2026 Risk Policy Reports

For

Northeast Multispecies Stocks

For the

October 27-28, 2026

NEFMC

Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting

2026 Risk Policy Report for GOM Haddock

October 20, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty[1]	Assessment Type	The stock has an analytical assessment.
	Assessment Model	WHAM
	Terminal Assessment Year	2025
	Retrospective Pattern	There was minor retrospective pattern.
	Retrospective Values	The 7-year Mohn's relative to SSB was 0.393 in 2025. The 7-year Mohn's relative to F was -0.257 in 2025.
	Data Used	Fall and Spring Bottom Trawl data Fall and Spring Bottom longline survey data Commercial catch, recreational catch
	Missing Data	2023 Spring Bottom Trawl Survey, 2020 Spring and Fall Bottom Trawl Survey, 2020 Spring Bottom Longline Survey
	Uncertainty Sources	Future recruitment is a primary source of uncertainty. The fishery is heavily reliant on the 2020 + 2021 cohorts; below-average recruitment since 2021. Somatic growth in both cohorts has slowed. Without improved recruitment the population will continue to decline.
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	11,339 mt
	Relative SSB	145%
Recruitment[3]	Recruitment is estimated	Yes
	Recruitment Model	Recruitment was modeled as deviations from a time series mean value following an AR1 process.
	Initial year of time series	1977

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
	Recruitment estimates	2,537 (2023), 1,022 (2024), and 1,704 (2025) in 000s
	Other Recruitment Information	The fishery is heavily reliant on the 2020 and 2021 cohorts given the below-average recruitment since 2021. Somatic growth in both cohorts has slowed recently, and without improved recruitment the population will continue to decline.
Climate Vulnerability[4]	Climate Vulnerability	Low climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Negative directional effect of climate change
Fish Condition[5,6]	No Of Prey	13
	Prey Information	Prey Species and Mean Proportion Ophiuroidea 32.7 Animal.remains 20.9 Bivalvia 9.4 Polychaeta 9.3 Miscellaneous 5.5 Gammaridea 5.2 Crustacean.shrimp 5.1 Pandalidae 5 Fish.eggs 4.8 Euphausiacea 3.5 Unidentified.fish 3.3 Clupeidae 2.5 Asteroidea 2
	Fish Condition	Low condition
Commercial Fishery Characterization[7]	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	$1.51 (2023), $1.85 (2024), $2.19 (2025), all in 2025 USD
	Commercial Revenue	$3.7M (2023), $4.2M (2024), $6.3M (2025), all in 2025 USD
	Commercial Catch	1,325.4 mt (2023); 1,205.9 mt (2024); 1,511.8 mt (2025)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	5% commercial, 7% recreational, *removed for sectors
	Commercial Vessels	105 (2023), 109 (2024), 97 (2025)
	Commercial Dealers	22 (2023), 23 (2024), 23 (2025)
	Commercial Ports	Top 5 ports In alphabetical order: Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, Port Clyde, Portland
	Other Quota Reliance	Fishery relies on quota of another species

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
	Other Fisheries	The GOM haddock fishery is heavily dependent on WGOM cod.
Recreational Fishery Characterization[8]	Recreational Fishery Management	The recreational fishery is managed by a sub-ACL.
	Recreational Fishery Activity	There is recreational fishery trend data available.
	Recreational Catch	458 mt (2023), 879 mt (2024), 417 (2025)
	Recreational Trips	205,608 (2023), 231,963 (2024), 143,265 (2025)
	Recreational Management Uncertainty Buffer	7%
	Recreational Ports	Not available
Other Socioeconomic Information[9]	Other Socioeconomic Information	Estimated quarterly inter-sector ACE lease prices: 2023: $0.83 (Q1), $0.53 (Q2), $0.98 (Q3), $0.33 (Q4); 2024: $0.28 (Q1), $0.54 (Q2), $0 (Q3), $0.37 (Q4); 2025: $0.54 (Q1), $0.33 (Q2), $0.49 (Q3), $0.2 (Q4); all in USD 2025
Additional Information[10]	FMSY Reference Point	0.35
	SSB MSY Reference Point	7,809mt
	MSY Reference Point	1,924mt
	OFL	4,709mt
	ABC	3,634mt
	Harvest Control Rules	75%Fmsy
	Accountability Measures	Pound for pound payback for commercial fishery; Proactive and Reactive AMs for the recreational fishery are revised measures
	Significant Catch Present	There was not significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	Not provided

