reached.	
Mackerel			Closes when quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	Regulations subject to change. See South Atlantic Fishery Management Council regulations page at http://safmc.net/regulations/regulations-by-species/
King	24" FL	3/day		
Spanish	12" FL	15/day		
Marlin				Highly Migratory Species federal permit is required in state or federal waters. Contact 978-281-9370 or hmspermits.noaa.gov . Prior to removal from vessel, all billfish must be reported at NC HMS reporting stations. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ for details.
Blue	99" LJFL	1 blue or 1 white marlin/vessel/trip		
White	66" LJFL	1 blue or 1 white marlin/vessel/trip		
Mullet, striped and white	None	200/day (species combined)		

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2018 Recreational Size and Bag Limits for N.C. Coastal Waters				
STATE COASTAL WATERS — (Internal and 0 – 3 miles)				
FINFISH SPECIES	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (per person)	Seasons	Comments
Red Porgy (Silver snapper, pinky)	14" TL	3/day or 3/trip whichever is more restrictive	Closes when quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	Regulations subject to change. See South Atlantic Fishery Management Council regulations page at http://safmc.net/regulations/regulations-by-species/ . Non-stainless steel circle hooks must be used when fishing for snapper-grouper species using natural baits.
Sailfish	63" LJFL	1/day		Highly Migratory Species federal permit is required in state or federal waters. Contact 978-281-9370 or hmspermits.noaa.gov . Prior to removal from vessel, all billfish must be reported at NC HMS reporting stations. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ for details.
Scup (North of Cape Hatteras)	8" TL	50/day		
Seatrout, spotted (Speckled trout)	14" TL	4/day	Opens June 15, 2018	
Shad				It is unlawful to take American or hickory shad by any method except hook and line, Apr. 1 - Dec. 31 It is unlawful to take or possess American shad from the Atlantic Ocean. For aggregate creel limits for American shad and hickory shad, see most recent Proclamation.
American shad (All waters except as noted below)	None	10/day of American and hickory shad in any combination		
American shad in Cape Fear River and its tributaries	None	5/day as part of 10-fish American and hickory shad aggregate		
American shad in Albemarle Sound, Roanoke and Neuse rivers and their tributaries	None	1/day as part of 10-fish American and hickory shad aggregate		
American shad in Atlantic Ocean	NO POSSESSION			
Hickory shad (all waters)	None	10/day of American and hickory shad in any combination (see American shad limits above)		
Sharks				
Blacknose, blacktip, blue, bull, finetooth, lemon, nurse, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, shortfin mako spinner, thresher, tiger	54" FL	1/vessel/day in any combination		Regulations subject to change. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations
Great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead	78" FL			For more information and to obtain required federal permit, contact NMFS Highly Migratory Species 978-281-9370 or http://hmspermits.noaa.gov .
Atlantic sharpnose	None	1/person/trip in addition to 1/shark/vessel		No possession of great hammerhead, scallop hammerhead, smooth hammerhead or oceanic whitetip while in possession of tunas, billfish or swordfish.
Bonnethead	None	1/person/trip in addition to 1/shark/vessel		Prohibited species: Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thrasher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galápagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sand tiger, sandbar, silky, sevengill, sixgill, smalltail, whale, whites.
Dogfish (smooth)	None	None		
Dogfish (spiny)	None	None		

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Sheepshead	10" FL	10/day		
Snapper-Grouper Complex			Closes when quota is reached.	
Almaco jack, banded rudderfish, gray triggerfish, jolthead porgy, knobbed porgy, lesser amberjack, margate, scup (south of Hatteras), spadefish, whitebone porgy, white grunt, saucereye porgy, sailor's choice and bar jack	Gray triggerfish 12" FL	20/day in any combination	See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	Regulations subject to change. See South Atlantic Fishery Management Council regulations page at http://safmc.net/regulations/regulations-by-species/ Non-stainless steel circle hooks must be used when fishing for snapper-grouper species using natural baits.
Snappers		10/day any combination	Closes when quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	Regulations subject to change. See South Atlantic Fishery Management Council regulations page at http://safmc.net/regulations/regulations-by-species/ Non-stainless steel circle hooks must be used when fishing for snapper-grouper species using natural baits.
Blackfin, cubera, gray, queen, silk, yellowtail	12" TL			
Lane snapper	8" TL			
Mutton snapper	18" TL	5/day		
Red snapper	NO POSSESSION			
Vermilion snapper	12" TL	5/day in addition to the 10 snapper limit	Closes when quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	
Sturgeon	NO POSSESSION			
Tarpon	None	1/day		
Tuna				Highly Migratory Species federal permit is required in state or federal waters. Contact 978-281-9370 or hmspermits.noaa.gov . Regulations are subject to change. Contact NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division (800-894-5528 http://www.orhmspermits.noaa.gov or nmfs.noaa.gov) for up-to-date information. Prior to removal from vessel, all bluefin tuna must be reported at NC HMS reporting stations. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ for more details.
Bigeye	27" CFL			
Bluefin				
Yellowfin	27" CFL	3/day		
Wahoo	None	2/day	Closes when quota is reached. See http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations	Closes when quota is reached. See South Atlantic Fishery Management Council regulations page at http://safmc.net/regulations/regulations-by-species/
Weakfish (Gray Trout)	12" TL	1/day		
Wreckfish	None	1/Vessel/Day	Open July 1 - Aug. 31	

