2026 Risk Policy Reports

For

Small-Mesh Multispecies Stocks

For the

October 27-28, 2026

NEFMC

Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting

2026 Risk Policy Report for Northern Silver hake

October 20, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty[1]	Assessment Type	The stock has an empirical assessment.
	Assessment Model	Index-based empirical assessment
	Terminal Assessment Year	2022
	Retrospective Pattern	Not provided
	Retrospective Values	Not provided
	Data Used	Commercial landings and discards, NEFSC fall bottom trawl survey
	Missing Data	Fall 2020 NEFSC bottom trawl survey
	Uncertainty Sources	Lack of analytical framework; cannot explore growth/natural mortality/recruitment in empirical framework; basis for calculating biological reference points assumes conditions have remained static (based on 1973-1982 survey trends, no contemporary stock productivity measures)
Biomass[2]	Overfished	The stock is not overfished.
	Overfishing	Overfishing is not occurring for this stock.
	Rebuilding Plan	The stock is not in a rebuilding plan.
	Rebuilding Target	Not provided
	SSB	Not calculated
	Relative SSB	N/A
Recruitment	Recruitment is estimated	Recruitment is not estimated.
	Recruitment Model	Not provided
	Initial year of time series	Not provided
	Recruitment estimates	Not provided
	Other Recruitment Information	Not provided
Climate Vulnerability[3]	Climate Vulnerability	Low climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Positive directional effect of climate change
	No Of Prey	17

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Fish Condition[4,5]	Prey Information	17 prey categories for adults including: silver hake, unidentified fish, herring (Atlantic and blueback), butterfish, haddock, squid, krill/shrimp, sand lance and mackerel. 16 prey categories for juveniles, including: krill, shrimp, silver hake, unidentified fish, animal remains, amphipods, and butterfish.
	Fish Condition	Average
Commercial Fishery Characterization[6]	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	0.86 USD (2023), 0.72 USD (2024), 0.87 USD (2025)
	Commercial Revenue	4.3M USD (2023). 2.6M USD (2024), 2.6M USD (2025)
	Commercial Catch	2,802 mt (2023); 2,108 mt (2024); 1,688 mt (2025)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	5% management uncertainty buffer (ACL = 95% of ABC)
	Commercial Vessels	# Permits (Northern area SMS): 124 (2023), 109 (2024), 84 (2025) **Note: number of permits being used as proxy for number of vessels
	Commercial Dealers	Not provided
	Commercial Ports	Top ports by value, FY 2023-2025: New Bedford (MA), Point Judith (RI), Montauk (NY), Gloucester (MA), Hampton Bays (NY), Stonington (CT) (from 2025 fishery performance report; silver and red hake combined) Note: Risk Policy score is based on regional guidance (more information in Risk Policy Concept, Appendix I)
	Other Quota Reliance	Fishery does not rely on quota of another species
	Other Fisheries	Not provided
Recreational Fishery Characterization	Recreational Fishery Management	There is not a recreational sub-ACL for the fishery.
	Recreational Fishery Activity	Not provided
	Recreational Catch	Not provided
	Recreational Trips	Not provided
	Recreational Management Uncertainty Buffer	Not provided
	Recreational Ports	Not provided
Other Socioeconomic Information	Other Socioeconomic Information	Not provided

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Additional Information[7]	FMSY Reference Point	Not provided
	SSB MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	OFL	79,473 mt (FY 2024-2026)
	ABC	40,868 mt (FY 2024-2026)
	Harvest Control Rules	ABC = 25th percentile of OFL estimate - catch associated with no more than 25% probability of overfishing
	Accountability Measures	In-season possession limit reduction when TALs projected to reach 90%; post-season adjustment to trigger (if ACL is exceeded, in-season AM adjustment trigger in subsequent years is reduced by 1% of each 1% the ACL was exceeded)
	Significant Catch Present	There was significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	Varying levels of commercial catch in squid (mostly landings, few discards), scallop (discards), groundfish (mix of discards and landings), and herring (mostly landings) fisheries. State catch of 1.8 mt in 2025. Additional information available in the 2025 fishery performance report.

