
















Stock Status of MAFMC-Managed Species

(as of 1/25/24)

| SPECIES | STATUS DETERMINATION CRITERIA | | Stock Status | Most Recent Assessment |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| | Overfishing $F_{\text{threshold}}$ | Overfished $\frac{1}{2} B_{\text{MSY}}$ | | |
|  Summer Flounder | $F_{35\%MSP}=0.451$ | 54.63 million lbs | Overfishing Not overfished | Most recent management track assessment was 2023. |
|  Scup | $F_{40\%MSP}=0.19$ | 86.64 million lbs | No overfishing Not overfished | Most recent management track assessment was 2023. |
|  Black Sea Bass | $F_{40\%MSP}=0.46$ | 15.92 million lbs | No overfishing Not overfished | Most recent management track assessment was 2021. |
|  Bluefish | $F_{35\%SPR}=0.239$ | 97.15 million lbs | No overfishing Not overfished* | Most recent management track assessment was 2023. *Note: The stock is no longer overfished but has not rebuilt to target reference points and will remain under a rebuilding plan. |
|  Illex Squid (short finned) | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown Unknown | 2022 research track assessment failed, but peer review agreed likely "lightly fished in 2019," though with cautions. |
|  Longfin Squid | Unknown | 46.7 million lbs | Unknown Not overfished | Most recent management track assessment was 2023; not able to determine current exploitation rates. |
|  Atlantic Mackerel | $F_{40\%}=0.21$ | 169.9 million pounds | No overfishing Overfished | Most recent management track assessment was 2023. |
|  Butterfish | $F_{\text{Proxy}}=2/3M=0.81$ | 43.5 million lbs | No overfishing Not overfished | Most recent management track assessment was 2022. |
|  Chub Mackerel | At least 3,026 MT of catch per year | At least 3,026 MT of catch three years in a row | No overfishing Not overfished | No stock assessment. |

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|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Overfishing $F_{\text{threshold}}$ | Overfished $\frac{1}{2} B_{\text{MSY}}$ | | |
| Surfclam  | $F/F_{\text{threshold}} = 1^a$ | $SSB/SSB_{\text{threshold}} = 1^b$ | No overfishing Not overfished | Most recent management track assessment was 2020. |
| Ocean Quahog  | $F/F_{\text{threshold}} = 1^c$ | $SSB/SSB_{\text{threshold}} = 1^d$ | No overfishing Not overfished | Most recent management track assessment was 2020. |
| Golden Tilefish  | $F_{40\%MSP} = 0.261$ | 12.12 million lbs | No overfishing Not overfished | Most recent management track assessment was 2021. |
| Blueline Tilefish  | Unknown | Unknown | South of Cape Hatteras: No overfishing Not overfished North of Cape Hatteras: Unknown Unknown | Most recent benchmark assessment was 2017. |
| Spiny Dogfish (Joint mgmt with NEFMC)  | $F_{\text{proxy}} = 0.025$ | 94 million pups spawning output | No overfishing Not overfished | Most recent management track assessment was 2023. |
| Monkfish (Joint mgmt with NEFMC)  | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown Unknown | Survey biomass trends evaluated in 2022 Management Track Assessment. |

SOURCES: Office of Sustainable Fisheries - Status Report of U.S. Fisheries; SAW/SARC, SEDAR, TRAC Assessment Reports, NEFSC Research and Management Track Stock Assessments.

