2026 Risk Policy Report for Sea scallop

September 22, 2026

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
Assessment and Uncertainty[1]	Assessment Type	The stock has an analytical assessment.
	Assessment Model	Catch-at-size analysis (CASA) models. Three models for Georges Bank Open, Georges Bank Closed, and the Mid-Atlantic.
	Terminal Assessment Year	2023
	Retrospective Pattern	There was minor retrospective pattern.
	Retrospective Values	F rho (-0.09) and ssb rho (0.17)
	Data Used	Landings and discards; VIMS dredge survey; SMAST drop camera survey; Maine DMR dredge survey; CFF HabCam survey; NEFSC dredge survey; NEFSC HabCam survey
	Missing Data	No observer data prior to 1989.
	Uncertainty Sources	Discard mortality, incidental mortality & stock-recruit relationship, natural mortality, sea scallop growth, maturity & fecundity, density dependence, shell height/meat weight relationship
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	2023
	Relative SSB	74.99%
Recruitment[3]	Recruitment is estimated	Yes
	Recruitment Model	Beverton-Holt
	Initial year of time series	1976
	Recruitment estimates	2,798 billion (2021), 5,535 billion (2022), 2,868 billion (2023)

Factor	Value	Supporting Information
	Other Recruitment Information	Mid-Atlantic recruitment peaked in 2014 & substantially declined from 2015-2023; Georges Bank recruitment peaked in 2013 & had above average recruitment in 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2022; GB Open had a very large recruitment event in 2014 followed by average recruitment through 2023.
Climate Vulnerability[4]	Climate Vulnerability	Very high climate vulnerability
	Climate Direction	Negative directional effect of climate change
Fish Condition	No Of Prey	Not provided
	Prey Information	Not provided
	Fish Condition	Not provided
Commercial Fishery Characterization[5]	Commercial Ex-vessel Price per Pound	$13.86 (2023), $16.77 (2024), $17.98 (2025)
	Commercial Revenue	$352.63M (2023), $342.35M (2024), $410.28M (2025)
	Commercial Catch	25.44M lb (2023), 20.42M lb (2024), 22.84M lb (2025)
	Commercial Management Uncertainty Buffer	For the Limited Access component, the management uncertainty buffer is set through Annual Catch Target at the fishing mortality rate associated with a 25% chance of exceeding the ACL. For FY 2026, the Limited Access ACL was set at 11,367 mt, and the Limited Access ACT was set at 10,169 mt.
	Commercial Vessels	Total active vessels across all permit types were 606 (2024), 594 (2025), 549 (2026)
	Commercial Dealers	733 dealers (2026)
	Commercial Ports	Primary ports include Cutler, ME; Chatham, Fairhaven, Gloucester, and New Bedford, MA; Narragansett/Point Judith, RI; Barnegat Light, Cape May, Pt. Pleasant/Pt. Pleasant Beach, and Wildwood, NJ; and Hampton/Seaford and Newport News, VA.
	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

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	Recreational Management Uncertainty Buffer	Not provided
	Recreational Ports	Not provided
Other Socioeconomic Information	Other Socioeconomic Information	Economic factors that impact prices, revenues, profits and crew shares in the scallop fishery include the size composition of landings, demand for scallops in the domestic and export markets, import prices and net scallop landings. Price flexibility is considered low. Short-term fluctuations in landings due to area and season closures and effort reduction measures also affect prices, revenues, profits and crew shares. The price premiums for larger scallops (U10s and U12) increased in the recent years as the U.S. has become one of the major exporters of large scallops.
Additional Information[6,7]	FMSY Reference Point	0.49
	SSB MSY Reference Point	93282 mt
	MSY Reference Point	28402 mt
	OFL	19645 mt (2026)
	ABC	12757 mt (discards removed)
	Harvest Control Rules	ABC = catch associated with fishing mortality rate with a 25% probability of exceeding the OFL.
	Accountability Measures	Reactive AM (pound-for-pound payback).
	Significant Catch Present	There was not significant catch in other fisheries
	Significant Catch Information	Not provided

[1]2025 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Track Assessment; [2]2025 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Track Assessment; [3]2025 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Track Assessment; [4]Hare et al. 2016; [5]Scallop Framework 40, CAMS database access July 2026.; [6]2025 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Track Assessment; [7]Scallop Framework 40;

Scores and Weights

Report Year	Stock	Factor	Score	Average Weight
2026	Sea scallop	Biomass	-2	3.44
2026	Sea scallop	Recruitment	0	2.89
2026	Sea scallop	Climate	-4	2.11
2026	Sea scallop	Commercial	3	2.83

The calculated z-score is **-0.63**

The recommended probability is **82.6%**

Recommended Probability

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

