



**MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION
BUSINESS MEETING AMENDED AGENDA**

9:00AM

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Via Zoom

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82663120619>

Call In: 1-305-224-1968

Webinar ID: 826 6312 0619

1. Call to Order and Routine Business (9:00 AM)
 - a. Introductions and Announcements
 - b. Review of October 2025 Business Meeting Agenda
 - c. Review and Approval of September 2025 Draft Business Meeting Minutes
2. Agency Updates (9:15 AM)
 - a. Office of Law Enforcement: Personnel, Recent Operations & Marine Fishery Incidents
 - b. Department of Fish and Game: Recent Meetings and Events and Department-wide Activities and Projects
 - c. Division of Marine Fisheries: Personnel, Recent Meetings and Events, and Agency Activities and Projects
3. 2025 Belding Award Nomination
4. Update on Performance of 2025 Quota Managed Fisheries
5. Discussion Items (10:00AM)
 - a. Preview of Upcoming October ASMFC Meeting
 - b. Federal Fisheries Management Update
 - c. Shellfish Program Update
 - d. Offshore Wind Update
6. Other Business and Public Comment (11:30PM)
 - a. Convening Law Enforcement Focus Group
7. Adjourn (11:45PM)

All times provided are approximate and the meeting agenda is subject to change. The MFAC may amend the agenda at the start of the business meeting.

Next Meeting Date

November 18, 2025
DFW Field Headquarters
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA

Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission Draft Business Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2025

DFW Field Headquarters

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA

Attendees

Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission: Raymond Kane, Chairman; Chris McGuire; Bill Amaru; Bill Doyle; Ray Jarvis; Eric Nelson; Shelley Edmundson, Clerk. Absent: Arthur “Sooky” Sawyer

Division of Marine Fisheries: Dan McKiernan, Director; Story Reed, Deputy Director; Anna Webb, Assistant Deputy Director; Jared Silva; Nichola Meserve; Kelly Whitmore; Kevin Creighton; Bradlie Morgan

Department of Fish and Game: Tom O’Shea, Commissioner

Massachusetts Environmental Police: Colonel John Monaghan; Lieutenant Matt Bass; Captain Robert Forsythe

Members of the Public: Philip Michaud, Theodore Glynn

Call to Order and Routine Business

Chairman Ray Kane called the meeting to order. Kane introduced John Monaghan, the recently appointed Colonel of the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP).

Review of the September 2025 Business Meeting Agenda

Chairman Kane asked for any amendments to the September 2025 Business Meeting Agenda. There were no amendments.

Review and Approval of the August 2025 Draft Business Meeting Minutes

Chairman Kane asked for any amendments to the draft August 2025 Business Meeting Minutes. There were no amendments. The Chair called for a motion. **Chris McGuire made a motion to accept the minutes as drafted and Bill Amaru seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Agency Updates

Office of Law Enforcement: Personnel, Recent Operations and Marine Fishery Incidents

Lieutenant Matt Bass provided comments for MEP. Bass outlined recent marine fishery violations. He described a case in Westport involving multiple size and possession limit violations of scup, tautog, fluke, and black sea bass which were addressed civilly, resulting in \$51,200 of fines. Four of those being charged have paid their citations, and one has appealed the decision prompting criminal charges. Bass then described various striped bass violations observed this season and a resulting libel case that concluded in MEP's favor.

On personnel, Bass added that MEP has hired one new officer and is in the process of hiring seven additional officers. Colonel Monaghan noted that some positions are pending federal funding. Bill Amaru asked about any upcoming retirements in MEP. The Colonel stated that Captain Dean Belanger of Nantucket had recently retired, and two additional retirements are anticipated in the coming months.

Chris McGuire asked about implementing a fisheries regulation component within the upcoming recreational boating safety and certification course. Lt. Bass noted the course is designed to focus on boating safety and this information is not part of the mandatory curriculum. However, there was some discussion among Col. Monaghan, Lt. Bass, Chris McGuire, and Ray Jarvis about the potential benefits of using the course as a means to conduct outreach and education to the boating public on fisheries rules.

Chairman Kane asked who will enforce the boating safety license. Bass responded that this will be done by harbormasters and police officers (including MEP).

Bill Amaru expressed support for the boating safety certification.

Ray Jarvis asked if the certification would apply to non-resident boaters as well. Col. Monaghan noted that similar to drivers licenses there will be reciprocity with other states' boating licenses and a persons out-of-state license can be transferred to a Massachusetts license upon becoming a resident. Further, there will be abridged courses to accommodate boat rentals.

McGuire, Doyle, and Monaghan discussed how the curriculum will be made available, including in person and online options. MEP will be involved in teaching parts of the course.

Kevin Creighton and Lt. Bass discussed who is required to obtain a license. Unless specifically exempt, all boaters born on or after January 1, 1989 will be required to have a license for April 1, 2026, whereas those born before will have until April 1, 2028.

Department of Fish and Game: Recent Meetings and Events, and Department-Wide Activities and Projects

Commissioner Tom O'Shea welcomed Colonel Monaghan and expressed excitement to work with him and MEP.

The Commissioner then described Governor Healey's Biodiversity Initiative. In 2023, the Governor signed Executive Order No. 618 to make Massachusetts a nationwide leader in conserving, protecting, sustaining, and rebuilding biodiversity. To meet this goal, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) developed a 25-year action plan. The administration announced this plan at an event held on August 21 at Mass Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary in Barnstable. The event was attended by Governor Healey, representatives from DFG and its various agencies, MFAC members (McGuire and Kane), as well as commercial fishery stakeholders. Tom was hopeful the initiative would enable funding for DMF's efforts to support biodiversity, including the development of a Marine Habitat Restoration Center at Cat Cove Laboratory in Salem. The center will research and develop propagation practices of eelgrass, kelp, and oysters.

On personnel, the Commonwealth was currently in a hiring freeze and the Commissioner anticipated he would learn more about staffing capacity moving forward by the end of the year.

Division of Marine Fisheries: Personnel, Recent Meetings and Events, and Agency Activities and Projects

Director Dan McKiernan reflected on recent seafood marketing campaigns and events. DMF hosted a table at the Boston Local Food Festival, where over 300 pounds of Jonah crab were served to the public to spread awareness about this local fishery. The Seafood Marketing Program developed a series of cooking videos — in partnership with On the Water Magazine and Laura Foley — to highlight local seafood recipes. Over 20 recipes and videos have been released and are being shared on DMF's YouTube channel. A recent recipe video on flounder was presented. Lastly, Seafood Day at the State House will occur on Wednesday, October 22 at 11AM. MFAC members are encouraged to attend.

Bill Amaru expressed support for DMF's efforts to educate the public on local seafood. Amaru asked Story about a recent initiative that DMF led to collect working waterfront videos at Stage Harbor. Story remarked that these are undergoing post-production work and will soon be released.

Dan described an effort across Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to conduct a survey of commercial lobster fishers to determine how best to potentially move forward with conservation. Maine completed their survey in August and Massachusetts' survey is underway.

Dan noted that lobster management in Massachusetts is complicated by regulations across the four Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMA) and fisheries occurring on both the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank stock and the Southern New England stock. Survey results will be shared with the ASMFC and MFAC next month.

Next, Dan discussed Jamie Bassett's recent request for DMF to develop more stringent requirements for the biomedical horseshoe crab dealer permits and to reallocate horseshoe quota from the bait to the biomedical fishery. Director McKiernan reminded the MFAC that DMF would not place more stringent requirements on the issuance of biomedical horseshoe crab dealer permits, but there is interest in ensuring biomedical dealers work to achieve best handling practices. Additionally, while DMF was not able to accommodate a reallocation of horseshoe crab quota between sectors for 2025, staff are currently analyzing the bait fishery and bait use and effort in the state's whelk fishery to determine if it would be appropriate to consider such a reallocation for next season. Any potential draft proposals will be brought forward to the MFAC later this year.

Chairman Kane asked if data has suggested increased whelk landings from federal waters. Jared Silva explained that there have been anecdotal reports of whelk effort shifting into federal waters south and east of Nantucket and there is no evidence to suggest increasing effort in the federal zone this year. McKiernan and Shelley Edmundson discussed how the whelk fishery has shifted seasonally as spring fishing effort has waned.

Bill Amaru expressed support for DMF's efforts to address horseshoe crab management. He also expressed his interest in potential tag-and-recapture work to better quantify the post-release mortality of horseshoe crabs bled for biomedical purposes and remarked on the apparent healthiness of the horseshoe crabs he has observed being released after bleeding.

Ray Kane asked about the anticipated response to an increase in biomedical horseshoe crab quota. Dan did not believe this change would spark a significant response.

Lastly, the ASMFC is hosting hearings on Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass and Massachusetts will host two public hearings on September 25 (Woburn) and September 30 (Buzzards Bay). The ASMFC will meet during the last week of October in Delaware, and the Striped Bass Board will vote to finalize this addendum.

2025 Quota Managed Fishery Performance Update

Anna Webb provided the MFAC with an update on 2025 quota managed fishery performance. She noted that the striped bass commercial fishery had closed before the August MFAC meeting at 99.97%.

Black Sea Bass

Black sea bass fishery landings have slowed since early September. Landings are not close enough to the quota to confidently project the closing date.

Summer Flounder

Summer flounder landings have also slowed in early September. More than 20% of the quota remained on September 1, so trip limits increased to 800 lbs. for all gear types and Saturdays were eliminated as no fishing days. There is a pending trigger that will increase the trip limit to 5,000 lbs. on October 1 if at least 10% of the quota remains.

Silva added that after September 1 there was an increase in interest in the multi-day summer flounder pilot program from offshore draggers. This was likely in response to the trip limit increase potentially incentivizing targeted fishing effort from this fleet.

A few safe harbor landings have occurred for summer flounder. These take place when a vessel was intended to land fish in a different state but instead offloads in Massachusetts for a number of potential safety related reasons (e.g., mechanical issues, weather). In such instances, the other state will transfer quota to Massachusetts to account for these landings. The safe harbor quota transfers were not reflected in the plots presented.

Kane asked how the trawlers in Nantucket Sound performed this season. Webb and Silva noted that while data are not yet available, landings from late May through the end of August are generally attributable to the inshore trawl fleet.

Bait Horseshoe Crab

The rate of landings for bait horseshoe crab has slowed and no triggers to adjust trip limits were met in 2025.

Dan noted that many horseshoe crab landings occur when there is no demand from the whelk fishery which creates a mismatch in demand and availability of the product. Accordingly, bait crabs generally go into frozen storage until they are needed.

Kane asked whether DMF anticipated an impact on local whelk fishermen if the bait quota changes and dealers can sell bait out-of-state. McKiernan and Silva opined that they did not anticipate a bait shortage in Massachusetts given recent pot haul trends in the whelk fishery, the current state of the whelk market, the Commonwealth's bait quota, and anecdotal reports from dealers about bait already held in cold storage. Silva, Kane, and Amaru then further discussed the holding of bait in cold storage.

Scup

This year's summertime (May 1 – September 30) scup landings are tracking 2023 trends closely and the state's quota will not be utilized. Kane and Director McKiernan discussed differences in the recreational and commercial scup fishery regulations.

Bluefish

Bluefish landings continue to trend slower than in 2024. Some quota has been transferred to North Carolina and DMF does not expect any sharp increases in landings. Dan noted that North Carolina has transferred quota to Massachusetts for several years and this is the first year Massachusetts has returned the favor.

Menhaden

Menhaden quota was reached on August 27, and the fishery entered the Episodic Event Set Aside (EESA) on August 28. Webb explained that the EESA is a subset of the quota accessible once a quota has been reached if there are still fish available in state waters. Maine has also entered the EESA and DMF is monitoring the states' total landings.

Kane confirmed that the EESA has a 25,000-pound trip limit.

Nichola Meserve added that Maine will likely drop out of the EESA next week to prevent a quota overage.

Ray Jarvis asked about the purpose of the EESA. Nichola explained that the EESA was implemented when state quotas were first established to allow the northeast states (Maine to New York) continued access to fish after state quotas were taken to account for the fact that the availability of these fish has historically been episodic in the region. Dan added that this allows states to avoid large fish kills by continuing to extract the biomass from inshore waters during the summertime (when water temperature can reduce the capacity to hold oxygen) and the fish remain highly available.

Jarvis and Silva then discussed the shifts in harvesting areas following the recent hurricane.

Tautog

The tautog fishery opened on September 1 and is tracking slower than 2024, which experienced the earliest closure in recent years. Webb noted that value is also tracking similarly to previous years.

Bill Amaru asked if spiny dogfish and skates will be covered at a future meeting, noting the importance of these fisheries to Massachusetts ports. Webb noted that these species are not

subject to state-specific quotas (or in the case of skate, state management), but landings trends could be presented on at a future meeting.

Commissioner O'Shea raised a comment he received from a recreational fisher voicing frustrations about recreational fisheries being closed during the fall while commercial fisheries remain open and commercial limits are frequently liberalized to accommodate quota consumption. Director McKiernan noted that he reached out to this constituent and spoke with him about the differing management programs for commercial and recreational fishers, how this affects access, and why certain recreational management measures (e.g., seasons) have been historically preferred (e.g., open season for black sea bass in beginning in late-May generally prevents a fall open season).

With regards to black sea bass specifically, the Director expressed his continued interest in developing recreational fishing limits to allow for this fishery to remain open into the fall. He was optimistic that this may be possible for 2026 given the increase to the recreational harvest limit. Kane and Meserve will have more information on this after the joint Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) meeting in December.

Kane noted that the for-hire industry has long favored a mid-May start date for the recreational black sea bass fishery, but this may be shifting to favor a fall season in response to potential recreational striped bass closures.

Proposals for Future Public Hearing

Emergency Action to Limit Entry to Commercial Striped Bass Fishery in 2026

Dan discussed the proposed emergency actions to limit entry to the commercial striped bass fishery in 2026. This would include limiting issuance of the regulated fishery striped bass endorsement in 2026 to only those permit holders who held one in 2024 or 2025; establishing the commercial striped bass fishery as being "owner-operator"; establishing the striped bass endorsement as non-transferable among permit holders until DMF develops a program in 2026 to manage exit and entry moving forward; and refreshing the control date from June 14, 2022 to December 31, 2025. This proposal was developed with input from an ad-hoc industry advisory panel which met in July 2025 and the MFAC's Striped Bass Focus Group. Director McKiernan sought support from the MFAC to implement the proposed emergency actions.

Additionally, McKiernan and Silva explained that this action was likely the first of at least three regulatory actions to address the commercial striped bass fishery over the course of the next year or two. DMF also anticipated developing a draft regulatory proposal later this year to potentially adjust commercial fishing limits (e.g., start date, catch limits) for 2026, as well as the

potential for subsequent draft regulatory proposals for 2027 to address exit-entry into the commercial fishery moving forward, further limit access to the striped bass endorsement, and adopt a point-of-harvest tagging program.

Commissioner O'Shea asked about the anticipated reaction from constituents. McKiernan and Silva clarified that this action would only limit the issuance of new striped bass endorsements.

Bill Amaru voiced concern that this action would limit people who did not participate in 2024 or 2025 due to illness or other circumstances but participated in previous years. Additionally, Amaru suggested setting aside a given number of permits for fishermen under 21 years old to allow them a means of entry into the fishery. Silva noted that DMF intends to address concerns around means of entry through the future development of an exit-entry program that would diverge from the longstanding permit transfer program and instead consider a framework that would allow DMF to issue permits based on exit:entry ratios (similar to Rhode Island). If adopted, this could potentially prevent high costs of entry and allow the commercial fishery to still be a gateway into the marine economy.

Doyle, Kane, and Silva discussed DMF's prior action to reduce access to the tautog fishery based on qualifying prior performance criteria. Silva noted that the tautog permit is transferable and this experience contributed to DMF's interest in developing an alternative approach to managing new entrants into the commercial striped bass fishery. Kane suggested DMF could use fishing income both as a qualifying criterion to retain the endorsement or to obtain entry into the fishery moving forward. McKiernan noted his hesitancy to mandate tax information to facilitate permit issuance. Kane added that the striped bass focus group also discussed requiring tagging of all fish landed by commercial permits, including those for personal use, to prevent underreporting. McKiernan noted that this proposal narrowly affects permitting for 2026 and this issue could be addressed through the subsequent rule-making initiatives anticipated over the course of the next year.

Eric Nelson voiced strong support for this initiative. Nelson asked about limiting out-of-state access to the striped bass fishery. Dan noted that this is ultimately a legal question, not a policy question, and DMF would defer to the advice provided by counsel at the conclusion of their ongoing analysis.

Doyle asked about the potential to limit states who do not allow reciprocity with Massachusetts. Dan noted that this is among the concepts being analyzed by counsel.

Silva and McKiernan discussed the process for emergency regulations and how final rules could potentially differ from emergency regulations (e.g., longer lookback window for eligibility). Chris McGuire expressed support for the exit:entry initiative. He recommended emphasizing the purpose of this idea when proposing this action.

O'Shea, Silva, and McKiernan discussed which fisheries are currently owner-operator. While most rod and reel fisheries generally operate as owner-operator, striped bass would be the first rod and reel fishery where this would be a regulatory requirement. Nelson and Jarvis supported the owner-operator requirement noting that the fishery already generally operates in this manner.

Doyle asked about the feasibility of standardizing permitting criteria across all endorsements. Dan added that there are differences in industry needs across fisheries making it challenging to standardize criteria.

Shelley asked what the anticipated number of active permits will be in 2026. McKiernan explained that because the proposed emergency rules would only restrict the issuance of new permits in 2026, he anticipated the number of active permits in 2026 to be similar to the number of active permits in 2025. DMF will have to pursue additional rulemaking in the future if it wants to further restrict access and activity in this commercial fishery.

Kane and Silva discussed how MFAC members should navigate potential conflicts of interest while voting on these issues in the future.

Dan clarified that there will not be a vote on this proposed emergency action, but DMF appreciates support and feedback from the MFAC.

Commercial Summer Flounder Limits

In response to an expected commercial quota increase of 75% for 2026/2027, and fishery performance to-date this season, DMF is proposing several changes to its commercial fishing regulations for 2026 to encourage quota utilization. Jared Silva shared these proposals.

The first proposal would establish the annual Period-based quota allocations and Period I trip limits in response to the magnitude of the annual quota. If the annual quota is at least 750,000 pounds, then the Period I (January 1 – April 22) fishery would receive 30% of the annual quota and the Period II (April 23 – December 31) fishery would receive the remainder; and if the annual quota is less than 750,000 pounds, then the Period I fishery would receive 15% of the quota and the Period II fishery would receive the remainder. Similarly, in years when the quota is at least 750,000 pounds, the Period I trip limit would be 5,000 pounds, and in years when it is not, the trip limit would be 2,000 pounds. This proposal is designed to provide the offshore fishery with greater access to the quota in years when the quota is robust while also reserving sufficient quota to sustain the inshore fishery into the early fall.

The second proposal would unwind recent changes to summertime (April 23 – September 30) trip limits and closed fishing days. The trip limits would increase back to 600 pounds for net fishers and 400 pounds for hook fishers; the current limits are 500 pounds for net fishers and

325 pounds for hook fishers. Additionally, Saturday would be reinstated as an open fishing day thereby allowing commercial fishing seven days per week. This proposal is designed to provide the inshore summertime fishery with better access to available quota.

DMF also discussed reinstating the multi-state trip limit program during the fall and winter fisheries to enhance quota utilization.

Kane asked to clarify the number of vessels participating in the multi-day program. Silva responded that eight vessels participated in 2024. Edmundson and Amaru noted that this program has been beneficial to their local trawlers as it makes it easier for them to get their fish to market.

Commercial Black Sea Bass Limits

Silva then shared DMF's proposed changes to commercial black sea bass regulations for 2026 to encourage quota utilization. These proposals are in response to an expected commercial quota increase of 30% for 2026/2027 and fishery performance.

The primary proposal would enact trip limit and open fishing day liberalizations for the directed fishery earlier in the season. At present, if at least 15% of the quota is projected to remain available on September 15, then the trip limit for pot fishers increases from 500 to 600 pounds and the trip limit for other non-trawl gears (e.g., hooks) increases from 250 to 300 pounds. Additionally, irrespective of quota use, Fridays and Saturdays are eliminated as closed fishing days on September 15 thereby allowing commercial fishing seven days per week. DMF is proposing these trip limit and fishing day changes occur no later than September 1. This should enable quota utilization while also accommodating continued quota availability into the fall when sea bass are caught alongside other target species (e.g., tautog).

Additionally, DMF would seek to amend the rules to allow trawlers to retain a 100-pound bycatch of black sea bass between April 1 – April 22. This would remediate a regulatory oversight that prohibited landing sea bass during this period without adding pressure to spawning groups in the spring.

Recreational Bluefish Limits

Nichola Meserve introduced DMF's proposals to increase the recreational bluefish bag limits by two fish. This would increase the bag limit from three fish to five fish for private vessels and shore-based fishers and from five fish to seven fish for anglers onboard for-hire vessels. This proposal is consistent with recent coastwide decisions by the MAFMC and ASMFC based on the most recent stock status and acceptable catch limits.

Nelson, Meserve, Jarvis, and Kane discussed changes in abundance and availability of bluefish across the Atlantic coast. Nelson and Jarvis remarked on the increased difficulty of finding

bluefish locally this season. Nelson suggested there may be push back from anglers in response to an increased bag limit with reduced local availability. Meserve noted that this trend is hopefully due to changes in geographic distribution along the coast, as the stock assessment has indicated that the stock will be rebuilt by the end of this year.

Allowance for Dual State-Federal Lobster Permit Holder to Retire Coastal for Offshore

Deputy Director Story Reed discussed DMF's proposal to implement a change to commercial lobster permitting. The proposal would allow an existing Coastal Lobster Permit holder with a federal lobster permit to surrender their Coastal Lobster Permit to DMF and be issued an Offshore Lobster Permit, converting their trap tag authorization from dual state-federal to federal waters only ("EEZ-only"). This would enable interested fishers to trade in their state permit and trap fishing authorization and become EEZ-only fishers and thereby avoid the owner-operator requirement associated with the Coastal Lobster Permit.

