

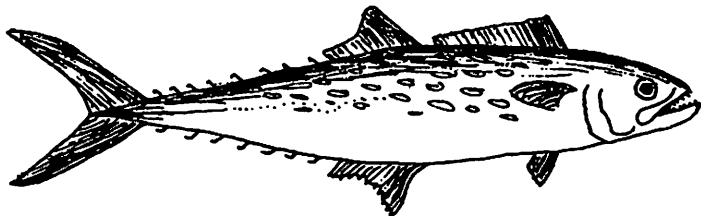
King Mackerel (2 to 4 feet)



Black Drum (1 to 2 feet)



Flounder (to 2 feet)



Spanish Mackerel (1 to 3 feet)

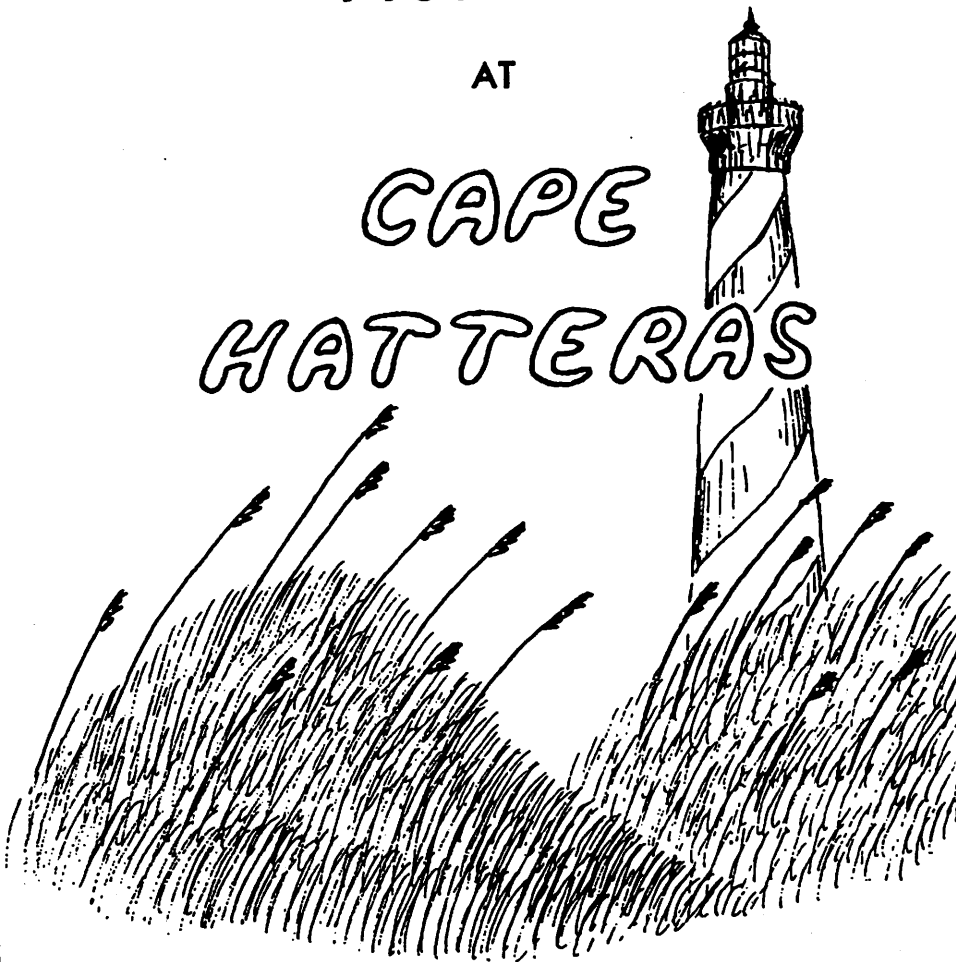


Spot (to 1 foot)

# FISHING

AT

# CAPE HATTERAS



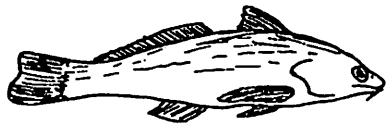
National Park Service  
Department of Interior



