



**Atlantic States
Marine Fisheries**
COMMISSION

Stock Assessment Schedule Update

ASMFC Annual Meeting

October 30, 2025

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
American Eel				Benchmark					Update			
American Shad	Benchmark											<i>*Benchmark</i>
American Lobster	Benchmark						Benchmark (Q4)					<i>*Benchmark</i>
Atlantic Croaker								Benchmark (Q3)				
Atlantic Menhaden			Update				Update (Q4)			Update		
Atl. Menhaden ERPs							Benchmark (Q4)					
Atlantic Sea Herring	Update		Update		Update (Q3)		Benchmark (Q2)	Update (Q3)		<i>*Update</i>		<i>*Update</i>
Atlantic Striped Bass			Update		Update (Q4)				Benchmark			
Atlantic Sturgeon					Update (Q3)					Benchmark		
Black Drum			Benchmark						Update			
Black Sea Bass		Update		Benchmark	Update (Q3)		Update (Q3)		<i>*Update</i>		<i>*Update</i>	
Bluefish		Update	Benchmark	Update			Update (Q3)		<i>*Update</i>		<i>*Update</i>	
Coastal Sharks	Benchmark			Benchmark				Benchmark				
Cobia									Update (Q3)			
Horseshoe Crab					Update (Q2)						Benchmark	
Horseshoe Crab ARM		Benchmark		Update	Update (Q4)		Update (Q4)			Update		
Jonah Crab				Benchmark						Update		
Northern Shrimp		Update					Update (Q1)					
Red Drum			Benchmark		Benchmark (Q4)							
River Herring					Benchmark (Q3)						<i>*Update</i>	
Scup		Update		Update			Update (Q3)		<i>*Update</i>	<i>*Benchmark</i>	<i>*Update</i>	
Spanish Mackerel			Update						Update			
Spiny Dogfish			Benchmark	Update					<i>*Update</i>			
Spot									Benchmark (Q3)			
Spotted Seatrout												
Summer Flounder		Update		Update			Update (Q3)		<i>*Update</i>		<i>*Update</i>	
Tautog		Update					Update (Q4)				Benchmark	
Weakfish							Update (Q3)			Benchmark		
Winter Flounder	Update		Update		Update (Q4)		Update (Q4)		<i>*Update</i>			

ASMFC Peer Review

NRCC Peer Review (Research Track)

SEDAR Peer Review (Research Track)

Completed

**Italics = under consideration, not officially scheduled*

Notes:
Coastal Sharks: Sandbar assessment in 2026
Spotted Seatrout: States conduct individual assessments

Changes to Previously Scheduled Assessments:

- **2025** Atlantic Croaker benchmark → 2026 (presented in Q3)
- **2026** Cobia **benchmark** → 2027 update (presented in Q3)
- **2026** Striped bass **update** → 2027 benchmark
- **2026** Spiny dogfish update → 2027
- **2026** Winter flounder **benchmark** → potential 2027 update
- **2026** Spot benchmark → 2027 (presented in Q3)
- 2027 Black Drum **benchmark** → update
- **Annual** Horseshoe crab ARM update → every 3rd year (2028)

Added Assessments:

- Spanish mackerel update in 2027
- Weakfish benchmark in 2028

- **2029**

- Potential updates: black sea bass, blue fish, river herring, scup, and summer flounder
- Benchmarks: horseshoe crab and tautog

- **2030**

- Potential benchmarks: shad, lobster
- Update: sea herring



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Law Enforcement Committee Report to ISFMP Policy Board

October 30, 2025

Atlantic Striped Bass

- Atlantic Striped Bass Commercial Tagging Ten-Year Review.
- Draft Addendum III of Amendment 7 - No additional comments.

Red Drum

- Draft Addendum II of Amendment 2. No LEC concerns on this document.

- **NOAA JEA Funding Update** – The LEC Chair updated the committee regarding ASMFC support considering the absence of JEA program funding in the FY 2026 Presidential budget. The states remain committed to the JEA program and hope to see this funding restored.
- **Sector Separation** –The LEC received an update on recent discussions between the MAFMC FMAT and ASMFC PDT on sector separation. They solicited input from the LEC concerning the enforceability and anticipated compliance outcomes for the draft alternatives under review.
- **Training Opportunities** – The staff shared training opportunities for the USCG LMR School and the NACLEC Academies.

New York Environmental Conservation Police

“Round 3 Hudson River”

Maryland Natural Resource Police

“Stuck in a Gillnet”

Massachusetts Environmental Police

“Local Harbormaster Assist”



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Questions?



