

2026 Risk Policy Report for Northern Windowpane flounder

October 01, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty ¹	Assessment Type	The stock has an empirical assessment.
	Assessment Model	Empirical area swept
	Terminal Assessment Year	2022; data update through 2024 for survey indices and catch
	Retrospective Pattern	Not provided
	Retrospective Values	Not provided
	Data Used	Fall Bottom Trawl survey data; Commercial fishery catch data
	Missing Data	2020 Fall Bottom Trawl survey data is missing
	Uncertainty Sources	Uncertainty in catch input because the catch is almost entirely comprised of discards; lack of response seen in the survey biomass index despite apparently low exploitation rates; survey length compositions show young of the year are consistently present, even with the spawning population at a very low level, and fish caught on the survey have been in good body condition; the potential unexplained mortality creates uncertainty
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	2029. But empirical method does not estimate reference points.
	SSB	N/A - empirical method does not provide estimate of SSB
	Relative SSB	N/A - empirical method does not estimate reference points
Recruitment ³	Recruitment is estimated	Recruitment is not estimated.
	Recruitment Model	Not provided
	Initial year of time series	Not provided

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
	Recruitment estimates	Not provided
	Other Recruitment Information	Between 2010 and 2022, Georges Bank windowpane had 3 years of positive productivity anomalies (using a ratio of small fish to large fish) and Gulf of Maine windowpane had 2 years with positive productivity anomalies.
Climate Vulnerability ⁴	Climate Vulnerability	Low climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Neutral directional effect of climate change
Fish Condition ⁵	No Of Prey	19
	Prey Information	Mysidacea, Crangonidae, Shrimp, unidentified fish, Gammaridea, Copepoda, Euphausiacea, Ammodytes spp., Clupea harengus, Animal remains, Merluccius bilinearis, Amphipoda, Crustacea, Isopoda, Fish larvae, Chaetognatha, Pandalidae, Hyperiididae, Gadidae
	Fish Condition	Not provided
Commercial Fishery Characterization	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	\$0 – possession prohibited
	Commercial Revenue	\$0 – possession prohibited
	Commercial Catch	9.4 mt (FY2023); 9.3 mt (FY2024); 10.8 mt (FY2025; preliminary)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	7% management uncertainty buffer
	Commercial Vessels	N/A - Discards only because possession is prohibited.
	Commercial Dealers	N/A - Possession and sale of windowpane flounder is prohibited.
	Commercial Ports	N/A - Discards only because possession is prohibited.
	Other Quota Reliance	Fishery does not rely on quota of another species
Recreational Fishery Characterization	Other Fisheries	Not provided
	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

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	Recreational Management Uncertainty Buffer	Not provided
	Recreational Ports	Not provided
Other Socioeconomic Information	Other Socioeconomic Information	Not provided
Additional Information ⁶	FMSY Reference Point	Not provided
	SSB MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	OFL	unknown
	ABC	136 mt
	Harvest Control Rules	Northern windowpane is in a rebuilding plan with a rebuild-by date of 2029. The plan sets $F_{Rebuild} = 70\%FMSY$. $70\%FMSY$ could not be calculated under the recent assessment approach. Applying a 1.917 exploitation rate (based on the mean value of years 2010-2022, the years the no possession rule has been in place) to a 3-year running average (2020-2022) swept-area biomass estimate of 7,094 produced a catch of 136 mt.
	Accountability Measures	Groundfish: If the ACL and MUB are exceeded, trawl vessels on groundfish trips are required to fish with approved selective trawl gear when fishing in the applicable AM area. The AM area is dependent on the size of the overage (> or <20%). Scallop: If the total catch limit is exceeded and the scallop fishery catches more than its allocation, dredge modifications and trawl restrictions are implemented in the GB AM area. The duration of the AM is dependent on the size of the overage (> or <20%).
	Significant Catch Present	There was significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	The scallop fishery has a sub-ACL for northern windowpane flounder. In FY 2024, the scallop fishery caught 53.3 mt, which was 197% of its sub-ACL, 75% of total catch, and 42% of the total ACL. State waters catch was 6.4 mt and other fisheries catch was 2.0 mt.

