

2007

Status of U.S. Fisheries

A Message from James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.

NOAA's Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

Status Determinations by Region

Changes in Stock Status for 2007

NOAA

**NATIONAL
MARINE
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

Science, Service, Stewardship

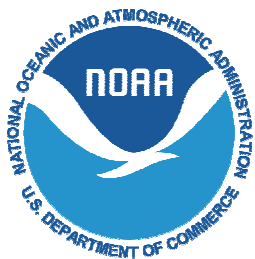


NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

2007 REPORT TO CONGRESS

THE STATUS OF U.S. FISHERIES

As mandated by the Sustainable Fisheries Act amendment to
the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996



June, 2008

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

A Message from the Acting NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's Report on the status of the U.S. fisheries for 2007

Science – Service - Stewardship



I am pleased to present the 2007 report on the status of U.S. marine fish stocks. This report updates the status of U.S. fish stocks previously assessed and includes determinations for stocks assessed in 2007. The 2007 report presents good news: 7 stocks are no longer subject to overfishing, 4 stocks have increased biomass and are no longer overfished, and 3 stocks have fully rebuilt. No stocks have been found newly subject to overfishing. The status of 2 stocks has declined and they have been determined to be overfished. In all, the number of stocks subject to overfishing has decreased from 48 in 2006 to 41 in 2007, and the number of overfished stocks has decreased from 47 to 45. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is also working to increase the number of stocks that are assessed. NMFS assessed 184 stock and stock complexes in 2007, 4 for the first time.

Results

- 7 stocks off the overfishing list
- 4 stocks off the overfished list
- 3 stocks fully rebuilt

While these positive results are encouraging, it is important that we keep moving in the right direction. NMFS recognizes the importance of ensuring that the fishery resources under our management are healthy and productive. We are working hard with the eight regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) to achieve the President's goals of ending overfishing and rebuilding our fish stocks. Long-term sustainable management of the Nation's marine fisheries helps protect the livelihoods of our fishing communities while also contributing significantly to the Nation's economy and providing healthy seafood products for the Nation and the world.

For 2008, NMFS and the Councils continue to implement the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA). In the MSRA, Congress called for strong action to end overfishing. The MSRA provides new management tools and requirements to meet this goal, including annual catch limits, which must be in place by 2010 for all stocks experiencing overfishing. In addition, tools such as limited access privilege programs provide a variety of options for effective fisheries management. I am confident these efforts will bear even more fruit in the coming years.

In closing, it is important to note that the majority of our domestic assessed fish stocks are either not overfished (76%) or not subject to overfishing (83%). We appreciate the support of Congress, stakeholders, and constituencies as we work to rebuild fisheries and maintain healthy resources for the benefit of the Nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB', with a small flourish at the end.

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	i
Introduction	1
Measuring Rebuilding Progress	1
Using the Best Available Data	2
Overview of overfishing status	3
Changes in overfishing status	3
Overview of overfished status.....	4
Changes in overfished status.....	4
Approaching an overfished condition	4
Changes in Biomass Levels	5
Changes in biomass levels	5
Status Determinations by Region	9
Northeast Region.....	9
Southeast Region.....	10
Southwest Region	11
Northwest Region	12
Pacific Islands Region.....	13
Alaska Region	14
Atlantic Highly Migratory Species	15

Executive Summary

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report annually to Congress and the Councils on the status of fisheries (Sec. 304(e)(1)). This report fulfills that requirement.

The information in this report was generated by the NMFS' regional offices and science centers based on the most recent stock assessments. Status determinations are generally made during a formal review of a scientific stock assessment using the best available scientific information and status determination criteria specified in a fishery management plan.

Stocks discussed in this report are characterized under two broad categories: (1) subject to overfishing and (2) overfished. A stock that is subject to overfishing has a fishing mortality (harvest) rate above the level that provides for the maximum sustainable yield. A stock that is overfished has a biomass level below a biological threshold specified in its fishery management plan.

For 2007, NMFS reviewed 528¹ individual stocks and stock complexes and made determinations of both overfishing and overfished status for 179 stocks and complexes; an additional 76 have either an overfishing or overfished determination.

Two hundred and forty four stocks or stock complexes have known overfishing determinations: 203 (83%) are not subject to overfishing and 41 (17%) are subject to overfishing. These percentages represent an improvement from last year's report, in which 80% were not subject to overfishing and 20% were subject to overfishing.

The number of stocks subject to overfishing *decreased* from 48 in 2006 to 41 in 2007. Seven stocks are no longer

¹ Compared to 530 in the 2006 report: 4 Alaska salmon stocks were combined into a single complex, and black rockfish – south was added, for a net reduction of 2 stocks.

subject to overfishing: *monkfish – north, monkfish – south, winter skate, Gulf of Mexico red grouper, petrale sole, yellowfin tuna – Central Western Pacific, and bigeye tuna – Atlantic*. No stocks have become subject to overfishing in 2007.