Kane asked to clarify which Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMA) this change would impact. Reed responded that this would most greatly impact LCMA1. Silva added that there have been many requests to implement this change from lobstermen in Provincetown. Edmundson remarked on how this may decrease the overall value of a permit suite but could afford fishers the flexibility to continue to have their permit fished while pursuing other endeavors.

Housekeeping to Eliminate Certain Regulated Fishery Permit Endorsements

Reed then introduced a proposal to eliminate the Coastal Access Permit (CAP) sub-endorsements for squid, whiting, sea herring, and North Shore mobile gear and the sea scallop shucking endorsement. DMF views these endorsements as outdated, superfluous, and contributing to unnecessarily complicated permitting requirements. If the CAP sub-endorsements are eliminated, any permit holder who receives one of these sub-endorsements will instead receive a CAP which will continue to authorize these activities. Silva added that this would not impact the CAP purse seine. If the sea scallop shucking endorsement is eliminated, any lawfully permitted vessel will be allowed to land shucked adductor muscles. The requirement for a shellfish endorsement would remain for those vessels seeking to possess and land whole in-shell product.

Amaru expressed support for this simplification.

Doyle asked about harvesting shellfish from areas that are not tested for water quality. Silva responded that all areas must be tested for adequate water quality for shellstock to be harvested. In the case of sea scallops, shucked product may be retained from areas that are not

tested or where relevant public health criteria are not met. Silva, Reed, McKiernan, and Doyle then discussed the standards for retaining sea scallop shellstock in federal waters where there is no biotoxin monitoring.

Recent Meeting to Discuss North Shore State Waters Sea Scallop Fishing Concerns

Director McKiernan briefed the MFAC on a recent (August 26) meeting with North Shore state waters sea scallop fishing interests. These concerns include increased participation and transfers of CAP permits to out-of-state interests; delaying the start of the Ipswich Bay season to better align with the February 1 – May 15 trap gear closure to protect right whales; establishing additional seasonal access areas around Cape Ann; and creating greater symmetry between state and federal dredge width rules. Additionally, there was strong support for DMF to provide additional seasonal access around Cape Ann within the North Shore Mobile Gear Closure area. DMF is currently reviewing these issues and exploring potential opportunities to address these issues moving forward.

Kane asked how these concerns relate to the alleged increase in the transfer of Coastal Access Permits to non-resident vessels (particularly scallop interests from Maine). Dan noted that this was among the issues discussed at the meeting. The issue of non-resident permitting is a legal question that is being reviewed and will be addressed separately based on guidance from counsel.

Nelson asked about potential downsides of a pilot program. Silva noted that DMF intended to accept public comment on the item and this comment would help DMF and the MFAC evaluate pros and cons. DMF previously proposed a similar pilot program for an area off Nahant and ultimately did not move forward with it because of the strong pushback received from divers and underwater archaeology stakeholders.

Bill Amaru asked to clarify what vessels would be included in this. Dan responded the pilot program would likely be limited to Coastal Access Permit holders with some historic activity in the fishery. Therefore, vessel length would be capped at 72-feet overall.

McGuire asked if this area is part of the spring cod conservation area. Silva thought the exemption area would occur primarily outside spawning cod closures in Salem Sound and scallop dredge gear has been historically exempted from state cod spawning closures. Dan added that the pilot program would narrowly exempt only scallop dredge gear from the mobile gear closure and would not allow dragger access given relevant concerns about effort and landings in the state waters groundfish fishery.

McKiernan noted that DMF would provide the MFAC with a more formal memorandum on a potential pilot program and regulatory amendments at a future meeting.

Discussion Items

Options for Recreational Striped Bass Management Under Draft Addendum III

Nichola Meserve discussed striped bass management options under Draft Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan. The ASMFC is currently in the process of holding coastwide public hearings on the draft addendum. The addendum proposes measures to reduce commercial and recreational fishery removals by 12% in support of rebuilding the striped bass stock by the 2029 deadline. For the commercial fishery, this comes as a straight 12% quota cut, but for the recreational fishery there are a myriad of options for various seasonal closures. Meserve explained how the closed seasons may be applied and provided examples of resulting open seasons in calendar dates to prime MFAC members for the two upcoming ASMFC public hearings in Massachusetts.

The timeline, as explained, is to first determine if there will be a 12% reduction in recreational removals and if there will be a uniform size limit across modes. If the for-hire fleet is afforded a wider slot limit, then there would need to be a greater reduction in removals achieved by closed seasons. Additionally, the length of the closed season would depend on whether it applied as a “no harvest” or “no targeting” season. No targeting seasons would be shorter but present serious enforcement and compliance challenges. Additionally, there are a variety of options for seasons based on the recreational fishing wave in which it would apply and the geographical region it would apply to. Accordingly, the addendum designates the number of days closed rather than specific closure dates. As for regional configurations, there is a coastwide option and a North-South option. Within the North-South option, Rhode Island can be grouped with either region and its inclusion or exclusion impacts the number of closed days for each region. Further, there is no option for closed season conservation equivalency, so all states within a region will be assigned the same closure dates. Dan and Meserve discussed how this was done prevent mismatched closures across states that would encourage non-resident vessels to fish in a neighboring state during a closure in their state thereby limiting the efficacy of the closure.

Meserve noted that there are challenges in making the impact of closures equitable across geographic regions, as well as along the Massachusetts coast. Further, a single opening and closure, rather than multiple closures throughout a season, would increase simplicity of regulation and enforcement.

Nelson and Jarvis voiced their concern about the enforceability of no targeting closures and their support for a uniform size limit across all modes. They also advocated for preventing the Massachusetts commercial striped bass fishery from occurring during any period closed to recreational striped bass fishing. Nelson added that he would prefer to avoid a recreational closure during peak summer months, whereas Jarvis supported a closure during the peak

months to minimize the total length of the closure and prevent closures during the shoulder seasons which would effectively force the south coast to carry a significant amount of the conservation burden for the state while having limited seasonal access to the resource.

Kane and Meserve discussed whether commercial and recreational fisheries would follow the same seasonal openings. Silva noted that the DMF and the MFAC may want to shift the timing of the commercial fishery in response to the recreational fishing season approved in the addendum so as to avoid this conflict.

Commissioner O'Shea urged the MFAC to consider the impact of different closure dates and the potentially significant impact on non-resident fishing in Massachusetts if a closure occurs during Wave 4, when many anglers travel to the Commonwealth to fish.

Director McKiernan remarked on the challenge facing the ASMFC to pass the addendum given the diversity of preferences across and within states.

Doyle asked what the ratio is of fish caught outside the slot limit to fish caught within the slot in the recreational fishery. Meserve responded that this is not currently quantifiable because MRIP data does not capture the reason a fish is released. Meserve, Doyle, and Nelson discussed how recruitment may affect the availability of slot-sized fish moving forward. Nichola anticipated Maryland would release its 2025 striped bass young-of-the-year survey results for the Chesapeake Bay in advance of the ASMFC's October meeting.

Doyle asked about tagging bluefish to better understand their distribution. Dan noted that DMF would follow up on this.

Kane encouraged the MFAC to listen-in to ASMFC striped bass hearings being held in other states.

Commercial Fisheries Commission Update

Director McKiernan provided an update on the issues being addressed by the newly established Commercial Fisheries Commission (CFC), the content of their first several meetings, and expected content for the fall and winter meetings this year.

These upcoming meetings will address a variety of topics: the Port Profile Project, the Office of Coastal Zone Management's (CZM) ResilientCoasts Initiative, DMF's derelict gear initiative, and addressing the undervaluing of flounder. Dan added that funding supported by Senator Bruce Tarr has allowed the Consensus Building Institute to administer these meetings. Commissioner O'Shea remarked on the importance of the CFC to create a forum to bring together industry members to collaborate with state agencies on addressing relevant issues. O'Shea recognized Dan and Senator Tarr for their efforts with the CFC and hoped the annual report would outline actionable points for policy makers.

Dan noted that offshore wind is of particular interest to the CFC. However, working waterfronts, port infrastructure, and sustainability of the fishing industry will likely grow into prominence.

Presentation on Biodiversity Conservation Goals for Massachusetts

Commissioner Tom O'Shea presented on the Biodiversity Initiative in Massachusetts and its relation to marine fisheries.

The pillars of the initiative are to protect, restore, sustain, and connect across Massachusetts. O'Shea outlined potential goals and actions related to the marine environment, including convening a marine biodiversity taskforce, prioritizing comprehensive marine habitat mapping, watershed and oyster reef restoration, ensuring no net shellfish loss, investing in working waterfronts, and implementing grants to connect the marine environment with neighborhoods and schools.

McKiernan and O'Shea discussed the applicability of the Department of Agricultural Resource's Food Security Infrastructure Grants (FSIG) to support commercial fishing through this initiative.

O'Shea added salt marsh conservation could benefit further from the Blue Carbon Finance Program, which generates carbon tokens to help entities reduce their carbon footprint.

O'Shea and Colonel Monaghan discussed the relevance of derelict gear removal to marine biodiversity.

Amaru remarked on a frustrating conflict between state regulations and a local town effort to prohibit fertilizers in order to protect marine habitat. Commissioner O'Shea voiced appreciation for learning about this issue. Doyle suggested Amaru contact the National Soil Conservation Service.

McGuire expressed appreciation for this initiative and noted it aligned with The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission. O'Shea and McGuire discussed how members of the public prioritize these issues. McGuire was recently appointed to the Ocean Advisory Commission and hoped to have opportunities to address biodiversity more closely with CZM. He also expressed support for the share the catch program.

Nelson, Jarvis, and Kane expressed strong support for this initiative. Shelley noted the impact of the FSIG on fishermen in Martha's Vineyard by funding a refrigerated truck. She expressed interest in the school programs as well. Dan suggested a potential collaboration with Hughes Hatchery.

Other Business

Director McKiernan shared a DMF staff nomination for the Belding Award for 2025—Henry Lind. Dan felt Lind was a strong candidate given his lifetime of work supporting shellfish fisheries and the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association. However, DMF welcomed other nominations for the 2025 Belding Award throughout the remainder of September with the intention of making a final recommendation in October.

Amaru shared that the Commercial Fish News will be shutting down at the end of this year.

McGuire and Silva discussed an upcoming training through the Marine Resource Education Program to help fishermen learn about relevant marine fishing regulations. The training will be held in January in Falmouth. McGuire shared that TNC is hosting an event on green crabs in Boston in October.

Public Comment

The Chair welcomed public comment.

Philip Michaud, a commercial dragger fisherman, commented on two subjects. He first asked DMF to support the whelk fishery by ensuring sufficient bait horseshoe crab is available. He then asked for greater access to more fishing opportunities for the inshore dragger fleet, noting that the inshore dragger fleet faced a multitude of challenges that make it difficult to operate and current regulations could be relaxed to allow the fishery to retain its profitability. He suggested additional small mesh fishing opportunities for mantis shrimp and squid and additional access to target skate.

Doyle asked how the number of inshore draggers has changed over the past several decades. Michaud noted that the number has dropped from at least 150 to fewer than ten in Massachusetts, with additional non-resident vessels. Doyle and Michaud discussed the changes and difficulties facing this fishery. Amaru expressed support for this request and remarked on Dan's earlier comment on supporting the inshore scallop fleet.

Dan noted that they will reach out to both Philip Michaud and Bill Amaru to discuss this further.

Adjournment

Chairman Kane asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris McGuire made the motion to adjourn, and Ray Jarvis seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Documents

- September 18, 2025 MFAC Business Meeting Agenda
- August 21, 2025 MFAC Draft Business Meeting Minutes
- Memorandum on Emergency Regulations to Restrict Access to Commercial Striped Bass Fishery in 2026
- Proposal to Amend Commercial Summer Flounder Limits for 2026
- Proposal to Amend Commercial Black Sea Bass Limits for 2026
- Public Hearing Proposal for Bluefish Recreational Possession Limits
- Proposal to Modify and Update Commercial Offshore Lobster Permitting Rules
- Proposed Housekeeping Amendments to Regulated Fishery Permit Endorsements
- Memorandum on Discussion of Potential Recreational Striped Bass Seasons
- State Waters Scallop Meeting Summary
- Summary of the Commercial Fisheries Commission's First Year Thus Far

Next Meeting

November 18, 2025
DFW Field Headquarters
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

THOMAS O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC)

FROM: Daniel J. McKiernan, Director

DATE: October 16, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025 Belding Award Nomination

Recommendation

I recommend the MFAC approve the nomination of Henry Lind for the 2025 Belding Award. If approved, I will work to provide a suitable time to present this award.

Rationale

In September 2025, staff presented me with a nomination for the 2025 Belding Award to be given to Henry Lind. Henry was a founding member of the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association, and while no longer a municipal shellfish constable, he continues to volunteer his time to supporting and advancing the organization and has been the principal force in the ongoing development of a modern and more accessible constable training course. Henry also served as the Town of Eastham's Conservation Agent, Shellfish Constable, Harbormaster, and Natural Resources Director, and in these capacities, contributed to advancing diadromous fish passage and shellfish propagation and helping the shellfish industry navigate harmful algal blooms.

I felt this was a strong recommendation. Accordingly, I informed the MFAC that I intended to move the recommendation forward at the October MFAC business meeting unless another suitable recommendation was made by the MFAC by October 1, 2025. As no additional recommendations were brought forward, I am now moving to formally recommend Henry Lind.

Background

The Belding Award was created in 1989 to honor individuals who — in the opinion of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission — have done the most to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the Commonwealth's marine resources. The award's namesake, Dr. David L. Belding, was well known both to medical students and shellfish wardens in the first half of the 20th century, as he conducted two distinguished careers simultaneously in medicine and marine

biology. Dr. Belding, who passed away in 1972, left a prodigious life's work. His research in marine biology, especially local shellfish populations, is continually referred to, even today, and became one of DMF's cornerstones. The award was funded in perpetuity by Dr. Belding's family. Initially granted on an annual basis, the award has transitioned to being given out at the discretion of the MFAC upon an individual's nomination. Candidates may be nominated at any time by a member of the MFAC or DMF, although no more than one award will be given per year.

Attached

September 5, 2025 Nomination



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

Memorandum

To: Dan McKiernan, Director Division of Marine Fisheries

From: Christian Petitpas, Shellfish Program Lead

Date: Friday September 5, 2025

Subject: 2025 Nomination for the Belding Award

Introduction

In 1989 the David L. Belding Award was created to honor individuals who have done the most to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the Commonwealth's marine resources. Dr. David L. Belding was both a medical doctor as well as the Commonwealth's Marine Biologist for the first half of the 20th century, conducting two distinguished careers simultaneously in medicine and marine biology. Dr. Belding was extremely prolific, authoring dozens of papers on marine biology over half a century. His wide array of research in marine biology, and particularly local shellfish populations, is continually referenced having become a cornerstone for the work of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF).

This award may be granted annually at the discretion of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC) upon an individual's nomination. Candidates may be nominated at any time by a member of the MFAC or DMF. DMF's own Dr. Michael Armstrong was presented the Belding Award in 2024 for over 30 years of dedicated service providing data-driven conservation and sound management of marine fisheries resources.

DMF Nominee

I would like to nominate Mr. Henry Lind for the David L. Belding Award. For over a half-century Henry has been a tireless steward of nature, particularly the marine environment and its abundant resources, and a passionate advocate for managers and researchers who help ensure sustainable use of those valuable resources.

A summer in 1971 studying salt marshes in Eastham for an undergraduate course was the beginning of a long and dedicated career for Henry, who served the Town of Eastham for over 34 years as Conservation Agent, Shellfish Constable, Harbor Master and Natural Resources Director. His work included managing and maintaining passage of local herring runs; supporting

more environmentally friendly solutions to coastal erosion; managing shellfisheries which included some pioneering work on municipal quahog propagation to enhance the local resource, which is shared with the town of Orleans; answering a call to action to support harmful algal bloom research when paralytical shellfish poisoning (PSP) became an annual threat to shellfish safety in the Nauset system; being among the first in the 1980s to experiment with and modify upweller technology for intermediate grow-out of shellfish seed; and supporting the growth of Massachusetts' oyster aquaculture industry, which is now the second-most valuable fishery in state waters. Not least among Henry's many accomplishments is his role as a founding member of the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association (MSOA).

Municipal shellfish constables are critical partners in the management of the Commonwealth's shellfish resources and Henry was integral in recognizing the need for comprehensive formal training in the plethora of topics necessary to successfully execute the job including shellfish biology, commercial and recreational fisheries regulations and management, and law enforcement. Henry has been the driving force working with MSOA leadership and DMF to develop and provide this training for decades.

Henry retired from his municipal position in 2009, but that hasn't slowed him down one bit! For the last 15+ years Henry has volunteered much of his time to the same causes he championed during his pre-retirement career. As a capstone to Henry's years of MSOA mentorship he is currently leading the charge in the development of a modernized and more accessible hybrid Shellfish Constable Training Course.

Henry has been lauded for his ability to work successfully with shellfishermen, state and federal officials and scientists, and to effectively communicate the importance of both the science and regulation to local stakeholders and the general public. In a Cape Cod Times article, Mark Robinson of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts said Henry was "scientifically inclined but knew how to work in a small-town setting. He has very quietly achieved great results."

Dr. Donald Anderson is a prior recipient of the Belding award for his pioneering work on harmful algal blooms (HABs) and critical event response during the historic bloom in 2005 that was responsible for widespread PSP closures. Don worked with Henry on HAB research early in both their careers when HAB research was still a burgeoning field of science. Don had the following to say about Henry:

"Henry's been a wonderful supporter and collaborator in our many years of research on toxic *Alexandrium* blooms in Nauset. We owe him a lot and the whole scientific enterprise owes him a lot because our understanding of *Alexandrium* HABs in Nauset is unrivaled for any other HAB anywhere in the world and this is largely due to direct support from Henry. Henry was always

eager to help the science move forward. He did this by writing letters of support to funding agencies, advocating for the science to local managers and stakeholders who didn't understand the value of understanding HABs, offering his guidance in engineering experimental mesocosm systems, offering municipal resources such as boats, and directly assisting with the work, which allowed his salary to be used as matching support for grant funding. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of the Belding Award than Henry Lind."

I also cannot think of a more deserving recipient and appreciate your support of Henry's nomination for the David L. Belding Award. I hope the Commission will support this nomination and award to honor Henry's dedicated career and post-retirement commitment to Massachusetts' marine fisheries resources and fellow stewards of those resources.

cc: R. Glenn, Deputy Director

2025 David L.
Belding Award
Nomination:

Henry Lind



Prior Belding Award Recipients

1990: Liz Stromeyer

1999: Steve Clark

2015: Paul Diodati

1991: Lester Smith

2000: Tony Verga

2016: Bill Adler

1992: Henry Lyman

2001: Bruce Tarr

2017: Arthur DeCosta

1993: Frank Grice

2002: Arnold Howe

2022: Mark Amorello

1994: Frank Mirarchi

2003: Steve Murawski

2023: Michael Hickey

1995: Jack Crowley

2004: Kevin Stokesbury

2024: Michael Armstrong

1996: Henry Souza

2005: Donald Anderson

1997: Bob Pond

2007: Richard Quinn

1998: Stormy Mayo

2012: John Hughes

2025 Quota Managed Species Update

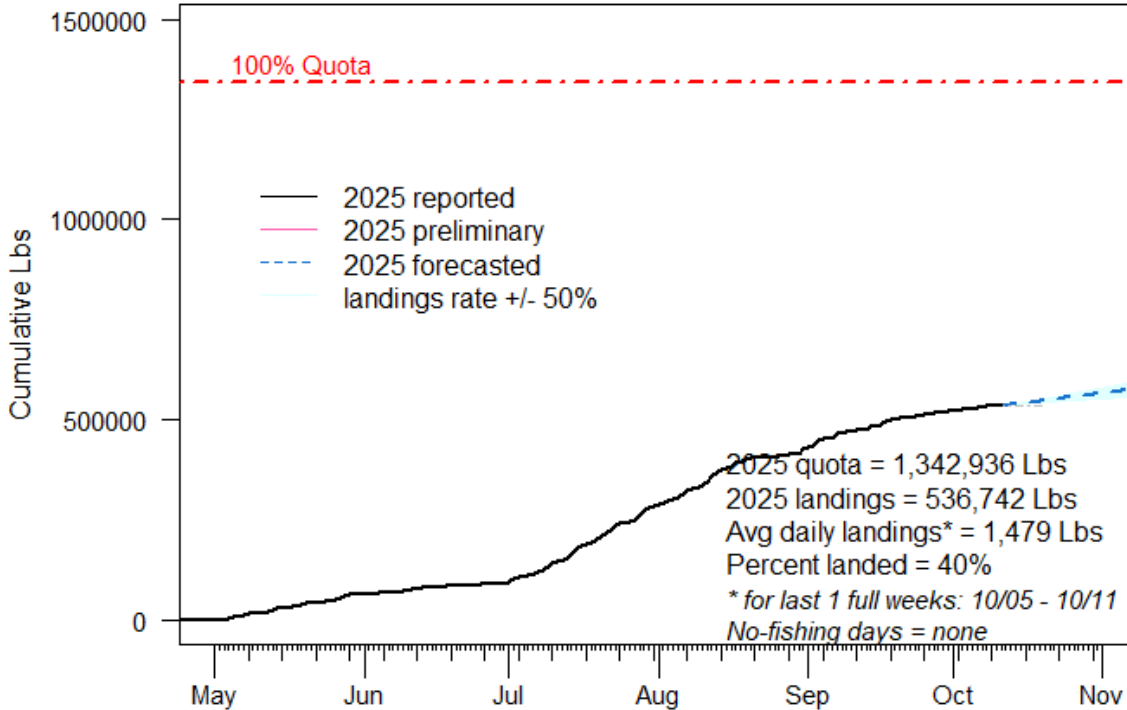
Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting, 10/21/2025