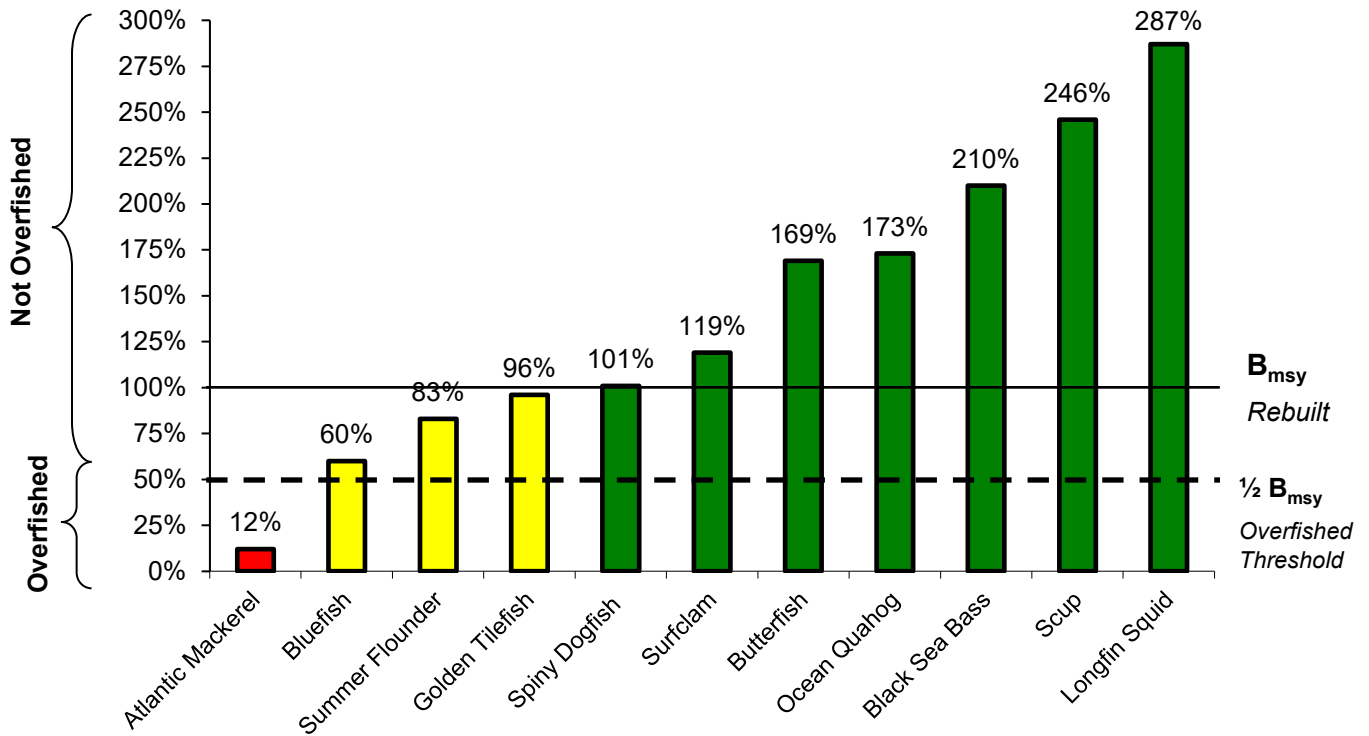
^a $F_{\text{threshold}}$ is calculated as 4.136 times the mean F during 1982 – 2015.

^b $SSB_{\text{threshold}}$ is calculated as $SSB_0/4$.

^c $F_{\text{threshold}}$ is 0.019.

^d $SSB_{\text{threshold}}$ is calculated as $0.4 * SSB_0$.

Stock Size Relative to Biological Reference Points (as of 1/25/24)