One hundred and ninety stocks have known overfished determinations: 145 (76%) are not overfished² and 45 (24%) are overfished. These percentages represent an improvement from last year's report, in which 75% were not overfished and 25% were overfished. The number of overfished stocks *decreased* from 47 in 2006 to 45 in 2007. Four stocks are no longer overfished: *canary rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, blue king crab – Saint Matthews Island, and bigeye tuna – Atlantic*. Two stocks have become overfished: *winter skate* and *summer flounder*.

Three stocks have fully rebuilt to 100% of their B_{MSY} levels: *Silver hake – Southern Georges Bank/Middle Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico red grouper, and Tanner crab – Eastern Bering Sea*. Management of four additional stocks has resulted in biomass levels of at least 80% of their maximum sustainable levels: *dolphin, Pacific whiting, shortbelly rockfish, and arrowtooth flounder*. Continued, sustainable management should lead these stocks to achieve optimal levels.

Summary of Changes

Subject to overfishing, 2007: 41 (17%)
Subject to overfishing, 2006: 48 (20%)

Overfished, 2007: 45 (24%)
Overfished, 2006: 47 (25%)

² Number includes 5 stocks that are approaching an overfished condition

Introduction

This report describes the state of our nation's marine fisheries and the effectiveness of fisheries management under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Public Law 94-294 (MSA), as amended in 1996 by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) and again in 2007 by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA). The SFA emphasized the need to end overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, and establish management plans designed to ensure biologically and economically sustainable fisheries. A stock that is subject to overfishing has a fishing mortality (harvest) rate above the level that provides for the maximum sustainable yield. A stock that is overfished has a biomass level below its prescribed biological threshold. The MSRA requires annual catch limits intended to end overfishing be established.

This report fulfills the Congressional requirement at Sec. 304(e)(1) for an annual report on the status of fisheries within each Council's geographic area of authority and to identify fisheries that are overfished or approaching a condition of being overfished.

This report lists the managed marine fish stocks in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone³, including stocks that straddle international boundaries and highly migratory stocks. In response to the Congressional requirement, the report categorizes stocks according to their status. The report answers four questions which help determine the effectiveness of management measures in meeting the provisions of the MSA:

1. *What stocks are subject to overfishing?*
2. *What stocks are overfished?*
3. *What stocks are approaching an overfished condition?*
4. *How do this year's determinations compare to previous years?*

Measuring Rebuilding Progress

In addition to reporting which stocks are subject to overfishing or overfished, this report includes information on the fishing mortality and biomass trends for rebuilding stocks. These stocks had been previously determined to be overfished and are managed under rebuilding plans. Information on the trends in fishing mortality and biomass for rebuilding stocks can show if the management measures to end overfishing are working and if the biomass of the stock is rebuilding as planned. Additional information on many rebuilding stocks, as well as other important fish stocks, can be found at the NMFS *FishWatch* website: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/#>

³ The U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone generally extends from 3 to 200 miles offshore and covers more than 2 million square miles.

Using the Best Available Data

To categorize marine fish stocks for this report, NMFS reviewed each stock relative to the status determination criteria (SDC) contained in the relevant fishery management plan (FMP)⁴. Sometimes the SDC do not apply to an individual stock, but to a group of similar species harvested together or sharing a similar life history. These groups are referred to as stock complexes, units, or assemblages. Such groupings may be particularly useful when data are sparse or lacking because they provide a level of protection for all related stocks and allow data collection on them. In some cases, the status of a stock complex is determined using the SDC for one stock in the complex. In other cases, the SDC apply to the complex as a whole. Stock complexes are used in the Southeast, the Pacific Islands, and the Alaska Regions, as well as by the NMFS Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) division. The reporting level (stock or stock complex) is based on the level used in the assessment.

Based on a review of the best scientific information available for each stock or stock complex, relative to its SDC, NMFS determined whether an overfishing and overfished condition exists, including whether or not the stock is approaching an overfished condition. NMFS used many resources to make these determinations, including final, peer-reviewed documents such as Stock Assessment Review Committee reports and recommendations of each Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee. For species not included in a federal FMP (i.e., species managed by international agreement), the stock status determination was made in accordance with the relevant FMP or agreement. More information on the stock complexes and methodology used to include them in this report can be found in Appendix 1, located on the NMFS website.

NMFS continues to make progress in improving the scientific knowledge of marine fisheries and in the ability to use that knowledge to manage for the sustained use of these resources.

This year's report is based on assessments completed as of December 31, 2007. Results from fishery stock assessments in progress on that date will be summarized in next year's report. The status of all 528 stocks and stock complexes is summarized in Table 1.

⁴ In order to use the best available data, some Southeast stocks use SDC specified in the most recent scientific assessment, rather than those contained in the FMPs. Alaska SDC are generally specified in the annual SAFE Report, rather than in the FMP itself.

