



# Biological Sampling Priority Matrix

*Created March 2025*

*For FY2026*

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

# The Biological Review Panel Recommends:

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



# Biological Review Panel recommendations based on matrix\*:

\* UPPER 25% OF MATRIX

	Fishery Status	Most Recent Stock Assessment (year)	Current/Next Stock Assessment (year)	Council Priority	ASMFC Priority	State Priority	NMFS Priority	Fishery Managed	Sig. change in Landings w/in 24 Months	Sig. change in mgmt w/in 24 Months	Adequacy Level of Sampling	Stock Resilience	Seasonality of Fishery	TOTAL
<b>Species</b>														
Black Sea Bass <i>Centropristis striata</i>	K	MA: 2024 SA: 2023	MA: 2025 SA: 2027	5.0	5.0	3.6	5.0	5	1	4	4	3	1	36.64
Gag Grouper <i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>	K	2021	2025	5.0	0.0	0.9	5.0	3	3	5	4	4	3	32.93
Snowy Grouper <i>Epinephelus niveatus</i>	K	2021	2027	5.0	0.0	1.1	5.0	3	3	4	3	5	3	32.07
American Shad <i>Alosa sapidissima/mediocris</i>	K/U	2020	2030	0.0	3.0	3.8	0.0	5	5	1	4	5	3	29.79
Red Grouper <i>Epinephelus morio</i>	K	2017	2027	5.0	0.0	1.1	5.0	3	1	4	3	4	3	29.07
River Herring <i>Alosa</i>	K/U	2023		0.0	4.0	3.1	0.0	5	5	1	4	4	3	29.07
Tilefish <i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>	K	SA: 2024; MA: 2024	MA: 2027	5.0	0.0	1.8	4.0	5	1	2	3	4	3	28.79
Spanish Mackerel <i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>	K	2022	2028	5.0	2.0	1.4	4.0	3	3	2	3	2	3	28.36
Red Snapper <i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>	K	2021	2025	5.0		1.1	5.0	3	1	1	4	5	3	28.07
Scamp <i>Mycteroperca phenax</i>	K	2022		5.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	3	1	4	3	4	3	28.00
Red Porgy <i>Pagrus pagrus</i>	K	2020	2028	5.0	0.0	0.7	4.0	3	3	5	3	3	1	27.71
American Lobster <i>Homarus americanus</i>	K	2020	2025	0	5.0	2.6	3.0	3	1	5	3	4	1	27.64
Ocean Pout <i>Macrozoarces americanus</i>	K	2022	2025	0	0.0	0.2	1.0	3	5	5	5	5	3	27.21
Cobia <i>Rachycentron canadum</i>	K	2020	2025	1	5.0	1.6	4.0	3	1	1	4	3	3	26.64
American Eel <i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	K/U	2023	2027	0	3.0	3.5	0.0	5	3	2	4	5	1	26.50
Winter Flounder <i>Pleuronectes americanus</i>	K/U	GB: 2022; GOM & SNE/MA: 2022	2025	0	2.0	2.5	5.0	3	1	3	4	5	1	26.50
Blueline Tilefish <i>Caulolatilus microps</i>	U	2017	2024	3	0.0	1.4	5.0	3	1	4	3	3	3	26.36
Horseshoe Crab <i>Limulus polyphemus</i>	K/U	2024	2029	0	5.0	3.3	0.0	5	1	3	2	4	3	26.29
Atlantic halibut <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	K	2024	2026	4	0.0	1.1	4.0	3	1	1	4	5	3	26.14
Atlantic Menhaden <i>Brevoortia tyrannus</i>	K	2022	2025	0	5.0	3.1	3.0	5	1	3	2	3	1	26.14
Shortfin Mako Shark <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	K	2019	2025	0	1.0	1.1	3.0	5	5	5	2	3	1	26.07
N. Short-fin Squid <i>Illex illecebrosus</i>	K/U	2022	2025	0	0.0	1.2	3.0	3	5	3	4	3	3	25.21
Gray Triggerfish <i>Balistes capriscus</i>	U	2023	2024	5	0.0	1.1	4.0	3	1	3	3	2	3	25.14
Scup <i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>	K/U	2023	2025	1	4.0	2.1	4.0	5	1	3	3	1	1	25.14
Bluefish <i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	K	2023	2025	0	4.0	2.9	3.0	5	3	1	3	2	1	24.93

# Bio-sampling Priority Matrix

		Biological Sampling Adequacy	
		Adequate ( 0 - 2 )	Inadequate ( 3 - 5 )
Averaged Priority Columns	High ( $\geq 3.0$ )		Black Sea Bass - Spanish Mackerel - Red Snapper
	Low ( $< 3.0$ )	Horseshoe Crab - Atlantic Menhaden - Shortfin Mako Shark	Gag Grouper - Snowy Grouper - American Shad - Red Grouper - River Herring - Tilefish - Scamp - Red Porgy - American Lobster - Ocean Pout - Cobia - American Eel - Winter Flounder - Blueline Tilefish - Atlantic Halibut - N. Short-fin Squid - Gray Triggerfish - Scup - Bluefish

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)

- Horseshoe crab, Atlantic menhaden, and shortfin mako shark are being sampled adequately and have a low priority, so additional sampling is not needed
- Projects that target multiple upper quartile species should be given a higher priority
- Ocean Pout has low average priority, high significant changes in management and landings, and a high resilience score