[1]Northern silver hake 2023 Management Track Assessment Report, NOAA/NEFSC; [2]Northern silver hake 2023 Management Track Assessment Report, NOAA/NEFSC; [3]Hare et al. 2016; [4]2025 Fishery Performance Report; [5]Prey Habits Shiny App; [6]2025 Fishery Performance Report; [7]Small-Mesh Fishery Specifications for Fishing Years 2024-2026;

Scores and Weights

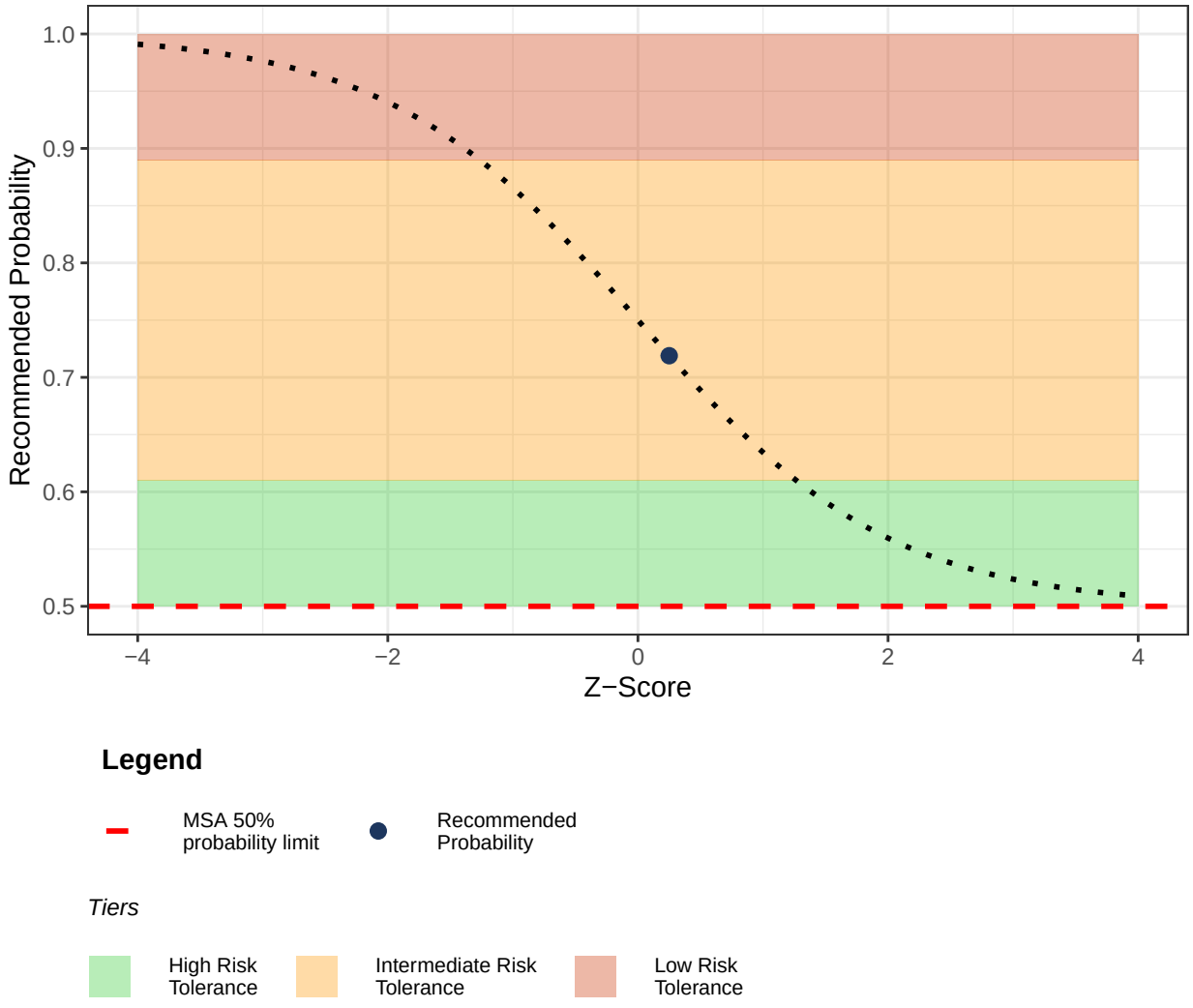
Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	Northern Silver hake	Biomass	0	3.44
2026	Northern Silver hake	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	Northern Silver hake	Climate	0	2.11
2026	Northern Silver hake	Commercial	1	2.83

