

2026 Risk Policy Report for Atlantic herring

August 06, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty	Assessment Type	The stock has an analytical assessment.
	Assessment Model	WHAM
	Terminal Assessment Year	2025
	Retrospective Pattern	There was minor retrospective pattern.
	Retrospective Values	SSB Mohn's $\rho=0.22$; F Mohn's $\rho=-0.04$
	Data Used	US and Canada commercial landings; NEFSC spring/fall bottom trawl surveys; NEFSC summer (shrimp) survey; NEFSC acoustic survey (collected on fall bottom trawl survey)
	Missing Data	2025 acoustic survey data is missing.
	Uncertainty Sources	No definitive explanation for continued poor recruitment; natural mortality; stock structure/ mixing with Nova Scotian & Bay of Fundy herring; numbers-at-age random effects imply that abundance of older herring is declining, no definitive explanation
Biomass	Overfished	The stock is overfished.
	Overfishing	Overfishing is not occurring for this stock.
	Rebuilding Plan	The stock is in a rebuilding plan.
	Rebuilding Target	2031
	SSB	35,258 mt
	Relative SSB	19% of SSBMSY proxy (188,214 mt)
Recruitment	Recruitment is estimated	Yes
	Recruitment Model	WHAM (iid random effects for recruitment)
	Initial year of time series	1987
	Recruitment estimates	743,734 mt (2023), 456,155 mt (2024), 1,966,904 mt (2025)
	Other Recruitment Information	Continued poor recruitment, reason is unknown.
Climate Vulnerability	Climate Vulnerability	Moderate climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Negative directional effect of climate change

Fish Condition	No Of Prey	14
	Prey Information	Copepods, amphipods, small crustaceans/fish, fish larvae
Commercial Fishery Characterization	Commercial Revenue	3.3 million (USD, 2022); 5.9 million (USD, 2023); 7.9 million (USD, 2024)
	Commercial Catch	10,228 mt (2023), 10,439 mt (2024), 3,163 mt (2025; in-season year-end quota monitoring report)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	FY 2025 = 4,031 mt
	Commercial Vessels	20 vessels (2022), 25 vessels (2023), 22 vessels (2024)
	Commercial Dealers	Not provided
	Commercial Ports	Stonington, Rockland, Portland (ME); Gloucester, New Bedford (MA); Narragansett/Pt. Judith (RI); Montauk (NY); Cape May (NJ)
	Other Quota Reliance	Fishery does not rely on quota of another species
	Other Fisheries	Not provided
	Recreational Fishery	There is not a recreational fishery, and thus there is no recreational fishery trend data available.
	Recreational Catch	Not provided
Recreational Fishery Characterization	Recreational Trips	Not provided
	Recreational Management Uncertainty Buffer	Not provided
	Recreational Ports	Not provided
Other Socioeconomic Information	Other Socioeconomic Information	70% commercial fishery utilized for lobster bait (primary market in June-November), 30% for food and other uses (aquaculture feed, canned pet food, livestock food, industrial/biomedical purposes). Linkage between herring and recreational fishery, ecotourism industry. Link between herring fishery and mackerel fishery (can be landed on the same trip). River herring and shad bycatch in Atlantic herring fishery.
	FMSY Reference Point	0.272
	SSB MSY Reference Point	188,214 (123,672 - 286,439)
	MSY Reference Point	55,211 (35,747 - 85,273)
	OFL	FY 2026 = 23,491 mt
	ABC	FY 2026 = 13,165 mt
	Harvest Control Rules	ABC control rule: when biomass ≥ 0.5 for the ratio of SSB/SSBMSY, Fmax is 80% of FMSY. As B declines, F declines linearly, and if B falls below 0.1, then ABC is set to zero.

Additional Information	Accountability Measures	In-season possession limit changes to prevent exceeding sub-ACLs or total ACL; overage deductions and carryover provisions; AM to close large areas when GB or GOM haddock sub-ACLs or RH/S catch caps are reached.
	Significant Catch Present	There was not significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	Not provided

Scores and Weights

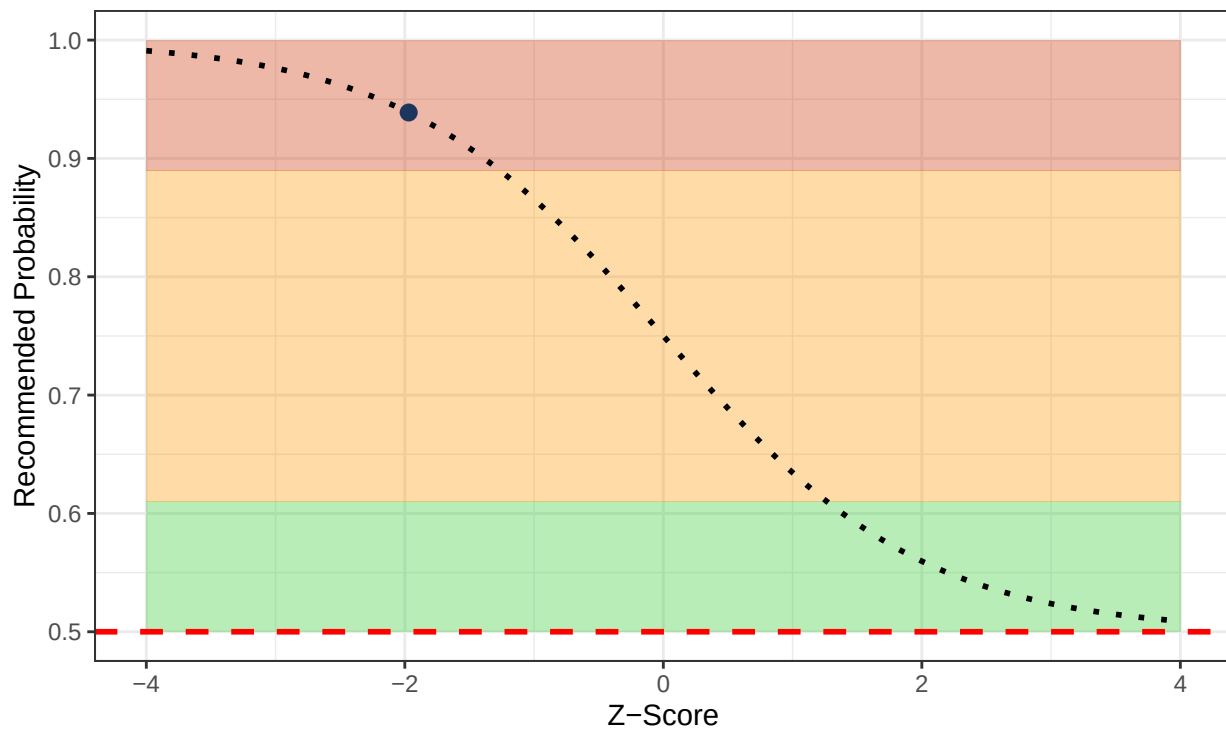
Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	Atlantic herring	Biomass	-4	3.44
2026	Atlantic herring	Recruitment	-4	2.89
2026	Atlantic herring	Climate	-1	2.11
2026	Atlantic herring	Commercial	2	2.83

The calculated z-score is **-1.97**

The recommended probability is **93.9%**

Recommended Probability

The level of risk that should be considered based on the z-score and recommended probability for Atlantic herring is *Low Risk Tolerance*.



Legend

— MSA 50% probability limit ● Recommended Probability

Tiers

High Risk Tolerance Intermediate Risk Tolerance Low Risk Tolerance