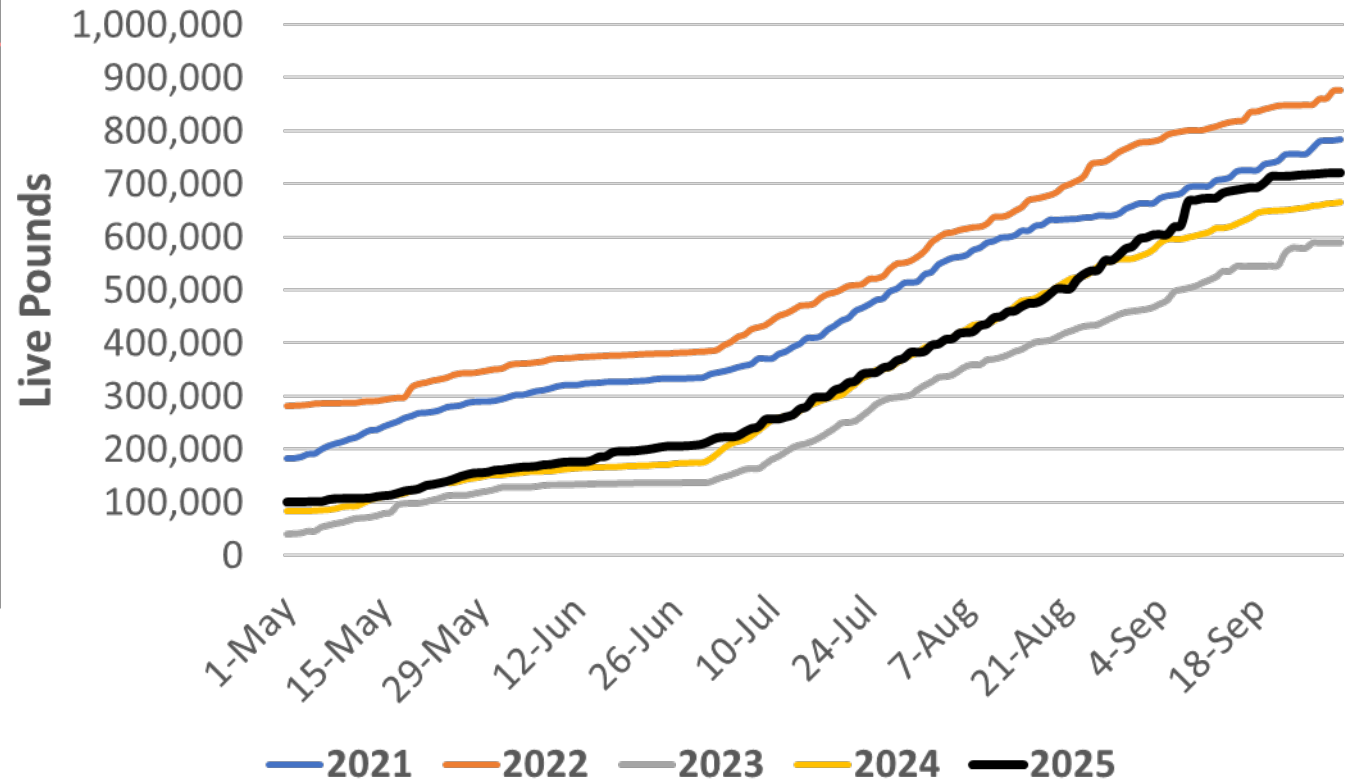
Summer Scup: Landings

2025 SCUP Quota Monitoring

as of October 20, 2025 06:23 PM



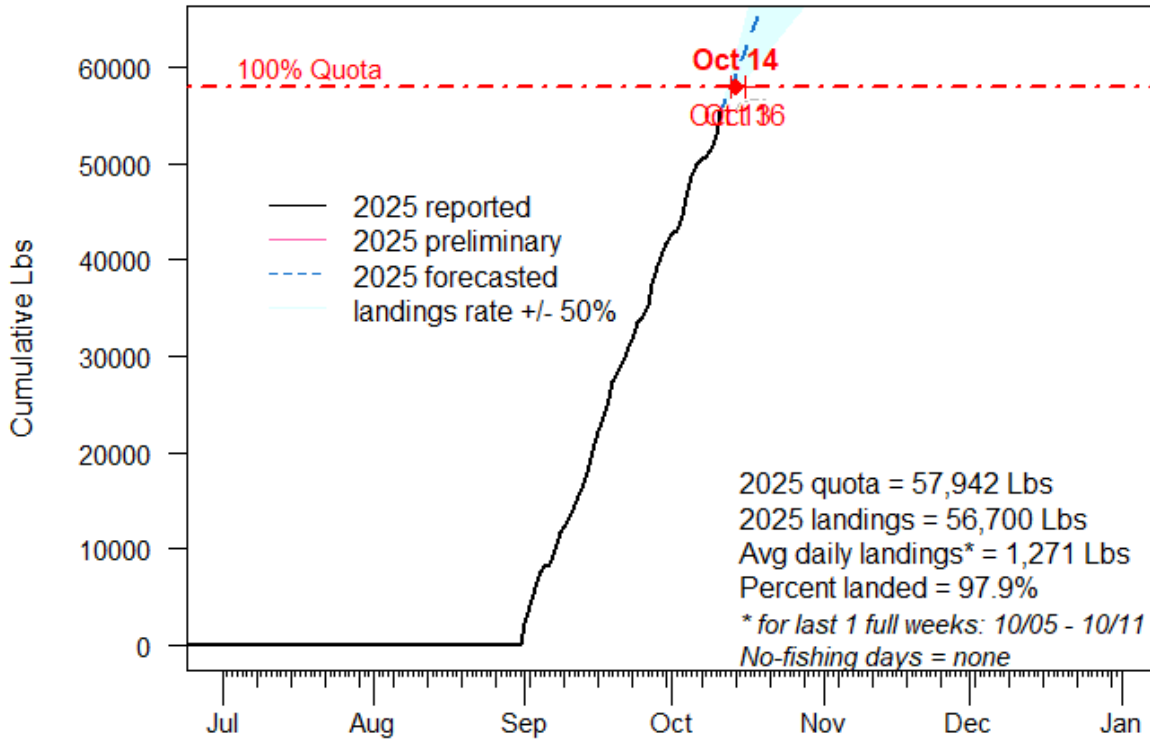
Running Totals of Landings: Scup



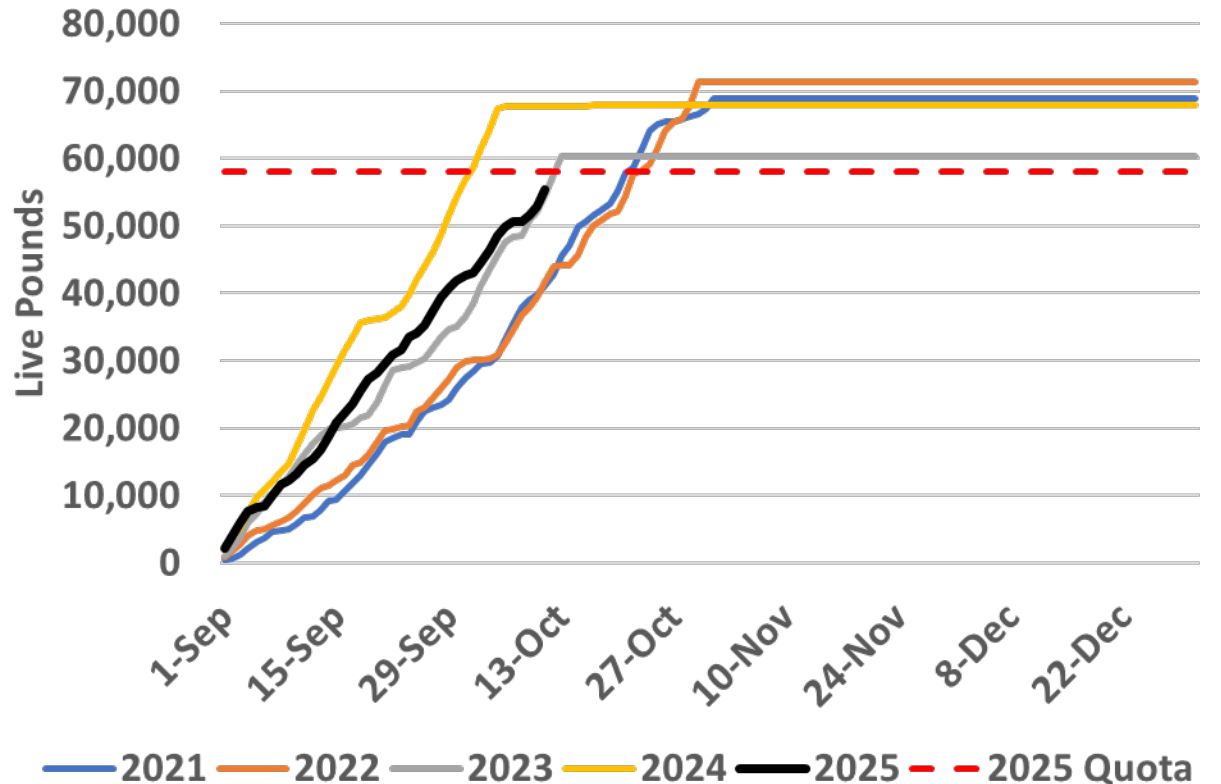
Tautog: Landings, Closed 10/18

2025 TAUTOG Quota Monitoring

as of October 20, 2025 06:26 PM



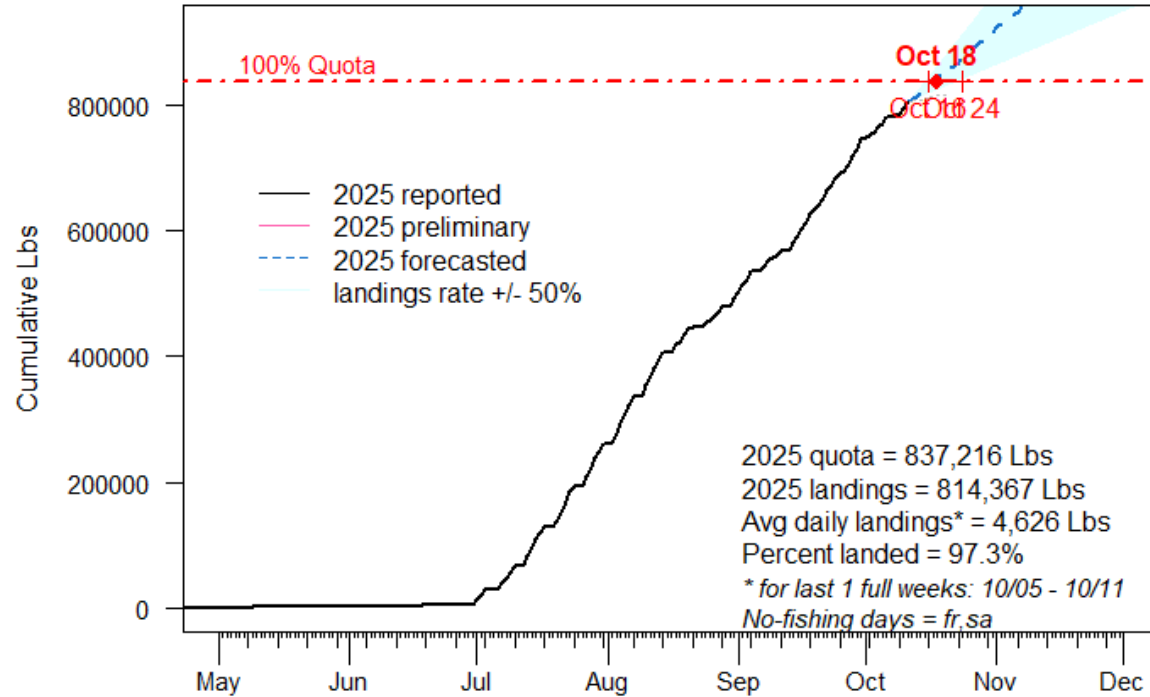
Running Totals of Landings: Tautog



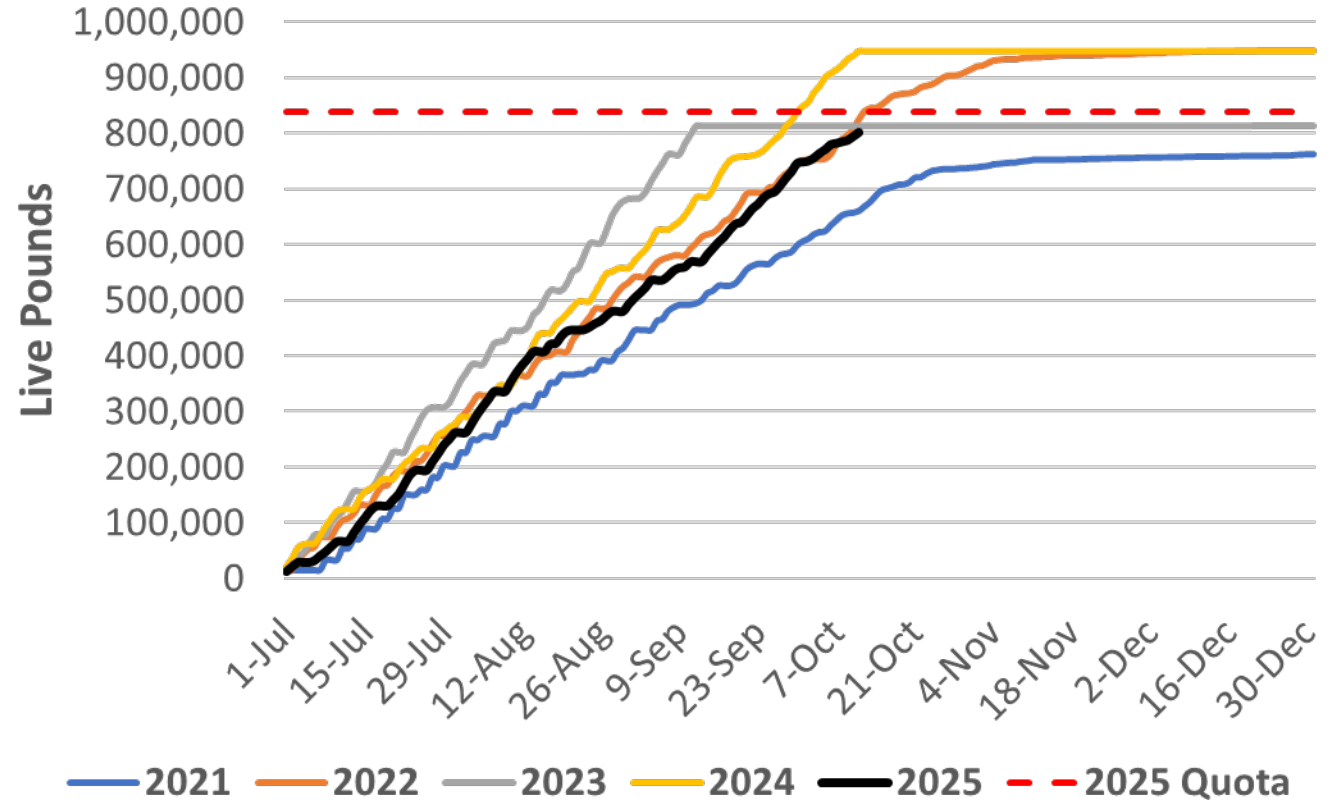
Black Sea Bass: Landings, Closed 10/21

2025 BASS, BLACK SEA Quota Monitoring

as of October 20, 2025 06:12 PM



Running Totals of Landings: Black Sea Bass

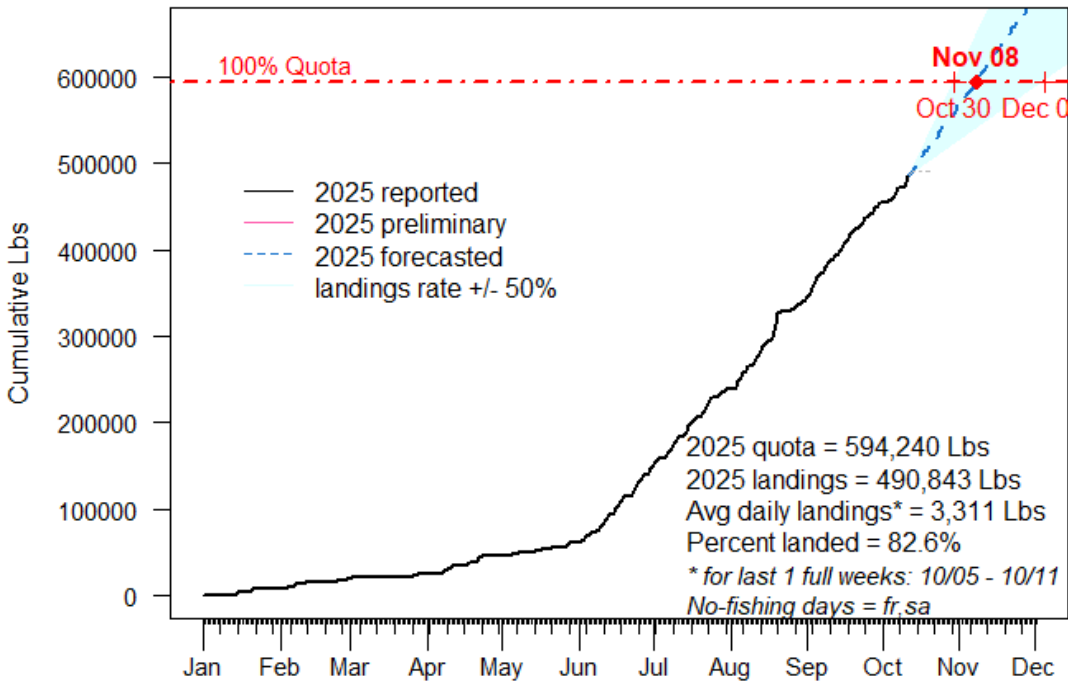


Quota significantly increased in 2022, decreased 2023, increased again 2024. decreased again 2025

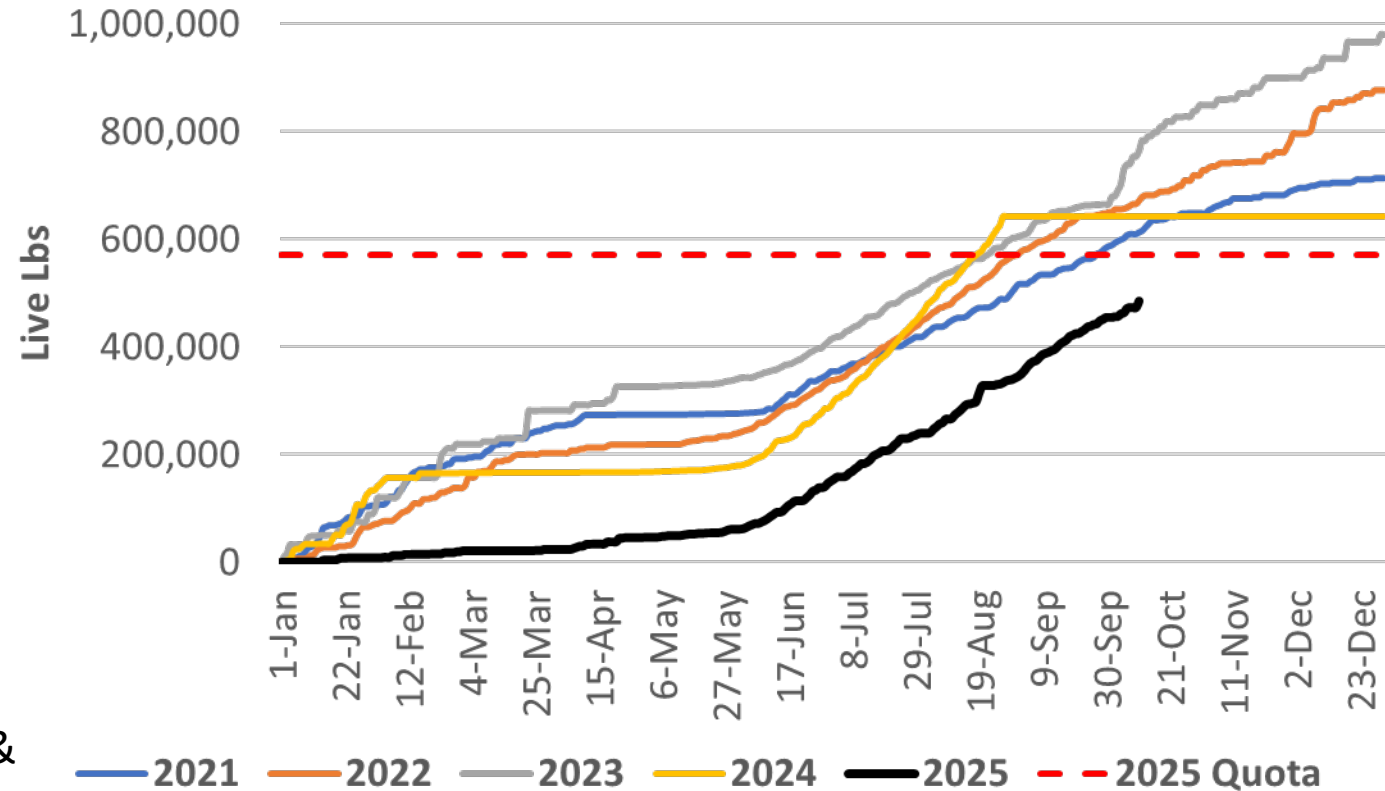


Summer Flounder (Fluke): Landings

2025 FLOUNDER, SUMMER Quota Monitoring
as of October 20, 2025 06:16 PM



Running Totals of Landings: Fluke

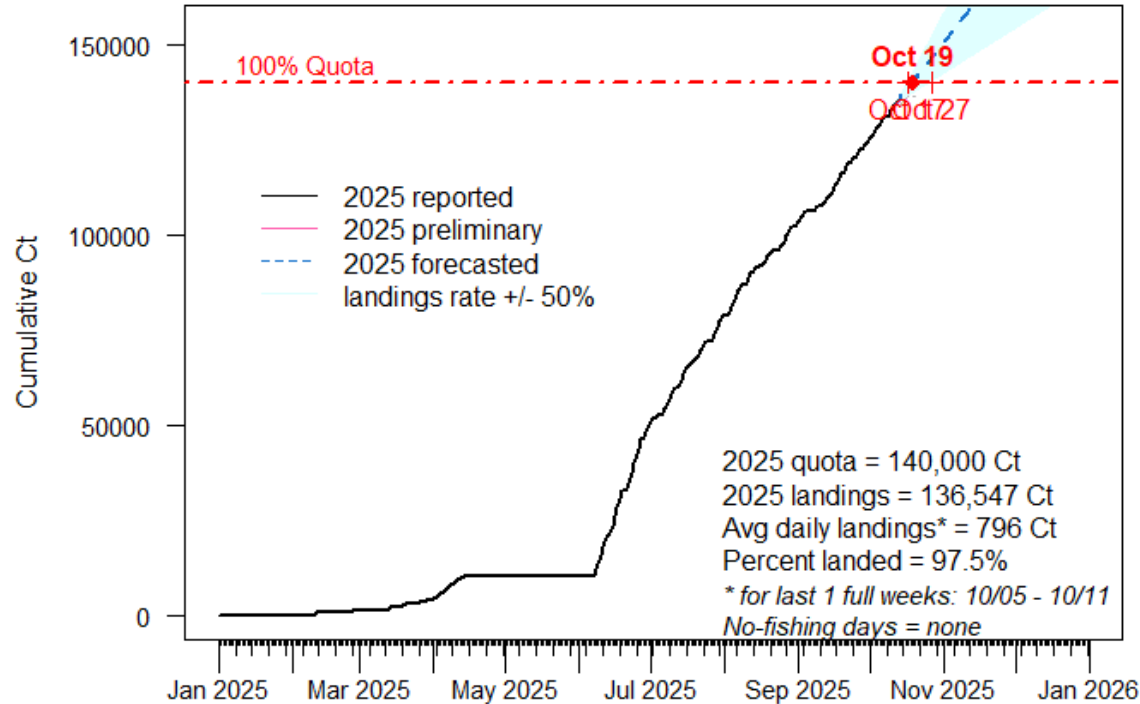


- Trigger: increased to 800 lbs on 9/1 (>20% remained) & increased to 5,000 lbs on 10/1 (>10% remained)