Cape Hatteras National Seashore offers the angler a variety of excellent fishing. Many different types of fish can be taken from the surf, piers, and freshwater ponds, from boats in the inlets and sound, and offshore from the Gulf Stream. The best fishing is in the spring and fall, but the earnest fishermen can usually find reward all year except January and February. Action during the middle of the summer is best offshore; blue marlin and other billfish are at their best. No license is required for ocean fishing, but the channel bass catch is limited; no more than two fish greater than 32", and none less than 14" may be caught.

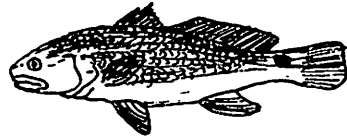
#### SURF AND PIER FISHING —

Most of the fishing at Cape Hatteras, except in late fall, is done by the casual weekender, fishing from the piers or in the surf at the beaches and inlets. Sea mullet (whiting) are common in the surf throughout the fishing season; sea trout, king and Spanish mackerel, false albacore, puppy drum (small channel bass), and small bluefish can be taken during the spring and fall. Spring and fall are also the best seasons to fish the inlets for red drum (large channel bass), striped bass, and large bluefish. Spot, ocean perch, black drum, flounder, skate, blowfish, dogfish, rays, some tarpon in late summer, and assorted sharks complete the commonly caught surf varieties.



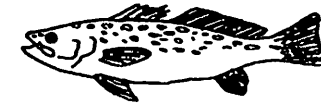
Whiting (to 1 foot)

Most fishing in the surf, inlets, and from the piers is done with casting lures or rigs using a sinker that will anchor in the sand and one or two hooks arranged to keep the bait a specified distance from the bottom. Hooks are usually size 4 to 6 for the smaller fish and 6/0 to 9/0 for the larger. Bait is generally cut-bait (whiting), sea mullet heads, shrimp, minnows, bloodworms, squid, or flounder and shark belly. Sea trout are most commonly caught on a medium to large plastic lure; king and Spanish mackerel and large bluefish are taken on metal casting lures; channel bass are taken on sea and jumping mullet heads or whole spot or whiting; and whiting are best caught on bloodworms.



Channel Bass (1 to 4 feet)

Most fishing in the surf, inlets, and from the piers is done with casting lures or rigs using a sinker that will anchor in the sand and one



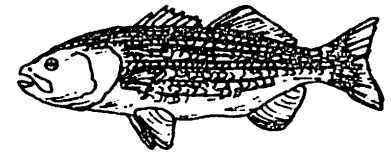
Sea Trout (1 to 2 feet)

The best surf fishing is in a slough (deep water pocket) between the beach and a small submerged offshore bar, or in the swift waters at Cape Point and the inlets. Low and incoming tides are often more productive than high water. Trout are best taken near dawn in clear water; puppy drum are most likely found in the morning

or evening in rough, turbid water.

**FRESHWATER —** Freshwater fishing is limited to the ponds in the Buxton Woods area and is good from spring to fall. Largemouth bass and bluegill are the most common varieties and can be taken on worms, salmon eggs, or flies in the spring, and on surface plugs in the late summer.

**OFFSHORE —** Numerous charter boats from the marinas at Ocracoke Village, Hatteras Village, and Oregon Inlet are available to take the fishermen to the productive waters of the sound and offshore to the Gulf Stream.



Striped Bass (1 to 4 feet)

Summertime is the best offshore season. Gray trout and flounder are in the sound; marlin, dolphin, bluefish, king mackerel, and false albacore are abundant offshore. Trolling is good in the fall for bluefish in the inlets and red drum offshore.

Boatfishing is done with live bait (usually minnows), cut-bait, and lures for bottom and jig fishing, and by trolling with a variety of artificial lures.



Bluefish (to 3 feet)

**TACKLE —** There are numerous tackle shops in the villages; tackle, rental equipment, and bait are readily available in these shops and on the piers.