

NC Long Haul Seine Fishery

Fishing gear type: Haul seine

Current category: Category II*

Basis for current classification on the LOF: The 2010 LOF included a superscript “1” following bottlenose dolphin (WNA coastal stock) because the annual mortality and serious injury of that stock in this fishery was greater than 1% and less than 50% of the stock’s Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level. When the stocks of bottlenose dolphins killed/injured in this fishery were updated on the 2011 LOF, the superscript “1” was retained after the new stocks because NMFS cannot yet differentiate to which stock a killed/injured animal belongs. In this case, there is only one stock the killed/injured animals could have come from.

Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed (a⁽¹⁾ indicates those stocks driving the fishery’s classification): Bottlenose dolphin, Northern North Carolina (NC) estuarine system⁽¹⁾; Bottlenose dolphin, Southern NC estuarine system.

Estimated number of current participants: 372

Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery: Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (BDTRP), 50 CFR 229.35.

Year added to the LOF: 2001

Category when originally listed: Category II

Basis for original classification on the LOF: This fishery was created by separating it from the Category II "Mid-Atlantic haul/beach seine" fishery because slight differences in the type of gear are used. This fishery remained a Category II based on observer data of three live-released dolphins and stranding records of interactions.

Estimated number of participants when originally listed: 33

Past names, if any: None.

Gear description/method for fishing: This fishery uses multi-filament seines consisting of a 1,000-2,000 yard (3,000-6,000 ft) net pulled by two boats for 1-2 nmi (2-4 km). Fish are encircled and concentrated by pulling the net around a fixed stake.

Target species: This fishery targets species including, but not limited to: weakfish, spot, croaker, menhaden, bluefish, spotted seatrout, and hogfish.

Spatial/temporal distribution of effort: The fishery includes fishing with long haul seine gear to target any species in waters off North Carolina, including estuarine waters in Pamlico and Core Sounds and their tributaries. The fishery occurs from February-November, with peak effort occurring from June-October.

Levels of observer coverage each year[†]: There has not been observer coverage in this fishery.

* The fishery is classified based on mortalities and serious injuries of a marine mammal stock greater than 1% and less than 50% (Category II) of the stock’s Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.

[†] Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Report (SAR).

Management and regulations: The fishery is managed under Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plans, and is an affected fishery under the BDTRP.

History of Changes on the LOF

2012 LOF: Added bottlenose dolphin (Southern NC estuarine system stock) to the list of species/stocks killed/injured in this fishery. Three bottlenose dolphins were caught and released alive in this fishery; however, the level of injury for these three dolphins was undetermined. The 2010 SAR stated that this fishery is known to interact with this stock.

2011 LOF:

- Updated the stock name for bottlenose dolphins killed/injured in this fishery, based on the revised stock structure presented in the final 2008 and 2009 SARs. Replaced bottlenose dolphin (WNA coastal) with the following stock: bottlenose dolphin (Northern NC estuarine system). Retained a superscript “1” after this stock because the 2010 LOF includes a superscript “1” following bottlenose dolphin (WNA coastal).
- Estimated number of participants updated from 33 to 372. This estimation may be an inflation of actual effort; however, it represents the potential effort for the fishery, given the multiple gear types several state permits may allow for.

2006 LOF: Added a superscript “1” in Table 2 after bottlenose dolphin (WNA), indicating that this stock is driving the categorization of this fishery.