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SHELLFISH				
Species	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (Per Person)	Seasons	Comments
Blue Crab	5" carapace width (minimum for males)	50 crabs/day not to exceed 100 crabs/vessel/day		One crab pot may be used without a license from private property or private pier. Recreational Commercial Gear License required otherwise. See maps for open/closed areas at http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ .
Hard Clam	1" thick	100 clams/day not to exceed 200 clams/vessel/day		Frequent temporary closures due to stormwater runoff and rainfall apply to all shellfish harvest. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries at 800-682-2632 or visit http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ proclamations for seasons, areas, or other restrictions.
Oyster	3" shell length	1 bushel/day not to exceed 2 bushels/vessel/day	Open by proclamation Oct. 15 - March 31 (http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/)	Frequent temporary closures due to stormwater runoff and rainfall apply to all shellfish harvest. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries at 800-682-2632 or visit http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ proclamations for seasons, areas, or other restrictions.
Bay Scallop	None	1/2 bushel/day not to exceed 1 bushel/vessel/day	Closed unless opened by proclamation. (http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations)	
Conchs and Whelks	None	10/day not to exceed 20/vessel/day		
Mussels	None	100/day not to exceed 200/vessel/day		Frequent temporary closures due to stormwater runoff and rainfall apply to all shellfish harvest. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries at 800-682-2632 or visit http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ proclamations for seasons, areas, or other restrictions.
Shrimp	None	Closed shrimping area — 4 quarts heads on 2-1/2 quarts heads off/day (Cast net only) Open shrimping area — 48 quarts heads on, 30 quarts heads off (Per person or vessel)*		Recreational Commercial Gear License required for use of a shrimp trawl, shrimp pound and shrimp pots *Recreational Commercial Gear License holders may keep two limits of shrimp, when two or more license holders are on board a vessel, using commercial gear, while shrimping in open waters. See maps for open/closed areas at http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/maps-to-view-and-print
Stone Crabs	2 3/4" propodus (forearm)	No limit on claws	Closed June 15 - Aug. 15	No possession of crab body; no removal of claw from egg-bearing crabs; no gigging.

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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. Curved fork length (CFL) is the measurement of the length taken in a line tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail.

Anglers cannot catch both a federal and state bag limit for the same species on the same trip.

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.

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Telephone Directory

Morehead City Office (24 hours) 800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021	Elizabeth City Office 800-338-7805 (N.C. only) or 252-264-3911	Manteo Office 252-473-5734	Washington Office 800-338-7804 or 252-946-6481	Wilmington Office 800-248-4536 (N.C. only) or 910-796-7215
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Federal and State Agency Telephone Directory

Federal Regulations National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): 813-893-3722	State of N.C. — Freshwater Regulations N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC): 800-662-7137
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Recreational Water Quality Program tests for more than meets the eye



When it comes to fishing in coastal waters, there's more than meets the eye. Many microorganisms inhabit the ocean, rivers and sounds, and not all of them are good for humans.

The N.C. Recreational Water Quality Program offers anglers and beachgoers a way to know more about bacteria levels not only at the beach, but also in waters where many popular fishing holes are located.

The N.C. Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality Section of the Division of Marine Fisheries started monitoring coastal recreational water quality in 1997 with the main goal of protecting public health. The program monitors bacteria levels in coastal waters and notifies the public when those levels exceed what is safe for bodily contact.

The program tests popular recreational areas for a bacteria group called Enterococci, which is found in the guts of humans and other warm-blooded animals. Enterococci bacteria are not known to be harmful themselves, but are associated with other pathogenic organisms that can cause illness.