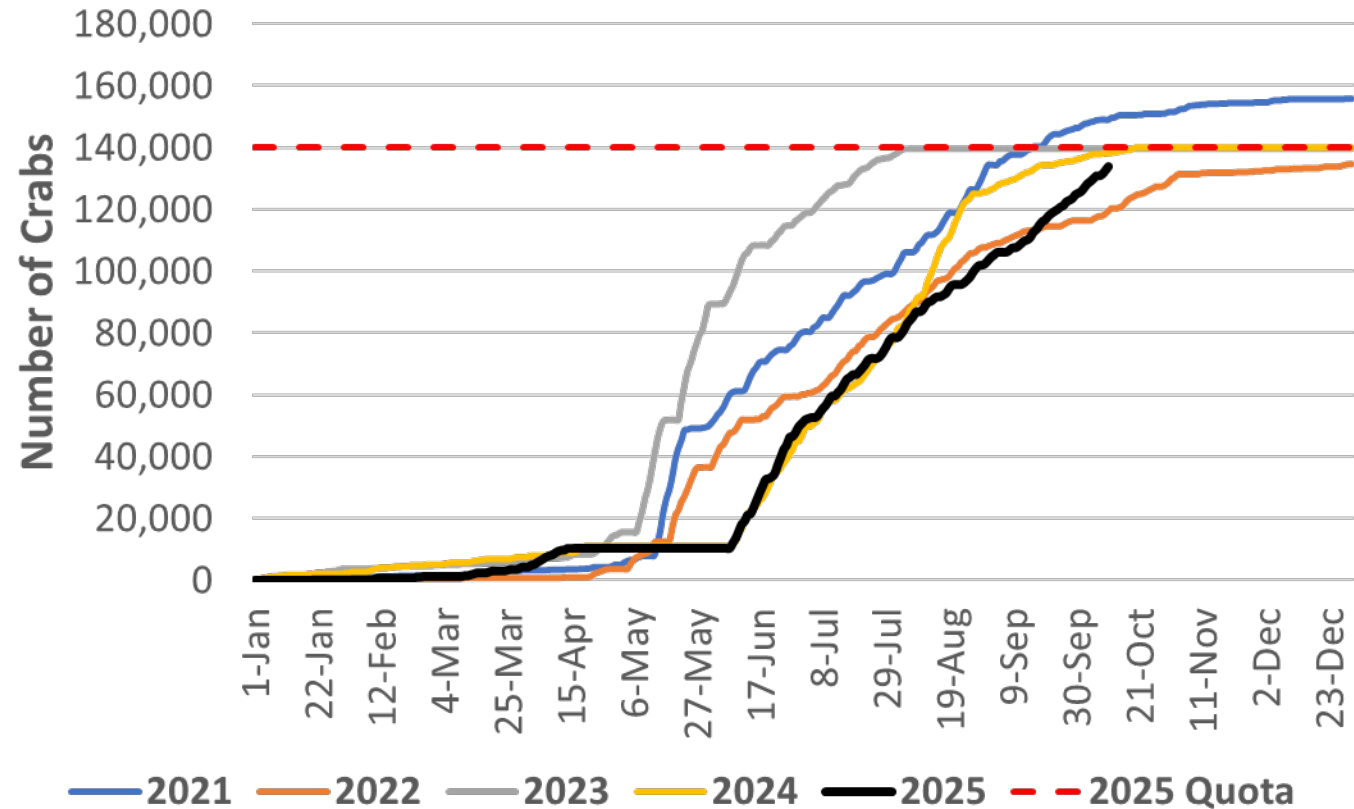


Bait Horseshoe Crab: Landings

2025 CRAB, HORSESHOE Quota Monitoring as of October 20, 2025 06:20 PM



Running Totals of Bait Landings: Horseshoe Crab

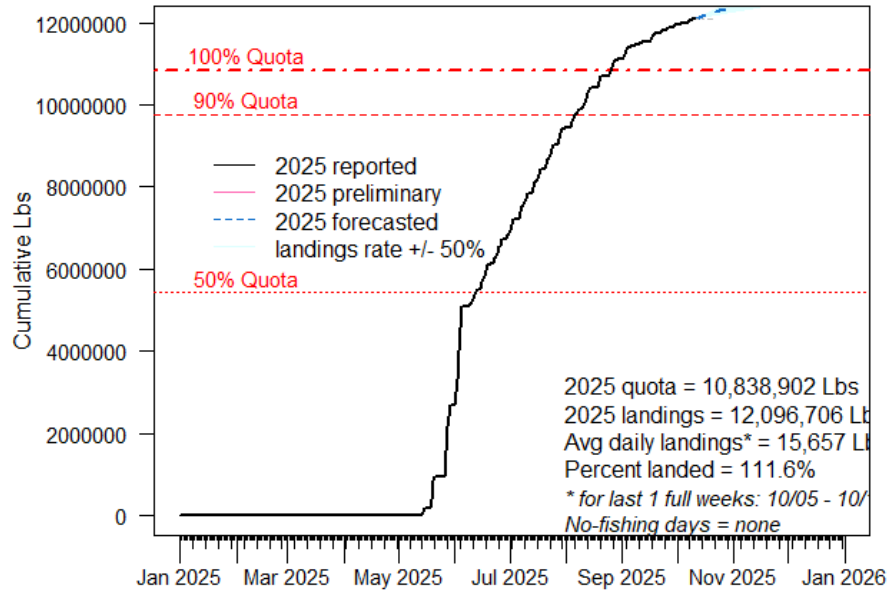


- No triggers were met in 2025

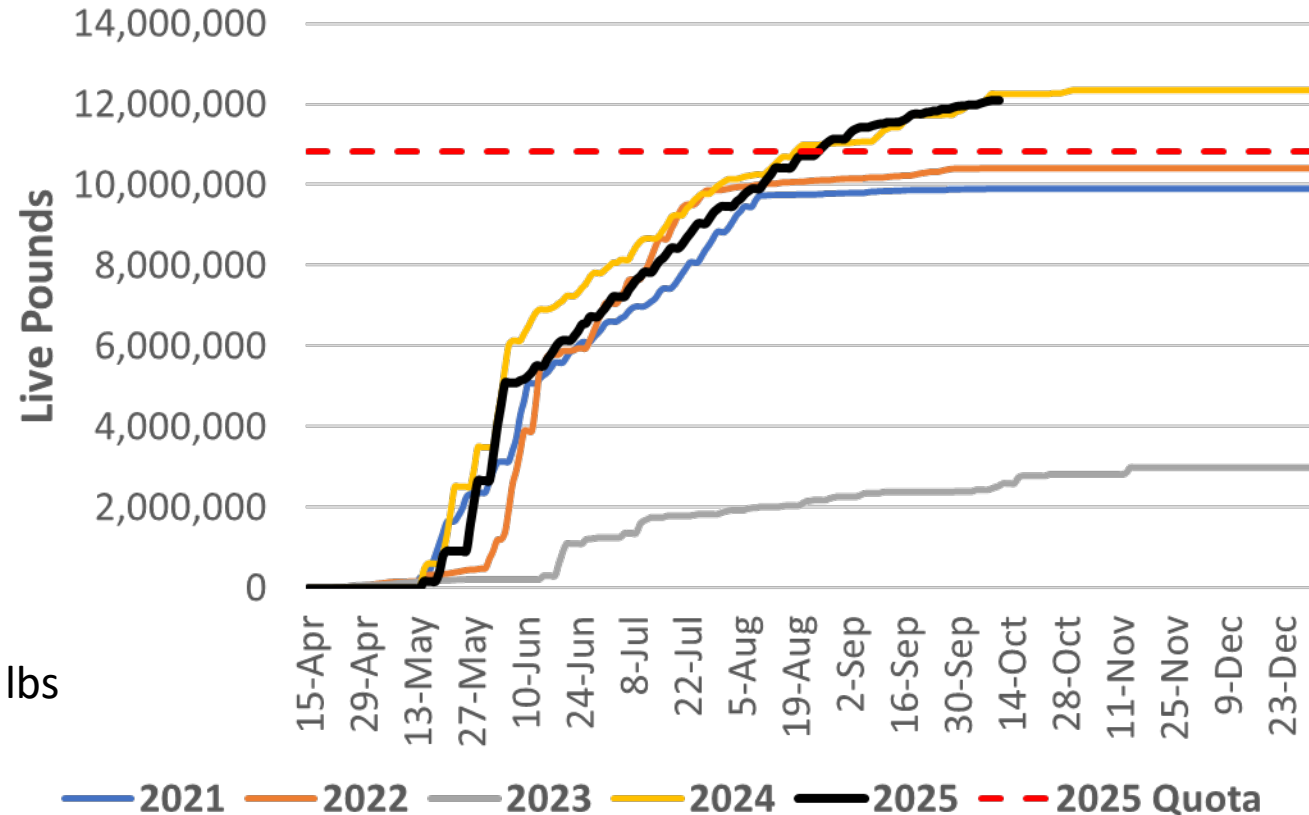


Menhaden: Landings

2025 MENHADENS Quota Monitoring
as of October 20, 2025 06:25 PM



Running Totals of Landings: Menhaden



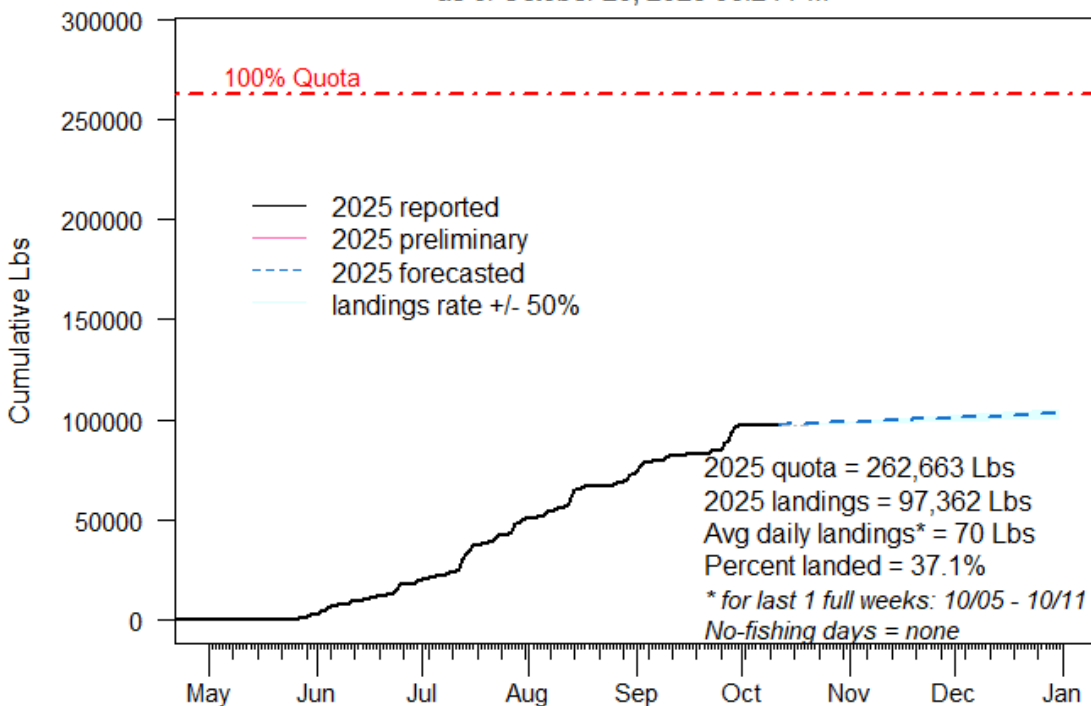
- 20:
 - 120,000 lb Limit: last day 6/9, limit dropped to 25,000 lbs
 - Quota reached on 8/27
 - Entered Episodic Event Set Aside (EESA) on 8/28



Bluefish: Landings

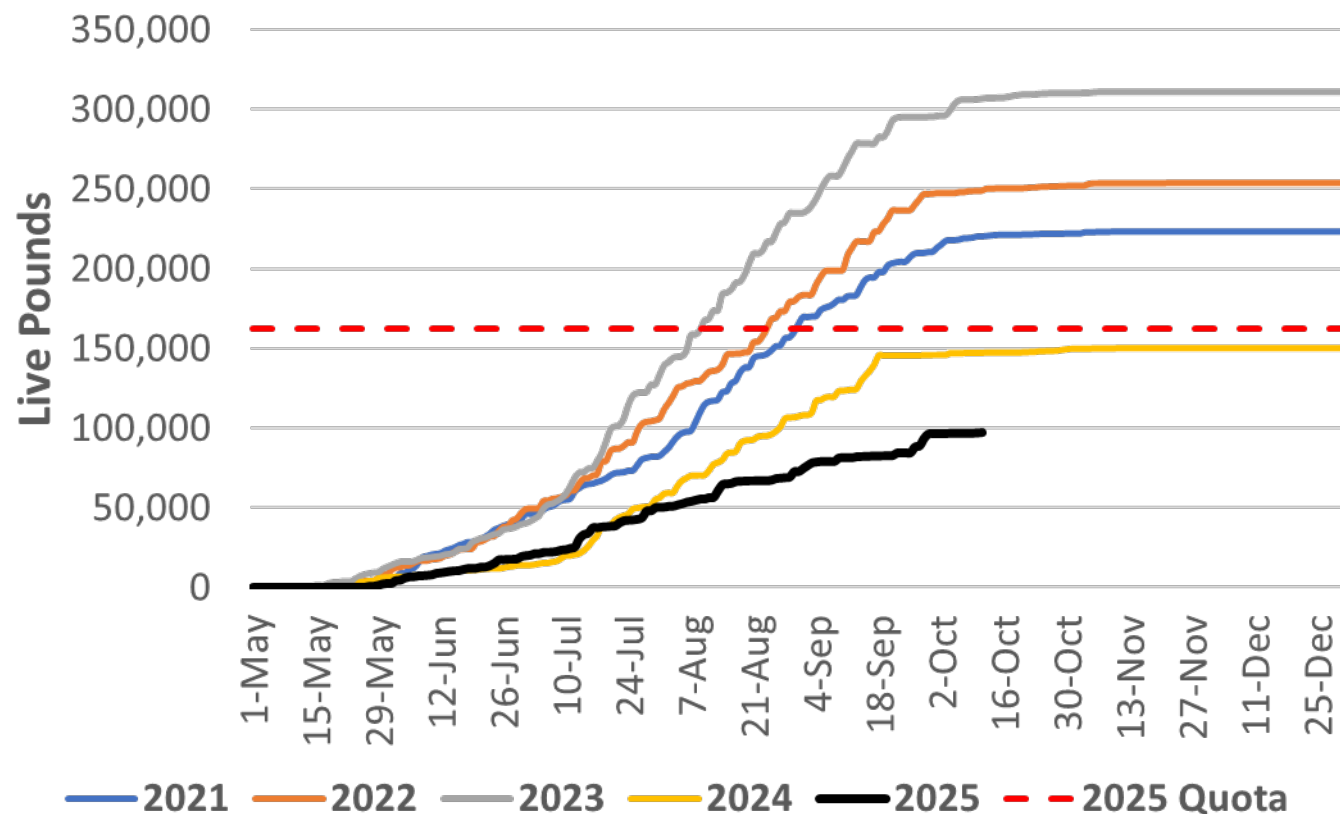
2025 BLUEFISH Quota Monitoring

as of October 20, 2025 06:24 PM

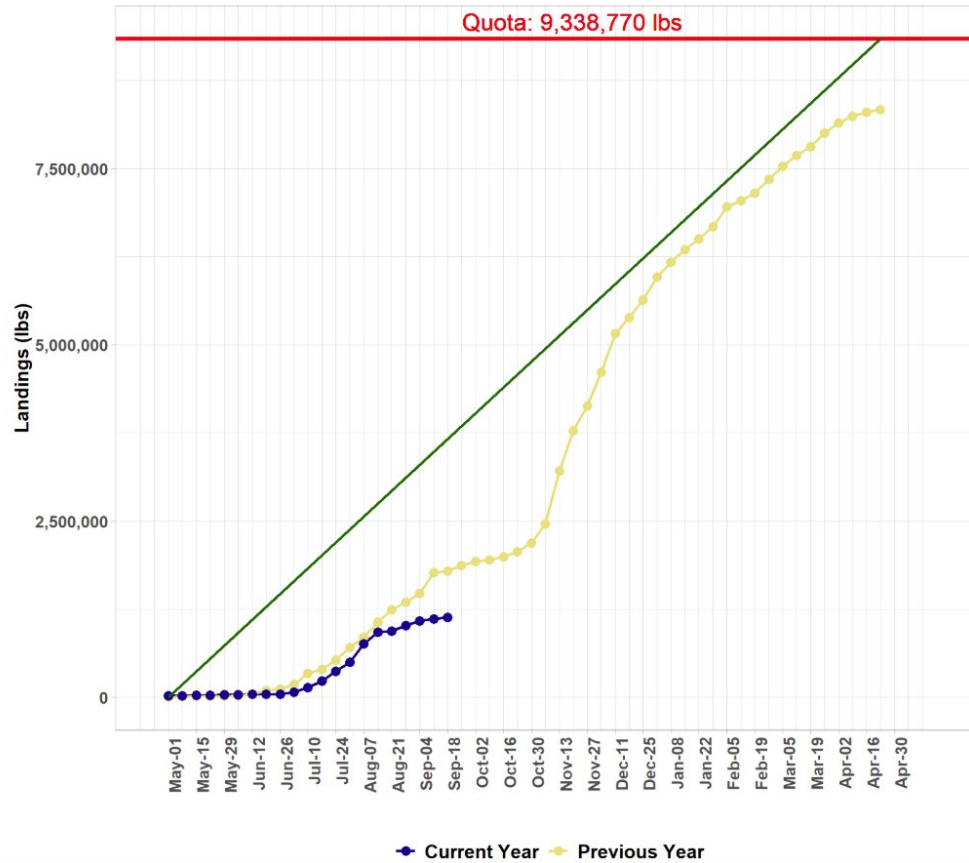


Quota is incorrect in this figure. It should read 162,633 lbs.

