Overview of Stock Status
Atlantic Herring, Clupea Harengus

Management Considerations:
Condition: Not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. SSB rebuilt.

FMP Reference Points and Current Values:
SSB Target = 157,000 mt (345 million lbs)
SSB Threshold = 78,500 mt (173 million lbs)
2011 SSB = 518,000 mt

Fishing Mortality Threshold ($F_{MSY}$) = 0.27
2011 $F$ = 0.14

FMP Status:
Amendment 2, approved in January 2006, was developed to achieve optimum yield on a continuing basis for the US fishery and to prevent overfishing of the Atlantic herring resource. Technical Addendum I to Amendment 2 (August 2006) clarifies zero tolerance spawning closures. Addendum I to Amendment 2 (March 2009) gives the Section the flexibility to distribute the Area 1A quota seasonally. Addendum II (November 2010) modified the process to set specifications and the definitions (including associated acronyms) used to set the specifications. Addendum V (October 2012) refined and clarified the spawning regulations through a comprehensive addendum. It specified when closures are triggered based on the % of stage III – V spawn herring that are greater than or equal to 23 cm in length. It also increased the number of samples states are required collect from 50 to 100 (states are currently sampling at this level). Addendum VI (2013) complemented the federal Atlantic Herring FMP’s Framework 2 by allowing consistent measures for the four management areas: seasonal splitting of annual catch limit sub-components, up to 10% carry-over of unused sub-ACLs, triggers to close directed fisheries, and using the specifications process to set triggers.

Primary Management Measures:
Annual total allowable catch is determined based on the optimum yield of the coastal stock complex and divided between 4 management areas. Effort is controlled by selecting 'days out' of the fishery, on which fishermen cannot land more than a bycatch allowance of 2,000 lbs; area closures during spawning events; and closure of a directed fishery when 92% of the sub-quota is projected to be reached, and when 95% of the stockwide ACL is projected to be reached. The Section set specifications for the 2013-2015 fishing seasons through consultation with the New England Fishery Management Council.

Timeline of Management Actions: FMP (1993); Amendment 1 (1999); Amendment 2 (2006); Addendum I (2009); Addendum II (2010); Addendum V (2010); Addendum VI (2013)