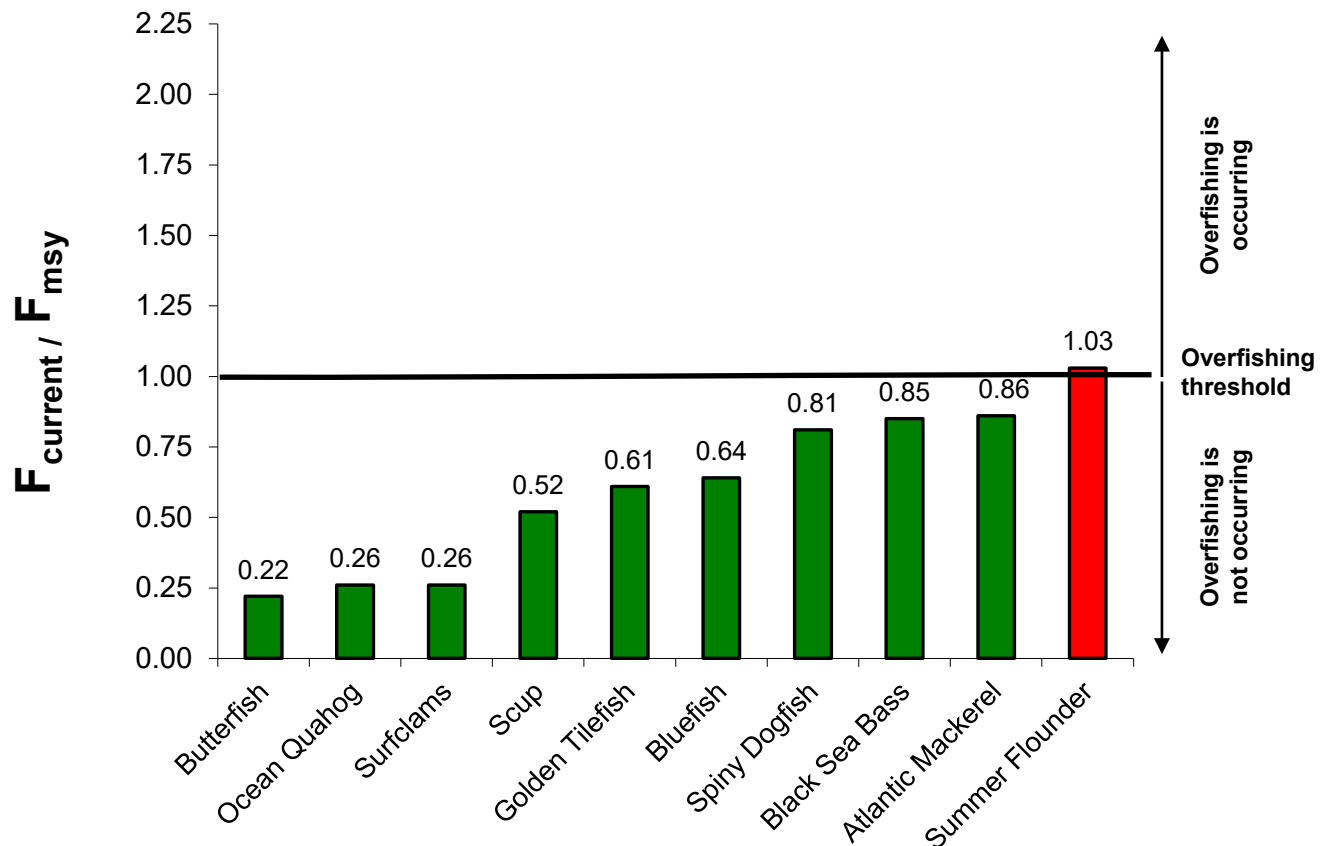
Notes:

- Unknown B_{msy} - *Illex* squid, monkfish (Northern and Southern Fishery Management Areas), blueline tilefish (North of Cape Hatteras), and chub mackerel.
- Of the 15 species managed by the Council, 7 are above B_{MSY} , 4 are below B_{MSY} , and 4 are unknown.

| Year of data used to determine stock size | |
|---|---------------------|
| Atlantic Mackerel | 2022 |
| Black Sea Bass | 2019 |
| Bluefish | 2022 |
| Butterfish | 2021 |
| Golden Tilefish | 2020 |
| Longfin Squid | 2021-2022 (average) |
| Ocean Quahog | 2019 |
| Spiny Dogfish | 2022 |
| Surfclam | 2019 |
| Scup | 2022 |
| Summer Flounder | 2022 |

Fishing Mortality Ratios for MAFMC-Managed Species

(as of 1/25/24)



Notes:

- Unknown fishing mortality: *Illex* squid, Longfin squid, monkfish (Northern and Southern Fishery Management Areas), blueline tilefish (North of Cape Hatteras), and chub mackerel.
- Of the 15 species managed by the Council, 9 are below F_{msy} , 1 is above F_{msy} , and 5 are unknown.

| Year of data used to determine fishing mortality | |
|--|------|
| Atlantic Mackerel | 2022 |
| Black Sea Bass | 2019 |
| Bluefish | 2022 |
| Butterfish | 2021 |
| Golden Tilefish | 2020 |
| Ocean Quahog | 2019 |
| Spiny Dogfish | 2022 |
| Surfclam | 2019 |
| Scup | 2022 |
| Summer Flounder | 2022 |



