
















Stock Status of MAFMC-Managed Species

(as of 12/1/23)

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.

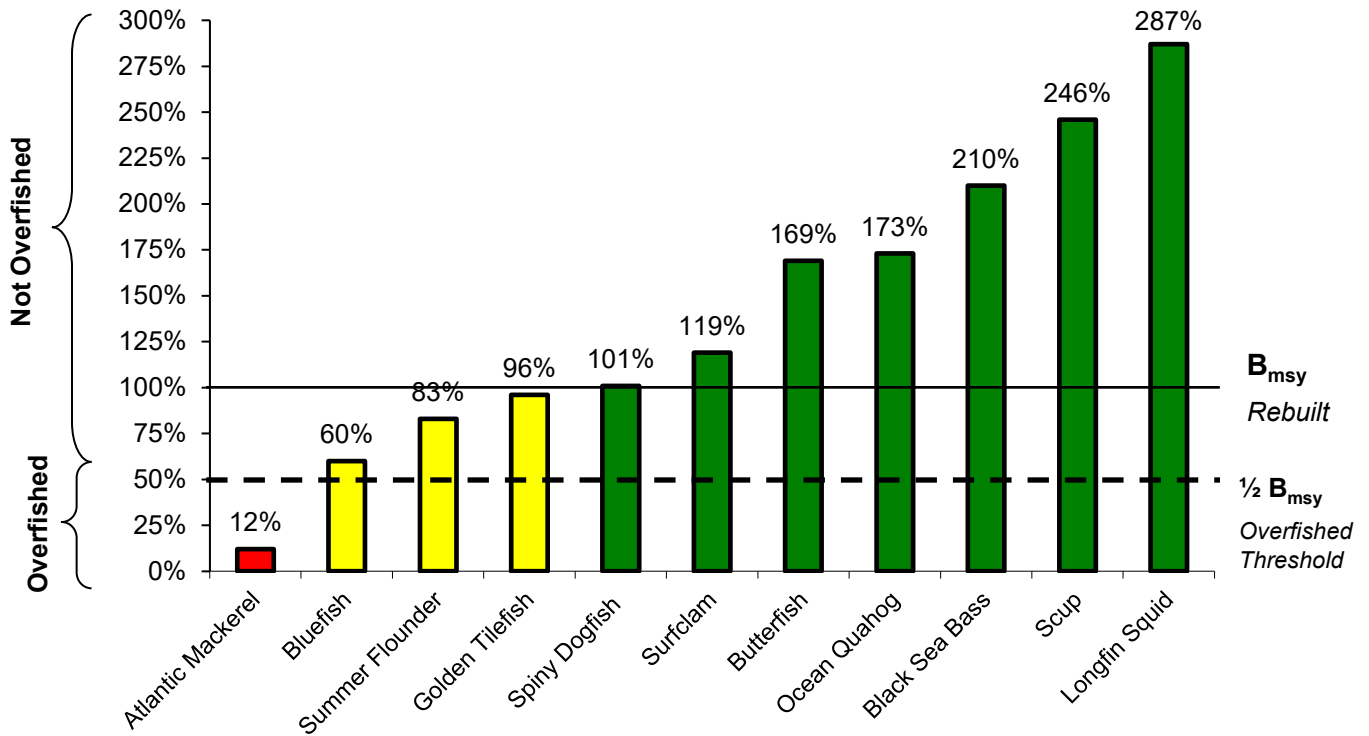
^a $F_{\text{threshold}}$ is calculated as 4.136 times the mean F during 1982 – 2015.

^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 12/1/23)