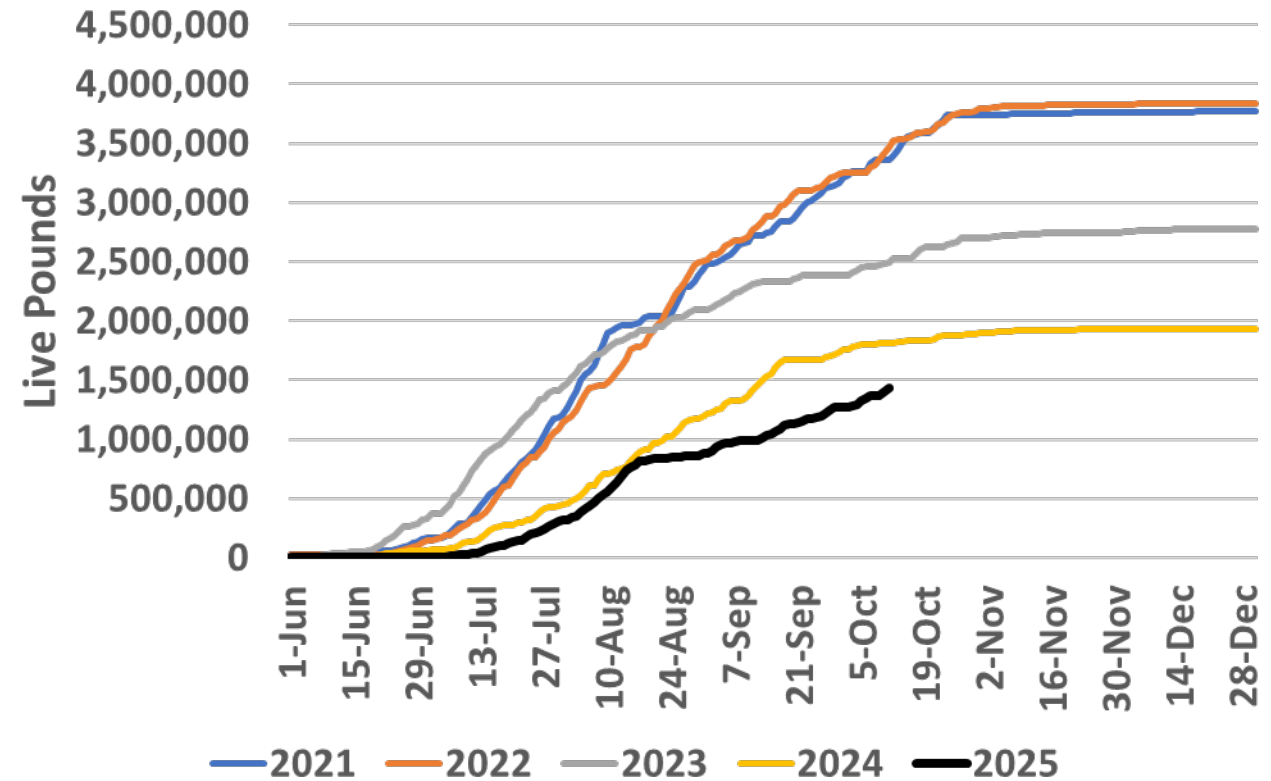
Running Totals of Landings: Bluefish



Spiny Dogfish: Landings



Running Totals of Landings: Spiny Dogfish



Source: NOAA Fisheries Quota Monitoring (last updated 9/25/25)



Questions?

Email: anna.webb@mass.gov

Cell Phone: 978-559-1948



ASMFC Annual Meeting Preview

- Striped Bass Draft Addendum III
- Menhaden Specifications
- Lobster Industry Surveys

Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission
October 21, 2025

Massachusetts Division
of Marine Fisheries



Public Comment on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

- What's available?
 - State Public Hearing Summaries
 - Survey Results - multiple choice questions
- What's not available?
 - Written comment (1,000+ letters)
 - Survey results – open ended questions
- Considerations
 - Hearings often had more speakers from for-hire & commercial. Many attendees did not provide comment.
 - Survey: respondents 90% rec anglers.
 - These results may not be representative of all comments nor all stakeholders.

State	Hearing Location	Attendance
ME	Yarmouth	16
ME	Webinar	61
NH	Portsmouth	14
MA	Woburn	66
MA	Bourne	77
RI	Narragansett/Web	49
CT	Old Lyme	38
NY	New Paltz	16
NY	Kings Park/Web	217
NJ	Manahawkin	73
PA	Bristol	71
DE	Dover/Web	11
MD	Wye Mills	182
MD	Annapolis	64
DC/PRFC	Webinar	18
VA	Fort Monroe	14
All States	Webinar	114
Total		1,101
Survey	Participants	1,580

26% of survey responses from MA.



Public Comment on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Issue 3.1: Definition of Total Length

Comment Source	Attendance	Comment Count	Option A <i>Status Quo</i>	Option B <i>Standardize</i>
All Hearings	1,101	104	30 (29%)	74 (71%)
MA Hearings	143	29	13 (45%)	16 (55%)
Survey	1,580	1,545	237 (15%)	1,308 (85%)

Common Themes of Comment

Option A:

- Too difficult
- Increased handling impact on release mortality

Option B:

- Uphold intended conservation
- Improve compliance/enforcement
- Consistency/fairness across states

Option B requires 4 elements in all state's definitions: tail squeezed, straight-line measurement, laid flat, mouth closed



Public Comment on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Issue 3.2: Commercial Tagging

Comment Source	Attendance	Comment Count	Option A <i>Status Quo</i>	Option B <i>Point of Harvest</i>	Option C <i>Prior to Landing</i>
All Hearings	1,101	89	19 (21%)	65 (73%)	5 (6%)
MA Hearings	143	26	15 (58%)	10 (38%)	1 (4%)
Survey	1,580	1,469	215 (15%)	840 (57%)	414 (28%)

Common Themes of Comment

Option A:

- Programs working
- Differences among states
- Change could cause more problems
- Impact to permit issuance

Option B/C:

- Improve accountability/reporting
- Address permit misuse
- Enforcement benefit
- Reduce high-grading

Options B & C require three states to transition from dealer tagging to harvester tagging.



Public Comment on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Issue 3.3: Maryland Chesapeake Bay Recreational Season Baseline

Comment Source	Attendance	Comment Count	Option A <i>Status Quo</i>	Option B <i>New Baseline</i>	Option C <i>B Plus Buffer</i>
All Hearings	1,101	267	216 (81%)	9 (3%)	42 (16%)
MA Hearings	143	22	15 (68%)	1 (5%)	6 (27%)
Survey	1,580	1,388	333 (24%)	289 (21%)	766 (55%)

Common Themes of Comment

Option A:

- Better protection of SSB
- Calculations too uncertain

Option B/C:

- Provide more C & R access
- Reduce release mortality
- Simplify seasons

Option C:

- Uncertainty addressed by buffer

Options B & C allow MD to change open and closed season timing in estimated net neutral manner, with Option C including an uncertainty buffer.



Public Comment on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Issue 3.4: Measures to Support Stock Rebuilding

Comment Source	Attendance	Comment Count	Option A <i>Status Quo</i>	Option B <i>12% Reduction</i>
All Hearings	1,101	417	336 (81%)	81 (19%)
MA Hearings	143	63	52 (83%)	11 (17%)
Survey	1,580	1,470	475 (32%)	995 (68%)

Option B requires 12% commercial and recreational reductions achieved through commercial quota cuts and recreational size limit changes and/or seasonal closures.

Common Themes of Comment

Option A:

- F at 30-year low; causes are enviro, predation, prey, etc.
- SSB trending up; extend timeline & avoid economic impacts.
- Prelim/partial MRIP 2025 estimates down
- Wait until benchmark assessment (MRIP recalibration, release mortality, BRPs)

Option B:

- Regardless of cause, need to respond to 7-years recruitment failure. Protect SSB.
- Very low recruitment projection
- Abundance declining; supports the fishery; willingness to take larger cuts
- Commitment to rebuild; 50% probability is bare minimum.



Public Comment on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Issue 3.4 (cont.): Ocean Recreational Options

Comment Source	Attendance	Comment Count	01 <i>No mode split</i>	02 <i>For-hire split</i>
All Hearings	1,101	49	43 (88%)	6 (12%)
MA Hearings	143	10	5 (50%)	5 (50%)
Survey	1,580	1,458	1,225 (84%)	233 (16%)

Common Themes of Comment

Option A:

- Equity/fairness, shared resource
- Everyone, including businesses, must adapt to less productive stock
- Bleak future, no conservation passes

Option B:

- Economic impacts
- For-hire contribution to total harvest
- Request exemption from seasonal closure too

Option 01 maintains 28-31" slot for all modes and takes 12% seasonal cut; Option 02 widens for-hire slot to 28-33" and takes 13% seasonal cut.



Public Comment on Striped Bass Draft Addendum III

Issue 3.4 (cont.): Type of Ocean Recreational Season Closure

Comment Source	Attendance	Comment Count	No Harvest	No Targeting
All Hearings	1,101	49	43 (88%)	6 (12%)
MA Hearings	143	13	10 (77%)	3 (23%)
Survey	1,580	1,501	1,334 (89%)	167 (11%)

Opinions on timing of closures are diverse and hard to capture here in simplified format.

Common Themes of Comment

Option A:

- Less negative impacts across fishery with catch-and-release still allowed
- More likely to achieve intended reduction
- Compliance and enforcement issues with no targeting

Option B:

- Shorter closure length
- Addresses release mortality better
- Equity among “catch-and-release anglers” and “harvest anglers”

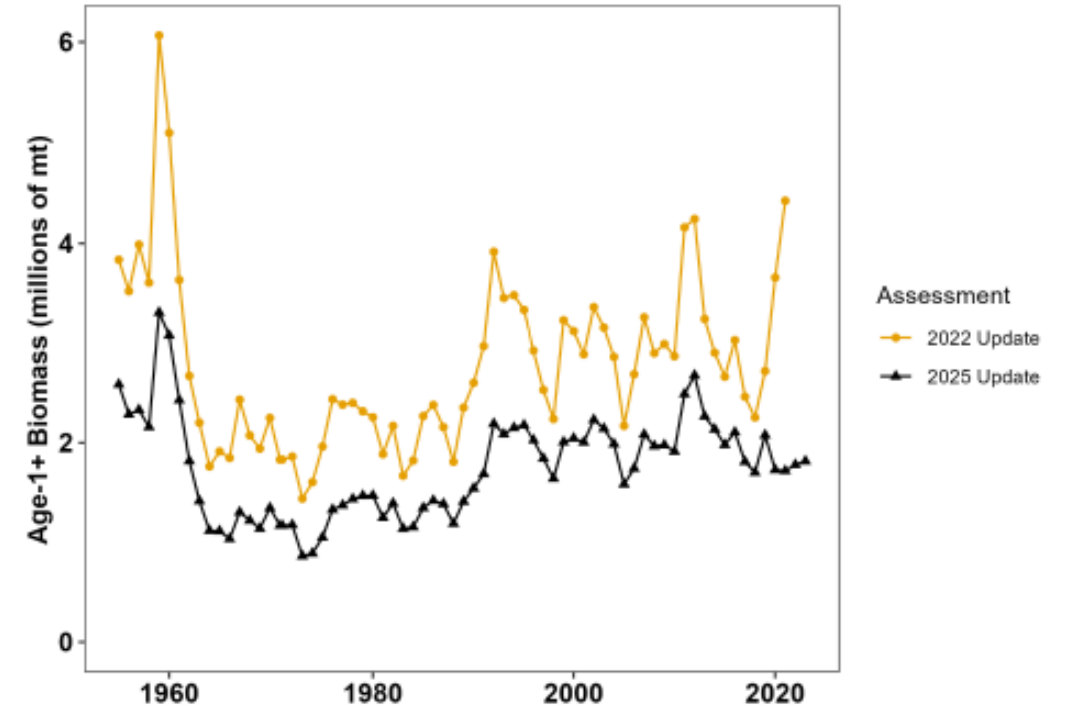


Questions/Discussion



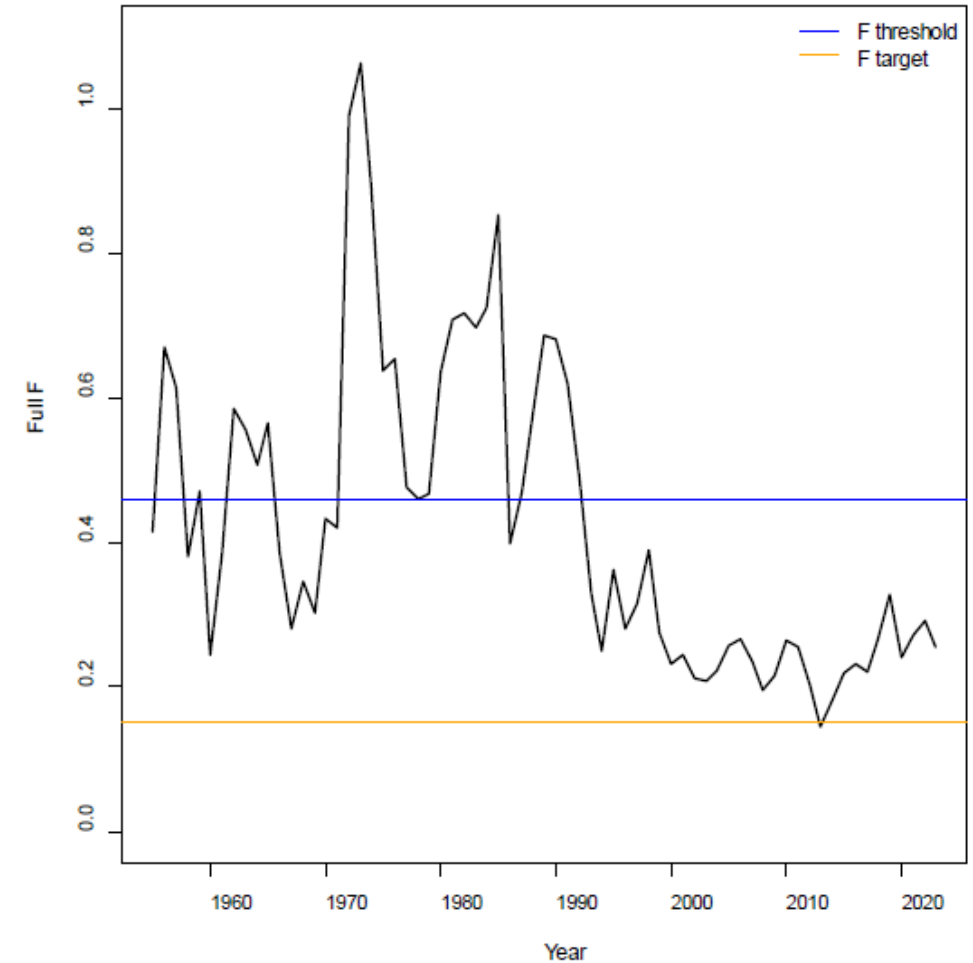
Menhaden Specifications

- Board will review results of 2025 single species update assessment and 2025 benchmark ecosystem assessment.
- Single-species assessment:
 - 2021-2023 data added
 - Change in natural mortality vector (based on new analysis of historical tagging data): lower age-specific Ms.
 - Age 1+ menhaden biomass estimates that are on average 37% lower than prior time series.
 - Also, large biomass increase at end of timeseries in 2022 assessment not present in 2025 assessment.



Menhaden Specifications

- Stock status is determined based on Ecological Reference Points (ERPs) that account for menhaden role as forage.
 - Developed from the ecosystem assessment that incorporates 5 predator/prey species (“ERP Species” - Atl herring, dogfish, weakfish, striped bass, bluefish), with striped bass selected as focal species for ERPs based on greatest sensitivity to menhaden removals.
- ERP Fishing Mortality Target/Threshold: the maximum F rate on menhaden that sustains striped bass at their biomass *target/threshold* when striped bass are fished at their F target and the other ERP species are fished at their current levels.
 - F in 2023 between target and threshold levels.



Menhaden Specifications

- ERP-based TACs (beginning in 2021) have previously been set loosely based on 40-50% probabilities of exceeding ERP F target.
- A status quo TAC for 2026-2028 is projected to have a 100% probability of being above the F target (but <5% probability of being above F threshold).

History of Menhaden TACs

Years	TAC (mt)
2013-2014	170,800
2015-2016	187,880
2017	200,000
2018-2020	216,000
2021-2022	194,400
2023-2025	233,550

Example set of projections provided to the Board.

Probability of Exceeding the ERP F Target	Constant TAC for 2026-2028	2026 TAC	2027 TAC	2028 TAC
40%	106,100	106,100	111,800	120,900
50%	108,450	108,450	115,300	124,800
60%	111,000	111,000	119,200	129,700



Questions/Discussion



Lobster – Industry Survey Results

Number Sent

1,043

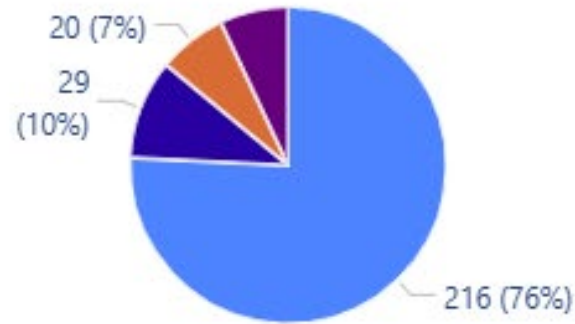
Total Responses

285

Response Rate

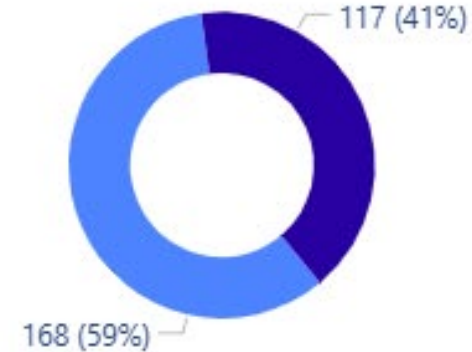
27 %

Responses by Lobster Management Area (LMA)



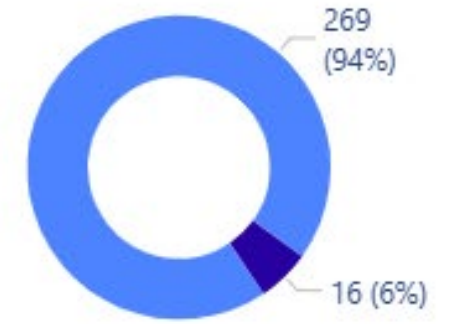
● LMA1 ● LMA2 ● LMA3 ● OCCLMA

Responses by Federal Permit Status



● No Federal Permit ● Federally Permitted

Responses by Business Owner Role



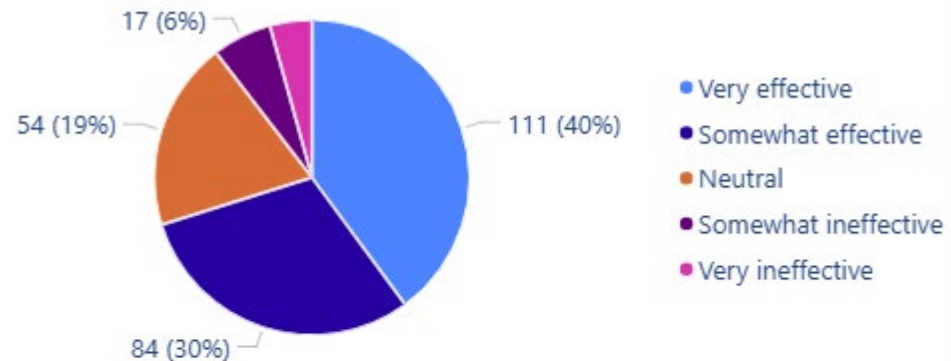
● Owner-Operator ● Owner

Lobster – Industry Survey Results

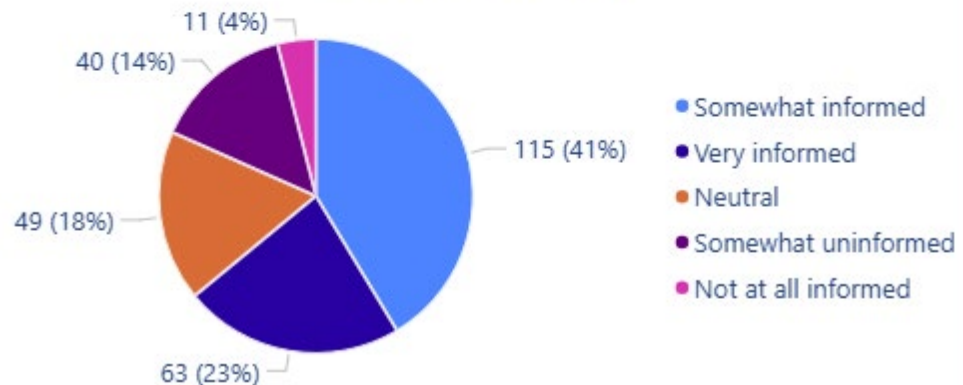
Greatest Concerns for Fleet Sustainability (Selected up to 3)



Effectiveness of Current Conservation Measures in Protecting the Future of the Lobster Population



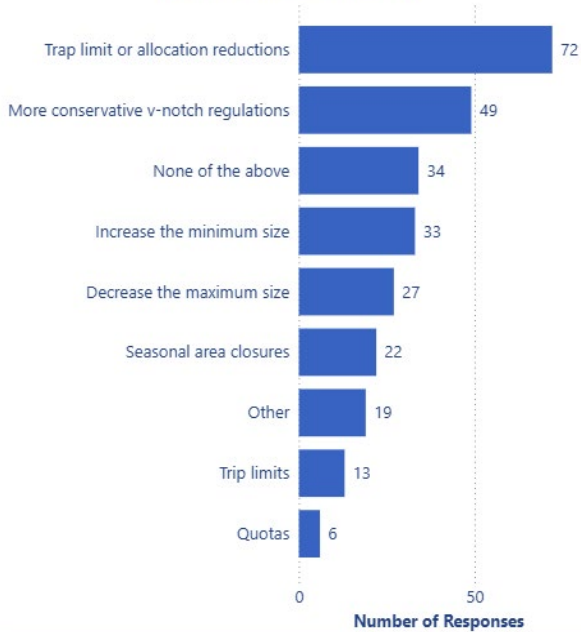
Knowledge of Potential Upcoming Regulatory Changes Affecting the Lobster Industry