Status of Council Actions Under Development

AS OF 1/25/24

| FMP | Action | Description | Status | Staff Lead |
|--|---|--|--|------------|
| Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish | Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework/Addenda | <p>The Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework modified the process for setting recreational management measures for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish (once bluefish is no longer in a rebuilding plan). The new “Percent Change Approach” will sunset no later than the end of 2025. This action considers a new process to be implemented in time for use in setting 2026 recreational measures.</p> <p>https://www.mafmc.org/actions/rec-measures-framework-addenda</p> | <p>The FMAT/PDT and Council/Commissioner work group are continuing to develop and analyze alternatives and develop the draft framework/addenda document. The Council and Policy Board are tentatively scheduled to meet in August 2024 to approve the final range of alternatives and approve a draft document for public hearings through the Commission process.</p> | Beaty |
| | Recreational Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment | <p>This amendment considers (1) options for managing for-hire recreational fisheries separately from other recreational fishing modes and (2) options related to recreational catch accounting, such as private angler reporting and enhanced vessel trip report requirements for for-hire vessels.</p> | <p>An FMAT is being formed to begin development of issues for consideration and a draft scoping document. The Council and ASMFC’s Policy Board are tentatively scheduled to review a draft scoping document in December 2024.</p> | Dancy/Hart |
| | Summer Flounder Commercial Mesh Exemptions Framework Meeting #1 | <p>This framework adjustment will address several issues related to the summer flounder commercial fishery, specifically: To consider moving the western boundary of the Small Mesh Exemption Area; to clarify the regulatory definition of a flynet; and to ensure meaningful and effective evaluation criteria for the Small Mesh Exemption Program and the use of the flynet exemption.</p> | <p>An FMAT/PDT for this action is being formed. Framework meeting #1 is scheduled for April 2024.</p> | Dancy |

| FMP | Action | Description | Status | Staff Lead |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|------------------|
| Surfclam and Ocean Quahog | Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment | <p>As surfclams have shifted toward deeper water in recent years, catches including both surfclams and ocean quahogs have become more common. Current regulations do not allow surfclams and ocean quahogs to be landed on the same trip or in the same tagged cage. The Council is developing and Amendment to consider changes to species separation requirements in these fisheries. In addition, staff/NEFSC are exploring longer term solutions to catch monitoring through an electronic monitoring project on the clam survey.</p> <p>https://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-species-separation</p> | The Council will review a draft public hearing document at the February 2024 Council meeting. | Coakley/Montañez |
| Omnibus | Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment | <p>This action is an opportunity to utilize the best available fish habitat science to improve EFH designations and support the Council's fish habitat conservation efforts while supporting the EFH consultation process. The consultation process plays an important role in addressing the impacts of non-fishing projects (such as wind energy projects) on fish habitat. This action will concurrently conduct the 5-year EFH review required under the Magnuson Stevens Act while amending fishery management plans for the Council, as needed.</p> <p>https://www.mafmc.org/actions/omnibus-efh-amendment</p> | An FMAT was formed in January 2023. The FMAT will begin the EFH Review and development work for EFH and HAPC designations alternatives. The EOP Committee and Advisory Panel will meet to review technical approaches being considered in the first half of 2024. The Council is scheduled to review a draft public hearing document in October 2024. | Coakley/Kentner |
| Dogfish and Monkfish | Framework to Reduce the Bycatch of Atlantic Sturgeon | <p>This joint action was initiated due to the 2021 Biological Opinion (BiOp) that considered the effects of ten FMPs on ESA listed species. The BiOp requires that sturgeon bycatch be reduced in federal large mesh gillnet fisheries, however it does not prescribe specific measures or a target percentage of bycatch reduction.</p> <p>https://www.mafmc.org/actions/sturgeon-bycatch-framework</p> | Initiated in December 2022. NEFMC and MAFMC staff are co-leading the FMAT/PDT. The Councils approved a general range of alternatives in Fall 2023. Councils are reviewing alternative packages in February 2024. AP and Committee meetings are scheduled for March 2024. Final action is scheduled for April 2024. | Didden/Cisneros |

