



Biological Sampling Priority Matrix

Created in February 2019
For FY2021

*Our vision is to be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information
on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners.*

Biological Review Panel Recommends:

- Species in the upper 25% of the priority matrix should be considered for funding.
- Sampling projects which cover multiple species within the upper 25% are highly recommended.



* UPPER 25% OF MATRIX

Biological Review Panel Recommendations Based on Matrix*:

Species	Overfished	Overfishing	Most Recent Stock	Current/Next Stock Assessment	Council Priority	ASMFC Priority	State Priority	NMFS Priority	Fishery Managed	Sig. change in landings	Sig. change in mgmt w/in	Adequacy of level of sampling	Stock Resilience	Seasonality of Fishery	Average Priority	TOTAL
Black Sea Bass <i>Centropristis striata</i>	N: MA N: SA	N: MA N: SA	2018	2019	5.0	5	3.4	5.0	5	1	1	3	3	1	4.3	32.43
Gray Triggerfish <i>Balistes capriciscus</i>	U	U	2016		5.0	0	1.1	4.0	3	5	5	4	2	3	2.8	32.14
Atlantic halibut <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	Y	N	2018		4.0	0	1.1	4.0	3	5	1	4	5	3	2.6	30.14
Snowy Grouper <i>Epinephelus niveatus</i>	Y	N	2013	2019	5.0	0	1.1	5.0	3	1	3	4	5	3	3.0	30.14
Sandbar Shark <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	Y	N	2011	2017	0.0	1	1.0	5.0	5	5	5	2	3	3	1.8	30.00
American Shad <i>Alosa sapidissima/mediocris</i>	D	N	2007	2019	0.0	3	3.9	0.0	5	3	3	4	5	3	2.2	29.86
Red Snapper <i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>	Y	Y	2016	2020	5.0		0.7	5.0	3	4	1	1	5	5	2.9	29.71
River Herring <i>Alosa</i>	D	U	2017		0.0	4	3.2	0.0	5	3	3	4	4	3	2.2	29.21
Tilefish <i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>	N: MA N: SA	N: MA Y: SA	2017	2019	5.0	0	1.7	4.0	5	1	1	4	4	3	2.9	28.71
Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Y	N	2014	2017	0.0	0	1.6	5.0	5	5	5	3	3	1	1.9	28.64
Cobia <i>Rachycentron canadum</i>	N	N	2012	2019	0.0	5	1.4	3.0	3	5	1	4	3	3	2.7	28.36
Blueline Tilefish <i>Caulolatilus microps</i>	U	U	2017		3.0	0	1.2	5.0	3	3	3	4	3	3	2.6	28.21
Horseshoe Crab <i>Limulus polyphemus</i>	U	U	2013	2019	0.0	4	2.8	0.0	5	3	3	3	4	3	2.0	27.79
American Eel <i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	D	U	2017	2020	0.0	5	3.5	0.0	5	3	1	4	5	1	2.5	27.50
Dolphin <i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	U	U			5.0	0	1.3	3.0	5	3	3	3	1	3	2.5	27.29
Ocean Pout <i>Macrozoarces americanus</i>	Y	N	2017	2019	0.0	0	0.2	1.0	3	5	5	5	5	3	1.2	27.21
Red Drum <i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i>	U	N	2017		0.0	3	1.2	1.0	3	5	5	3	3	3	1.6	27.21
Atlantic Smooth Dogfish <i>Mustelus canis</i>	N	N	2015		0.0	3	1.6	3.0	5	3	3	3	2	3	2.1	26.57
American Lobster <i>Homarus americanus</i>	D	N	2015		0.0	5	2.6	3.0	3	4	1	3	4	1	2.7	26.57
Winter Flounder <i>Pleuronectes americanus</i>	N: GB U: GOM Y: SNE/MA	N: GB N: GOM N: SNE/MA	2016	2019	0.0	2	2.4	5.0	3	3	3	2	5	1	2.3	26.43
Red Grouper <i>Epinephelus morio</i>	Y	Y	2017	2021	5.0	0	1.0	4.0	3	1	1	4	4	3	2.8	26.00
Whelk Channeled, Knobbed, Lightning	U	U			0.0	0	1.9	0.0	5	5	5	4	4	1	1.2	25.93
Lane Snapper <i>Lutjanus synagris</i>	U	U			0.0	0	0.4	3.0	3	5	5	5	3	1	1.7	25.36
Gag Grouper <i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>	N	N	2014	2020	5.0	0	0.9	4.0	3	1	1	3	4	3	2.6	24.93
Weakfish <i>Cynoscion regalis</i>	D	N		2019	0.0	3	2.9	0.0	5	3	3	4	3	1	2.0	24.93
Finetooth Shark <i>Carcharhinus isodon</i>	N	N	2007		0.0	1	0.9	3.0	5	3	3	3	3	3	1.6	24.86
Scamp <i>Mycteroperca phenax</i>	U	U		2021	5.0	0	0.9	3.0	3	1	1	4	4	3	2.6	24.86

Bio-sampling Priority Matrix

- Grouping of species in upper 25% of total matrix score, based on sampling adequacy and average priority (average of ASMFC, Council, NMFS and State priorities).
- Red Snapper and Sandbar Shark are being sampled adequately and have low priority so additional sampling is not needed.
- Projects that target multiple upper quartile species should be given a higher priority.

		Biological Sampling Adequacy	
		Adequate (0 - 2)	Inadequate (3 - 5)
Averaged Priority Columns	High (≥ 3.0)		Black Sea Bass, Snowy Grouper
	Low (< 3.0)	Sandbar Shark, Red Snapper	Gray Triggerfish, Atlantic halibut, American Shad, River Herring, Tilefish, Bluefin Tuna, Horseshoe Crab, American Eel, Dolphin, Ocean Pout, Red Drum, Atlantic Smooth Dogfish, American Lobster, Winter Flounder, Red Grouper, Whelk, Lane Snapper, Gag Grouper, Weakfish, Finetooth Shark, Scamp, Winter Skate, Atlantic Menhaden