Report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission ISFMP Policy Board

October 30th, 2025
Simen Kaalstad

FY25 Habitat Restoration Projects



- **Chesapeake Bay Foundation** receives **\$75,000** for oyster restoration in the **South River, Annapolis, MD**
- **Source:** NOAA Fisheries “Increasing Recreational Fisheries Engagement through the Fish Habitat Partnerships” Program
- **Goal:** Builds on previous ACFHP-supported oyster restoration to evaluate how restored oyster reefs enhance fish and forage habitat compared to non-restored sites.
- **Activities:**
 - Scientific monitoring of reef habitat and fish use.
 - Angler-led citizen science and data collection
 - Educational workshops and community events



FY26 Habitat Restoration Projects



- 5 projects **recommended** for funding in FY26. Approved by NFHP Board.
- Funds requested for FY26: **\$437,346**
 - \$812,739 non-federal match; \$489,040 federal leveraged

PROJECT ID	State	Priority Habitat	Ecological Impact	Funding Category
Long Island Sound Eelgrass Restoration, CT	CT	Riverine SAV	5 acres	Construction Monitoring
Atlantic Mills Dam Removal, Woonasquatucket River, RI	RI	Riverine	2 miles	Design Planning
NSRWA Temple St. Dam Removal & Fishway Construction, South River, MA	MA	Riverine	6 acres & 4.2 miles	Construction
Inland Bays SAV Monitoring, Rehoboth Beach, DE	DE	SAV	4 acres	Planning Monitoring Outreach
Johnson's Pond Fish Passage Restoration, Wicomico River, MD	MD	Riverine	25 miles	Design

Total:
15 acres
31.2 miles
Restored, Monitored,
or Reconnected

Steering Committee Meeting



Monday 10/27 & Tuesday 10/29

- Updates
 - On-the-Ground Restoration Projects
 - NFHP Activities
 - Beyond the Pond 501(c)3
- Guest Speakers
 - Leah Morgan, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
 - Alison Rogerson, DNREC Div. of Watershed Stewardship
- SAV Workshop Planning (Fall 2026)

Steering Committee Meeting



Eelgrass Seed Transfer Best Management Practices Workshop and Guidance Document

- Workshop (Fall 2026) & Guidance Doc focused on interstate and regional seed-transfer practices for SAV, focusing primarily on *Zostera marina* (eelgrass).
- Will compile the **latest science and BMPs** to support seed-based **research, restoration, and management**.
- Serves as a **resource** for agencies and organizations considering policy or regulatory decisions.



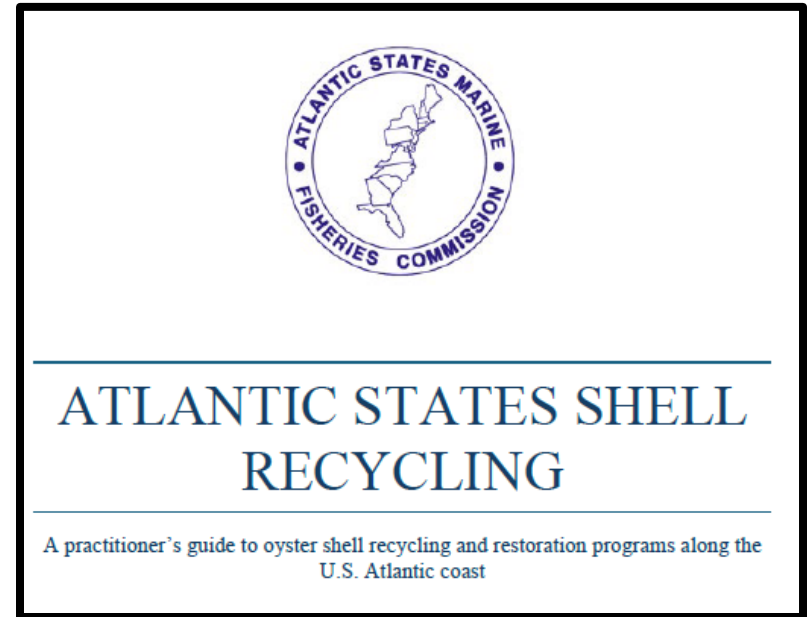
Habitat Committee

Wednesday 10/29

Habitat Committee



- Habitat Management Series – Atlantic States Shell Recycling
 - February 2026
- Review of ongoing and emerging Atlantic fish habitat issues
 - Considerations for Fish Habitat of Concern (FHOC) Updates
 - Include habitat updates with fisheries focus reports on a regular schedule
- MAFMC EFH Source Document IRA Project (*Jessica Coakley, MAFMC*)
- Ocean Data Portals & Habitat Mapping (*Jay Odell, Urban Coast Institute at Monmouth University*)