The calculated z-score is **0.25**

The recommended probability is **71.9%**

Recommended Probability

The level of risk that should be considered based on the z-score and recommended probability for Northern Silver hake is Intermediate Risk Tolerance.



2026 Risk Policy Report for Southern whiting

October 20, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty[1]	Assessment Type	The stock has an empirical assessment.
	Assessment Model	Index-based empirical assessment
	Terminal Assessment Year	2022
	Retrospective Pattern	Not provided
	Retrospective Values	Not provided
	Data Used	Commercial landings, commercial discards, NEFSC fall bottom trawl survey
	Missing Data	Missing fall 2020 survey index
	Uncertainty Sources	Lack of analytical framework; cannot explore growth/natural mortality/recruitment in empirical framework; basis for calculating biological reference points assumes conditions have remained static (based on 1973-1982 survey trends, no contemporary stock productivity measures); Catch data is source of uncertainty due to mixed reporting of landings and species ID for silver/offshore hake; length-based algorithm based on survey species proportion used to disaggregate reported catch, but offshore hake data is unreliable
Biomass	Overfished	The stock is not overfished.
	Overfishing	Overfishing is not occurring for this stock.
	Rebuilding Plan	The stock is not in a rebuilding plan.
	Rebuilding Target	Not provided
	SSB	Not calculated
	Relative SSB	Not calculated
Recruitment	Recruitment is estimated	Recruitment is not estimated.
	Recruitment Model	Not provided
	Initial year of time series	Not provided
	Recruitment estimates	Not provided
	Other Recruitment Information	Not provided

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Climate Vulnerability[2]	Climate Vulnerability	Low climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Neutral directional effect of climate change
Fish Condition[3]	No Of Prey	23
	Prey Information	23 prey categories for adults including: unidentified fish, silver hake, herring, squid, shrimp/krill, animal remains, spotted hake, butterfish, groundfish species. 16 prey categories for juveniles, including: shrimp, crustaceans, unidentified fish, animal remains, silver hake.
	Fish Condition	Average
Commercial Fishery Characterization[4]	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	0.80 USD (2023), 0.59 USD (2024), 0.55 USD (2025)
	Commercial Revenue	4.3M USD (2023), 4.3M USD (2024), 2.9M USD (2025)
	Commercial Catch	3,073 mt (2023), 5,301 mt (2024), 5,309 mt (2025)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	5% management uncertainty buffer (ACL = 95% of ABC)
	Commercial Vessels	Number of permits (southern area small-mesh multispecies): 148 (2023), 146 (2024), 146 (2025) **Note: number of permits being used as proxy for number of vessels
	Commercial Dealers	Not provided
	Commercial Ports	Top ports by value, FY 2023-2025: New Bedford (MA), Point Judith (RI), Montauk (NY), Gloucester (MA), Hampton Bays (NY), Stonington (CT) (from 2025 fishery performance report; silver and red hake combined) Note: Risk Policy score is based on regional guidance (more information in Risk Policy Concept, Appendix I)
	Other Quota Reliance	Fishery does not rely on quota of another species
	Other Fisheries	Not provided
Recreational Fishery Characterization	Recreational Fishery Management	There is not a recreational sub-ACL for the fishery.
	Recreational Fishery Activity	Not provided
	Recreational Catch	Not provided
	Recreational Trips	Not provided
	Recreational Management Uncertainty Buffer	Not provided

