



Northeast Fisheries Science Center Technical Memorandum 455

Stock-Specific Allocation of Biological Samples for the Biological Port Sampling Program

October 2026



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US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Woods Hole, Massachusetts

October 2026

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This document may be cited as:

Northeast Fisheries Science Center. 2026. Stock-Specific Allocation of Biological Samples for the Biological Port Sampling Program. Northeast Fish Sci Tech Memo 454. 10p.

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BACKGROUND

The Northeast Port Biological Sampling Program (NEPBSP) collects biological samples (i.e., length and age structures) from commercial landings. The program was overseen by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO), with samples collected by contractors. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center's (NEFSC) Population Dynamics Branch (PDB) develops a sample request list for the NEPBSP on an annual basis. The sample requests specify the number of fish to be measured for length, by species, stock, market category, gear, grade, and quarter. For some species, age structures are collected from a subsample of the fish measured for length. Sample sizes for both lengths and age structures vary by species and market category. Prior to FY¹ 2020, there were no restrictions on the number of lengths that stock assessment leads could request for their assigned stocks.

In FY 2019, the GARFO projected a 50% reduction in the number of biological samples that could be collected by the NEPBSP in FY 2020, due to changes in funding. In response, the PDB developed a sample allocation plan to distribute the limited number of length samples across the stocks for the FY 2020 sample requests. On February 1, 2021, the GARFO transitioned to a new contracting service, increasing sampling costs and further reducing the number of biological samples that could be collected. Since then, the NEPBSP budget has remained relatively flat, while the sampling costs have continued to increase each year.

In FY 2026, responsibility for the port sampling program transitioned from the GARFO to the NEFSC. The newly established Biological Port Sampling (BPS) program is overseen by the Fishery Monitoring and Research Division (FMRD), with biological samples continuing to be collected by contractors. For the FY 2026 transition year, port samples are being collected under both the legacy NEPBSP contract and the new BPS contract. Once the remaining NEPBSP funds are exhausted, the BPS program will be the sole source of port biological samples.

Over the past several years, the sample allocation plan has been revised multiple times to address concerns with previous versions, and to improve the allocation of an increasingly limited sampling budget. The objective of this document is to detail the current sample allocation plan, which was first employed in FY 2026.

METHODS

This approach considers all 52 stocks for which port biological samples have been requested by the NEFSC since the start of the program. Each year, sample requests are not allocated to some of the stocks. These excluded stocks are 1) stocks that do not use port biological sampling information in their assessments, 2) no possession species, and 3) stocks that are not regularly assessed. These exclusions allow a greater proportion of the available biological samples to be

¹ FY represents fiscal year, October 1 to September 30.

allocated to stocks that use NEPBSP and BPS length and age data as primary or auxiliary sources of information in their assessments.

Prior to the start of the fiscal year, the GARFO provided the PDB with the number of lengths ordered from the contractor for that year. Beginning in FY 2026, this information was provided by the FMRD following the transition of the port sampling program to the NEFSC. Two types of lengths are collected: 1) standard lengths and 2) special lengths. Special lengths are collected from Atlantic Halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*) at a premium price, to increase the collection of Halibut samples. Standard lengths are collected from all the remaining stocks. To account for sample requests that are unlikely to be fulfilled (e.g., trips that fish multiple stock areas and cannot be assigned to a single stock), the maximum number of requested lengths is set at 110% of the number of standard lengths ordered each year. The requested number of lengths for each of the stocks is determined using a tiered allocation approach. First, each stock is assigned to one of 5 tiers.

Tier 1 includes stocks with analytical stock assessments, and that have the highest average landings from the most recent two fiscal years.

Tier 2 includes high-profile stocks with analytical assessments, ensuring representation from each fishery management council jurisdiction.

Tier 3 includes the remaining stocks that have analytical assessments.

Tier 4 includes stocks with empirical assessments.

Tier 5 includes stocks from the other tiers with relatively low landings (i.e., recent average landings less than 150 mt), because it would be difficult to collect the number of lengths allocated to the stocks in the other tiers due to the low landings.

The PDB's port sampling point-of-contact (POC) and task leaders evaluate different allocations of stock-specific requested lengths for each tier to identify an allocation that 1) would not exceed the maximum number of requested lengths for the year, 2) provide progressively fewer requested lengths from Tier 1 down to Tier 5, and 3) produce stock-specific requested lengths divisible by 100, thereby simplifying the allocation of individual sampling requests. Although many possible combinations satisfy these criteria, the PDB's POC and task leaders chose a reasonable option that best balances sampling needs across stocks. The tier assignments and stock-specific requested length values are reevaluated each fiscal year.

