

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

The purpose of the species accounts is to provide interested readers with summaries of the biology and fisheries for particular species. In this report, six managed species or groups were included in this section. The species accounts provide available: 1) life history information such as distribution, growth, reproduction, and food habits; 2) the geographic distribution of statewide landings in 2018 and the annual landings by coasts and by the commercial and recreational sectors during 1982-2018; 3) trends in commercial landings rates (1992-2018), recreational total-catch rates (1991-2018), and fishery-independent monitoring catch rates (1996 or 1997 to 2018); 4) trends in observed disease and developmental abnormalities; and 5) results of recent stock assessments. In some cases when the fishery-independent monitoring data are sparse, there are no graphs of these data in the species accounts but the data are listed in Appendix A.

The numbers of observations from the commercial or recreational fisheries and from the fisheries-independent monitoring program listed in the Appendix will occasionally differ from those numbers found on the catch-rate graphs shown in the species accounts. The number of observations listed in the Appendix is the number of observations in the data for that specific species or group. The number of observations on the catch rate graphs can be: 1) lower if there are missing variable values associated with some of the catch data used in the standardization analysis or 2) higher if the data used in the standardization include more than just the records for a species. The latter occurs for the recreational analyses when the assumed targeted species is at an aggregate level, e.g. drums, trout, or jacks.

The geographic distribution of landings (where fish or invertebrates are brought ashore) in 2018 are shown by species or species group. Commercial fishery statistics are collected at the county level, and the distribution maps show the general level of landings (in pounds) for each species or species group by county. Recreational fishery statistics are collected by the NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), but the catch and effort statistics are not available at the county level. Recreational catch and effort are estimated instead for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of Florida by the MRIP (see <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/index.html>). These estimates are used to produce the maps showing the distribution of recreational landings (in terms of numbers of fish) in 2018.