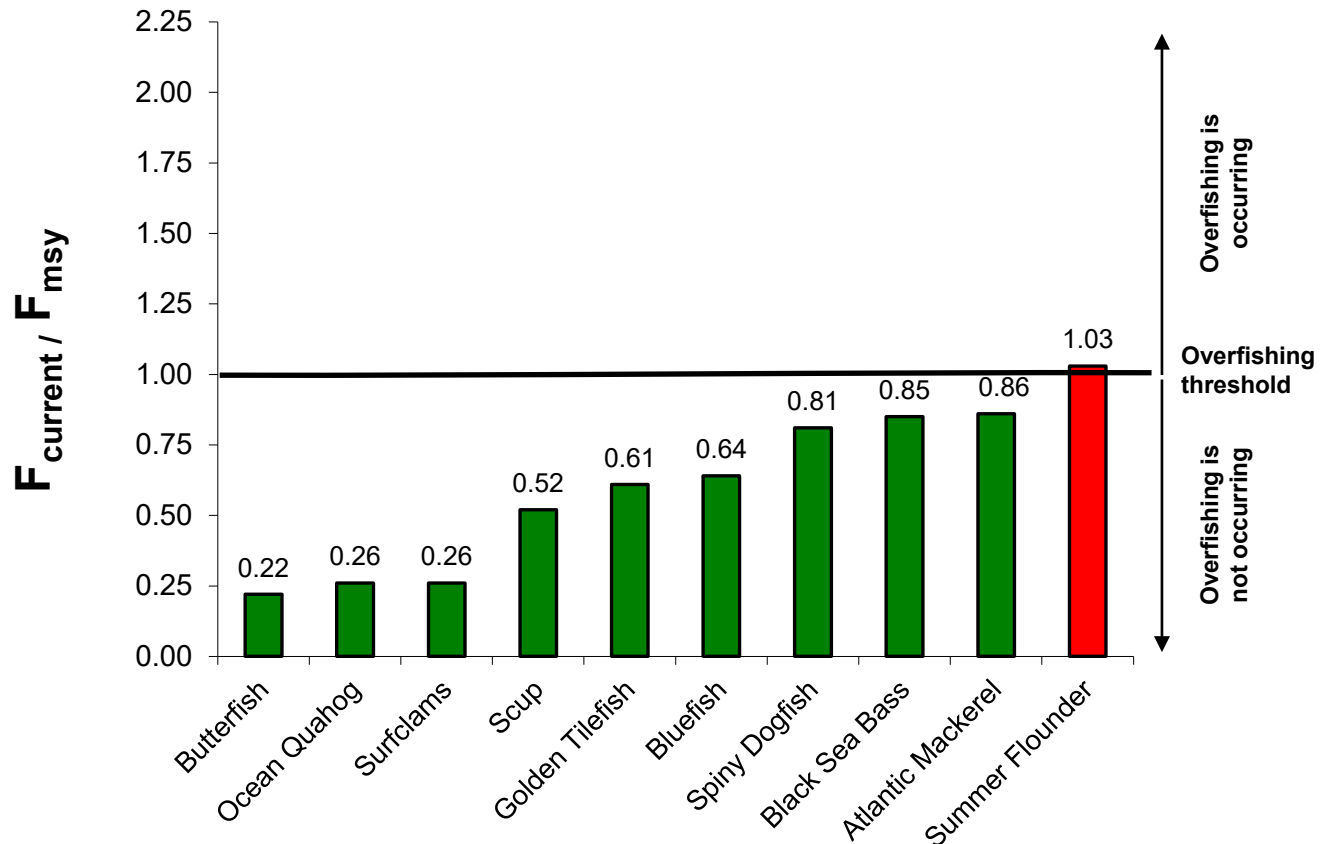
Notes:

- 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 12/1/23)



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 12/1/23

FMP	Action	Description	Status	Staff Lead
Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish	Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework/Addenda	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. https://www.mafmc.org/actions/hcr-framework-addenda	The FMAT/PDT is working on development and analysis of alternatives. The Council and ASMFC's Policy Board will receive an update and discuss next steps at the December 2023 meeting.	Beaty
	Recreational Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment	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. https://www.mafmc.org/actions/recreational-reform-initiative	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 Spring 2024.	Dancy/Hart
Surfclam and Ocean Quahog	Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment	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. https://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-species-separation	In December 2022 the Council reviewed public comments and agreed to postpone final action to allow time for development of additional alternatives. The FMAT is continuing to work on this action.	Coakley/Montañez

FMP	Action	Description	Status	Staff Lead
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>	<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 early 2024.</p>	Coakley
Dogfish and Monkfish	Framework to Reduce the Bycatch of Atlantic Sturgeon	<p>This 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>	<p>Initiated in December 2022. NEFMC and MAFMC staff are co-leading the FMAT/PDT. The Councils approved a range of alternatives in Fall 2023 and Final action is scheduled for April 2024.</p>	Cisneros/Didden

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

As of 12/1/23

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 12/1/23

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						December review after peer-review and SSC meeting
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			
Summer Flounder and Scup	2024-2025	8/8/23	10/6/23	11/30/23	11/17/23			
Black Sea Bass	2024	8/8/23	10/6/23		11/17/23			
Spiny Dogfish	2023	10/5/22	1/13/23	3/7/23	3/9/23	5/3/23	5/1/23	

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	2023	12/13/22	2/21/23	2/21/23	3/30/23	8/15/23	8/15/23	
Black sea bass rec measures	2023	12/13/22	2/21/23	2/21/23	3/30/23	8/15/23	8/15/23	
Scup rec measures	2023	12/13/22	2/21/23	2/21/23	3/30/23	8/15/23	8/15/23	
Bluefish rec measures	2020-2024	12/13/19	1/23/20	3/19/20	5/25/20	6/29/20	6/29/20	Reviewed in 2023. No changes from previous year's measures.
Blueline tilefish rec measures	2024 and beyond	6/6/23	9/1/23	9/18/23	11/14/23			