

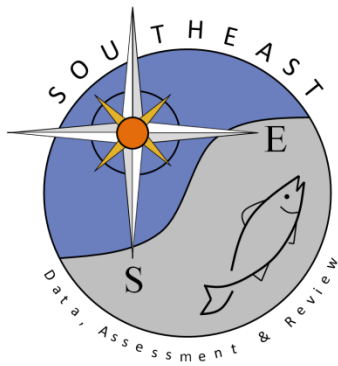
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Red Snapper Carcass Collections, 2012-2013

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (contact: Michelle Duval)

SEDAR41-DW21

Submitted: 19 July 2014

Revised: 26 August 2014



This information is distributed solely for the purpose of pre-dissemination peer review. It does not represent and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.

Please cite this document as:

NCDMF. 2014. North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Red Snapper Carcass Collections 2012-2013. SEDAR41-DW21. SEDAR, North Charleston, SC. 10 pp.

**N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Red Snapper Carcass Collections
2012-2013**



July 2014

Abstract

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) implemented a pilot red snapper carcass collection program in 2012 and 2013 to coincide with the limited re-opening of the fishery in each of these years. The goal of the program was to obtain additional biological data from recreationally-harvested fish for use in next scheduled red snapper stock assessment. Freezers were placed at eight locations throughout the state and publicized through press releases and outreach materials posted on the NCDMF website. A total of 82 carcasses were collected in 2012, and a total of 34 were collected in 2013. The challenges of managing a carcass program include the failure of some anglers to follow/understand posted instructions and the non-random nature of donated carcasses. Despite these challenges, NCDMF plans to continue and improve upon the program for the 2014 red snapper limited opening.

Based on 2013 data in the biological database and on catch cards, it is likely that the two fish from the northern region were from charter boats, and the 15 fish from the central region were from headboats.

Discussion

NCDMF recreational port samplers made concerted efforts to promote the carcass program and encourage anglers to participate. Consequently, carcasses donated by private anglers and charter vessels cannot be considered random with regard to being representative of the catch. The majority of carcasses were donated by anglers fishing from headboats who were sampled by NOAA recreational port agents according to standard protocol, and can therefore be considered random. Efforts were made to coordinate between NOAA Fisheries headboat samplers and NCDMF recreational port samplers assigned to headboats. Anglers whose fish were sampled by NOAA Fisheries headboat staff were directed to NCDMF staff to fill out catch cards and donate carcasses if they so desired. In those instances, the remaining otolith from donated carcass which was later extracted by NCDMF biologists, as NOAA Fisheries samplers typically remove only one otolith from sampled fish. These duplicates were noted in the NCDMF Biological Database during entry and can therefore be excluded from the total number of samples used in age and growth analyses.

Based on submission of catch cards without carcasses, it is evident that there was still some confusion regarding the process and the requirement to donate a carcass in conjunction with a catch card in order to receive an award citation. NCDMF recreational samplers reported being contacted by anglers inquiring about citations that they had not received, and confirmed that several of these individuals had turned in catch cards without carcasses.

It also appears that many anglers are either unwilling or too impatient to fill out a card and donate a carcass, despite the incentive of an award citation. As this program continues, NCDMF will seek feedback from anglers, charter and headboat captains, and other staff regarding improvements that will maximize the number of carcasses collected.

Table 1. Name and address of freezer locations for NC carcass collection pilot program, 2012 and 2013.

Facility	Address
Oden's Dock	57878 NC Hwy 12, Hatteras, NC 27943
Carolina Princess	604 Evans St. Morehead City, NC 28557
Capt. Stacy Fishing Center	416 Atlantic Beach Cswy, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512
Dudley's Marina	106 Cedar Point Blvd, Cedar Point, NC 28584
Tex's Tackle and Bait	215 Old Eastwood Rd, Wilmington, NC 28403
Ocean Isle Fishing Center	65 Causeway Drive, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
Hurricane Fleet	9975 Nance Street, Calabash, NC 28467
Carolina Beach Fishing Center	313 Canal Drive, Carolina Beach, NC 28428

Table 2. Total carcass numbers by fishing mode (2012 and 2013).