[1]2026 Gulf of Maine Haddock Management Track Assessment; [2]2026 Gulf of Maine Haddock Management Track Assessment; [3]2026 Gulf of Maine Haddock Management Track Assessment; [4]Hare et al 2016; [5]2026 State of the Ecosystem Report; [6]Prey Habits Shiny App; [7]CAMS data; [8]GARFO Year-end Final Catch Reports, MRIP data, NEFSC SSB; [9]CAMS; [10]2026 Gulf of Maine Haddock Management Track Assessment;

Scores and Weights

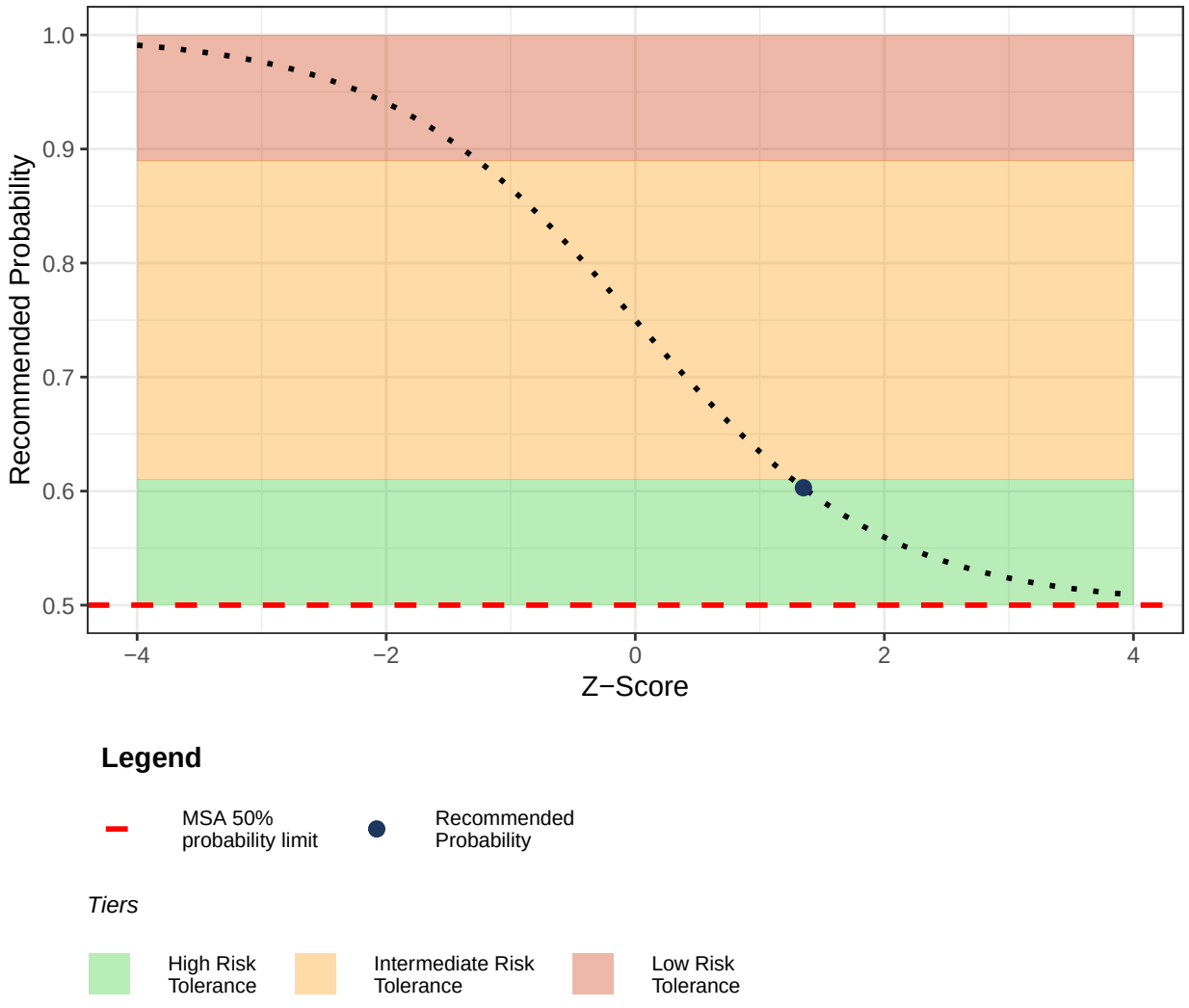
Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	GOM Haddock	Biomass	2	3.44
2026	GOM Haddock	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	GOM Haddock	Climate	-1	2.11
2026	GOM Haddock	Commercial	4	2.83
2026	GOM Haddock	Recreational	1	2.06