Once the available lengths have been allocated to each stock, the stock assessment leads are responsible for specifying the individual sample requests for their stocks. While specific methods vary, sample requests are generally assigned based on the spatial and temporal distribution of recent commercial landings. The final allocation of available lengths between stocks may differ from the initial allocations produced following the methods laid out in this document, because

assessment leads have the flexibility to transfer lengths among stocks. In addition, sample requests can be modified throughout the fiscal year in response to differences between landings from previous years and the present year.

EXAMPLE: FY 2026 SAMPLE ALLOCATION

Application

For FY 2026, lengths were not allocated to 11 of the initial 52 stocks (Table 1). The excluded stocks that do not use port biological sampling information in their assessments include Atlantic Halibut, Barndoor Skate (*Dipturus laevis*), and Atlantic Sea Scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*). The no possession species include Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*), northern and southern Windowpane Flounder (*Scophthalmus aquosus*), Ocean Pout (*Zoarces americanus*), and Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*). The stocks that are not regularly assessed include Cusk (*Brosme brosme*), Atlantic Hagfish (*Myxine glutinosa*), and Offshore Hake (*Merluccius albidus*).

Due to the transition of the port sampling program, a temporary approach for setting the total number of lengths that could be requested in FY 2026 was needed. Therefore, the total number of requested lengths for FY 2026 was based on the total number of lengths ordered for FY 2024, which was 77,711 standard lengths and 100 special lengths. Fiscal year 2025 was not used for this analysis, because the GARFO provided additional funds for the NEPBSP in FY 2025 that would not be available in FY 2026. As in previous years, the maximum number of lengths that could be requested was assumed to be 110% of the standard lengths that were ordered, to account for requests that are likely to go unfilled. With the special Halibut lengths converted to standard lengths, this resulted in a maximum of 88,500 standard length requests.

The remaining 41 stocks were assigned to the 5 tiers following the approach outlined above, with two exceptions. Even though Atlantic Herring (*Clupea harengus*) has an analytical assessment, it was placed in Tier 4, because it still receives some commercial biological samples from the Maine Department of Marine Resources. Georges Bank Cod was assigned to Tier 3, even though it fell below the Tier 5 landings threshold, due to the importance of the stock to stakeholders.

In addition, the FMRD and the PDB developed a pilot study to evaluate the feasibility of sampling commercial landings at-sea. As a result, starting in quarter 2 of FY 2026, stocks that are only landed in the unclassified market category (i.e., American Lobster (*Homarus americanus*), Atlantic Herring, Jonah Crab (*Cancer borealis*), Ocean Quahog (*Arctica islandica*), Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab (*Chaceon quinque-dens*), northern and southern Red Hake (*Urophycis chuss*), the Northeast Skate Complex, Atlantic Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), and Atlantic Surfclam (*Spisula solidissima*)) will be sampled at-sea by Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) observers. These stocks were selected because at-sea sampling cannot collect market category information. Therefore, these at-sea stocks will receive a quarter of the requested lengths that they received in FY 2025, which can only be assigned in quarter 1 of FY 2026. The remainder of the

requested lengths for the at-sea stocks, which would have been assigned to quarters 2-4, were redistributed between the Tier 1-4 stocks that are sampled portside.

Results

The maximum number of lengths that can be requested for FY 2026 is 88,500 standard lengths. The stock-specific number of requested lengths proposed for FY 2026 are reported in Table 2. Tier 1 stocks were allocated 1,000 requested lengths per stock, because they are all at-sea stocks. Tier 2 stocks were allocated 4,400 requested lengths per stock, with no Tier 2 stocks being sampled at-sea. Tier 3 stocks were allocated 3,400 requested lengths per stock, with 800 requested lengths per stock for Tier 3 at-sea stocks. Tier 4 stocks were allocated 2,200 requested lengths per stock, with 400 requested lengths per stock for Tier 4 at-sea stocks. Tier 5 stocks were allocated 400 requested lengths per stock.

Table 3 compares the stock-specific number of requested lengths proposed for FY 2026 to the number of requested lengths from FY 2019 (i.e., the last year of unrestricted sampling) and FY 2025 (i.e., the previous year). The proposed number of requested lengths for FY 2026 was 97% of FY 2025 requested lengths. The proposed number of requested lengths for FY 2026 was 21% of FY 2019 requested lengths.

