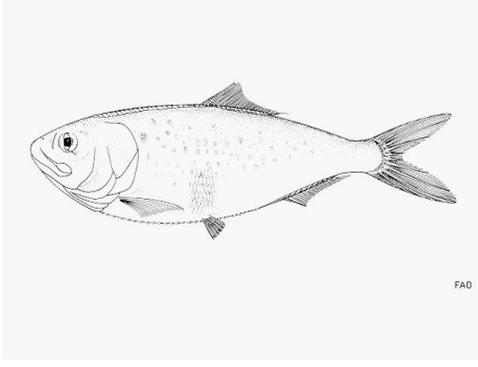


Atlantic menhaden NW Atlantic

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.

Fisheries

Within FishSource, the term "fishery" is used to indicate each unique combination of a flag country with a fishing gear, operating within a particular management unit, upon a resource. That resource may have a known biological stock structure and/or may be assessed at another level for practical or jurisdictional reasons. A fishery is the finest scale of resolution captured in FishSource profiles, as it is generally the scale at which sustainability can most fairly and practically be evaluated.

 ASSESSMENT UNIT	 MANAGEMENT UNIT	 FLAG COUNTRY	 FISHING GEAR
NW Atlanticmng	US Atlantic	United States	Purse seines

Management Unit

 MANAGEMENT UNIT	ORGANIZATION	FISHING AREA
US Atlantic	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)	FAO 31, FAO 21.5.Y, FAO 21.6.C, FAO 21.6.A, FAO 21.6.B, FAO 21.5.Z.w, FAO 21.5.Z.u