The calculated z-score is **1.35**

The recommended probability is **60.3%**

Recommended Probability

The level of risk that should be considered based on the z-score and recommended probability for GOM Haddock is High Risk Tolerance.



2026 Risk Policy Report for American plaice

October 20, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty[1]	Assessment Type	The stock has an analytical assessment.
	Assessment Model	WHAM
	Terminal Assessment Year	2025
	Retrospective Pattern	There was minor retrospective pattern.
	Retrospective Values	The 7-year Mohn's rho relative to SSB was 0.076 in 2024 MT assessment and was 0.127 in 2025. The 7-year Mohn's rho relative to F -0.05 in the 2024 MT assessment and was -0.112 in 2025.
	Data Used	Fall and Spring Bottom Trawl Survey data, commercial catch data
	Missing Data	Missing 2023 Spring bottom trawl survey, and 2020 Spring and Fall bottom trawl survey
	Uncertainty Sources	Variable survey selectivity estimates-at-age across model runs contributed to differing fit and scaling of key model results (e.g. F, SSB). Recruitment is another important source of uncertainty for American plaice. Surface and bottom temperatures in the terminal two years of the time series (2024-2025) were the lowest in recent years and were nearer the optimal spawning temperature range reported in the literature (Behan et al. 2022), but corresponded with the lowest recruitment on record (2024). Low SSB alone does not fully account for the record low 2024 recruitment and there is still uncertainty in other ecosystem drivers of recruitment.
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	17,169mt
	Relative SSB	135%
	Recruitment is estimated	Yes

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Recruitment[3]	Recruitment Model	Time series mean
	Initial year of time series	1980
	Recruitment estimates	20,696 (2023); 8,103 (2024); 32,473 (2025) recruitment is in (000s)
	Other Recruitment Information	This assessment may also benefit from further exploration of the mechanisms driving recent low recruitment because recent trends potentially contradict the current hypothesis that cooler temperatures improve spawning conditions.
Climate Vulnerability[4]	Climate Vulnerability	Low climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Negative directional effect of climate change
Fish Condition[5,6]	No Of Prey	9
	Prey Information	Prey Species Mean Proportion Echinoidea 49.7 Cancer.sp 10.8 Unidentified.fish 7.4 Decapoda.crab 3.2 Animal.remains 3.1 Pandalidae 3 Euphausiacea 2.9 Crustacean.shrimp 2.5
	Fish Condition	High condition
Commercial Fishery Characterization[7]	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	$1.55 (2023), $1.84 (2024), $1.98 (2025), all USD 2025
	Commercial Revenue	$4.6M (2023); $5.3M (2024); $6.1M (2025), Value in USD 2025
	Commercial Catch	1,390.6 mt (2023); 1,357.4 mt (2024); 1,441.8 mt (2025)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	5% management uncertainty buffer
	Commercial Vessels	101 (2023); 109 (2024); 93 (2025)
	Commercial Dealers	19 (2023); 17 (2024); 21 (2025)
	Commercial Ports	In alphabetical order: Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, Port Clyde, Portland
	Other Quota Reliance	Fishery relies on quota of another species
	Other Fisheries	Catch of American plaice can be constrained by quota for Atlantic cod.

