

Northeast Region Coordinating Council

2026 Stock Assessment Schedule

	Stock	Management Organization
March Research Track	Longfin inshore squid	MAFMC
June Management Track	Atlantic herring	NEFMC
	Haddock (Georges Bank)	NEFMC
	Longfin inshore squid	MAFMC
September Management Track	American plaice	NEFMC
	Haddock (Gulf of Maine)	NEFMC

Additional 2026 Assessment Related Work

NEFSC will provide **data updates** for:

- Atlantic halibut
- Red hake (northern, southern)
- Silver hake (northern, southern/offshore)
- Witch flounder

NEFSC will provide **data updates** and **projections updates** for:

- Butterfish
- Ocean quahog
- Pollock

ASMFC will continue the research track assessment work for:

- Striped bass (peer review in spring 2027)

Appendix: Stock Assessment Related Definitions

Research Track Assessments

Research track assessments are complex scientific efforts focused either on assessments of individual stocks or research topics that apply to assessments of several stocks. These assessments are typically carried out over several years and may involve comprehensive evaluation of new data streams and model changes. Research track assessments are designed to directly inform future management track assessments but might not immediately inform management decisions.

Management Track Assessments

Management track assessments provide routine, scheduled, updated advice to directly inform management actions. Management track assessments are designed to be simpler, quicker, and more efficient than Research Track assessments. The management track assessment process provides scientists some flexibility to improve the science when problems arise or new data become available, without requiring a research track assessment.

Data Updates

Data updates are summaries of new data that have become available since the last management track assessment. Specifically, they update (1) total U.S. catch (landings and discards) by commercial and recreational sector, as appropriate, and (2) aggregated NEFSC survey indices.

Projections Updates

Using the existing peer-reviewed assessment model, projections are updated by adding realized catch for recent years instead of assumed catch and re-running the projections out for a specified number of years. The updated projections do not update the assessment model or the terminal year of the assessment.