Illness-causing organisms can come from poorly treated wastewater from sewage treatment plants, malfunctioning septic systems and boat discharges. They can also come from storm water runoff from agricultural and urban areas that deliver pathogens from humans, livestock, wildlife and pets into recreational waters.

Swimming, surf fishing, fishing while wading or having contact with waters that are under a swimming advisory may increase the risk of illness. The most common illnesses associated with polluted water are gastrointestinal diseases caused by bacteria, viruses and parasitic protozoans. Ear, nose, throat, skin and respiratory infections are also commonly associated with swimming in contaminated water.

North Carolina's coastal recreational waters are generally clean — the state repeatedly ranks amongst the highest in the nation in coastal water quality. On average, the Recreational Water Quality Program collects around 6,000 water samples each year, and less than 2 percent of the samples exceed the water quality standard that warrant a swimming advisory. This relatively low number of advisories and total days posted shows that the problems are primarily localized and temporary.

Still, anglers should stay up-to-date on water quality in the areas where they fish. Those who wish to find out about current advisories can visit the program's website at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-water-quality> or follow on Twitter @ncrecprgm.

Don't look to seawater to cure wounds



There's a longstanding myth that seawater cures almost any ill. Don't believe it!

Clean saltwater may help heal wounds, but seawater contains any number of harmful microscopic organisms that can make people sick, and even kill someone who is not healthy. Some of the biggest culprits are *Vibrio* bacteria. *Vibrio* are naturally occurring, microscopic organisms, not associated with water pollution. They are abundantly found in North Carolina's coastal waters during the warm water months of May through October, but are also present year-round.

Vibrio vulnificus infections are rare but can be fatal for people with liver disease, diabetes, or otherwise weakened immune systems. More common infections from other *Vibrio* bacteria, such as *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* are not as fatal but affect more people — healthy people with healthy immune systems.

Anglers can get these bacteria by ingestion, such as eating undercooked or raw shellfish, or through open wounds on the skin. Any angler stuck by a fish spine, pinched by a crab, or pricked by shrimp or any other saltwater animal needs to take precautions to avoid a *Vibrio* wound infection. Even insect bites are potential openings for bacteria.

Anglers who have wounds should either stay out of brackish and salt water or cover the wound with a waterproof bandage. If an open wound is exposed to seawater here's what to do:

1. Flush out the wound with sterile water. Those on a boat can use bottled water. Do not try to clean a wound with seawater.
2. As soon as possible, wash the wound with soap and water.
3. Then, flush and clean the wound with hydrogen peroxide and an iodine antiseptic solution (such as Betadine). Both are available at drug stores and should be included in a boat's first aid kit.

Anglers who think they may have developed a skin infection should seek immediate medical attention, and tell the doctor that they have been exposed to seawater, and may have a *Vibrio* infection.

Fishermen can find more information on Vibrios at the Centers for Disease Control website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vibrio/index.html> or the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory website at <http://gcrf.usm.edu/microbiology/vibrio.vulnificus.threat.via.wounds.php>

Become fluent in flounder identification

It is arguably the most popular fish species in North Carolina coastal waters. Anglers love to catch a flounder.

In fact, flounder consistently ranks as the top species targeted by recreational fishermen in North Carolina coastal waters.

Three species of flounder are typically caught in North Carolina waters: southern, summer and gulf. While they may look alike to the untrained eye, these species exhibit distinctive markings, and anglers need to know how to distinguish between them.

Why identify flounder

The three species don't just vary in appearance, they move in different migration patterns and are managed by separate government fisheries agencies and fishery management plans. This means researchers need to study them independently.

One of the ways the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries does research on fishes is by collecting information on recreational fishing catch and effort through in-person and mail surveys. Staff talk to more than 20,000 anglers each year on the beach, at the piers and at boat ramps to find out what they caught, what they threw back, where and how long they fished and other information. Anglers who can identify the species of flounder caught will help scientists better understand the status of these fish stocks and how to manage the recreational flounder fishery.