TABLES

Table 1. Stock-specific estimates of FY 2023-FY 2024 average commercial landings (mt), collected lengths, and collected lengths per landed mt for the stocks for which samples have been requested from the NE Port Biological Sampling Program. Stock abbreviations include Cape Cod (CC), Georges Bank (GBK), Gulf of Maine (GOM), Eastern Gulf of Maine (EGOM), Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM), Mid-Atlantic (MA), and Southern New England (SNE).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Stock	Landings	Collected Lengths	Lengths per MT
Monkfish	<i>Lophius americanus</i>	NORTH	5,292	469	0.09
Monkfish	<i>Lophius americanus</i>	SOUTH	1,117	1,148	1.03
Bluefish	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	UNIT	870	542	0.62
Butterfish	<i>Peprilus triacanthus</i>	UNIT	1,754	3,938	2.25
Atlantic Surfclam	<i>Spisula solidissima</i>	UNIT	59,038	2,115	0.04
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	GBK	238	183	0.77
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	GOM	213	765	3.59
Jonah Crab	<i>Cancer borealis</i>	UNIT	5,308	1,220	0.23
Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab	<i>Chaceon quinquedens</i>	UNIT	1,094	1,200	1.1
Cusk	<i>Brosme brosme</i>	UNIT	21	0	0
Atlantic Spiny Dogfish	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	UNIT	4,630	2,175	0.47
American Plaice	<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	UNIT	1,141	1,435	1.26
Windowpane Flounder	<i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i>	UNIT	2	0	0
Summer Flounder	<i>Paralichthys dentatus</i>	UNIT	5,011	4,473	0.89
Winter Flounder	<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>	GBK	382	125	0.33
Winter Flounder	<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>	GOM	110	319	2.9
Winter Flounder	<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>	SNEMA	29	332	11.39
Witch Flounder	<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	UNIT	891	787	0.88
Yellowtail Flounder	<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	CCGOM	244	1,663	6.81
Yellowtail Flounder	<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	GBK	< 0.5	0	0
Yellowtail Flounder	<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	SNEMA	< 0.5	1	< 0.01
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	GBK	2,156	883	0.41
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	GOM	1,880	2,075	1.1
Offshore Hake	<i>Merluccius albidus</i>	UNIT	34	0	0

Common Name	Scientific Name	Stock	Landings	Collected Lengths	Lengths per MT
Red Hake	<i>Urophycis chuss</i>	NORTH	59	403	6.8
Red Hake	<i>Urophycis chuss</i>	SOUTH	138	1,475	10.72
Silver Hake	<i>Merluccius bilinearis</i>	NORTH	2,050	680	0.33
Silver Hake	<i>Merluccius bilinearis</i>	SOUTH	2,686	2,027	0.75
White Hake	<i>Urophycis tenuis</i>	UNIT	1,757	1,136	0.65
Atlantic Halibut	<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	UNIT	16	65	4.14
Atlantic Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	UNIT	9,564	0	0
American Lobster	<i>Homarus americanus</i>	UNIT	50,386	2,081	0.04
Atlantic Mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	UNIT	2,512	4,715	1.88
Ocean Pout	<i>Zoarces americanus</i>	UNIT	0	0	NA
Atlantic Pollock	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	UNIT	3,237	1,414	0.44
Ocean Quahog	<i>Arctica islandica</i>	UNIT	77,494	3,465	0.04
Acadian Redfish	<i>Sebastes fasciatus</i>	UNIT	4,097	1,159	0.28
Atlantic Sea Scallop	<i>Placopecten magellanicus</i>	UNIT	93,328	0	0
Scup	<i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>	UNIT	6,101	4,004	0.66
Black Sea Bass	<i>Centropristis striata</i>	UNIT	1,792	2,826	1.58
Barndoor Skate	<i>Dipturus laevis</i>	UNIT	210	0	0
Northeast Skate Complex	<i>Rajidae</i>	UNIT	10,581	1,933	0.18
Northern Shortfin Squid	<i>Illex illecebrosus</i>	UNIT	6,116	650	0.11
Longfin Inshore Squid	<i>Doryteuthis pealeii</i>	UNIT	14,860	2,176	0.15
Blueline Tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus microps</i>	UNIT	47	132	2.78
Golden Tilefish	<i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>	UNIT	661	1,787	2.7
Atlantic Wolffish	<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	UNIT	0	0	NA

