American sea scallop

Identification

Scientific Name
Placopecten magellanicus

Species Name(s)
American sea scallop

Stock Identification

The distribution of American sea scallop in U.S. EZZ is homogenous enough to be considered a single stock. However, it is based on the two assessment unit components: the Mid-Atlantic Bight and Western Georges Bank, which are assessed separately and then combined (NEFSC, 2007).

Assessment

Strengths

- Assessment model was improved. Gear changes helped to improve yields and decrease discards.
- There is a management plan in force. Regulations are continuously being enforced.
- Atlantic sea scallops are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. No recovery plans are required.
- Fishing mortality has been decreasing.

Weaknesses

- US Atlantic scallop fishery is not managed through a quota system.

Options

- Set the target F between 0.20 and 0.30.
- Research is in progress to mitigate/maintain low levels of sea turtles by-catch. Further research of the impact of this fishery in the bottom habitat is required.

Scores

Management Quality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>≥ 8</td>
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Stock Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>8.6</td>
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FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

Recommendations

Retailers & Supply Chain

- Start a fishery improvement project (FIP) to evaluate and address sustainability issues in this fishery. For advice on starting a FIP, see SFP’s Seafood Industry Guide to FIPs and other resources at https://www.sustainablefishing.org/Programs/Professional-Guidance/FIP-Resources.