

DECISION DOCUMENT
For
2027 – 2031 Specifications
Atlantic Herring
Fishery Management Plan



This document was developed to help the Council select a final proposed action.

For September 2, 2026 – Joint Committee and Advisory Panel Meeting

Committee Version, August 28, 2026

Anticipated Council Action:

Prior to selecting a final proposal, Council staff will present the draft alternatives and analysis prepared by the Atlantic Herring Plan Development Team and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Technical Committee. Council staff will also answer questions, as needed, about the draft action document. The following are anticipated Council actions:

1. Motion to select a preferred alternative for 2027-2031 Atlantic herring specifications.
2. Motion to submit the 2027-2031 Atlantic herring specifications document to NOAA Fisheries.

Specifications for 2027-2031

Specifications for 2027-2031 <i>Choose one.</i>		Preferred by	
		AP	CMTE
Alternative1/ No Action	<i>Under the No Action alternative, there are two scenarios for the overfishing limit. If the default specifications for 2027, as recommended by the Council in the 2025-2027 specifications action, were used, the overfishing limit (OFL) would be 31,075 mt. If the 2026 specifications were to roll over into 2027, the OFL would remain 23,491 mt. The ABC was held constant in 2026 and 2027, so no other specifications would differ.</i>		
Alternative 2	<i>Update the annual specifications for FY2027 through FY2031 for Atlantic herring using the 10-year average of Canadian fixed gear catch and set river herring/shad catch caps.</i>		
Alternative 3	<i>Update the annual specifications for FY2027 through FY2031 for Atlantic herring using the 5-year average of Canadian fixed gear catch and set river herring/shad catch caps.</i>		
Decisions/Questions/Information to consider			
• See SSC report from August 11-12, 2026 meeting, which includes a majority and minority report. • See PDT/TC report to SSC for August 11-12 SSC meeting.			
Other important considerations			
• <i>To be updated for Council version.</i>			