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
	Recreational Ports	Not provided
Other Socioeconomic Information	Other Socioeconomic Information	The whiting fishery overlaps with squid, scup, and other small-mesh fisheries. There are some interactions due to prices (ex. if the scup fishery closes early, vessels may fish for whiting, can impact the price).
Additional Information[5]	FMSY Reference Point	Not provided
	SSB MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	OFL	35,419 mt (2024-2026)
	ABC	20,149 mt (2024-2026)
	Harvest Control Rules	ABC = 25th percentile of OFL estimate - catch associated with no more than 25% probability of overfishing
	Accountability Measures	In-season possession limit reduction when TALs projected to reach 90%; post-season adjustment to trigger (if ACL is exceeded, in-season AM adjustment trigger in subsequent years is reduced by 1% of each 1% the ACL was exceeded)
	Significant Catch Present	There was significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	Varying amounts commercial catch in squid (mix of discards and landings), herring (mostly landings), scallop (mostly discards), scup (mix of discards and landings), fluke (mostly discards, some landings), groundfish (mostly discards) and scallop (discards) fisheries. State catch of 183 MT (~1% of ACL) in 2025. Additional information available in the 2025 fishery performance report.

[1]2023 Management Track Assessment Report for Southern silver hake, NOAA/NEFSC; [2]Hare et al. 2016; [3]2025 Fishery Performance Report; [4]2025 Fishery Performance Report; [5]Small-Mesh Fishery Specifications for Fishing Years 2024-2026 ;

Scores and Weights

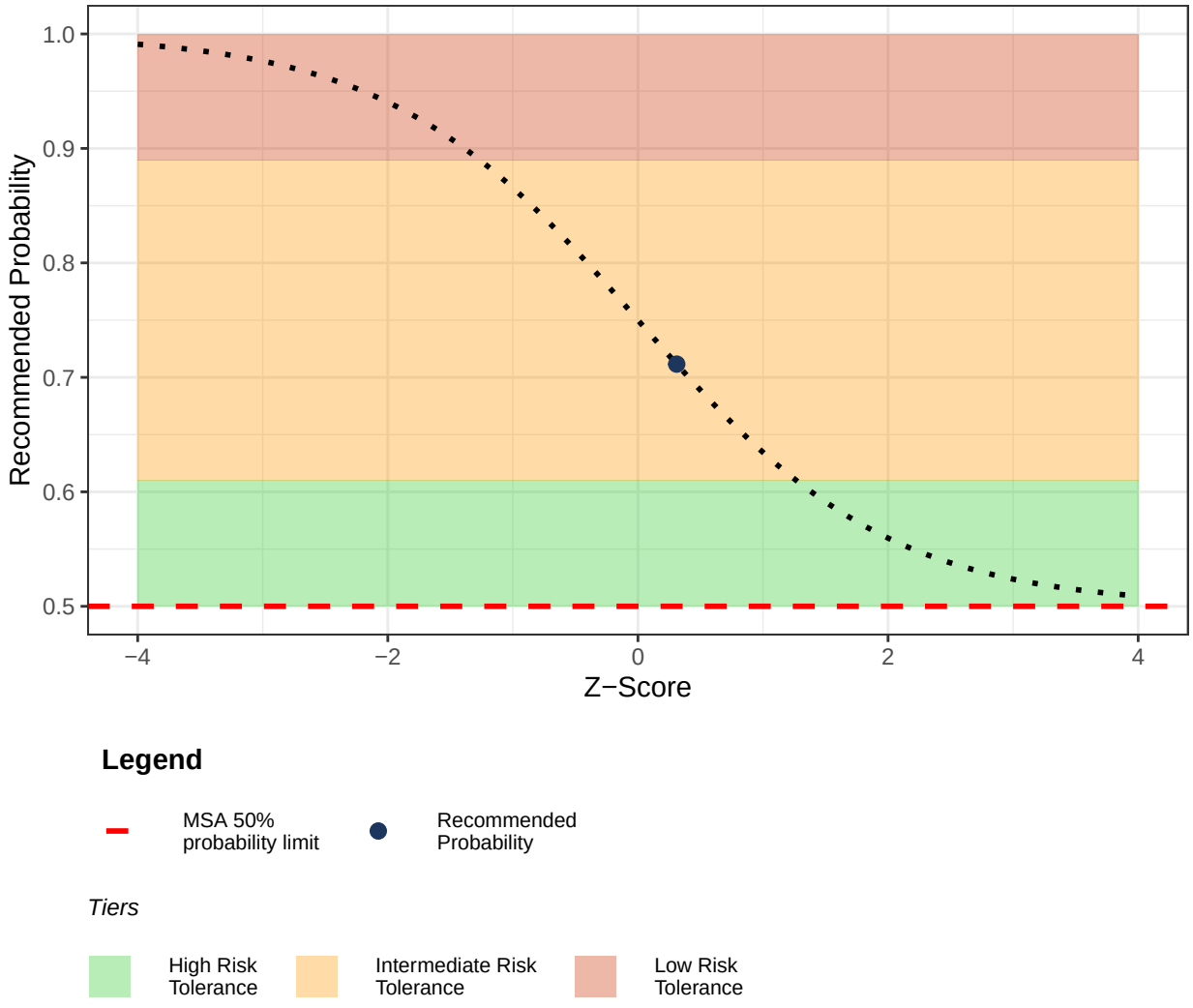
Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	Southern whiting	Biomass	0	3.44
2026	Southern whiting	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	Southern whiting	Climate	-1	2.11
2026	Southern whiting	Commercial	2	2.83