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
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
Additional Information	FMSY Reference Point	0.43
	SSB MSY Reference Point	12,711 mt
	MSY Reference Point	4,700 mt
	OFL	8,866 mt
	ABC	6,979 mt
	Harvest Control Rules	75%Fmsy
	Accountability Measures	Pound for pound payback for commercial fishery
	Significant Catch Present	There was not significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	Not provided

[1]2026 American Plaice Management Track Assessment; [2]2026 American Plaice Management Track Assessment; [3]2026 American Plaice Management Track Assessment; [4]Hare et al 2016; [5]2026 State of the Ecosystem Report; [6]Prey Habits Shiny App; [7]CAMS;

Scores and Weights

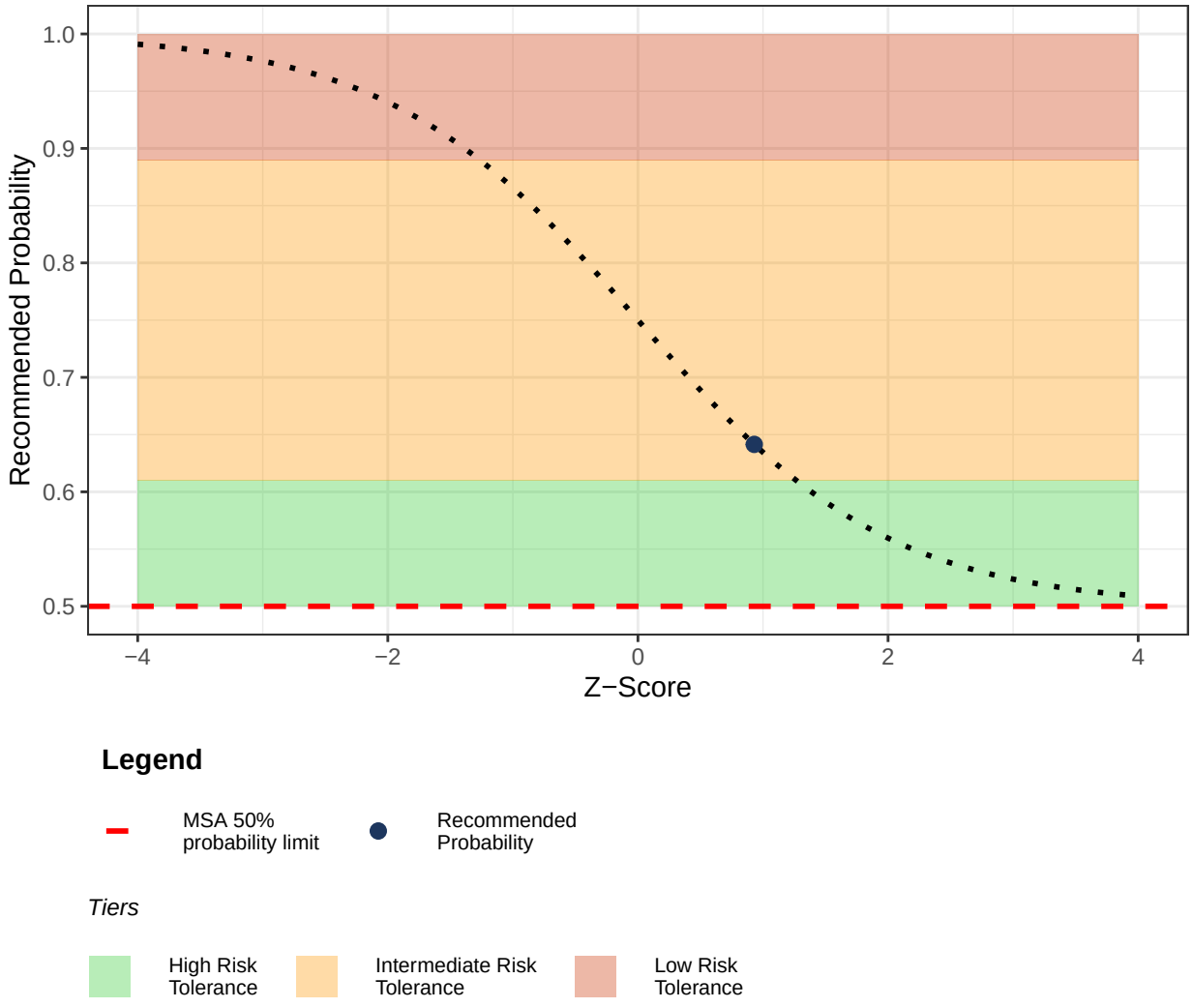
Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	American plaice	Biomass	2	3.44
2026	American plaice	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	American plaice	Climate	-1	2.11
2026	American plaice	Commercial	2	2.83

