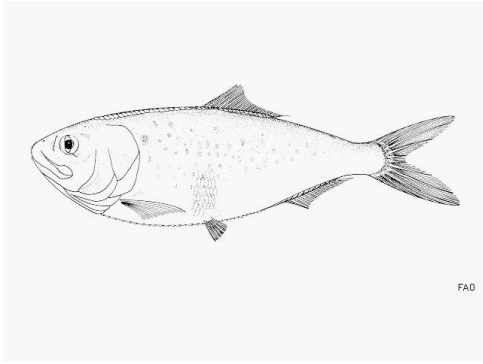


# Atlantic menhaden NW Atlantic

Fishery: [US Atlantic](#) [United States](#) [J](#) Purse seines

## IDENTIFICATION



### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Brevoortia tyrannus*

### SPECIES NAME(S)

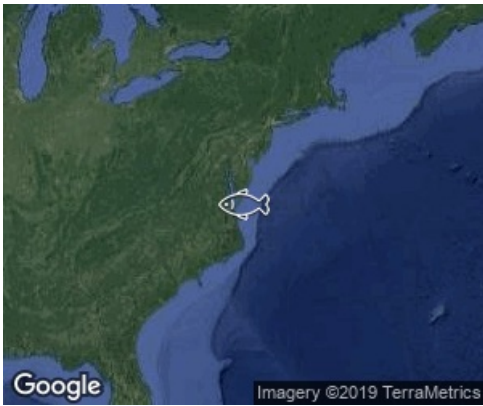
Atlantic menhaden

### COMMON NAMES

bunker, pogie

### STOCK IDENTIFICATION

The NW Atlantic menhaden stock is considered one unit based on genetic studies and cohort analysis in the commercial catch. Some hybridization with yellowfin and Gulf menhaden is known to occur, but is likely small ([Anderson and Karel 2007](#)).



### RELATED LINKS:

- [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission \(ASMFC\)](#)
- [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission \(ASMFC\)](#)

## ASSESSMENT

### Strengths

- Bycatch and discards are considered minimal.
- Stock appears to be lower than target biomass but experiencing low exploitation.
- Managers have set precautionary quotas which are being adhered to.
- Managers have instituted peer reviewed and recommended reference points and are examining ecosystem based reference points to account for menhaden's role as an important prey item in the ecosystem.
- Stock is in the process of MSC certification.

### Weaknesses

- Current reference points do not account explicitly for menhaden's role in the ecosystem as a forage fish.
- The bait sector is a growing portion of this fishery, but has the most uncertainty with respect to landings and reporting.
- Most recent benchmark assessment in 2015 as well as the updated assessment in 2017 moved away from a time varying natural mortality which may hamper forecasting if the predator demand changes.

## SCORES

### Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 6	≥ 6	10

### Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
7.2	9.4

## FIPS

No related FIPs

## MSC

- [Omega Protein Corporation U.S. Atlantic menhaden purse seine: MSC Full Assessment](#)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Support research to improve understanding of the role of menhaden in the ecosystem.
- Encourage the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to continue considering the ecological role of menhaden as an important prey species in the ecosystem when updating reference points and management measures.
- Advocate for improvement in the reporting of catches by area for the bait sector to reduce uncertainty in understanding removals.