



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 24, 2019
To: Chris Moore, Executive Director
From: Dr. Jerome Hermsen (GARFO APSD) and Julia Beaty (MAFMC staff)
Subject: Unmanaged species landings monitoring, 2014-2018

The data on the following pages were compiled by staff at the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Analysis and Program Support Division. The purpose of this report is to allow the Council to monitor commercial landings of unmanaged species in the northeast region. This report is meant to provide a high-level summary to determine if any further evaluation is needed.

The table on page 2 contains the top 25 unmanaged species by weight landed during 2014-2018. The second table contains the top 25 finfish species by weight landed. The third table contains landings of Mid-Atlantic Council ecosystem component species.

In this context, “unmanaged” means species managed by the Mid-Atlantic Council through the Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment as ecosystem component species, as well as other species not managed by the Mid-Atlantic or New England Fishery Management Councils, NOAA HMS, or the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). It also includes species managed in the South Atlantic, but not in the mid-Atlantic, by the South Atlantic Council (e.g., vermilion snapper, triggerfish, brown shrimp)¹ and species managed by individual states, but not by a council or the ASMFC (e.g., blue crab, southern flounder).

The data were accessed from the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Data Warehouse. Both state-only and federal dealer reports are included. The data account for state-only permitted dealers located in the northeast as well as all dealers with GARFO permits, regardless of location.

Blue catfish, an invasive species in this region, had the highest landings of any unmanaged finfish species (average of 4.1 million pounds during 2014-2018). Gizzard shad, an inshore species, had a potentially noteworthy increase in landings in 2018 (3.7 million pounds in 2018 compared to 2.6 million or fewer pounds during 2014-2017).

Little tuna, harvest fish, and cutlassfish were all considered for inclusion in the Forage Amendment. Little tuna and cutlassfish were not included due to their size and high trophic level. Harvest fish was not included due to its prevalence in state waters and the existence of state-waters fisheries for this species.

¹ When considering landings only in areas where they are unmanaged (e.g., north of the VA/NC border), no species managed by the South Atlantic Council were in the top 25 species landed by weight.

Top 25 Unmanaged Species Annual Landings, 2014-2018

Report Run on: 2019-05-16.

For data reported through 2019-05-15.

Cells marked with a 'C' are confidential. Averages do not include confidential data.

Species Common Name	Species Code	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Avg Annual Pounds
OYSTERS	789	94,010,451	104,664,825	85,690,921	90,482,053	83,151,224	91,599,895
CRAB, BLUE	700	56,933,141	72,059,795	77,968,809	67,743,019	62,708,918	67,482,736
QUAHOG	748	49,692,624	49,522,605	54,255,529	47,076,655	45,655,419	49,240,566
MUSSELS	781	19,950,166	29,448,019	21,793,939	19,383,184	15,861,037	21,287,269
ROCKWEED	832	16,282,440	14,981,702	17,367,229	20,355,995	22,306,177	18,258,709
CLAM, SOFT	763	13,098,139	12,649,956	12,474,733	12,229,958	11,850,035	12,460,564
CATFISH, BLUE	67	2,250,414	3,697,016	4,123,309	5,395,707	4,942,896	4,081,868
CRUSTACEANS NK	834	0	1,740,271	5,889,358	7,319,472	2,953,330	3,580,486
WHELK, CHANNELED	776	3,251,980	3,599,756	3,402,590	2,270,558	2,509,461	3,006,869
WHELK, KNOBBED	777	3,962,267	3,182,240	2,117,671	2,638,271	2,966,161	2,973,322
GIZZARD SHAD	134	2,268,080	2,539,009	1,587,993	2,620,317	3,756,741	2,554,428
CRAB, ROCK	712	2,128,454	1,879,043	1,673,250	2,679,078	2,672,161	2,206,397
SEA URCHINS	805	2,018,628	1,824,626	2,114,258	1,990,407	2,067,456	2,003,075
OTHER FISH	526	4,740,194	1,975,188	1,331,018	833,726	1,039,378	1,983,901
CATFISH, CHANNEL	68	2,103,905	2,171,979	1,954,140	2,047,281	1,375,401	1,930,541
PERCH, WHITE	506	1,673,490	1,834,892	1,990,355	1,857,387	2,032,578	1,877,740
SCALLOP, BAY	799	1,408,486	809,305	784,321	2,169,583	4,104,738	1,855,287
CONCHS	775	2,039,656	2,667,430	1,066,432	1,275,214	1,898,302	1,789,407
HAGFISH	150	2,052,071	2,204,603	1,871,105	1,558,251	C	1,921,508
STRIPED MULLET	235	1,039,491	612,729	461,745	779,101	833,138	745,241
PERIWINKLES	798	830,554	751,980	624,691	730,408	660,960	719,719
WHITING, KING	197	661,874	564,373	582,919	825,005	336,431	594,120
CLAM, RAZOR	760	534,857	411,231	407,820	616,260	769,404	547,914
FLOUNDER, SOUTHERN	130	785,777	467,980	342,087	554,388	444,008	518,848
WORMS	823	C	C	C	C	C	C