¹2023 Management Track assessment; 2025 Data Update; ²2023 Management Track assessment; ³2023 Management Track assessment; ⁴Hare et al, 2016; ⁵Prey Habits Shiny App

; ⁶GARFO Fishing Year Final Catch Reports;

Scores and Weights

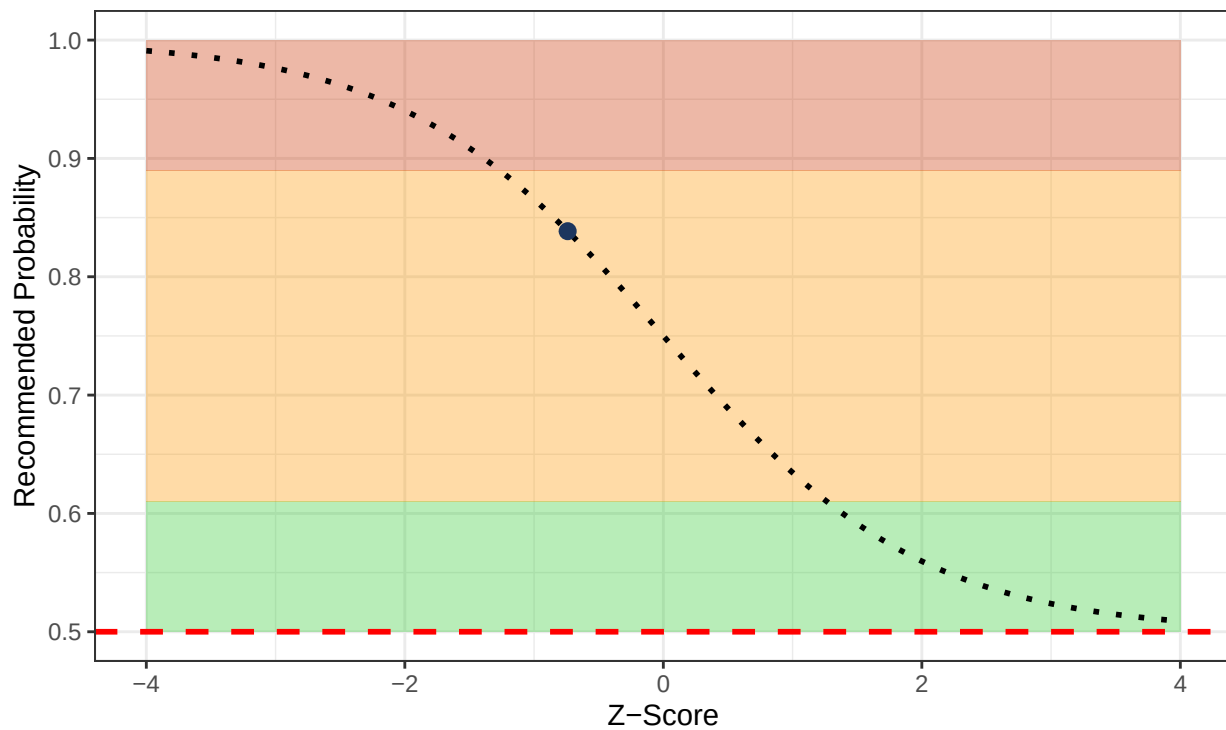
Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	Northern Windowpane flounder	Biomass	-4	3.44
2026	Northern Windowpane flounder	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	Northern Windowpane flounder	Climate	0	2.11
2026	Northern Windowpane flounder	Commercial	2	2.83

The calculated z-score is **-0.74**

The recommended probability is **83.8%**

Recommended Probability

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



Legend

- MSA 50% probability limit
- Recommended Probability

Tiers

- High Risk Tolerance
- Intermediate Risk Tolerance
- Low Risk Tolerance