Timeline and Status of Recent MAFMC Actions and Amendments/Frameworks Under Review

As of 1/25/24

The table below summarizes the status of actions after they have been approved by the Council. For information about the status of Council actions under development, please see the document titled "Status of Council Actions Under Development."

| Title | Action Number | Council Approval | Initial Submission | Final Submission | NOA Published | Proposed Rule | Approval/Disapproval Letter | Final Rule | Regs Effective | Notes |
|--|---------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment | SFSBSB Amd 23 | 8/4/21 | 11/19/21 | 9/14/22 | 5/4/23 | 5/15/23 | 8/2/23 | | | EA updated July 2023 only for ESA section due to change in sturgeon info. |
| Illex Vessel Hold Capacity Framework | | 10/3/23 | NA | NA | | | | | | NMFS GARFO determined that this qualifies for a NEPA "categorical exclusion." Staff is awaiting requests from GARFO RE: any supplemental documentation. |

Timeline and Status of Current and Upcoming Specifications for MAFMC Fisheries

As of 1/25/24

| Current Specifications | Year(s) | Council Approval | Initial Submission | Final Submission | Proposed Rule | Final Rule | Regs Effective | Notes |
|--|-----------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Golden Tilefish | 2022-2024 | 8/11/21 | 10/7/21 | 4/22/22 | 9/14/22 | 11/10/22 | 11/9/22 | |
| Blueline Tilefish | 2022-2024 | 4/7/21 | 10/20/21 | 5/5/22 | 8/2/22 | 11/3/22 | 12/5/22 | |
| Surfclam and Ocean Quahog | 2021-2026 | 8/12/20 | 9/2/20 | 2/24/21 | 2/17/21 | 5/13/21 | 6/14/21 | |
| Longfin Squid | 2024-2026 | 8/10/23 | 10/12/23 | | | | | SIR (near status quo) packaged with Illex, awaiting edits |
| Butterfish | 2023-2024 | 6/8/22 | 9/8/22 | 2/17/23 | 3/7/23 | 7/27/23 | 7/27/23 | |
| Illex Squid | 2024-2025 | 4/5/23 | 10/12/23 | | | | | SIR (near status quo) packaged with longfin, awaiting edits |
| Atlantic Mackerel (including RH/S cap) | 2024-2025 | 8/10/23 | 1/3/24 | | | | | |
| Chub mackerel | 2023-2025 | 6/8/22 | 9/8/22 | 2/17/23 | 3/7/23 | 7/27/23 | 7/27/23 | |
| Bluefish | 2024-2025 | 8/9/23 | 10/6/23 | 11/16/23 | 11/16/23 | 1/2/24 | 1/1/24 | |
| Summer Flounder and Scup | 2024-2025 | 8/8/23 | 10/6/23 | 11/30/23 | 11/17/23 | 12/21/23 | 1/1/24 | |
| Black Sea Bass | 2024 | 8/8/2023 | 10/6/2023 | 12/3/2023 | 11/17/2023 | 12/21/2023 | 1/1/2024 | |
| Spiny Dogfish | 2024 | 12/13/23 | | | | | | |

Recreational Management Measures

| Current Management Measures | Year(s) | Council Approval | Initial Submission | Final Submission | Proposed Rule | Final Rule | Regs Effective | Notes |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Summer flounder rec measures | 2024 | 12/12/23 | 1/16/24 | | | | | |
| Black sea bass rec measures | 2024 | 12/12/23 | 1/16/24 | | | | | |
| Scup rec measures | 2024 | 12/12/23 | N/A | N/A | 11/17/23 | 12/21/23 | 1/1/24 | Change to the federal recreational season was analyzed in a separate document prepared by GARFO, and was included in the 2024-2025 specifications rule |
| Bluefish rec measures | 2020-2024 | 12/13/19 | 1/23/20 | 3/19/20 | 5/25/20 | 6/29/20 | 6/29/20 | |
| Blueline tilefish rec measures | 2024 and beyond | 6/6/23 | 9/1/23 | 9/18/23 | 11/14/23 | | | |