



Biological Sampling Priority Matrix

Created in February 2021
For FY2023

*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.



Biological Review Panel Recommendations Based on Matrix*:

Species	Overfished		Overfishing	Most Recent Stock Assessment	Current/Next Stock Assessment	Council Priority	ASMFC Priority	State Priority	NMFS Priority	Fishery Management	Sig. change in landings	Sig. change in mgmt w/in 24 mo	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	MA: 2019 SA: 2018	MA:2021 SA:2023	5.0	5	3.5	5.0	5	1	1	4	3	1	4.5	32.43
Red Grouper <i>Epinephelus morio</i>	Y		Y	2017	2023	5.0	0	1.1	5.0	3	1	4	3	4	3	2.8	32.14
Snowy Grouper <i>Epinephelus niveatus</i>	Y		N	2019	2021	5.0	0	0.9	5.0	3	3	1	3	5	3	2.8	30.14
Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	U		N	2017	2021	0.0	0	1.8	5.0	5	5	5	3	3	1	2.0	30.14
River Herring <i>Alosa</i>	D		U	2017	2023	0.0	4	3.6	0.0	5	3	1	4	4	4	2.3	30.00
Cobia <i>Rachycentron canadum</i>	N		N	2020		1.0	5	1.5	4.0	3	1	3	4	3	3	3.1	29.86
Tilefish <i>Lopholatilus</i>	N: MA	N:SA	N: MA Y:SA	MA:2017 SA:2016	MA/SA:2021	5.0	0	1.9	4.0	5	1	1	3	4	3	2.8	29.71
American Shad <i>Alosa</i>	D		U	2020		0.0	3	3.8	0.0	5	3	1	4	5	3	2.2	29.21
Atlantic halibut <i>Hippoglossus</i>	U		U	2020		4.0	0	1.2	1.0	3	5	1	4	5	3	2.0	28.71
Atlantic Menhaden <i>Brevoortia tyrannus</i>	N		N	2020	2022	0.0	5	3.1	3.0	5	1	3	3	3	1	2.8	28.64
Gray Triggerfish <i>Balistes capriscus</i>	U		U			5.0	0	1.0	4.0	3	5	1	3	2	3	2.6	28.36
Atlantic Smooth Dogfish <i>Mustelus canis</i>	N		N	2015	2021	0.0	3	1.4	3.0	5	5	1	3	2	3	2.1	28.21
Ocean Pout <i>Macrozcarces americanus</i>	Y		N	2020		0.0	0	0.2	0.0	3	5	5	5	5	3	1.0	27.79
Spanish Mackerel <i>Scomberomorus</i>	N		N	2020	2022	5.0	2	1.2	4.0	3	1	2	3	2	3	3.0	27.50
Blueline Tilefish <i>Caulolatilus microps</i>	U		U	2017	2024	3.0	0	1.1	5.0	3	3	2	3	3	3	2.4	27.29
Sandbar Shark <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	Y		N	2017		0.0	1	1.1	5.0	5	5	1	2	3	3	1.8	27.21
American Eel <i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	D		U	2017	2022	0.0	5	3.5	0.0	5	1	1	4	5	1	2.5	27.21
Gag Grouper <i>Mycterperca microlepis</i>	N		N	2014	2021	5.0	0	0.9	5.0	3	1	0	3	4	3	2.8	26.57
Red Snapper <i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>	Y		Y	2016	2021	5.0		0.6	5.0	3	1	1	1	5	3	2.9	26.57
Dolphin <i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	U		U			5.0	0	1.1	4.0	5	3	0	4	1	1	2.8	26.43
Horseshoe Crab <i>Limulus polyphemus</i>	U		U	2019	2021	0.0	4	3.1	0.0	5	3	0	3	4	2	2.0	26.00
Scamp <i>Mycterperca phenax</i>	U		U		2022	5.0	0	1.0	4.0	3	1	0	3	4	3	2.6	25.93
Winter Skate <i>Raja ocellata</i>	N		N	2019	2023	0.0	0	1.0	0.0	3	5	5	4	5	1	1.0	25.36
Spiny Dogfish <i>Squalus acanthias</i>	N		N	2018	2022	0.0	3	2.6	2.0	5	3	0	2	5	1	1.9	24.93



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).
- 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 - Bluefin Tuna
	Low (< 3.0)	River Herring - Tilefish	Red Grouper - Snowy Grouper - Cobia - American Shad - Atlantic Halibut - Atlantic Menhaden - Atlantic Smooth Dogfish - Gray Triggerfish - Oceanpout - Spanish Mackerel - Blueline Tilefish - Sandbar Shark - Gag Grouper - American Eel - Red Snapper - Dolphin - Horseshoe Crab - Scamp - Winter Skate - Spiny Dogfish