Lobster – Industry Survey Results

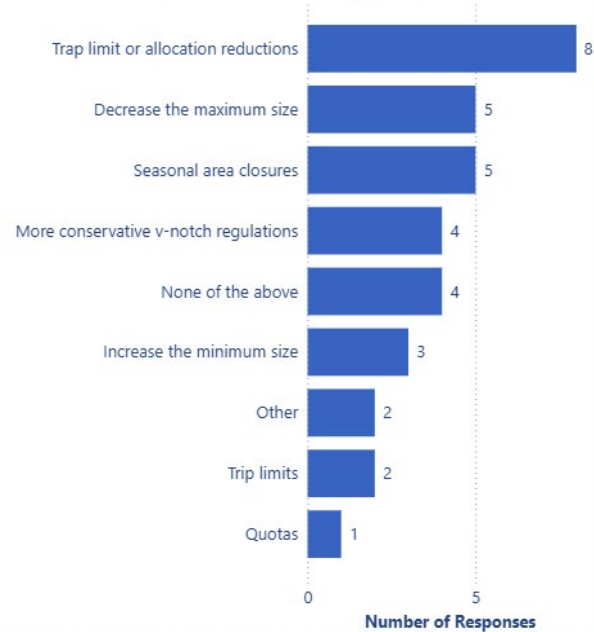
LMA1

Conservation Measures Respondents Willing to Discuss
(Selected all that applied)



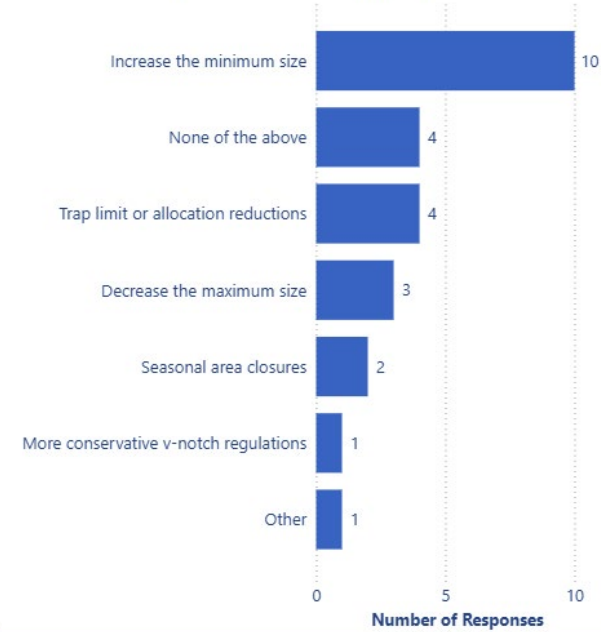
LMA2

Conservation Measures Respondents Willing to Discuss
(Selected all that applied)



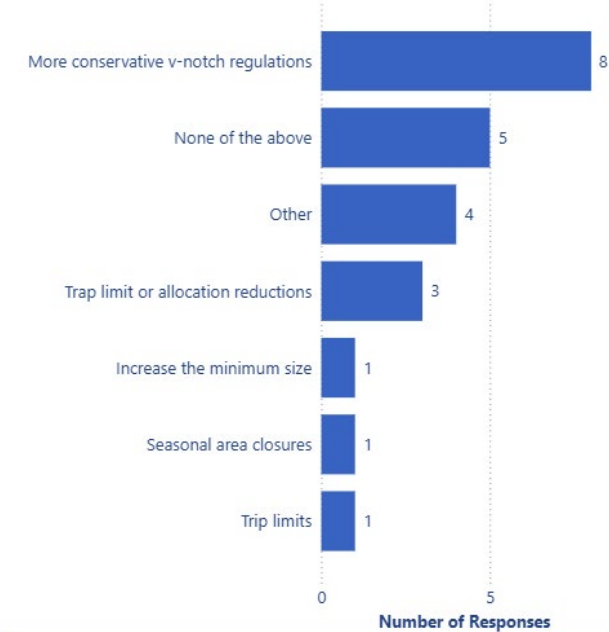
OCCLMA

Conservation Measures Respondents Willing to Discuss
(Selected all that applied)



LMA3

Conservation Measures Respondents Willing to Discuss
(Selected all that applied)



New England Regional Fisheries Updates



NEFMC Meeting
September 23-25, 2025
Gloucester



NEFMC Elections 2025-2026

- **Chair** – Dan Salerno (NH)
- **Vice Chair** – Melanie Griffin (MA)
- **Executive Committee** –
Salerno, Griffin, John Pappalardo (MA),
Megan Ware (ME), Michael Pierdinock (MA)



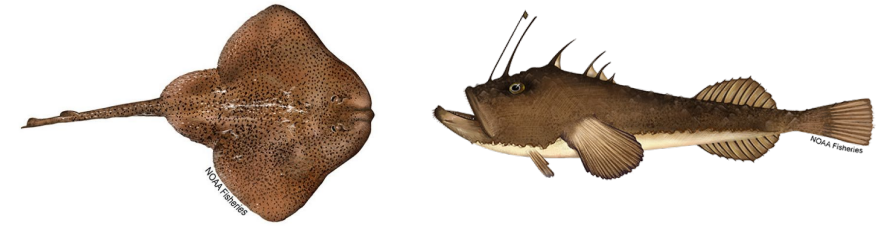
Management Flexibility

Omnibus Management Flexibility Amendment

- Add flexibility, consistency across FMPs
 - Specifications frequencies up to 5 years
 - Specifications process - Groundfish & Monkfish
 - In-season adjustments (previously only for Atl herring)
 - Remove requirement for annual reviews
- Implementation FY2026, pending NOAA approval



Monkfish & Skates



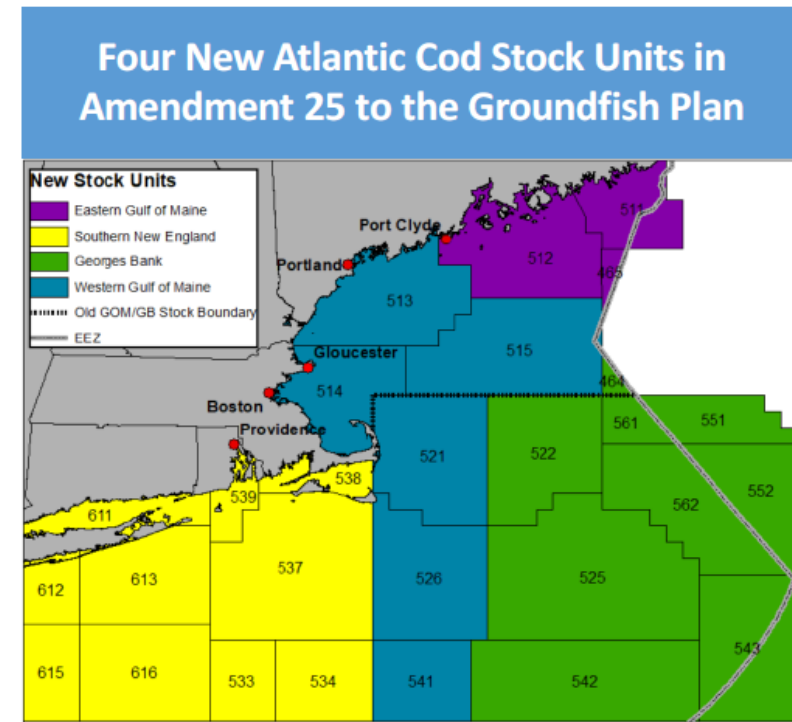
Source: NOAA Fisheries

- Specifications for FY2026-2028
- First stocks with catch advice using on a “Data Update”
 - Monkfish: (FW17) Northern & Southern Areas, adopted status quo catch limits and effort controls
 - Skate Complex: adopted a catch limit increase; modest possession limit increase for Wing & Bait fisheries



Groundfish

- *Revised* Amendment 25 - Approved
 - Four cod stock units: WGOM, EGOM, GB, SNE
 - Incorporates cod-specific measures in FW 69
- Specifications
 - FW 69 (FY2025-27) still under NOAA review
 - FW 72 (FY2026-28) under Council development
- Emergency Measures extended to Apr 30

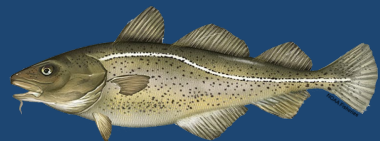


Four new cod stock units adopted in A25 (colors) and two previous units (GOM, GB; dark line).
Source: NEFMC.

Eastern Gulf of Maine - new
Western Gulf of Maine - new
Georges Bank - revised
Southern New England - new

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

- Approved updated EFH Designations for Atlantic cod, Atlantic herring, seven skate species, monkfish
- Data 2000-2022; distributions and habitat needs offshore & nearshore by life history stage: juvenile, adult, egg, larvae
- Remaining FMP species to be considered 2026-2027



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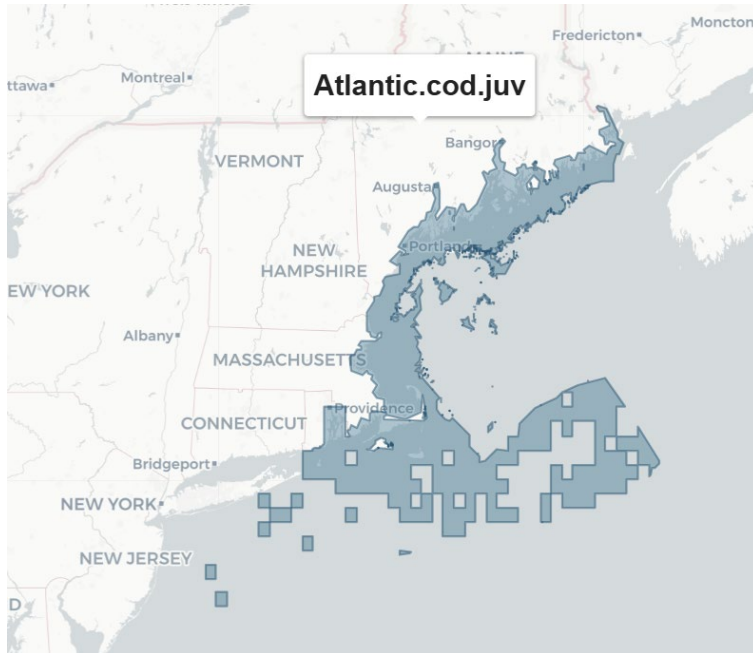
EFH Designations

Example: Juvenile Atlantic cod

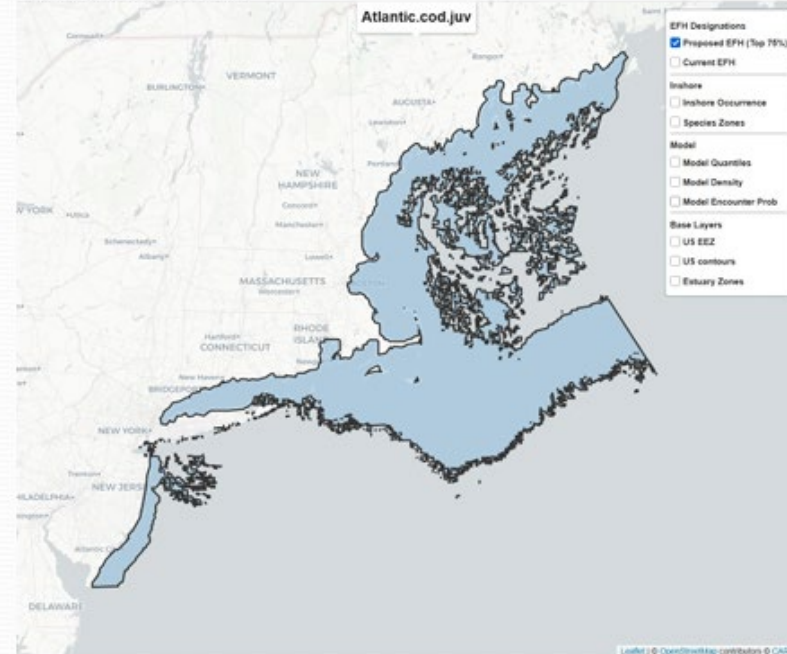
Online EFH Mapping Tool:

https://nrha.shinyapps.io/EFH_demo/

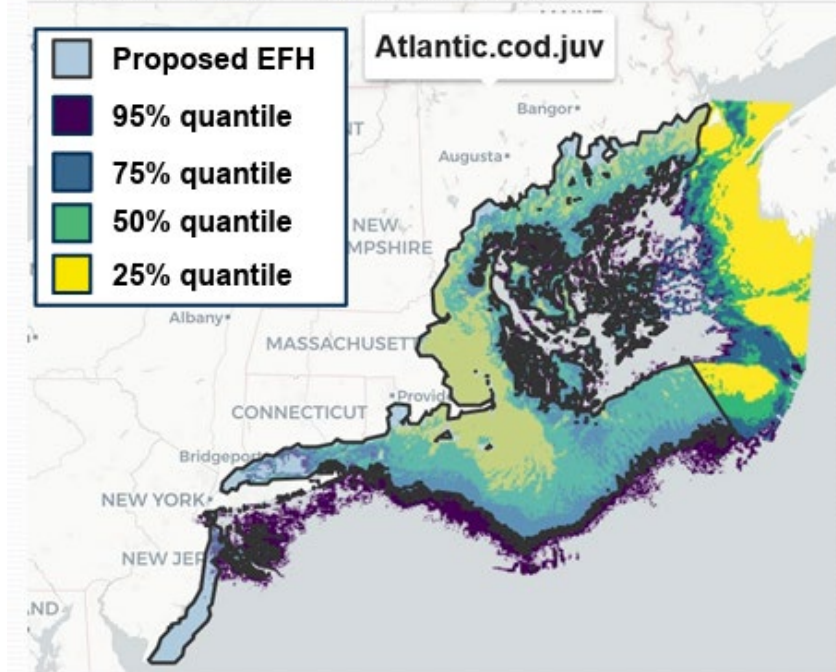
Current EFH



Proposed EFH



Proposed EFH & Model quantiles



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On-Demand Gear Conflict Working Group

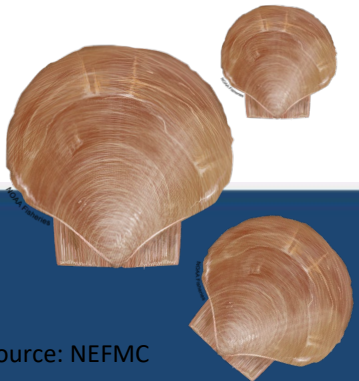
- *Omnibus Alternative Gear-Marking Framework*
 - Postponed final action
 - **GARFO Request for Information** (Fed Reg), on-demand topics
- Working Group's report - Approved
 - (3B) Recommendations for reducing gear conflict lobster/other gears



NEFMC, Sep. 26, Gloucester (Source: NEFMC).

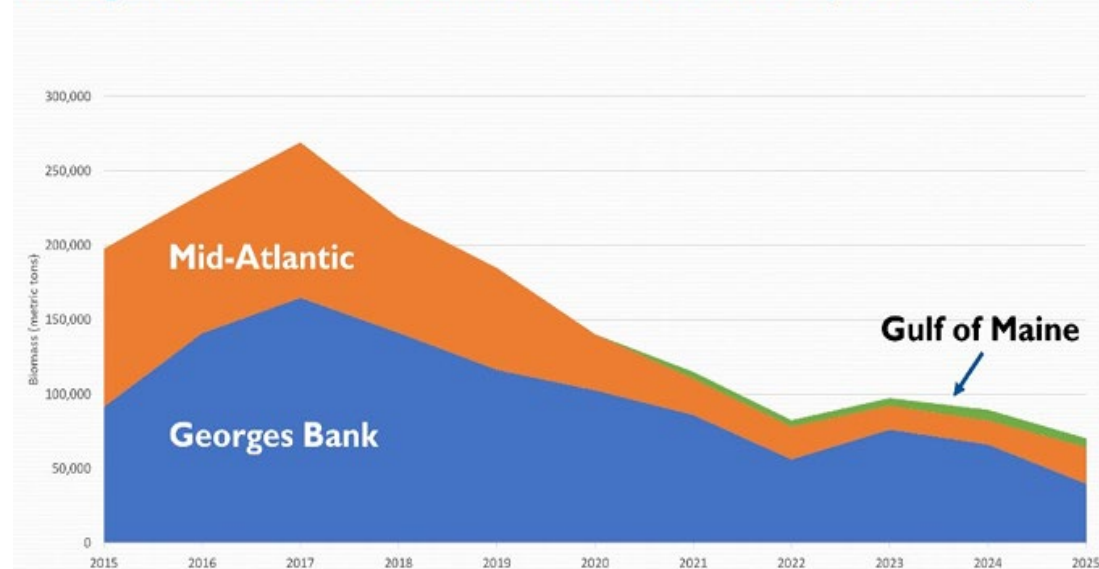
Atlantic Scallops

- Exploitable biomass at historic low
 - Decline across Georges Bank
 - Some growth in Mid-Atlantic
 - Biomass: 54% GB, 38% Mid-Atl, 8% GOM
- Weak recruitment
- 2026 lowest catch limits in over decade (-30% from 2025)



Source: NEFMC

Georges Bank and Mid-Atlantic Biomass Estimates (2015 – 2025)

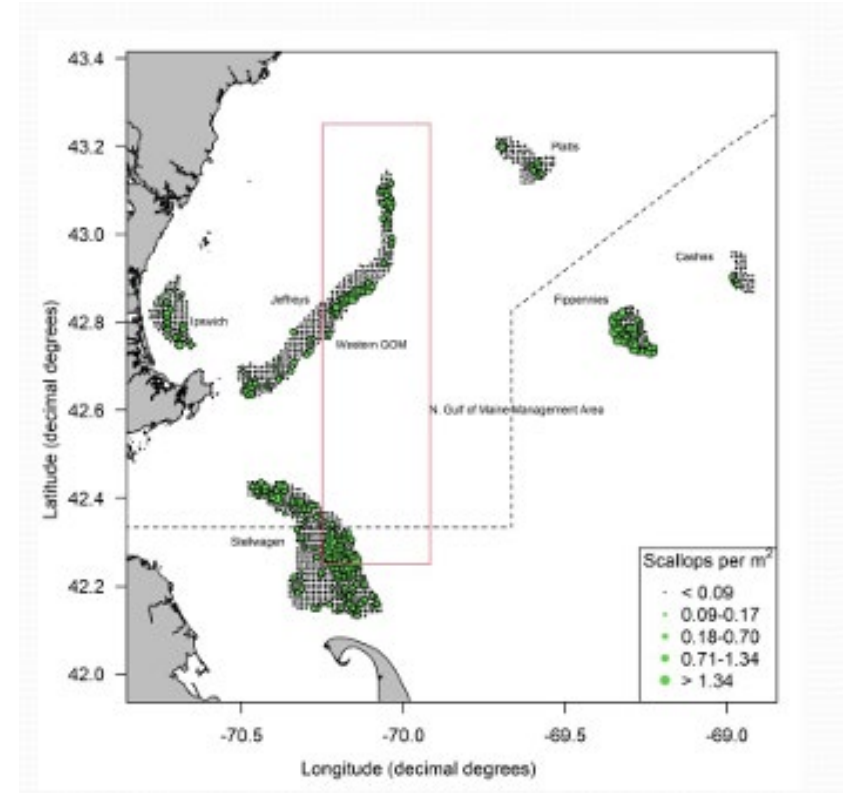


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Atlantic Scallops - Northern Gulf of Maine

- Moderate biomass decline across GOM
- Stellwagen - decline in large scallops; modest recruitment
- Some recruitment – Ipswich & Stellwagen (2028)



NGOM recruited scallops (>75 mm shell height), 2025 SMAST drop camera survey

Source: NEFMC

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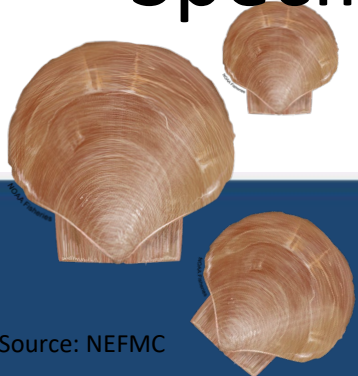
Atlantic Scallops – Framework 40

Specifications FY2026, defaults for FY2027

To consider:

- Limited Access rotational areas (no trips to GB Area II), trip limits
- Open Bottom fishing, Days-at-Sea allocation: 18-36 DAS
- Closures to protect recruits – Nantucket Lightship, NYB closure

Specifications development impacted by Fed shutdown



Source: NEFMC

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December Council Meeting

December 2-4 in Newport, RI

- Final action on fishery specifications:
 - Scallops (FW40)
 - Groundfish (FW72)
 - Spiny Dogfish (Specifications & AMs)
- Finalize Council Work Priorities for 2026



Upcoming Meetings

SCALLOP

Framework 40

Oct 21 & Nov 19

Scallop Advisory Panel

Oct 22 & Nov 20

Scallop Committee

Dec 3-5

Council Meeting, Final Action

GROUND FISH

Framework 72

Oct 21-22

SSC - catch advice, several GF stocks

Nov 17

Advisory Panels (GAP & RAP)

Nov 18

Groundfish Committee

Dec 3-5

Council Meeting, Final Action

OTHER

Nov 5-6

Northeast Region Coordinating Council (?)