YEAR	MODE	TOTALS
2012	Charter	40
	Headboat	39
	Private	3
	GRAND TOTAL	82
2013	Charter	2
	Headboat	29
	Private	3
	GRAND TOTAL	34

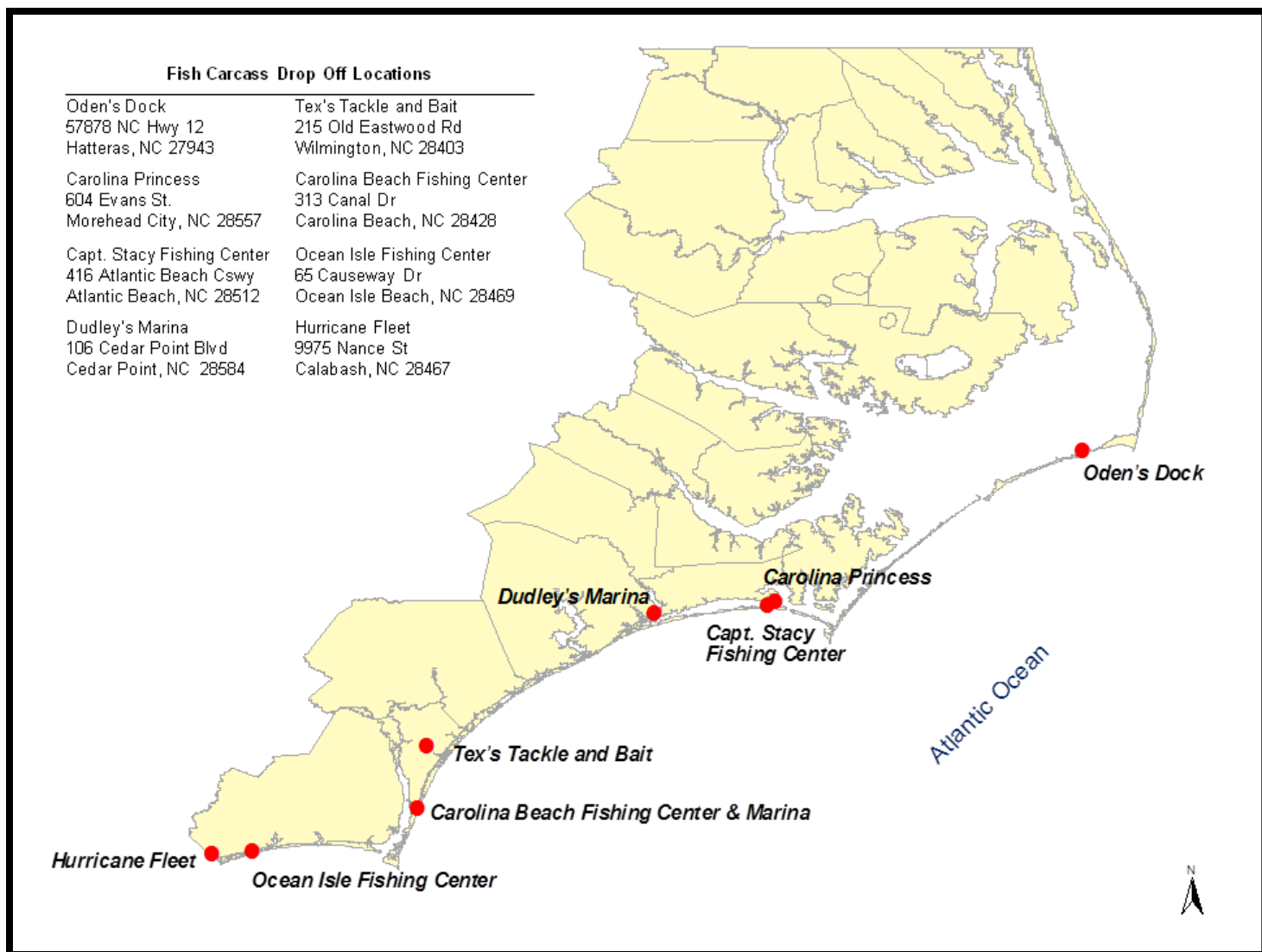


Figure 1. Map showing NC carcass collection pilot program freezer locations, 2012 and 2013.

