American sea scallop

The distribution of American sea scallop in U.S. EIZ is homogeneous 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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<tbody>
<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.sustainablefishingprograms/professional-guidance/fip-resources.