The calculated z-score is **0.93**

The recommended probability is **64.1%**

Recommended Probability

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



2026 Risk Policy Report for Atlantic pollock

October 20, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty[1]	Assessment Type	The stock has an analytical assessment.
	Assessment Model	ASAP
	Terminal Assessment Year	2023, data update through 2025 for survey indices and catch
	Retrospective Pattern	There was minor retrospective pattern.
	Retrospective Values	Retrospective adjustments were not made. The 7-year Mohn's rho, relative to SSB, was 0.163 under the base model and 0.376 under the sensitivity model in the 2024 assessment and was 0.131 and 0.291, respectively, in 2023. The 7-year Mohn's rho, relative to F, was -0.154 under the base model and -0.263 under the sensitivity model in the 2024 assessment and was -0.144 and -0.242, respectively, in 2023.
	Data Used	NEFSC Spring and Fall Bottom Trawl survey data; commercial fishery catch data, recreational fishery catch data
	Missing Data	Missing bottom trawl survey data from Fall 2020, Spring 2020, and incomplete survey data from Spring 2023.
	Uncertainty Sources	The main source of uncertainty in the 2024 assessment was selectivity. In addition to the base model (dome-shaped survey selectivity), which is used to provide management advice, the 2024 assessment included a flat-topped sensitivity model (flat-topped survey selectivity) that was conducted for the sole purpose of demonstrating the sensitivity of the assessment results to survey selectivity assumptions.
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	180,266 mt

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
	Relative SSB	213%
Recruitment[3]	Recruitment is estimated	Yes
	Recruitment Model	A cumulative distribution function derived from ASAP-estimated age 1 recruitment between 1970 and 2021.
	Initial year of time series	1970
	Recruitment estimates	18,471 (2021); 21,463 (2022); 15,965 (2023) Recruitment is in (000s).
	Other Recruitment Information	Recruitments in 2022 and 2023 were not included due to uncertainty in those estimates.
Climate Vulnerability[4]	Climate Vulnerability	Moderate climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Negative directional effect of climate change
Fish Condition[5,6]	No Of Prey	12
	Prey Information	Prey Species Mean Proportion Pectinidae 44.5 Euphausiacea 36.6 Crustacean.shrimp 22.4 Animal.remains 18.1 Unidentified.fish 11.6 Ammodytes.sp 5.5 Merluccius.bilinearis 3.9 Loligo.sp 3 Mysidacea 2.9 Pandalidae 2.5 Decapoda.shrimp 2.5 Hyperiidae 2.3
	Fish Condition	High condition
Commercial Fishery Characterization[7]	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	1.41 USD (2023), 1.01 USD (2024), 1.36 USD (2025), all USD 2025
	Commercial Revenue	9.4M USD (2023); 4.3M USD (2024); 8.5M USD (2025), all USD 2025
	Commercial Catch	3,519.4 mt (2023); 2,290.7 mt (2024); 3,315.1 mt (2025)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	5% management uncertainty buffer
	Commercial Vessels	123 vessels (2023); 115 vessels (2024); and 90 vessels (2025)
	Commercial Dealers	24 dealers (2023); 22 dealers (2024); and 20 dealers (2025)

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
	Commercial Ports	Top five in alphabetical order: Boston, MA; Gloucester, MA; New Bedford, MA; Portland, ME; Rye, NH
	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	Pollock catch occurs in the redfish fishery. Use of the redfish exemption to target redfish using smaller mesh has declined recently.
Additional Information[8,9]	FMSY Reference Point	0.205
	SSB MSY Reference Point	84,446 mt
	MSY Reference Point	10,370 mt
	OFL	14,583 mt
	ABC	11,170 mt
	Harvest Control Rules	75%Fmsy
	Accountability Measures	Pound for pound payback for commercial fishery
	Significant Catch Present	There was significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	There are significant recreational catches - state waters 220.5 mt and federal fisheries 192.4 mt in FY2024.