Top 25 Unmanaged Finfish Species Annual Landings, 2014-2018

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OTHER FISH	526	4,740,194	1,975,188	1,331,018	833,726	1,039,378	1,983,901
CATFISH, CHANNEL	68	2,103,905	2,171,979	1,954,140	2,047,281	1,375,401	1,930,541
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WHITING, KING	197	661,874	564,373	582,919	825,005	336,431	594,120
FLOUNDER, SOUTHERN	130	785,777	467,980	342,087	554,388	444,008	518,848
TUNA, LITTLE	468	320,706	212,072	220,244	279,355	232,562	252,988
CARP	63	131,255	190,669	193,763	337,136	283,307	227,226
HARVEST FISH	165	242,690	237,082	209,841	173,448	160,550	204,722
CATFISH (SEA)	69	726,510	122,786	94,736	19,328	58,639	204,400
JOHN DORY	188	70,139	206,857	209,695	246,233	122,579	171,101
SEA ROBINS	341	149,450	122,319	206,341	149,469	72,325	139,981
WEAKFISH, SPOTTED	345	202,119	64,649	123,040	204,974	70,407	133,038
CUTLASSFISH, ATLANTIC	99	169,687	183,313	61,042	50,840	158,763	124,729
CUSK	96	112,937	100,751	85,478	72,107	55,749	85,404
PUFFER, NORTHERN	429	58,295	91,413	102,934	101,232	65,347	83,844
SHEEPSHEAD	356	88,320	85,831	57,415	79,196	61,464	74,445
EEL, CONGER	116	103,083	44,874	47,459	57,568	90,784	68,754
BULLHEADS	45	32,248	69,750	58,658	114,170	56,521	66,269
CATFISH (FRESHWATER)	66	C	C	C	C	C	C
BONITO	33	80,619	69,033	47,030	51,819	41,508	58,002
PERCH, YELLOW	517	31,397	C	C	C	C	C

MAFMC Ecosystem Component Species Annual Landings, 2014-2018

Report Run on: 2019-05-16.

For data reported through 2019-05-15.

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Species Common Name	Species Code	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Avg Annual Pounds
MOLLUSKS NK	804	335,365	619,872	96,249	179,466	158,075	277,805
SILVERSIDE, NK	363	37,390	61,286	120,019	37,976	20,664	55,467
SILVERSIDE, ATLANTIC	362	23,059	21,595	33,290	23,172	17,110	23,645
HERRING (NK)	167	11,910	C	49,567	C	C	30,739
HERRING, ATL THREAD	174	C	C	C	30,482	11,515	20,999
SQUIDS, LOLIGINIDAE	803	1,570	659	10,940	5,056	C	4,556
EEL, SAND (LAUNCE)	206	4,200	3,367	C	C	C	3,784
HERRING, ROUND	166	0	0	0	224	4,339	913
ARGENTINE	171	0	C	0	0	0	C