Table 2. Stock-specific numbers of requested lengths based on the tiered sample allocation approach for FY 2026 (FY26). Italicized stocks will be sampled at-sea after quarter 1 of FY 2026. Stock abbreviations include Cape Cod (CC), Georges Bank (GBK), Gulf of Maine (GOM), Eastern Gulf of Maine (EGOM), Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM), Mid-Atlantic (MA), and Southern New England (SNE).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Stock	Tier	FY26 Requested Lengths
<i>Atlantic Surfclam</i>	<i>Spisula solidissima</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1,000</i>
<i>American Lobster</i>	<i>Homarus americanus</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1,000</i>
<i>Ocean Quahog</i>	<i>Arctica islandica</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	WGOM	2	4,400
Black Sea Bass	<i>Centropristis striata</i>	NORTH	2	4,400
Black Sea Bass	<i>Centropristis striata</i>	SOUTH	2	4,400
Bluefish	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	UNIT	3	3,400
Butterfish	<i>Peprilus triacanthus</i>	UNIT	3	3,400
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	GBK	3	3,400
<i>Atlantic Spiny Dogfish</i>	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>800</i>
American Plaice	<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	UNIT	3	3,400
Summer Flounder	<i>Paralichthys dentatus</i>	UNIT	3	3,400
Winter Flounder	<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>	GBK	3	3,400
Yellowtail Flounder	<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	CC/GOM	3	3,400
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	GBK	3	3,400
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	GOM	3	3,400
White Hake	<i>Urophycis tenuis</i>	UNIT	3	3,400
Atlantic Mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	UNIT	3	3,400
Atlantic Pollock	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	UNIT	3	3,400
Acadian Redfish	<i>Sebastes fasciatus</i>	UNIT	3	3,400
Scup	<i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>	UNIT	3	3,400
Golden Tilefish	<i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>	UNIT	3	3,400
Monkfish	<i>Lophius americanus</i>	NORTH	4	2,200
Monkfish	<i>Lophius americanus</i>	SOUTH	4	2,200
<i>Jonah Crab</i>	<i>Cancer borealis</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>400</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name	Stock	Tier	FY26 Requested Lengths
<i>Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab</i>	<i>Chaceon quinquedens</i>	UNIT	4	400
Witch Flounder	<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	UNIT	4	2,200
Silver Hake	<i>Merluccius bilinearis</i>	NORTH	4	2,200
Silver Hake	<i>Merluccius bilinearis</i>	SOUTH	4	2,200
<i>Atlantic Herring</i>	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	UNIT	4	400
<i>Northeast Skate Complex</i>	<i>Rajidae</i>	UNIT	4	400
Northern Shortfin Squid	<i>Illex illecebrosus</i>	UNIT	4	2,200
Longfin Inshore Squid	<i>Doryteuthis pealeii</i>	UNIT	4	2,200
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	EGOM	5	400
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	SNE	5	400
Winter Flounder	<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>	GOM	5	400
Winter Flounder	<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>	SNE/MA	5	400
Yellowtail Flounder	<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	GBK	5	400
Yellowtail Flounder	<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	SNE/MA	5	400
<i>Red Hake</i>	<i>Urophycis chuss</i>	NORTH	5	400
<i>Red Hake</i>	<i>Urophycis chuss</i>	SOUTH	5	400
Blueline Tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus microps</i>	UNIT	5	400
Cusk	<i>Brosme brosme</i>	UNIT	NA	0
Windowpane Flounder	<i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i>	NORTH	NA	0
Windowpane Flounder	<i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i>	SOUTH	NA	0
Atlantic Hagfish	<i>Myxine glutinosa</i>	UNIT	NA	0
Offshore Hake	<i>Merluccius albidus</i>	UNIT	NA	0
Atlantic Halibut	<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	UNIT	NA	0
Ocean Pout	<i>Zoarces americanus</i>	UNIT	NA	0
Atlantic Sea Scallop	<i>Placopecten magellanicus</i>	UNIT	NA	0
Barndoor Skate	<i>Dipturus laevis</i>	UNIT	NA	0
Atlantic Wolffish	<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	UNIT	NA	0
TOTAL				88,600