The calculated z-score is **0.31**

The recommended probability is **71.2%**

Recommended Probability

The level of risk that should be considered based on the z-score and recommended probability for Southern whiting is Intermediate Risk Tolerance.



2026 Risk Policy Report for Northern Red hake

October 20, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty[1]	Assessment Type	The stock has an empirical assessment.
	Assessment Model	Index-based empirical assessment
	Terminal Assessment Year	2022
	Retrospective Pattern	Not provided
	Retrospective Values	Not provided
	Data Used	Commercial landings, commercial discard estimates, recreational catch estimates, averaged fall and spring NEFSC survey biomass indices
	Missing Data	2020 NEFSC bottom trawl survey data
	Uncertainty Sources	Uncertainty around total red hake removals (some landings are categorized as mixed hake, so the portion of landings that are red hake must be estimated; most red hake caught are discarded, so much of the catch used for assessment relies on total discard estimates)
Biomass[2]	Overfished	Overfished status is unknown.
	Overfishing	Overfishing status is unknown for this stock.
	Rebuilding Plan	The stock is not in a rebuilding plan.
	Rebuilding Target	Not provided
	SSB	Not calculated
	Relative SSB	N/A
Recruitment	Recruitment is estimated	Recruitment is not estimated.
	Recruitment Model	Not provided
	Initial year of time series	Not provided
	Recruitment estimates	Not provided
	Other Recruitment Information	Not provided
Climate Vulnerability[3]	Climate Vulnerability	Low climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Positive directional effect of climate change
	No Of Prey	16

