



2025 Risk Policy Matrix for the Groundfish FMP

Stock: **Atlantic Wolffish**

Factor	Supporting Information
Stock Status and Uncertainty	
Biomass Stock Status	Stock is overfished (2022 MTA)
	Overfishing is occurring (2022 MTA)
	Rebuilding target: Undefined
	2021 SSB: 690 mt (46% of SSBMSY proxy = 1,509 mt; 2022 MTA)
Recruitment	Recruits (millions) in the most recent three years of the 2022 assessment: 274 in 2019; 274 in 2020; and 274 in 2022
	Beginning of recruitment time series: 1968
	In the 2022 assessment, recruitment showed an increase at the end of the time series towards the initial estimate. Though, there was no information in the model nor indication in the data that recruitment had increased. Additionally, the lack of information to inform recruitment at the end of the times series, makes projections for this stock challenging and uncertain as they tend to revert back to the mean.
	The 2025 data update for Atlantic wolffish does not include updated estimates of recruits.
	SCALE model, empirical assessment
	Terminal year: 2021
	<u>Data used in the 2022 assessment:</u> - U.S. Commercial landings and discards; - U.S. Recreational landings; - NEFSC fall and spring bottom trawl survey; and - MADMF spring bottom trawl survey. NEFSC bottom long line survey indices from 2014 through 2021 were supplementally included for the 2022 assessment report for information purposes but were not included in the SCALE model.
	<u>Missing data in the 2022 assessment:</u> - NEFSC 2020 fall and spring bottom trawl survey; - NEFSC spring adult index in 2004-2006, 2008, 2011 due to zero catch
	<u>Data updated in the 2025 data update:</u> - U.S. Commercial landings and discards by calendar year through 2024; - NEFSC fall survey indices through 2024 and spring survey indices through 2025 in terms of stratified mean indices at length (cm) and in biomass (kg/tow)
	<u>Additional missing data in the 2025 data update:</u> NEFSC 2023 spring survey treated as missing due to incomplete survey effort
	<u>The 2022 assessment had retrospective patterns:</u> - SSB Mohn's rho: 0.18 - F Mohn's rho: -0.10 However, confidence intervals were not available with the SCALE model; therefore an adjustment was not made.



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Assessment Type and Uncertainty	<p><u>Sources of uncertainty in the 2022 assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment uses ocean pout calibration coefficients because coefficients for wolffish are unknown; - The no possession limit places greater importance on discard mortality; - Whether the lack of recruitment index since 2005 is due to a decrease in recruitment or a change in catchability due to a change to the Bigelow gear liner mesh size; and - A data update was provided in lieu of a stock assessment in 2025.
	Climate and Ecosystem
Climate Vulnerability	<p>High climate vulnerability: high climate exposure + high biological sensitivity</p> <p>Negative directional effect of climate change</p> <p>Atlantic wolffish is not currently included in the Prey Analysis shiny app and thus there is no prey data to present.</p>
	Atlantic wolffish was reported to have neutral fish condition in FY2021 according to the 2025 SOE report. There is missing data in FY2022 and FY2023.
Fish Condition	Atlantic wolffish was reported to have neutral fish condition in FY2021 according to the 2025 SOE report. There is missing data in FY2022 and FY2023.
Economic and Community Importance	
Commercial Fishery Characterization	Atlantic wolffish is a non-allocated stock and possession is not permitted. There is not a commercial fishery for this stock, and thus there is no commercial groundfish revenue or ex-vessel price data available.
	Total catch of Atlantic wolffish (GARFO Catch Accounting): 1.8 mt in FY2021; 1.1 mt in FY2022; 1.6 mt in FY2023
	Commercial groundfish fishery catch of Atlantic wolffish (GARFO Catch Accounting): 1.7 mt in FY2021; 1.1 mt in FY2022; 1.5 mt in FY2023
	A management uncertainty buffer of 7% was applied to the commercial groundfish fishery for Atlantic wolffish in FY2025, which is the default buffer for non-allocated stocks.
Recreational Fishery Characterization	Atlantic wolffish is a non-allocated stock and possession is not permitted. There is not a recreational fishery for this stock, and thus there is no recreational fishery trend data available for this stock.
Other Economic/Social Considerations	<i>No other considerations to present.</i>
Additional Information	
Reference Points	FMSY proxy (2022 MTA): 0.192
	SSBMSY (2022 MTA): 1,509 mt
	MSY (2022 MTA): 211 mt
OFLs	124 mt in FY2025
AMs	If ACL and buffer for an unallocated stock is exceeded, groundfish vessels (common pool & sector) are subject to an area closure/ gear restriction in a future year.
Harvest Control Rule	75%FMSY was held constant for FY2023 - FY2025
	Commercial groundfish fishery FY2023 ACL utilization: 2%
ABCs	93 mt in in FY2025



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Significant source of catch outside the directed federal fishery?	<i>No significant catch outside the groundfish fishery.</i>