



# Biological Sampling Priority Matrix

Created in February 2023  
For FY2024

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

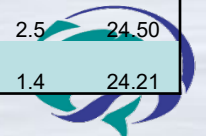
# Biological Review Panel Recommends:

- 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 Managed	Sig. change in landings w/in 24 mo	Sig. change in mgmt w/in 24 mo	Adequacy of level of sampling	Stock Resilience	Seasonality of Fishery	Average Priority	TOTAL
	N: MA	N:SA	N: MA	N:SA														
<b>Black Sea Bass</b> <i>Centropristis striata</i>	N: MA	N:SA	N: MA	N:SA	2021	2023	5	5	3.6	5	5	3	5	4	3	1	4.5	39.57
<b>Red Grouper</b> <i>Epinephelus morio</i>	Y		Y		2017	2023	5	0	1.1	5	3	3	4	3	4	3	2.8	31.07
<b>Tilefish</b> <i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>	N: MA	N:SA	N: MA	Y:SA	2021	2024	5	0	1.9	4	5	1	3	3	4	3	2.8	29.86
<b>Snowy Grouper</b> <i>Epinephelus niveatus</i>	Y		N		2020	2026	5	0	0.9	5	3	1	3	3	5	3	2.8	28.93
<b>American Shad</b> <i>Alosa sapidissima/mediocris</i>	D		U		2020		0	3	3.8	0	5	3	1	4	5	3	2.2	27.79
<b>Atlantic Menhaden</b> <i>Brevoortia tyrannus</i>	N		N		2022	2025	0	5	3.1	3	5	1	3	3	3	1	2.8	27.14
<b>Cobia</b> <i>Rachycentron canadum</i>	N		N		2020	2025	1	5	1.6	4	3	1	1	4	3	3	3.1	26.57
<b>River Herring</b> <i>Alosa</i>	D		U		2017	2023	0	4	3.4	0	5	3	0	4	4	3	2.3	26.36
<b>Spanish Mackerel</b> <i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>	N		N		2020	2022	5	2	1.2	4	3	1	2	3	2	3	3.0	26.21
<b>Atlantic halibut</b> <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	Y		N		2022	2024	4	0	1.2	1	3	3	1	4	5	3	2.0	25.21
<b>Blueline Tilefish</b> <i>Caulolatilus microps</i>	U		U		2017	2024	3	0	1.1	5	3	1	3	3	3	3	2.4	25.07
<b>Finetooth Shark</b> <i>Carcharhinus isodon</i>	N		N		2007		0	1	1.1	3	5	5	1	3	3	3	1.6	25.07
<b>Gray Triggerfish</b> <i>Balistes capriscus</i>	U		U		2023	2024	5	0	1.0	4	3	1	3	3	2	3	2.6	25.00
<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	E/M: U; W:U	E/M: N; W:N			E/M: 2017; W: 2021	E/M: 2022; W: TBD	0	0	1.9	5	5	1	5	3	3	1	2.0	24.86
<b>Gag Grouper</b> <i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>	N		N		2021	2025	5	0	0.9	5	3	1	0	3	4	3	2.8	24.86
<b>Vermilion Snapper</b> <i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i>	N		N		2018	2028	5	0	0.8	4	3	3	3	2	3	1	2.4	24.79
<b>American Lobster</b> <i>Homarus americanus</i>	N: GOM/GB SNE	D: N: GOM/GB SNE	N:		2020	2025	0	5	2.7	0	3	1	5	3	4	1	2.1	24.71
<b>Spiny Dogfish</b> <i>Squalus acanthias</i>	N		N		2022	2026	0	3	2.6	2	5	3	1	2	5	1	1.9	24.64
<b>Red Snapper</b> <i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>	Y		Y		2021	2026	5		0.6	5	3	1	1	1	5	3	2.9	24.57
<b>American Eel</b> <i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	D		U		2017	2022	0	5	3.5	0	5	1	0	4	5	1	2.5	24.50
<b>Shortfin Mako Shark</b> <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Y		Y		2019	2024	0	1	1.2	3	5	3	5	2	3	1	1.4	24.21



# Biological 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 ( $\geq 3.0$ )		<b>Black Sea Bass - Cobia - Spanish Mackerel</b>
	Low ( $< 3.0$ )	<b>Red Snapper - Shortfin Mako Shark - Spiny Dogfish - Vermillion Snapper</b>	<b>American Eel - American Lobster - American Shad - Atlantic Halibut - Atlantic Menhaden - Bluefin Tuna - Blueline Tilefish - Finetooth Shark - Gag Grouper - Gray Triggerfish - Red Grouper - River Herring - Snowy Grouper - Tilefish</b>