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Fish Condition[4,5]	Prey Information	~16 prey categories for adults including unidentified fish, krill/shrimp, herring, red hake, silver hake, crustacean species, octopus, animal remains. 15 prey categories for juveniles, including shrimp/krill, crustaceans, animal remains, lanternfish.
	Fish Condition	Below average condition
Commercial Fishery Characterization[6]	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	0.56 USD (2023), 0.47 USD (2024), 0.54 USD (2025)
	Commercial Revenue	90,431 USD (2023); 50,249 USD (2024); 55,797 USD (2025)
	Commercial Catch	751 mt (2023), 451 mt (2024), 210 mt (2025)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	5% management uncertainty buffer (ACL = 5% of ABC)
	Commercial Vessels	# Permits (Northern area SMS): 124 (2023), 109 (2024), 84 (2025) **Note: number of permits being used as proxy for number of vessels
	Commercial Dealers	Not provided
	Commercial Ports	Top ports by value, FY 2023-2025: New Bedford (MA), Point Judith (RI), Montauk (NY), Gloucester (MA), Hampton Bays (NY), Stonington (CT) (from 2025 fishery performance report; silver and red hake combined) Note: Risk Policy score is based on regional guidance (more information in Risk Policy Concept, Appendix I)
	Other Quota Reliance	Fishery does not rely on quota of another species
	Other Fisheries	Not provided
Recreational Fishery Characterization	Recreational Fishery Management	There is not a recreational sub-ACL for the fishery.
	Recreational Fishery Activity	Not provided
	Recreational Catch	Not provided
	Recreational Trips	Not provided
	Recreational Management Uncertainty Buffer	Not provided
	Recreational Ports	Not provided
Other Socioeconomic Information	Other Socioeconomic Information	Not typically a target species. A large portion of catch is discarded for lack of price and other market reasons.
	FMSY Reference Point	Not provided

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Additional Information[7,8]	SSB MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	OFL	Unknown
	ABC	3,129 mt (FY 2024-2026)
	Harvest Control Rules	ABC = 40th percentile of OFL estimate - catch associated with no more than 40% probability of overfishing
	Accountability Measures	In-season possession limit reduction when TALs projected to reach 90% (northern) or 41% (southern); post-season adjustment to trigger
	Significant Catch Present	There was significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	Varying levels of commercial catch in groundfish (mostly discards), lobster (mostly discards), scallop (mix of discards and landings), and herring (mix of discards and landings) fisheries. State catch was negligible in 2025. Additional information available in the 2025 fishery performance report.

[1]2023 Management Track Assessment Report for southern red hake; [2]2023 Management Track Assessment Report for southern red hake; [3]Hare et al. 2016; [4]2025 Fishery Performance Report; [5]Prey Habits Shiny App; [6]2025 Fishery Performance Report; [7]Small-Mesh Fishery Specifications for Fishing Years 2024-2026; [8]2025 Fishery Performance Report;