Nov 6

Whiting Advisory Panel & Committee

See www.nefmc.org for details and webinar links

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SEPTEMBER 2025 NEFMC MEETING SUMMARY

The [New England Fishery Management Council](#) (NEFMC) met [September 23-25](#) at the Beauport Hotel in Gloucester. Below, find meeting highlights with embedded links to relevant documents. Council **motions** are denoted in bold. The NEFMC meets next in Newport, RI on [December 2-4](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [NEFMC members](#) appointed over the summer were sworn in for three-year terms (Aug 2025-2028): Andrew Dangelo (RI, 1st term), Eric Hansen (MA, 2nd term), and Peter Whalen (NH, 2nd term). Other changes include Robert Rhule, MAFMC representative and Captain Tom Singletary, U.S. Coast Guard representative. Terry Alexander (ME) was appointed to an interim term (Nov 2025 - Aug 2026).
- In its annual [Election of Officers](#), the Council elected **Melanie Griffin** (MA DMF) as Vice Chair and current acting chair Daniel Salerno (NH) as Chair for 2025-2026. *Congrats, Melanie!* The Council also appointed John Pappalardo (MA), Megan Ware (ME), and Mike Pierdinock (MA) to the Executive Committee.
- New Council staff include Sharon Ferrant as Administrative Officer and Mark Grant, long-time NOAA Fisheries groundfish policy analyst, as Senior Fishery Analyst on Groundfish and Climate-Ready Fisheries.
- The Council seeks applicants for all its Advisory Panels for 2026-2028. [Applications](#) are due October 3.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

E.O. 14276 RESTORING AMERICAN SEAFOOD COMPETITIVENESS – The Council considered its draft response to Presidential E.O. 14276, to reduce burdens on domestic fishing, increase production, stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures. Input was compiled from advisory panels, plan development teams, and the public. The Council **adopted the Executive Committee's recommendations to E.O. 14276**. Items include evaluations of regulations on historic vessel baseline restrictions, Atlantic herring slippage (fish release), and monkfish DAS use for potential future modification, as well as recommendations to Federal agencies on seafood marketing, fisheries monitoring, and bioeconomic and oceanographic modeling. The Council **agreed to add to work with the MAFMC to consider an action to change the season for the Southern New England Dogfish Exemption Area and add to the allowable species possession list, Atlantic bluefish and black sea bass**, and under the seafood and marketing section, **include support for USDA Purchasing Programs**. Council recommendations are due to NOAA Fisheries on September 30. The Council will consider next steps at priority-setting in December. NOAA Fisheries is hosting [public comment on E.O. 14276](#) through October 14.

MANAGEMENT FLEXIBILITY ACTION – The Council took final action on the [Omnibus Management Flexibility Amendment](#) for added flexibility and consistency across its Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) in specification frequency, rollover provisions, in-season adjustment authority, and other options. This need comes in response to changing regional resources, decreasing federal capacity to support scientific and regulatory processes, and pauses in advancement of management actions. The Council **selected as preferred, alternatives to set specifications up to five years; allow specifications setting processes for two remaining FMPs** (groundfish & monkfish); **allow use of in-season adjustments to specifications** (beyond just Atlantic herring); **update the list of frameworkable items**; and, **to remove the requirement for annual reviews** for certain FMPs. Implementation is expected for fishing year (FY) 2026.

MONKFISH – Monkfish and Skate topics were presented jointly, demonstrating Council progress on the [IRA initiative](#) for more holistic management. Fishery decisions remain separate for the two FMPs for now. In August, Monkfish was the first stock the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommended Overfishing Limits (OFLs) and Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs) for using an NEFMC 'data update' in place of the cancelled fall 2025 Management Track assessment. The SSC recommended status quo ABCs for Northern and Southern management areas for FY2026-2028 and, for FY2029-2030, status quo for the North and a precautionary 36% reduction for the South. Monkfish was also the first FMP the Council considered extended specifications for under the newly adopted Management Flexibility action. While Council members varied in their support for three (traditional) versus five-year

advice, they ultimately **recommended status quo ABCs (Northern: 6,244 mt; Southern 5,861 mt) for three years (FY2026-2028) and status quo effort controls (DAS and possession limits) for Monkfish Framework 17, and agreed to revisit effort controls in three years (2028) considering fishery performance.**

SKATES – Like Monkfish, the Council debated the most appropriate specifications timeline for Skates (typically set for two years). The skate complex received a fall ‘data update’ in place of a cancelled Management Track assessment. The SSC recommended an increase in ABCs from the last specifications cycle (due to higher winter skate biomass) for FY2026-2027, and a precautionary 10% reduction in ABCs for FY2028-2030. Utilizing newly adopted management flexibility, the Council **recommended three-year specifications for the Northeast Skate Complex (FY2026-2027 ABC: 41,282 mt; FY2028 ABC: 37,154 mt)** to align skate and monkfish future actions. For effort controls, the Council **adopted an increase in possession limits for the Wing fishery** (by 500 lbs/season) and **Bait fishery** (by 5,000 lb/season) and **to revisit possession limits in three years (2028) considering fishery performance.**

SEA SCALLOPS – The Council received an overview of resource trends and progress on fishery specification for FY2026/default measures for FY2027 in draft Framework 40. The 2025 surveys indicated the lowest overall biomass in over a decade, a sharp decline across Georges Bank, and weak recruitment. To cap potential effort on Georges Bank, the Council **added consideration of allocating Limited Access Days-at-Sea separately for Georges Bank and the Mid-Atlantic, using 71° W as the demarcation line** to the scope of Framework 40. The Council also **added consideration of allocating two Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) subareas: Stellwagen-North and NGOM “other”** with lowest priority in relation to the other aspects of framework development. The Council **agreed to send a letter to NOAA Headquarters urging the immediate publication of the 2026 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Notice of Funding Opportunity**, necessary to support 2026 surveys particularly in the Gulf of Maine. The SSC will recommend scallop catch limits in October. Final action on Scallop Framework 40 is expected in December.

GROUND FISH – The Council **agreed to approve and submit the Revised Northeast Multispecies Amendment 25 (A25)**, an action to revise the biological units for Atlantic cod from two to four stocks, **with the cod-specific measures as previously approved and submitted under Framework 69** (final action Dec 2025), as recommended by NOAA Fisheries. In May, the Council was notified of **disapproval** of A25 due to inconsistency with National Standard 1 and other required provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. For further background on decision points regarding the Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan and development of cod catch limits, see A25 (**Revised**) **Appendices**. Advancing measures in A25 and Framework 69 remain top Council priorities, for the start fishing season May 1, 2026. The **Emergency Action** temporarily authorizing the FY2025 groundfish fishery expires on October 28. **Framework 72** is under development to set specifications/management measures for groundfish stocks for FY2026-2028 and to establish a regulatory process for Regional Administrator authority to adjust recreational cod and haddock measures. The SSC will recommend catch limits in October. Final action on Groundfish Framework 72 is expected in December.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) – New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils recently completed a five-year review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designations for Council FMP species to update designations currently using data through 2005. New species distribution models now demonstrate **EFH ‘principal area’** by life history stage using 2000-2022 data. The Council **recommended adoption of updated EFH designations in the EFH Designation Framework, for Atlantic herring, monkfish, Atlantic cod, smooth skate, thorny skate, barndoor skate, little skate, winter skate, clearnose skate, and rosette skate.** Remaining FMP species will be considered in 2026/2027 (e.g., hakes, redfish, plaice, halibut, wolffish, haddock, ocean pout, pollock, flounders, sea scallop).

ALTERNATIVE GEAR-MARKING – A full house of lobster fishing industry representation marked this agenda item at the Beauport, as the Council considered final action on the draft **Joint New England & Mid-Atlantic Omnibus Alternative Gear-Marking Framework** to revise surface gear marking regulations in the Greater Atlantic region to allow the use of fixed gear without a persistent buoy line. Alternatives considered where and when gear-marking alternatives could be used and whether to require an educational component. Following Council discussion and an extended public comment session, the Council **agreed to postpone final action on the Alternative Gear-Marking Framework until additional information on ropeless gear and visualization technology, as solicited through a NOAA Fisheries Request for Information, is available to inform stakeholder input and Council decision-making.** The Council’s decision was informed by **input** from the Council’s On-Demand Gear Conflict Working Group, gear-marking PDT, advisory panels, the ASMFC Lobster Board, stakeholder engagement, and correspondence. NOAA Fisheries indicated it is currently working on the Request for Information and expects publication in Dec/Jan. Once available, NOAA Fisheries intends to further engage with Councils, ASMFC, fixed and mobile fleets, relevant technology developers, and other stakeholders during the open comment period.

UPDATES & DISCUSSION

ON-DEMAND GEAR CONFLICT WORKING GROUP – The Council received and **approved the On-Demand Gear Conflict Working Group’s final report on ‘Term of Reference 3B’** recommending how to reduce interactions between on-demand gear used in the Northeast Lobster/Jonah crab fisheries and other types of fishing gear used in the Greater Atlantic region. The Council also confirmed the Working Group had completed all tasks (Oct 2023 TORs). The report will be shared with the Mid-Atlantic Council in October.

CLIMATE & ECOSYSTEM STEERING COMMITTEE – The Council heard progress on the Council’s portfolio of IRA initiatives and two Climate and Ecosystem subcommittees: Process Mapping and Communications, and updates on partner work including regional climate forecasts, 2026 State of the Ecosystem Report preparation, and Climate and Ecosystem Fisheries Initiative (CEFI) advancements.

SCIENTIFIC & STATISTICAL COMMITTEE – The SSC reviewed catch advice for Monkfish and Skate fisheries for FY2026-2030, and reference point recommendations for Atlantic Sea Scallop.

NORTHEAST TRAWL ADVISORY PANEL – NTAP highlighted summer meeting topics, notably that \$360,000 in funding was secured to support Phase 1 of the pilot **Regional Industry Based Trawl Survey (RIBTS)**. VIMS *F/V Darana R* team (NEAMAP vessel) was selected to carry out the pilot in fall 2025/spring 2026. Phase 2 of the pilot RIBTS will involve multiple vessels, a wider geographic area, and use of NEFSC’s fisheries scientific computer system (FSCS) data system. Funding (~\$2 mil) for Phase 2 has not yet been identified.

NEFSC COOPERATIVE RESEARCH BRANCH – NEFSC staff updated the Council on active cooperative research projects including long-term programs such as eMOLT, Gulf of Maine bottom longline survey, study fleet, and *inBios* industry based biological sampling program, and new initiatives including the pilot RIBTS, conversion factors for groundfish, pilot hook and line survey, *RecBio* recreational sampling, and cooperative research summits.

COUNCIL PLANNING – The Council discussed its **September-December 2025** planned tasks and initial ideas for **2026 work prioritization**. Only minimal solicitation of new priority items will be offered in 2026, as the Council balances completion of required tasks (e.g., specifications) and progress on IRA and E.O. initiatives with reduced NOAA staff support and increased Council responsibilities.

AGENCY ACTIVITIES – The **Council Executive Director, GARFO Regional Administrator, NEFSC, MAFMC, ASMFC, U.S. Coast Guard, and the HMS Advisory Panel** provided written reports.

LOOKING AHEAD

In December, the Council will take Final Action on:

- Northeast Multispecies Framework 72 for FY2026-2027 fishery specifications for several groundfish stocks
- Scallop Framework 40 for FY2026 fishery specifications and FY2027 default specs
- Spiny Dogfish FY2026-2027 Specifications and Accountability Measures - joint with the Mid-Atlantic
- Setting 2026 Council Work Priorities

Shellfish Sanitation and Management Program Updates



Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission
Tuesday October 21, 2025

Massachusetts Division
of Marine Fisheries

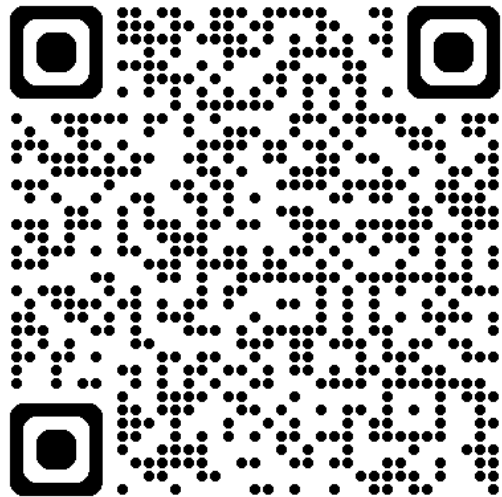


Update Outline

- Personnel
- MSOA Constable Training Course
- Depuration Harvest
- Whole Sea Scallop harvest
- ISSC
- *Vibrio* Control and illnesses
- *Campylobacter* illnesses
- CSO Closures
- WWTP Outfall modeling and Reclassifications
- Laboratory
- Federal Government Shutdown



The National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) is a cooperative program consisting of state shellfish control authorities, US FDA, and industry partners who agree to accept and meet specific responsibilities to ensure the safety of molluscan shellfish in interstate commerce. Shellfish sanitation guidelines are outlined in the NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish Model Ordinance. Model Ordinance or MO means that part of the most recent version of the NSSP Guide (Section II) that sets forth the requirements that states have agreed to enforce through their participation in the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC). The ISSC votes on all standards and language included in the NSSP Guide. Each year the FDA evaluates states' shellfish programs for compliance with the NSSP MO.



Shellfish Control Authorities in MA:

- DMF Shellfish Sanitation and Management Program
- DPH Food Protection Program
- MA Environmental Police

January 2027 targeted for next ISSC

National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP)

Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish 2023 Revision



Vibrio Control Plan for Oyster Harvest and Handling

Growing Area	Number of confirmed illnesses
BB3	1
CCB11/CCB13/CCB14	5
CCB23	2
CCB31	2
CCB45	4
N4	2
SC50	2
SC61	5

**40 Confirmed *Vibrio* illnesses:
23 cases single-source
tracebacks to MA shellfish
growing areas**

PROPER ICING TECHNIQUE FOR HARVESTERS

Ice oysters within 2 hours of time of harvest or prior to leaving the point of landing, whichever occurs first

If oysters from one MA harvest area caused multiple illnesses, then FPP will:

(1) Determine the oyster harvest dates for all cases on the following chart:

How many cases consumed oysters which were harvested within 30 days ?	1 to 3 cases	4 cases	5 to 10 cases	11 or more cases
Or, how many cases consumed oysters which were harvested on the same day ?	-	-	2 to 3 cases	4 or more cases

(2) Use # of cases and date range to assign risk and determine next steps:

What is level of risk?	0	1	2	3
Will DMF notify town(s) with harvest area?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will the harvest area have to close?	No	Yes; 7-day precautionary	Yes; 14-day required	Yes; 21-day required
Will FDA require a recall?	No	No	No	Yes
Will FDA require a consumer advisory?	No	No	No	Yes



Campylobacter illnesses



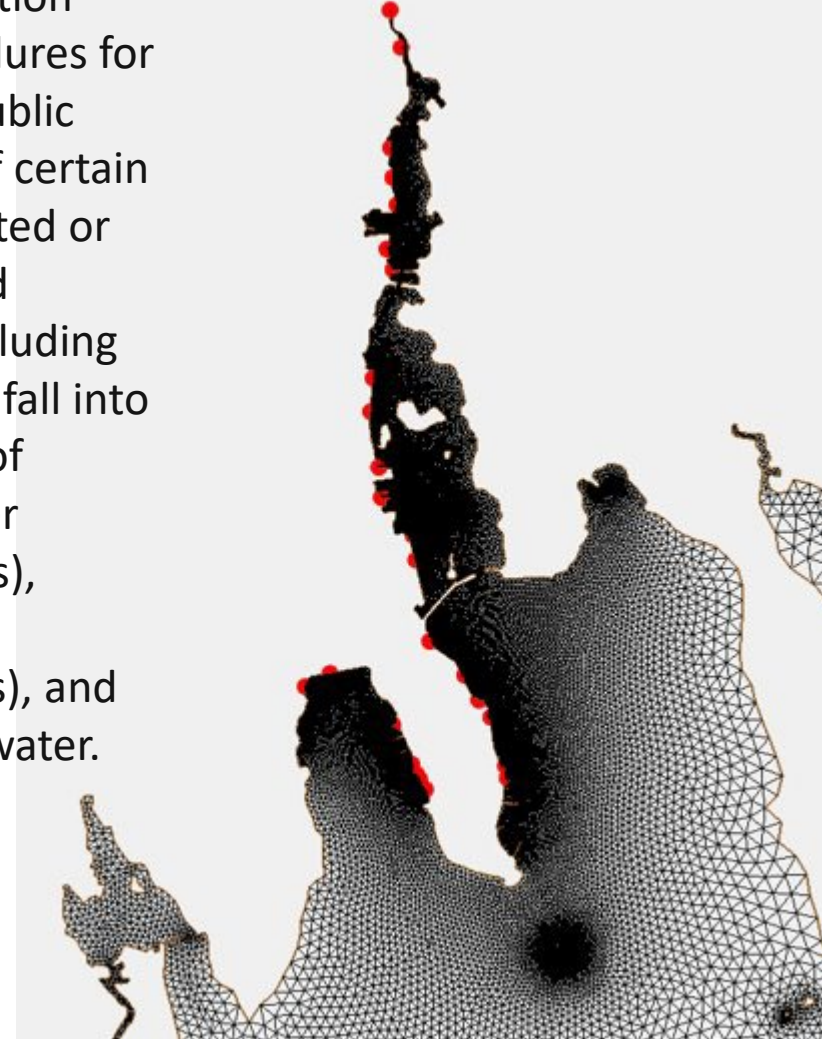
- 37 *Campylobacter* illness investigations
- 3 Outbreaks linked to MA Shellfish Growing Areas
 - Vineyard
 - Plymouth (Saquish)
 - CCB11,CCB14,CCB23,CCB45 All the same restaurant (post harvest contamination)



Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Closures

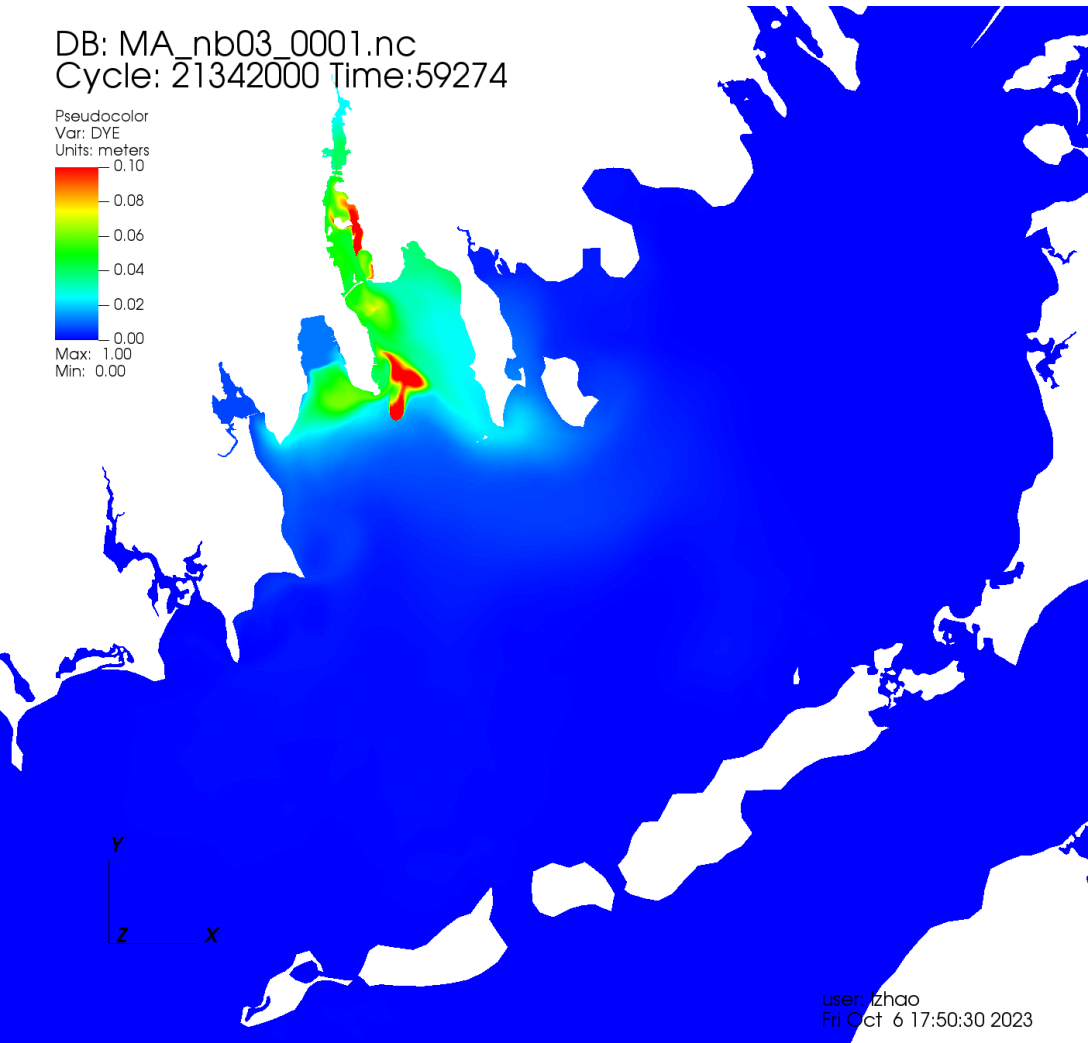
314 CMR 16.00:

This DEP regulation requires procedures for notifying the public of discharges of certain types of untreated or partially treated wastewater, including discharges that fall into the categories of combined sewer overflows (CSOs), sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), and blended wastewater.