Southern Flounder:

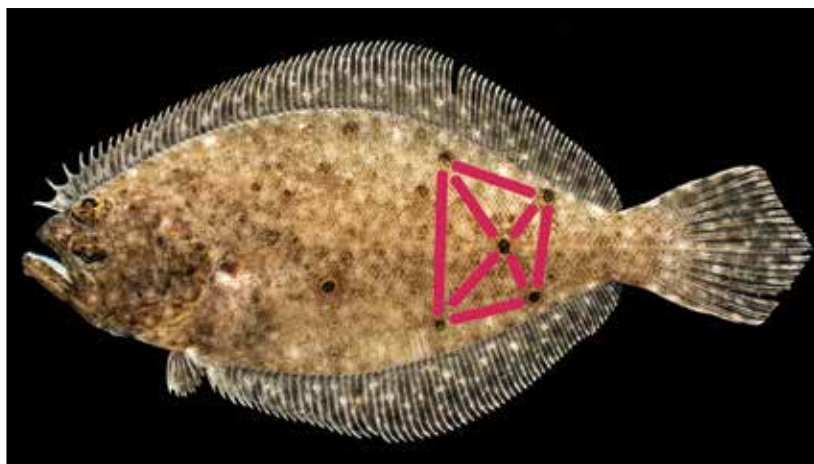
This is the most common flounder caught in North Carolina, especially in estuarine waters.

Non-ocellated spots cover the body

Upper jaw extends to beyond rear margin of eye

Eight to 11 gill rakers on lower limb of first gill arch

Sixty-three to 74 anal fin rays



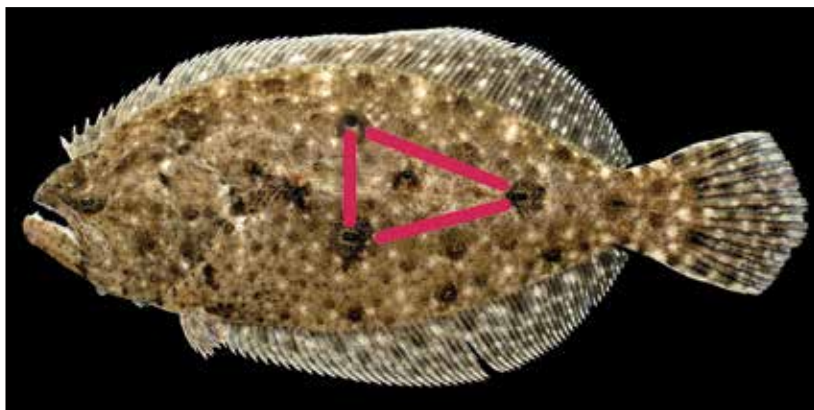
Summer Flounder:

This species is commonly seen around inlets, in the ocean and in estuarine waters. At least five ocellated spots on body — five prominent ocelli form the pattern from the

five-side of a die

Upper jaw extends to rear margin of eye. Thirteen to 18 gill rakers on lower limb of first gill arch

Sixty to 73 anal fin rays



Gulf Flounder:

This species is occasionally seen in North Carolina waters, usually in the ocean. Three prominent ocellated spots form triangle on body, apex towards caudal fin (can have more than three over entire

body, but three will be prominent)

Upper jaw extends beyond rear margin of eye

Nine to 12 gill rakers on lower limb of first gill arch

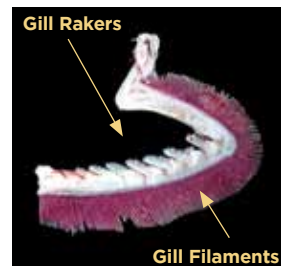
Fifty-six to 63 anal fin rays



Ocellated / eye spot
(Summer and gulf flounder)



Non-ocellated spot
(Southern flounder)



What are gill rakers?

Gill rakers are bony protrusions that extend outward from the gill arch. They appear in this image as white finger like projections on the top of the gill arch. They are used differently in various fish species, depending on their feeding habits. In flounder, they work to guide baitfish into the esophagus and to protect the gill filaments from damage. Gill filaments are the thin, red projections on the bottom of the gill arch. Gill filaments are used in gas exchange, and are red with blood.



Eight to 11 short, stubby gill rakers

Fish with no ocellated spots, and short, stubby gill rakers are southern flounder



Thirteen or more long, thin gill rakers

Fish with ocellated spots and long, thin gill rakers are summer flounder



Nine to 12 short, stubby gill rakers

Fish with ocellated spots and short, stubby gill rakers are gulf flounder

Ocellated or "eye" spots are ringed markings. They are found on summer flounder and Gulf flounder. Southern flounder do not have ocellated spots.

Recreational fishing does not always involve a rod-and-reel. Below is some information you need to know if you want to fish with gigs, cast nets or pots.

Gig, Spear and Crossbow Fishing

Individuals need to hold a Coastal Recreational Fishing License to gig, spear or crossbow fish in North Carolina.