Scores and Weights

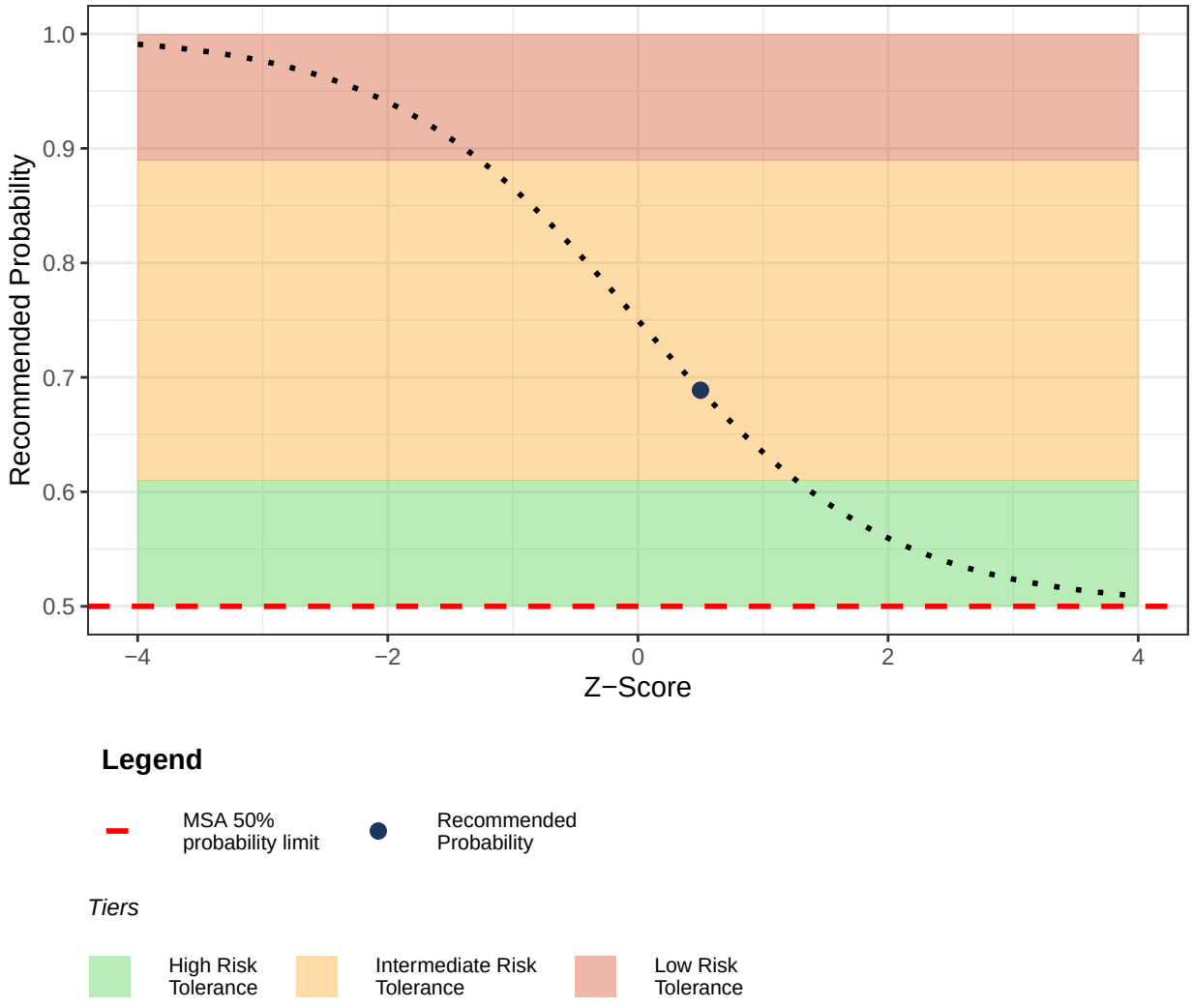
Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	Northern Red hake	Biomass	0	3.44
2026	Northern Red hake	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	Northern Red hake	Climate	0	2.11
2026	Northern Red hake	Commercial	2	2.83

The calculated z-score is **0.5**

The recommended probability is **68.9%**

Recommended Probability

The level of risk that should be considered based on the z-score and recommended probability for Northern Red hake is Intermediate Risk Tolerance.



2026 Risk Policy Report for Southern Red hake

October 20, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty[1]	Assessment Type	The stock has an empirical assessment.
	Assessment Model	Index-based empirical assessment
	Terminal Assessment Year	2022
	Retrospective Pattern	Not provided
	Retrospective Values	Not provided
	Data Used	Commercial landings/ discards, recreational catch estimates, NEFSC bottom trawl survey (fall & spring)
	Missing Data	2020 NEFSC bottom trawl survey data
	Uncertainty Sources	Uncertainty around total red hake removals (proportion of red hake is estimated; catch used for assessment relies on discard estimates); Southern red hake MRIP estimates are highly uncertain.
Biomass[2]	Overfished	Overfished status is unknown.
	Overfishing	Overfishing status is unknown for this stock.
	Rebuilding Plan	The stock is in a rebuilding plan.
	Rebuilding Target	2032
	SSB	Not calculated
	Relative SSB	N/A
Recruitment	Recruitment is estimated	Recruitment is not estimated.
	Recruitment Model	Not provided
	Initial year of time series	Not provided
	Recruitment estimates	Not provided
	Other Recruitment Information	Not provided
Climate Vulnerability[3]	Climate Vulnerability	Low climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Neutral directional effect of climate change
	No Of Prey	19