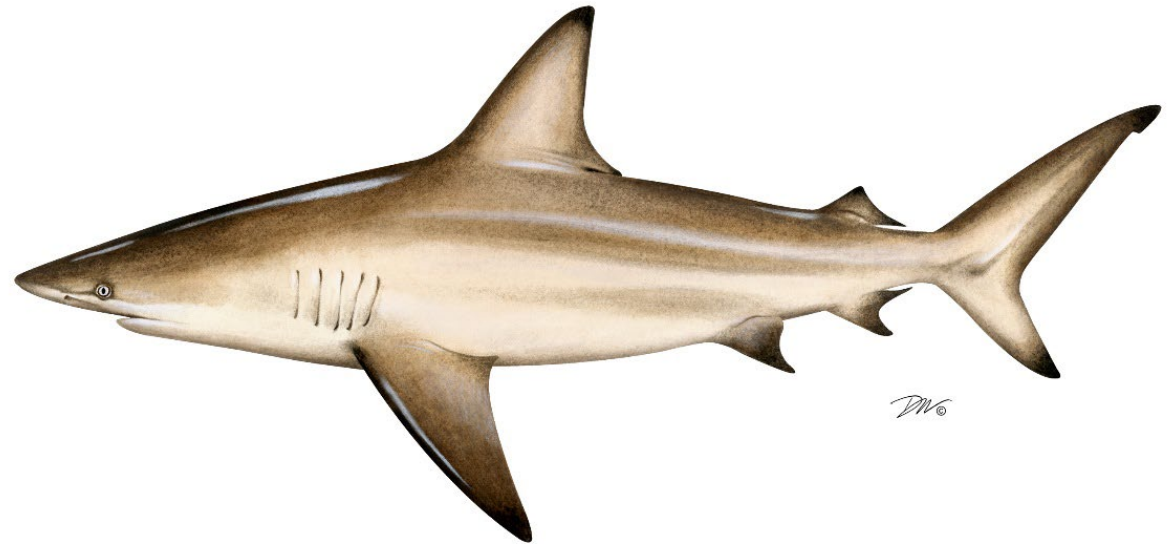




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Coastal Sharks - 2026 Specifications

October 2025



- Specifications for the 2026 fishing year based on the default federal regulations for Atlantic coastal shark fisheries.
- Effective January 1, 2024:
 - Commercial shark fisheries will automatically open on January 1 of each year under the base quotas and default retention limits
 - 55 LCS other than sandbar sharks (i.e., aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups) per vessel per trip
 - 8 blacknose sharks per vessel per trip
 - In-season adjustments to the commercial possession limits depending on catch rates.

2026 NOAA base quotas and retention limits

Region	Management Group	2025 Annual Quota	Quota Linkages	Commercial Retention Limits
Atlantic	Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	Linked	55 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip. If the quota is landed too quickly, NMFS will consider in-season reduction as needed.
	Hammerhead Sharks	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)		
	Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)	Linked (South of 34°N. lat. only)	N/A
	Blacknose Sharks (South of 34° N. lat. only)	17.2 mt dw (37,921 lb dw)		8 blacknose sharks per vessel per trip (applies to directed and incidental permit holders)
	Smoothhound Sharks	1,802.6 mt dw - (3,973,902 lb dw)	Not Linked	N/A

2026 NOAA base quotas and retention limits

Region	Management Group	2025 Annual Quota	Quota Linkages	Commercial Retention Limits
No regional quotas	Non-Sandbar LCS Research	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	Linked	N/A
	Sandbar Shark Research	90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw)		
	Blue Sharks	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	Not Linked	N/A
	Porbeagle Sharks	1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)		
	Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue	488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)		

Smooth Dogfish State Shares

	State Share Percentages	State Share (dw mt)	State Share (dw lbs)
ME	0.021%	0.4	817
MA	0.433%	7.8	17,195
RI	1.363%	24.6	54,163
CT	0.234%	4.2	9,282
NY	7.953%	143.4	316,037
NJ	18.828%	339.4	748,214
DE	0.339%	6.1	13,464
MD	6.703%	120.8	266,362
VA	34.803%	627.4	1,383,026
NC	28.583%	515.2	1,135,860
SC	0.742%	13.4	29,481
TOTAL	100%	1,802.6	3,973,902

- Adopt the 2026 coastal shark specifications matching the default season start date and retention limits as specified by the National Marine Fisheries Service final rule published on November 8, 2023 (88 FR 77039). The fishing season will open on January 1, 2026 with a commercial possession limit of 55 large coastal sharks (LCS) other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip and 8 blacknose sharks per vessel trip. The commercial possession limit is subject to change; states will follow NMFS for in-season changes to the commercial possession limit.

Questions?