Table 3. A comparison of stock-specific proposed number of requested lengths for FY 2019 (FY19), the last year before budget restrictions, FY 2025 (FY25), the current year, and FY 2026 (FY26), the upcoming year. Stock abbreviations include Cape Cod (CC), Georges Bank (GBK), Gulf of Maine (GOM), Eastern Gulf of Maine (EGOM), Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM), Mid-Atlantic (MA), and Southern New England (SNE). In FY19, EGOM and WGOM cod stocks were part of a single GOM stock. In FY19, black sea bass and red hake requested lengths were allocated at a combined UNIT stock level.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Stock	FY19	FY25	FY26
Monkfish	<i>Lophius americanus</i>	NORTH	3,250	1,400	2,200
Monkfish	<i>Lophius americanus</i>	SOUTH	3,250	1,400	2,200
Bluefish	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	UNIT	11,700	2,500	3,400
Butterfish	<i>Peprilus triacanthus</i>	UNIT	3,600	2,500	3,400
Atlantic Surfclam	<i>Spisula solidissima</i>	UNIT	6,000	3,400	1,000
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	GBK	16,450	2,500	3,400
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	EGOM	13,200 (GOM)	2,500	400
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	WGOM	13,200 (GOM)	2,500	4,400
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	SNE	0	2,500	400
Jonah Crab	<i>Cancer borealis</i>	UNIT	0	1,400	400
Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab	<i>Chaceon quinque-dens</i>	UNIT	2,600	1,400	400
Cusk	<i>Brosme brosme</i>	UNIT	44,000	0	0
Atlantic Spiny Dogfish	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	UNIT	6,500	2,500	800
American Plaice	<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	UNIT	8,400	2,500	3,400
Windowpane Flounder	<i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i>	NORTH	800	0	0
Windowpane Flounder	<i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i>	SOUTH	800	0	0
Summer Flounder	<i>Paralichthys dentatus</i>	UNIT	9,000	2,900	3,400
Winter Flounder	<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>	GBK	9,050	2,500	3,400
Winter Flounder	<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>	GOM	3,900	1,400	400
Winter Flounder	<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>	SNE/MA	2,900	2,500	400
Witch Flounder	<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	UNIT	3,800	1,400	2,200
Yellowtail Flounder	<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	CC/GOM	7,700	2,500	3,400
Yellowtail Flounder	<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	GBK	7,200	1,400	400
Yellowtail Flounder	<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	SNE/MA	9,200	2,500	400
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	GBK	12,000	2,900	3,400

Common Name	Scientific Name	Stock	FY19	FY25	FY26
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	GOM	5,800	2,500	3,400
Atlantic Hagfish	<i>Myxine glutinosa</i>	UNIT	3,600	0	0
Offshore Hake	<i>Merluccius albidus</i>	UNIT	2,000	0	0
Red Hake	<i>Urophycis chuss</i>	NORTH	3,600 (UNIT)	1,400	400
Red Hake	<i>Urophycis chuss</i>	SOUTH	3,600 (UNIT)	1,400	400
Silver Hake	<i>Merluccius bilinearis</i>	NORTH	6,600	1,400	2,200
Silver Hake	<i>Merluccius bilinearis</i>	SOUTH	12,820	1,400	2,200
White Hake	<i>Urophycis tenuis</i>	UNIT	8,000	2,500	3,400
Atlantic Halibut	<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	UNIT	3,200	100	0
Atlantic Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	UNIT	14,500	1,400	400
American Lobster	<i>Homarus americanus</i>	UNIT	10,400	3,400	1,000
Atlantic Mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	UNIT	15,100	2,500	3,400
Atlantic Pollock	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	UNIT	6,800	2,500	3,400
Ocean Pout	<i>Zoarces americanus</i>	UNIT	1,200	0	0
Ocean Quahog	<i>Arctica islandica</i>	UNIT	6,000	3,400	1,000
Acadian Redfish	<i>Sebastes fasciatus</i>	UNIT	4,700	2,500	3,400
Atlantic Sea Scallop	<i>Placopecten magellanicus</i>	UNIT	17,200	0	0
Scup	<i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>	UNIT	13,000	2,500	3,400
Black Sea Bass	<i>Centropristis striata</i>	NORTH	15,000 (UNIT)	2,500	4,400
Black Sea Bass	<i>Centropristis striata</i>	SOUTH	15,000 (UNIT)	2,500	4,400
Barndoor Skate	<i>Dipturus laevis</i>	UNIT	5,600	0	0
Northeast Skate Complex	<i>Rajidae</i>	UNIT	33,600	1,400	400
Northern Shortfin Squid	<i>Illex illecebrosus</i>	UNIT	11,900	1,400	2,200
Longfin Inshore Squid	<i>Doryteuthis pealeii</i>	UNIT	19,100	1,400	2,200
Blueline Tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus microps</i>	UNIT	2,800	1,400	400
Golden Tilefish	<i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>	UNIT	9,500	2,500	3,400
Atlantic Wolffish	<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	UNIT	5,600	0	0
TOTAL			422,920	91,000	88,600

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The mission of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is "stewardship of the nation's ocean resources and their habitat." As the research arm of the NMFS's Greater Atlantic Region, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) supports the NMFS's mission by "conducting ecosystem-based research and assessments of living marine resources, with a focus on the Northeast Shelf, to promote the recovery and long-term sustainability of these resources and to generate social and economic opportunities and benefits from their use." Results of NEFSC research are largely reported in primary scientific media (e.g., anonymously peer-reviewed scientific journals). However, to assist itself in providing data, information, and advice to its constituents, the NEFSC occasionally releases its results in its own series.

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