

2026 Risk Policy Report for Southern Windowpane flounder

October 01, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty ¹	Assessment Type	The stock has an empirical assessment.
	Assessment Model	AIM
	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
	Uncertainty Sources	Uncertainty in catch input given the catch is almost entirely discards
Biomass ²	Overfished	The stock is not overfished.
	Overfishing	Overfishing is not occurring for this stock.
	Rebuilding Plan	The stock is considered rebuilt.
	Rebuilding Target	Not provided
	SSB	Terminal year biomass index is 0.213 kg/tow
	Relative SSB	85% of Bmsy proxy (0.250 kg/tow)
Recruitment ³	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	There does not seem to be a relationship between windowpane larvae in the water and abundance of adults or recruits. Productivity as measured by the ratio of small fish to large fish was poor between 2010 and 2022. In the 2000s there were several years of very high productivity that were reflected in the rising survey biomass of that time. The poor productivity was also reflected in the recent decline in survey biomass used in the assessment.

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Climate Vulnerability ⁴	Climate Vulnerability	Low climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Neutral directional effect of climate change
Fish Condition ⁵	No Of Prey	25
	Prey Information	Mysidacea, Crangonidae, Urophycis regia, Pandalidae, unidentified fish, Gammaridea, animal remains, Scophthalmus aquosus, shrimp, Gadidae, Euphausiacea, non-polychaete worms, Stenotomus chrysops, Decapoda, Crustacea, Etropus microstomus, Ammodytes spp., Hyperiididae, Pleuronectiformes, Cancer spp., Loligo spp., Alosa aestivalis, Alosa pseudoharengus, Amphipoda, Anchoa hepsetus
	Fish Condition	Not provided
Commercial Fishery Characterization	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	\$0 – possession prohibited
	Commercial Revenue	\$0 – possession prohibited
	Commercial Catch	12.4 mt (FY2023); 35.3 mt (FY2024); 24.4 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
	Recreational Management Uncertainty Buffer	Not provided
Other Socioeconomic Information	Recreational Ports	Not provided
	Other Socioeconomic Information	Not provided

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Additional Information ⁶	FMSY Reference Point	Not provided
	SSB MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	MSY Reference Point	Not provided
	OFL	284 mt
	ABC	213 mt
	Harvest Control Rules	Apply 75%FMSY proxy to the terminal 3-year average of the fall biomass index
	Accountability Measures	Groundfish: If the total ACL is exceeded and the commercial groundfish fishery catches more than its allocation of Southern windowpane flounder, then both common pool and sector trawl vessels on a groundfish trip would be required to fish with approved selective trawl gear when fishing in the applicable AM areas. The AM area is dependent on the size of the overage (> or <20%). Large-mesh non-Groundfish trawl vessels: If the total catch limit for Southern windowpane flounder is exceeded and non-groundfish fisheries are in part or solely responsible for the overage, then any trawl vessel fishing with a codend mesh size of 5 inches or greater would be required to use approved selective trawl gear when fishing in the applicable AM areas. The AM area is dependent on the size of the overage (> or <20%). Scallop: If the total catch limit for Southern windowpane flounder is exceeded and the scallop fishery catches more than its allocation, or if the scallop fishery exceeds its allocation by 50 percent or more, then the AM would be triggered for scallop vessels. The duration of the AM is dependent on the size of the overage (>20% = February only; <20% = February and March).
	Significant Catch Present	There was significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	The scallop fishery has a sub-ACL for southern windowpane flounder. In FY 2024, the scallop fishery caught 3.9 mt, which was 5.5% of its sub-ACL, <1% of total catch, and <2% of the total ACL. State waters catch was 22.9 mt. Other fisheries catch was 363.3 mt, which was 371% of the sub-component set aside, 85% of total catch, and 177% of the total ACL.

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
¹ 2023 Management Track assessment; 2025 Data Update; ² 2023 Management Track assessment; ³ 2023 Management Track assessment; ⁴ Hare et al, 2016; ⁵ Prey Habits Shiny App; ⁶ GARFO Fishing Year Final Catch Reports;		

Scores and Weights

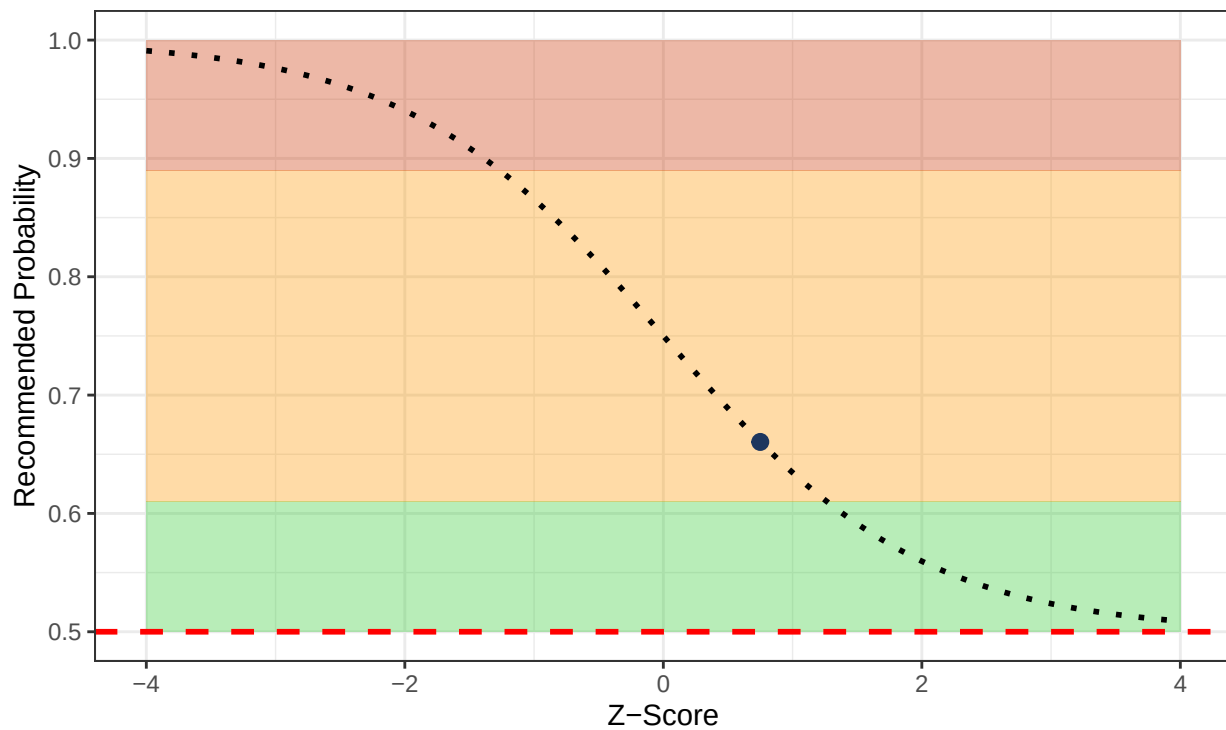
Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	Southern Windowpane flounder	Biomass	0	3.44
2026	Southern Windowpane flounder	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	Southern Windowpane flounder	Climate	0	2.11
2026	Southern Windowpane flounder	Commercial	3	2.83

The calculated z-score is **0.75**

The recommended probability is **66%**

Recommended Probability

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



Legend

— MSA 50% probability limit ● Recommended Probability

Tiers

High Risk Tolerance Intermediate Risk Tolerance Low Risk Tolerance