

FMP
STOCK(S)
LAST ASSESSMENT

ATLANTIC HERRING FMP
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SAW 54, JUNE 2012

Assessment Model, Terminal Year	Data Rich/Data Poor?	Overfishing?/ Overfished?	In Rebuilding Program?	OFL	ABC/ABC CR	ACL	ACT
ASAP Model, 2011	XXX	No/No Rebuilt (Above B target)	No	$F_{MAX} \times B_{CURRENT}$ ($F_{MAX} = F_{MSY}$ or F_{REB} , depending on stock status) 169,000 mt in 2013 136,000 mt in 2014 114,000 mt in 2015	2013-2015: Constant Catch (114,000 mt) 3 year average with 50% probability of overfishing in Year 3	ABC - Management Uncertainty , as determined by Council; Stockwide ACL = U.S. OY 107,800 mt 2013-2015	N/A; AMs close directed fishery at 92% of sub-ACLs and 95% of stockwide ACL
*Fishery prosecuted primarily with midwater trawls (single/paired), purse seines, and small mesh bottom trawls; there is also a small fixed gear fishery in state waters. Most significant management challenges include minimizing interactions with non-target species like river herring, shad and some groundfish (haddock). The role of herring as a forage species and importance of herring to the ecosystem are also important management considerations.				MSY/OY	TAL	Discards	State Waters
				MSY defined by assessment (53,000 mt in SAW 54); OY = Stockwide ACL	TAL = Stockwide ACL divided into sub-ACLs by management area	Less than 1% of total catch; added to landings for assessment; counted against management area sub-ACLs	Deducted from ABC as part of management uncertainty, if necessary (currently no deduction)
Recent Performance Against Harvest Control Rule		Stock has remained in a rebuilt condition with no overfishing occurring for many years. Catch and fishing mortality have been relatively consistent for years; the fishery is near full utilization because ACLs have decreased over time. 100% of the stockwide ACL was utilized in 2012.					
Current Management Program		Limited access fishery (4 limited access categories, 2 open access categories); Catch quotas (TACs/ACLs), divided by management area since 2000; 3-year specifications; AMs to prevent ACLs/sub-ACLs from being exceeded and to address overages; carryovers (up to 10%) for sub-ACL underage; catch caps to manage interactions haddock and river herring/shad; seasonal gear restrictions (mwt) in the inshore GOM; seasonal availability of management area sub-ACLs (1A and 1B); observer coverage and other monitoring/reporting requirements; measures to address net slippage					
Catch, Revenues, and Variability		Total catch averaged 91,500 mt from 2003-2013, with a high of 103,943 mt in 2009 and low of 72,852 mt in 2010. The ABC/ACL increased in the 2013-2015 specs, and 2013 catch was 97,680 mt (92% of the stockwide ACL). Prices for herring increased over this time period, averaging \$239 per mt from 2003-2013 (\$160/mt in 2003 and \$316/mt in 2013).					
Data - Vessels, Permits, Jobs, Employment, Ports		~28 of 40 Cat. A/B (LA directed fishery) vessels were active in recent years - these vessels landed >98% of the total catch; ~10 of 44 Cat. C vessels (LA incidental catch) are active; over 1,700 open access (Cat. D) permits that land <1% of total ~100 active dealers, mostly bait; major processing companies in Gloucester, New Bedford, and Cape May.					
% Food, % Recreational		100% commercial fishery, no recreational fishery 70% commercial fishery utilized for lobster bait (and recreational fishery bait); 30% for food - frozen whole export and sardines					
Major Sources of Scientific Uncertainty		From the Stock Assessment - (1) Size of the 2008 year class; (2) Estimate of Natural Mortality; (3) Biological Reference Points (BRPs) -Retrospective pattern apparent in previous assessments was addressed by changing assumptions about natural mortality and changes to maturity-at-age. Other Sources of Uncertainty - Stock Structure/Stock Component Mixing (inshore/offshore)					
Major Sources of Management Uncertainty		Canadian catch (NB weir fishery) currently the only source of management uncertainty accounted for in buffer between ABC and stockwide ACL (uncertainty re. discards and state waters catch also considered, but not accounted for in 2013-2015 specifications)					
How is Risk Currently Addressed?		Risk of overfishing the stock complex (high F) and reducing biomass to overfished (low B) addressed ad-hoc during three-year specifications					
Available Metrics for Evaluating Risk		Currently, the FMP focuses on reducing the risk of overfishing - metrics available include OFL distribution, probability of exceeding OFL					
Interactions with Other Fisheries/Stocks		-Atlantic Mackerel (southern New England/Mid-Atlantic fishery overlap); -Northeast Multispecies, especially Haddock (GOM and GB haddock catch caps for midwater trawl vessels); -River Herring and Shad (RH/S catch caps by gear type and area)					
Other Important Considerations/Notes		-Sub-ACLs are allocated to reduce the risk of overfishing one of the stock components (inshore/offshore) -Important overlap with Canadian (New Brunswick) weir fishery - all catch from NB weir fishery assumed to come from inshore component of Atlantic herring stock; Management uncertainty deduction from ABC accounts for expected Canadian catch (6,200 mt 2013-2015) -SSC has requested guidance from the Council as to how it would like to see this stock managed, i.e., as a typical fishery with MSY-based reference points, or at a reduced fishing rate and higher stock size to account for its role in the ecosystem; -Ongoing interest in exploring forage-based control rules for this stock					