[1]2024 Pollock Management Track Assessment; [2]2024 Pollock Management Track Assessment; [3]2024 Pollock Management Track Assessment; [4]Hare et al 2016; [5]2026 State of the Ecosystem Report; [6]Prey Habits Shiny App; [7]CAMS; [8]2024 Pollock Management Track Assessment; [9]GARFO Year-End Catch Accounting;

Scores and Weights

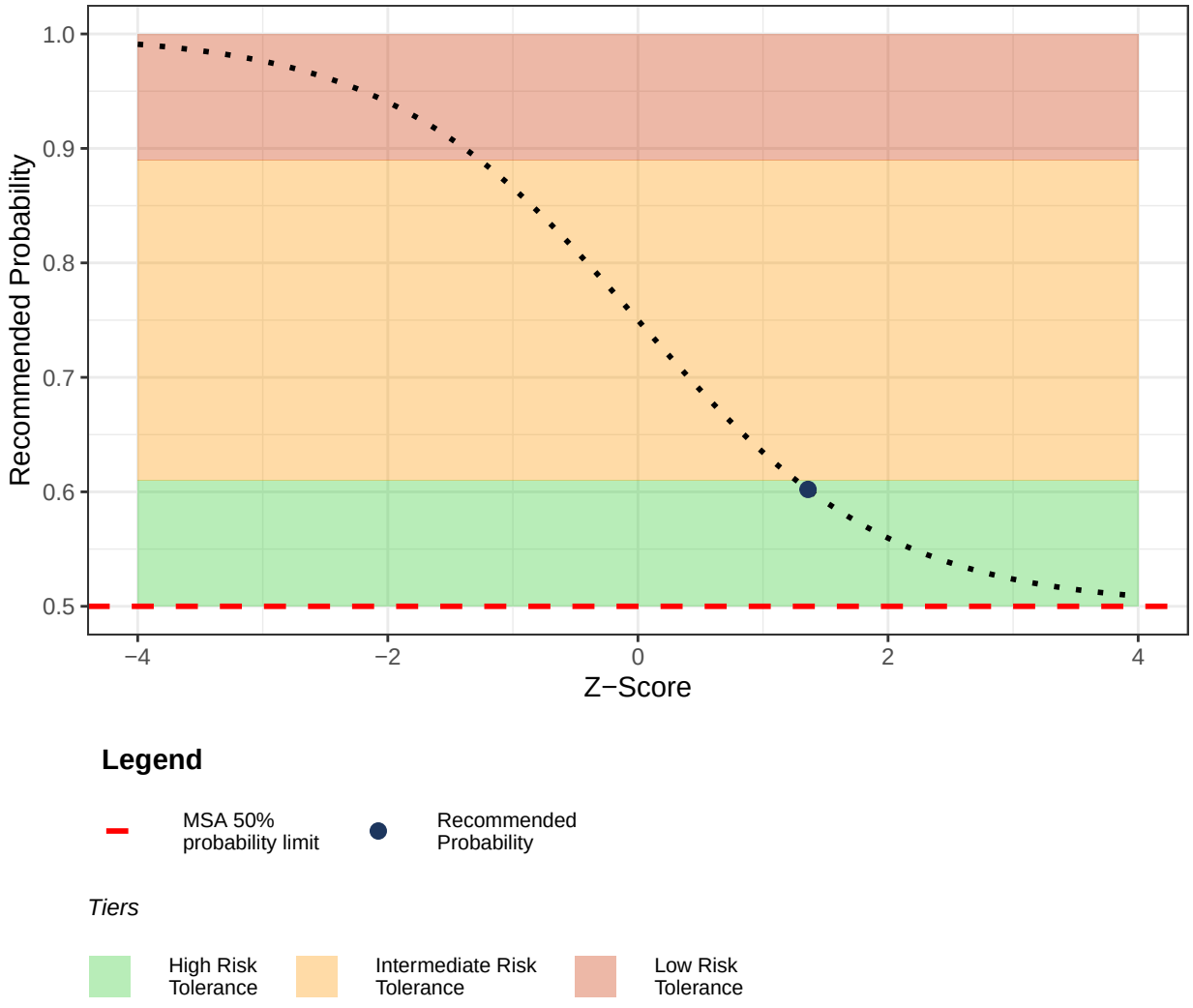
Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	Atlantic pollock	Biomass	4	3.44
2026	Atlantic pollock	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	Atlantic pollock	Climate	-2	2.11
2026	Atlantic pollock	Commercial	2	2.83