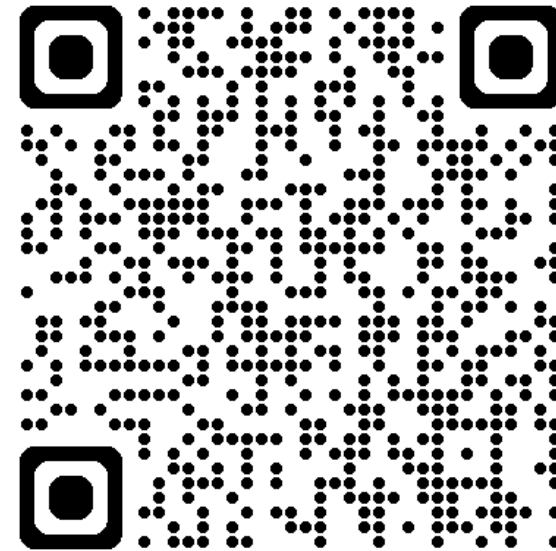


Classification downgrades around WWTP Outfalls

Surface



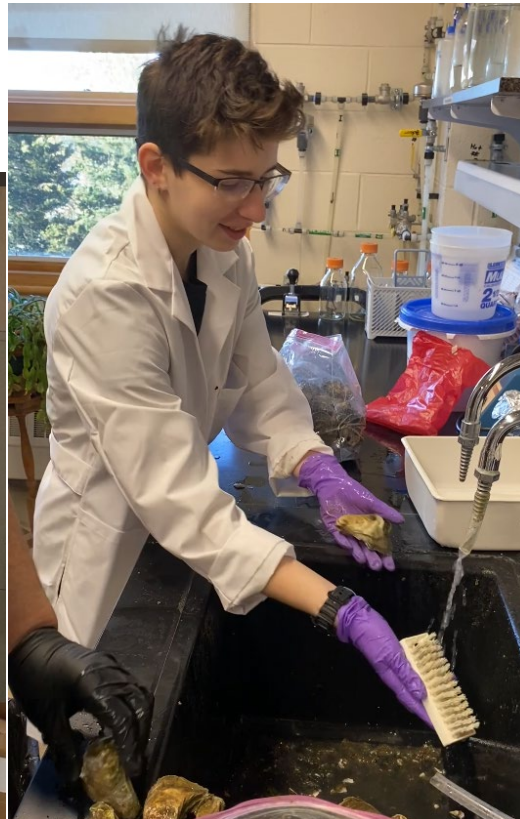
Review of Wastewater Dilution Modeling



Reviewers of the modeling materials agreed the modeling framework is appropriate for use in assessments of WWTP effluent dilution. However, the reviewers felt that further validation observations and testing should be conducted to strengthen confidence in the modeling results.

Due to budget uncertainty, it is unclear whether additional modeling work will be completed this fiscal year

Laboratories



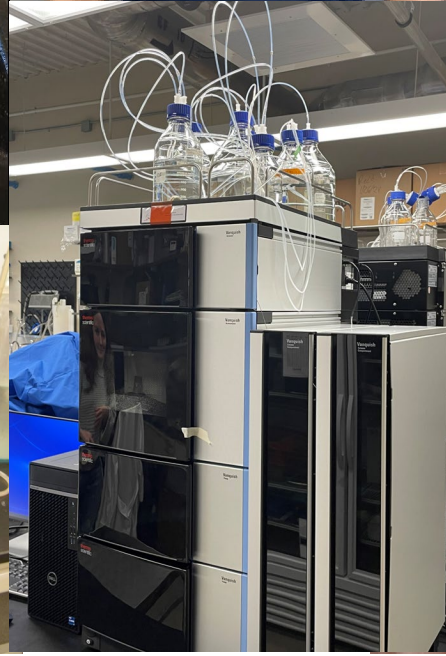
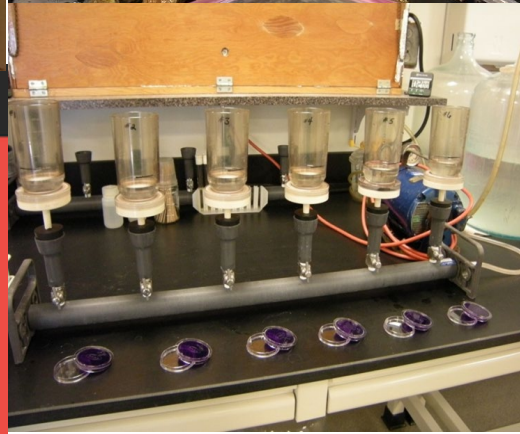
DANGER ☠️

TOXIC SHELLFISH
DO NOT EAT clams, oysters, mussels, or scallops.

Shellfish in this area are unsafe to eat due to biotoxins.

危險! 貝類可能含有毒素。請勿食用。
Nguy hiểm! Nghêu sò bị nhiễm độc. Đừng ăn.
අනතුරු! මූස්ලයන්, මුහුදු මූස්ලයන්, මුහුදු මූස්ලයන් සහ මූස්ලයන් අනතුරු.
Preghiera! Mariscos tóxicos. No comer!
Опасность! Раковины моллюсков. Не употребляйте в пищу!
Внимание! Моллюски могут быть ядовитыми. Не употреблять!
危險! 有毒的貝類 - 切勿食用!

Always check the shellfish safety hotline:
1-800-562-5632 or
www.dsh.mt.gov/shellfishsafety.htm
For more information, contact:



Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries



Federal Government Shutdown Impacts

- Delayed FDA review and decision on MSC for New Bedford Lab
- Control of Harvest program element evaluation scheduled for 1st week in October was postponed
- ISSC Committee meetings on hold
- Shellfish Specialists unavailable



Questions



Chrissy Petitpas

Assistant Director
Shellfish Sanitation & Management Program Lead
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

617-413-2329

christian.petitpas@mass.gov

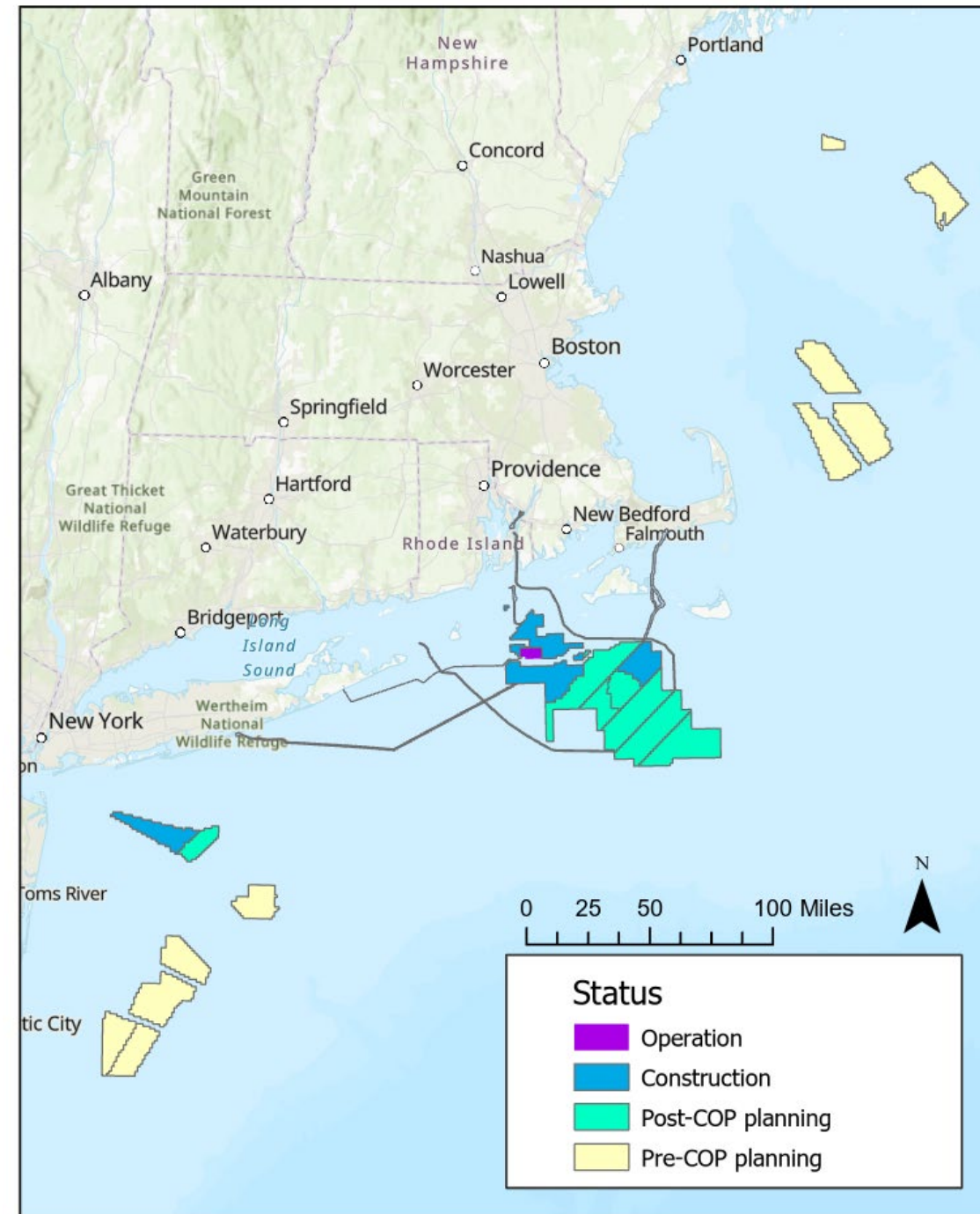
Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission Offshore Wind Update

October 21, 2025



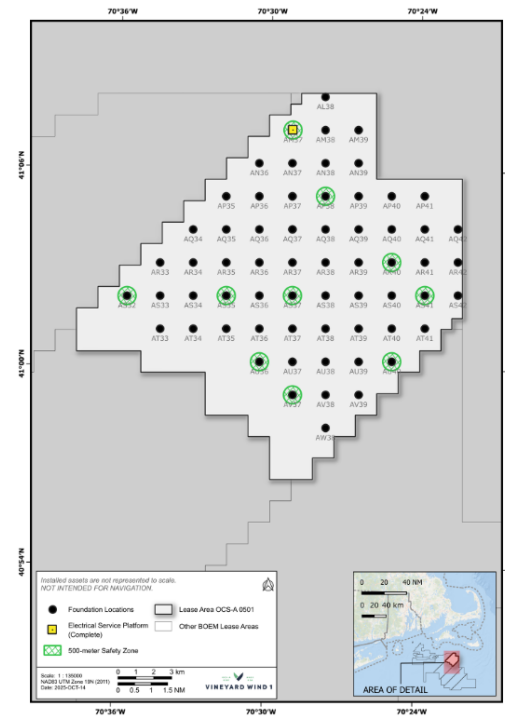
Offshore Wind Project Status

Status	Projects	Activities on the water (lease area and cable routes)
Complete and Operational	South Fork	May see occasional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - post-construction surveys - maintenance operations
Under Construction	Vineyard 1 Revolution Sunrise Empire	Likely to see one or more of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seabed preparations (e.g., boulder relocation, PLGR, scour protection) - installation of jacket or monopile foundations, WTGs and OSSs - cable-laying and burial
Planning and Permitting (COP is published)	New England 1 & 2 SouthCoast Beacon Starboard Vineyard Northeast Vineyard Mid-Atlantic	May see occasional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - habitat/fisheries surveys - geophysical surveys - metocean buoys
Planning and permitting (pre-COP)	New York Bight (5) Gulf of Maine (5)	May see occasional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - habitat/fisheries surveys - geophysical surveys - metocean buoys

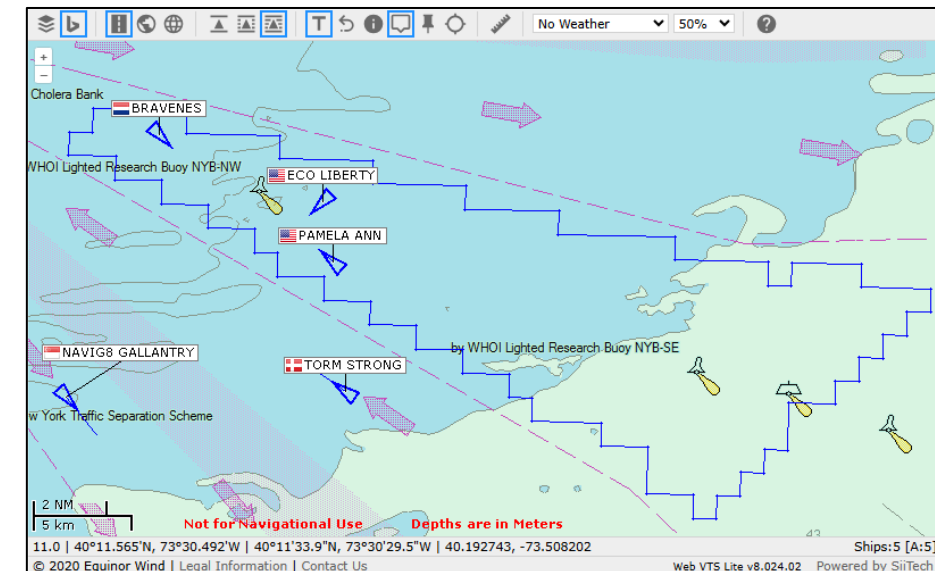


For projects currently Under Construction, activities include:

Project	Most recent update	Specific Activities on the water (lease area and cable routes)
Vineyard 1	October 14, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of tower, nacelle and blades • Replacement of blades • Commissioning of WTGs
Empire	October 17, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently completed installation of foundations and transition pieces • Installation of subsea rock and scour protection • Turbine installation to begin in spring 2026



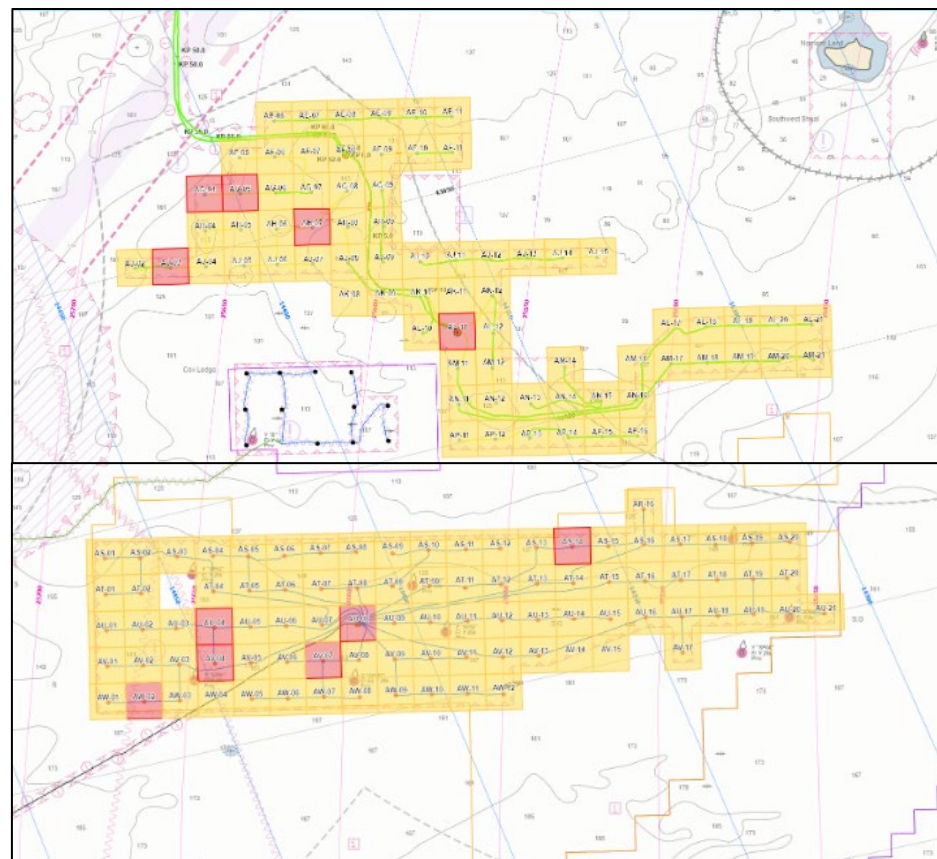
Source: <https://www.vineyardwind.com/offshore-wind-mariner-updates>



Source: <https://www.empirewind.com/environment-and-sustainability/mariners-and-fisheries/>

For projects currently Under Construction, activities include:

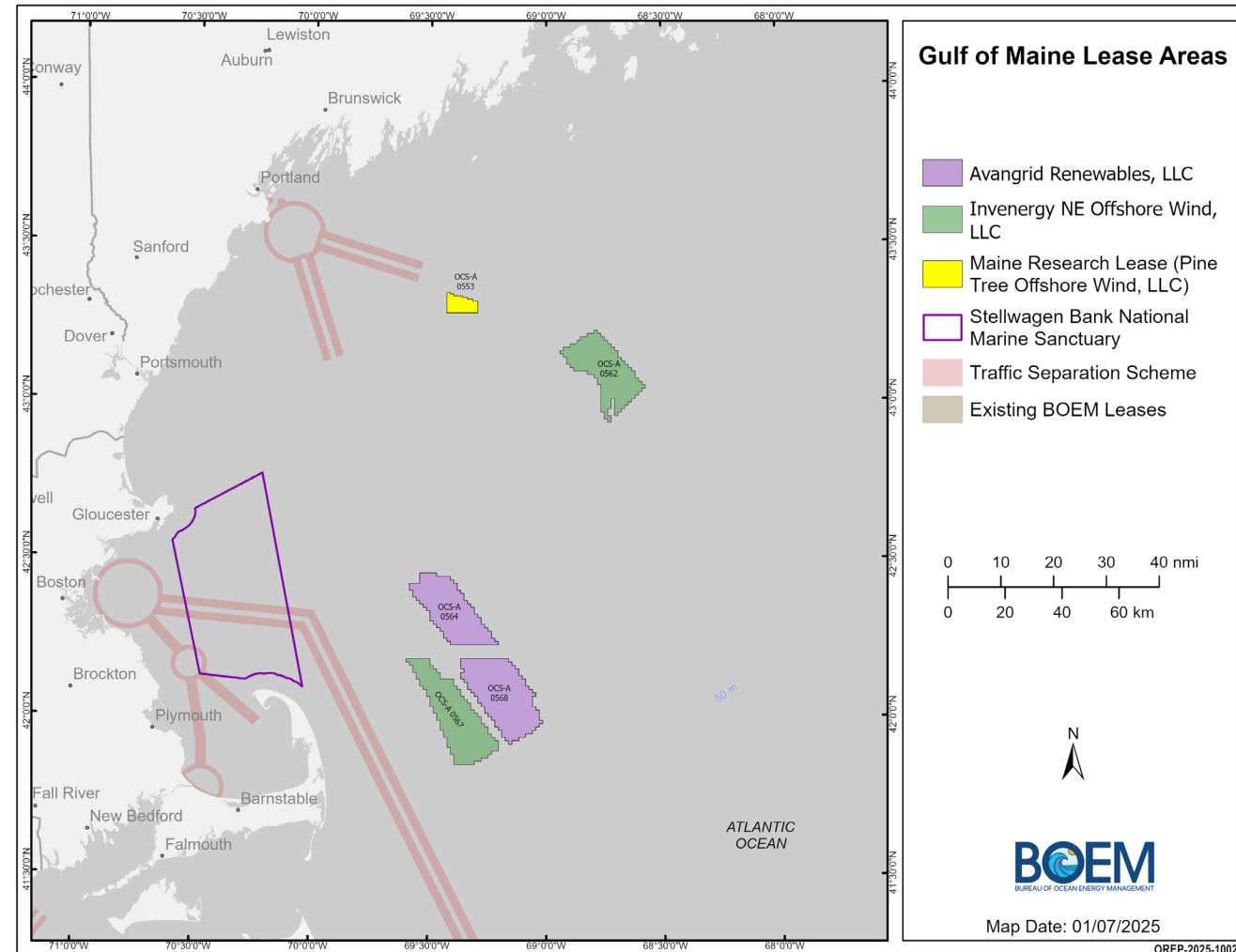
Project	Most recent update	Specific Activities on the water (lease area and cable routes)
Revolution	October 14, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOEM issued Stop Work Order on 8/22/25 • Preliminary Injunction issued on 9/22/25 and work commenced that day • WTG installation • OSS installation and commissioning • Seabed preparation and inter-array cable installation
Sunrise	October 14, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of monopile WTG foundations • Deployment of bubble curtains, sound monitoring buoys, protected species observers • Installation of WTG transition piece • Installation and commissioning of OSS



Source:
https://a2f3e3.emailsp.com/frontend/nL_preview_window.aspx?idNL=1035

For GOM projects currently planning and permitting, activities include:

Project	Specific Activities
Avangrid OCS-A 0564 OCS-A 0568	<u>Communications Plans</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency Native American Tribal Fisheries <u>Project Websites</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.ocs-a0564.com www.ocs-a0568.com
Invenergy OCS-A 0562 OCS-A 0567	<u>Communications Plans</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Communication Plan meetings held Due to be published by 11/30/2025
Maine Research Array OCS-A 0553	Conducting survey and monitoring work



Massachusetts Fisheries Innovation Fund Update

- Fisheries Innovation Fund (FIF): **\$1.75m mitigation fund** created by Vineyard Wind to “support programs and projects that ensure safe and profitable fishing continues” as current and future offshore wind projects are developed
- Priorities: Fishing Innovation, Community, Safety
- Other developers will add mitigation funds to FIF, possibly \$2.3-4.8m in future

Progress Update

- RFP published July 7th, closed August 29th
- **Received 20 Proposals seeking \$3.37m**
- Review proposals Sept-Oct and recommend projects for funding
- Contract with awardees (November)
- Projects can begin January 2026



MA/RI Offshore Wind Collaboration



- Boulder Relocation/Seabed Alteration Working Group (ongoing)
 - Identify issues, knowledge gaps, action items and select content expert(s)
 - Develop projects, refine methods and identify funding sources
- East Coast/West Coast Learning Exchange (October 7)
 - Participants:
 - MA DMF, RI DEM, RI CFRF, CFCRI, NBPA, RI SeaGrant/URI, NH/ME/DE SeaGrant
 - Oregon SeaGrant, CA SeaGrant, Oregon State, Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Assn, Blue Lake Rancheria, Oregon Dept of Land Conservation and Development
 - Discussion Topics and Panels:
 - Issues and Opportunities from the Fisheries Perspective
 - Offshore Wind from the Regulatory Perspective – Processes and Lessons Learned
 - Compensation Packages for OSW in the Northeast
 - Traditional port uses and OSW

Questions?