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Fish Condition[4,5]	Prey Information	~19 prey categories for adults including offshore hake, crustaceans, shrimp/krill, polychaetes, squid, sand lance, animal remains, bivalves, unidentified fish, and haddock. 16 prey categories for juveniles, including crustaceans, shrimp, animal remains, gastropods, sand lance, krill, and unidentified fish.
	Fish Condition	Average condition
Commercial Fishery Characterization[6]	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	0.48 USD (2023), 0.43 USD (2024), 0.39 USD (2025)
	Commercial Revenue	152,191 USD (2023); 153,595 USD (2024); 84,540 USD (2025)
	Commercial Catch	1,218 mt (2023); 1,612 mt (2024); 635 mt (2025)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	5% management uncertainty buffer (ACL = 95% of ABC)
	Commercial Vessels	# Permits (Southern area SMS): 148 (2023), 146 (2024), 146 (2025) **Note: number of permits being used as proxy for number of vessels
	Commercial Dealers	Not provided
	Commercial Ports	Top ports by value, FY 2023-2025: New Bedford (MA), Point Judith (RI), Montauk (NY), Gloucester (MA), Hampton Bays (NY), Stonington (CT) (from 2025 fishery performance report; silver and red hake combined) Note: Risk Policy score is based on regional guidance (more information in Risk Policy Concept, Appendix I)
	Other Quota Reliance	Fishery does not rely on quota of another species
	Other Fisheries	Not provided
Recreational Fishery Characterization	Recreational Fishery Management	There is not a recreational sub-ACL for the fishery.
	Recreational Fishery Activity	Not provided
	Recreational Catch	Not provided
	Recreational Trips	Not provided
	Recreational Management Uncertainty Buffer	Not provided
	Recreational Ports	Not provided

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Other Socioeconomic Information	Other Socioeconomic Information	Not typically a target species. A large portion of catch is discarded for lack of price and other market reasons.
Additional Information[7]	FMSY Reference Point	Not provided
	SSB MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	OFL	Unknown
	ABC	1,370 mt (FY 2024-2026)
	Harvest Control Rules	ABC = 40th percentile of OFL estimate - catch associated with no more than 40% probability of overfishing
	Accountability Measures	In-season possession limit reduction when TALs projected to reach 90% (northern) or 41% (southern); post-season adjustment to trigger
	Significant Catch Present	There was significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	Varying levels of catch in squid (mostly discards, some landings), scallop (discards), scup (mostly discards, some landings), lobster (mostly discards), fluke (mostly discards, some landings), groundfish (mostly discards), and herring (mix of landings and discards) fisheries. State catch was 12 mt in 2025. Additional information available in the 2025 fishery performance report.

[1]2023 Management Track Assessment Report for Southern red hake; [2]2023 Management Track Assessment Report for Southern red hake; [3]Hare et al. 2016; [4]2025 Fishery Performance Report; [5]Prey Habits Shiny App; [6]2025 Fishery Performance Report; [7]Small-Mesh Fishery Specifications for Fishing Years 2024-2026; 2025 Fishery Performance Report;

Scores and Weights

Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	Southern Red hake	Biomass	0	3.44
2026	Southern Red hake	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	Southern Red hake	Climate	-4	2.11
2026	Southern Red hake	Commercial	2	2.83

The calculated z-score is **-0.26**

The recommended probability is **78.2%**

Recommended Probability

The level of risk that should be considered based on the z-score and recommended probability for Southern Red hake is Intermediate Risk Tolerance.