The calculated z-score is **1.36**

The recommended probability is **60.2%**

Recommended Probability

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



2026 Risk Policy Report for Atlantic halibut

October 20, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty[1]	Assessment Type	The stock has an empirical assessment.
	Assessment Model	FSD
	Terminal Assessment Year	2023, data update through 2025 for survey indices and catch data
	Retrospective Pattern	Not provided
	Retrospective Values	Not provided
	Data Used	Fall Bottom Trawl Survey, Commercial catch (US and Canada)
	Missing Data	2020 Fall bottom trawl survey, zeroes in 2018 and 2019 fall survey treated as N/A
	Uncertainty Sources	Data limited assessment, stock structure, lack of BRPs, low catchability in NEFSC surveys, and uncertainty associated time lags in using the catch advice for the out years from the FSD method
Biomass[2]	Overfished	The stock is overfished.
	Overfishing	Overfishing status is unknown for this stock.
	Rebuilding Plan	The stock is in a rebuilding plan.
	Rebuilding Target	2055
	SSB	N/A - empirical model does not estimate SSB
	Relative SSB	N/A - empirical model does not estimate reference points
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	High climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Negative directional effect of climate change
	No Of Prey	17

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Fish Condition[4]	Prey Information	Prey Species and Mean Proportion Unidentified.fish 22.7 Pandalidae 20.9 Cancer.sp 13.5 Crustacean.shrimp 11.4 Enchelyopus.cimbrius 10.2 Merluccius.bilinearis 9.1 Decapoda.crab 8.5 Illex.sp 7.6 Cryptacanthodes.maculatus 7.3 Sebastes.fasciatus 6.5 Scomber.scombrus 5.5 Clupea.harengus 5.3 Octopoda 4.9 Raja.sp 4.8 Cephalopoda 2.1 Macrozoarces.americanus 2.1 Hippoglossoides.platessoides 2
	Fish Condition	Not provided
Commercial Fishery Characterization[5]	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	$7.02 (2023), $7.33 (2024), $8.31 (2025), all USD 2025
	Commercial Revenue	$0.3 M (2023), $0.4 M (2024), $0.5 M (2025), all USD 2025
	Commercial Catch	36.6 mt (2023), 43.3 mt (2024, 47.3 mt (2025)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	7% management uncertainty buffer
	Commercial Vessels	114 (2023), 118 (2024), 104 (2025)
	Commercial Dealers	32 (2023), 34 (2024), 30 (2025)
	Commercial Ports	Top 5 ports in alphabetical order: Boston, MA ; Friendship, ME; Gloucester, MA; New Bedford, MA; Portland, ME
	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	Incidental catch fishery, federal groundfish vessels are allowed to land 1 legal-sized fish per trip; State of Maine directed fishery managed with a fish tag program and seasonal restrictions.
Additional Information[6]	FMSY Reference Point	Not provided
	SSB MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	OFL	unknown
	ABC	106 mt total ABC
	Harvest Control Rules	Option D: terminal year catch x catch multiplier from FSD assessment, ABC held constant
	Accountability Measures	Commercial groundfish vessels are subject to an area closure/ gear restriction; zero possession AM for federally permitted vessels (with some exceptions for party/charter)
	Significant Catch Present	There was significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	There are significant catches in state waters fisheries (13.1 mt) and other federal fisheries (9.8 mt) in FY2024.

[1]2024 Atlantic Halibut Management Track Assessment; [2]2024 Atlantic Halibut Management Track Assessment; [3]Hare et al, 2016; Shackell et al 2022; [4]Prey Habits Shiny App; [5]CAMS; [6]GARFO Year-end Catch Reports;

Scores and Weights

Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	Atlantic halibut	Biomass	0	3.44
2026	Atlantic halibut	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	Atlantic halibut	Climate	-3	2.11
2026	Atlantic halibut	Commercial	3	2.83

The calculated z-score is **0.18**

The recommended probability is **72.8%**

Recommended Probability

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