Properly licensed recreational fishermen are allowed to gig or spear any species except red drum, sharks, spiny lobster, stone crabs, tarpon or any species that is not in season.

Recreational size and bag limits apply and sale of catch is prohibited.



Cast Nets

There are no regulations limiting the size of cast nets used in N.C. coastal waters. A cast net may be used year-round in all coastal waters of the state.

Those who target finfish with a cast net need to hold a Coastal Recreational Fishing License. This includes cast netting for minnows or other bait fish.

No license or permit is needed to cast net for shrimp for recreational purposes, but you need a Coastal Recreational Fishing License to keep any finfish you catch.

Recreational size and bag limits apply and sale of catch is prohibited.

Crab Fishing

No license is needed to set one pot per person from a private pier or shoreline. No buoy or identification is required.

No license is needed to use collapsible crab traps as long as the largest open dimension is no larger than 18 inches and the traps are designed to collapse at all times when in the water, except when they are being retrieved from or lowered to the bottom.

No license is needed for chicken necking (using a hand line with chicken as bait).

Recreational harvest limits apply and sale of catch is prohibited.

Other than the activities described above, a Recreational Commercial Gear License is needed to fish for crabs.



For the most up-to-date recreational size and bag limits, see <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits>

North Carolina Fishing — What's Hot and When



Bluefish



Southern Flounder



Spanish Mackerel



Dolphin (mahi mahi)



Spotted Seatrout

January

FISH: Black sea bass, bluefin tuna, striped bass (ocean, coastal rivers). **SHELLFISH:** clams, oysters

February

FISH: American and hickory shad (coastal river tributaries), black sea bass, bluefin tuna, striped bass (ocean, coastal rivers). **SHELLFISH:** clams, oysters

March

FISH: American and hickory shad (coastal river tributaries), black sea bass, bluefin tuna, bluefish, sea mullet, striped bass (coastal rivers), wahoo, weakfish, yellowfin tuna. **SHELLFISH:** clams, oysters

April

FISH: American shad (coastal rivers), black sea bass, bluefin tuna, bluefish, dolphin, king mackerel, red drum, sea mullet, spotted seatrout, striped bass (coastal rivers), wahoo, weakfish, yellowfin tuna. **SHELLFISH:** clams.

May

FISH: Bluefish, cobia, croaker, dolphin, flounder, grouper, king mackerel, sea mullet, sharks, sheepshead, Spanish mackerel, spotted seatrout (sounds), striped bass (coastal rivers), wahoo, weakfish, yellowfin tuna. **SHELLFISH:** clams, hard crabs, soft crabs.

June

FISH: Blue marlin, bluefish, cobia, croaker, dolphin, flounder, grouper, king mackerel, sailfish, sharks, sheepshead, Spanish mackerel, spotted seatrout, tuna, weakfish, white marlin. **SHELLFISH:** clams, hard crabs, soft crabs.

July

FISH: Blue marlin, bluefish, cobia, croaker, flounder, dolphin, grouper, sailfish, sea mullet, sheepshead, Spanish mackerel, tarpon, tuna, white marlin. **SHELLFISH:** clams, hard crabs, soft crabs, shrimp.

August

FISH: Bluefish, cobia, croaker, dolphin, flounder, grouper, red drum, sea mullet, sheepshead, Spanish mackerel, spot, tarpon, tuna, white marlin. **SHELLFISH:** clams, hard crabs, soft crabs, shrimp.

September

FISH: Bluefish, black drum, cobia, dolphin, false albacore, flounder, grouper, king mackerel, red drum, sea mullet, sheepshead, Spanish mackerel, spot, wahoo, weakfish, white marlin. **SHELLFISH:** clams, hard crabs, soft crabs, shrimp.

October

FISH: Black drum, black sea bass, bluefish, dolphin, false albacore, flounder, grouper, king mackerel, red drum, sea mullet, sheepshead, spot, spotted seatrout, striped bass (coastal rivers), wahoo, weakfish, yellowfin tuna. **SHELLFISH:** clams, oysters, shrimp.

November

FISH: Black drum, black sea bass, bluefish, false albacore, grouper, king mackerel, red drum, sea mullet, sharks, spotted seatrout, striped bass (coastal rivers), wahoo, yellowfin tuna. **SHELLFISH:** clams, oysters.

December

FISH: Black sea bass, bluefin tuna, bluefish, grouper, sharks, spotted seatrout, striped bass (ocean and coastal rivers). **SHELLFISH:** clams, oysters.



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