

DRAFT NEFMC ABC TRACKER – DO NOT REFERENCE – NOT FINAL

FMP	Stock	Stock Status	ABC Timing	ABC policy used in 2015	SSC Comments
Atlantic herring	Atlantic herring	Declared overfished in 2020; overfishing not occurring (2020 management track). Rebuilding plan implemented in 2022 (Framework 9)	ABC initially set for 3 years at a time. Assessment schedule changed in 2018; now assessed every two years with specifications set for following 2 years.	Constant Catch Approach: ABC set such that the probability of overfishing does not exceed 50% in any year. In this case the third year used to set ABC equal to catch with 50% probability of overfishing. (2015 SSC meeting)	SSC notes that the current high biomass of herring, bolstered by two very large year classes, is likely meeting ecosystem goals; however, meeting this goal is by default and not by design, as ecosystem goals are not identified or captured in the current control rule.
Atlantic sea scallop	Georges Bank and Mid-Atlantic stocks combined	Not overfished, overfishing not occurring	ABC set annually. ABC set for 2 years, but second year default only.	Probability of Overfishing Approach: ABC= Catch associated with fishing rate that has 25% chance of exceeding OFL (2015 SSC meeting)	SSC agreed with the PDT to keep year 2 OFL and ABC at year 1 levels. ABC should not increase because the model underestimates mortality of juvenile scallops at high densities, which results in overestimation of biomass.

Stock (cont.)	ABC Policy change (Year?)	Primary rationale for change	ABC Policy change (Year?)	Primary rationale for change
Atlantic Herring	Biomass Based Approach: when biomass is >0.5 for the ratio of SSB/SSBMSY, Fmax is 80% of FMSY. As B declines, F declines linearly, and if B falls below 0.1, then ABC is set to zero. (2018 SSC meeting)	MSE process used to develop ABC control rule (Amendment 8). SSC supported use of new rule before action fully effective. However, kept year 3 ABC the same as Year 2 due to uncertainty of projections.	Same biomass based ABC control rule used, also recommended to keep ABC in year 3 the same as year 2. (2020 SSC meeting)	No change. Recruitment still low, projections uncertain, low confidence in projections farther out.
Atlantic sea scallop	Adjustments to several parameters and reference points have been made over the years, but the same ABC CR has been applied. (2016-2021 SSC meetings)			

ABC Control Rule Policies used in the NEFMC

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
Atlantic herring	CC	CC	CC	BB	BB	BB	BB
Atlantic sea scallop	Pof	Pof	Pof	Pof	Pof	Pof	Pof
Red Crab	LTC	LTC	LTC	LTC	LTC	LTC	LTC
Skates	LTC*	LTC*	LTC*	LTC*	LTC*	LTC*	LTC*
Monkfish	BE	BE	BE	BE	BE	BE	BE

KEY	
CC	constant catch
BB	biomass based
Pof	set % of overfishing
CF	constant fishing mortality rate (F)
LTC	based on long-term catch estimates
LTC*	based on long-term catch estimates and recent biomass estimate
BE	biomass * exploitation rate