Atlantic herring

Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank

IDENTIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCIENTIFIC NAME</th>
<th>Clupea harengus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPECIES NAME(S)</td>
<td>Atlantic herring</td>
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STOCK IDENTIFICATION

The herring resource was previously divided into the Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine stocks, based not on genetic but morphometric differences (Overholtz, 2006) and the Georges Bank/Nantucket Shoals and coastal Gulf of Maine herring have been identified as two distinct spawning components with many smaller units embedded within those (Vonderweidt et al., 2008). However, during most of the year herring are mixed and are caught together in the fisheries and in research surveys so the components are combined for assessment and management purposes into a single coastal stock complex.

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

Stock is at an all time high with good recruitment and low removals relative to reference points. Assessment captures both ecosystem roles of herring as forage as well as uncertainty. The current assessment was a vast improvement in diagnostics form previous assessment. Managers follow scientific advise and set precautionary quotas. At sea observer coverage of bycatch is high.

Weaknesses

There is still considerable uncertainty in the assessment. The strength of the 2008 year class is questionable. Some bycatch of River herring (a species of concern) is noted.

SCORES

Management Quality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.7</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>7.1</td>
<td>9.9</td>
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FIPS

No related FPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RELATED LINKS:

- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)
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Fishery: Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank, United States, Seine nets

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