Overview of overfishing status

- **244** stocks or stock complexes have a known overfishing status. Of these:
 - 203 (83%) stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing.
 - 41 (17%) stocks or stock complexes have a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., is subject to overfishing).
- **284** stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfishing status.

Changes in overfishing status

- In the Northeast Region –
 - Monkfish – North is no longer subject to overfishing.
 - Monkfish – South is no longer subject to overfishing.
 - Winter skate is no longer subject to overfishing.
- In the Southeast Region –
 - Gulf of Mexico red grouper is no longer subject to overfishing.
 - Goliath grouper is not subject to overfishing (was previously listed as unknown).
- In the Northwest Region –
 - Petrale sole is no longer subject to overfishing.
 - Splitnose rockfish is not subject to overfishing (was previously listed as unknown).
- In the Pacific Islands Region –
 - Yellowfin tuna – Central Western Pacific is no longer subject to overfishing.
 - Bottomfish multi-species complex – Guam is not subject to overfishing (was previously unknown).
- In the Highly Migratory Species Division –
 - Bigeye tuna – Atlantic is no longer subject to overfishing
- There are no changes in the other regions.

Overview of overfished status

- **190** stocks or stock complexes have a known overfished status. Of these:
 - 145 (76%) stocks or stock complexes are not overfished - 5 of these stocks are approaching an overfished condition.
 - 45 (24%) stocks or stock complexes are overfished.
- **338** stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

Changes in overfished status

- In the Northeast Region –
 - Summer flounder is now overfished (was previously not overfished - rebuilding) and remains under a rebuilding plan.
 - Spiny dogfish is not overfished (was previously listed as undefined).
 - Winter skate is now overfished.⁵ The NEFMC was notified on February 20, 2007, of this status change and is currently developing a rebuilding plan.
- In the Northwest Region –
 - Canary rockfish is no longer overfished.
 - Pacific ocean perch is no longer overfished.
 - Blue rockfish is not overfished (was previously listed as unknown)
 - Longnose skate is not overfished (was previously listed as unknown).
 - Oregon Coastal Natural, comprised of Southern, South-Central, North-Central, and Northern Oregon Stocks of Oregon Production Index Area Coho salmon, is not overfished (was previously listed as N/A).
- In the Pacific Islands Region –
 - Bottomfish multi-species complex – Guam is not overfished (was previously listed as unknown).
- In the Alaska Region –
 - Blue king crab - Saint Matthews Island is no longer overfished.
- In the Highly Migratory Species Division –
 - Bigeye tuna – Atlantic is no longer overfished.
- There are no changes in the other regions.

Approaching an overfished condition

The basis for determining whether a stock is approaching an overfished condition is an examination of the current stock biomass and trends in fishing effort and the conclusion that the stock is likely to become overfished within 2 years. The

⁵ This stock is no longer subject to overfishing but is overfished based on its 3-year moving average catch per tow index. "Overfishing" for this stock is based on the percent change between consecutive 3-year averages in catch per tow from the NEFSC fall survey (declines of at least 20%). "Overfished" is based on the 3-year average versus a biomass threshold. Since declines in the index did not exceed the 20% threshold, the stock is not subject to overfishing; however, the index is below the biomass threshold, so the stock is overfished.

definition for the biomass threshold in the FMP, along with trends in fishing effort, is the basis for determining whether a stock is approaching an overfished condition. For Pacific salmon stocks, the criteria are based on maximum sustainable yield/maximum spawner potential objectives for natural stocks or stock complexes.

- South Atlantic gag is now approaching an overfished condition.

No other stocks are newly listed as approaching an overfished condition.

Changes in Biomass Levels

The Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI) is a performance measure for the sustainability of 230 U.S. fish stocks selected for their importance to commercial and recreational fisheries. The FSSI establishes, as an indicator of sustainability, an 80% threshold of the current stock biomass compared to the biomass that supports the maximum sustainable yield (B/B_{MSY}). Stocks with biomass above that level are considered to be within the range of natural fluctuation around the B_{MSY} level, which is defined as a long-term average. The following stocks have biomass levels determined, in 2007, to have changed relative to this threshold.

Changes in biomass levels

- In the Northeast Region -
 - Silver Hake - Southern Georges Bank / Middle Atlantic is now rebuilt.
 - Silver Hake - Gulf of Maine / Northern Georges Bank - B/B_{MSY} is now below the 80% threshold.
 - Little Skate - B/B_{MSY} is now below the 80% threshold.
- In the Southeast Region -
 - Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper is now rebuilt.
 - Dolphin - B/B_{MSY} is now above the 80% threshold.
- In the Northwest Region -
 - Pacific Whiting - B/B_{MSY} is now above the 80% threshold.
 - Shortbelly Rockfish - B/B_{MSY} is now above the 80% threshold.
 - Longnose Skate - B/B_{MSY} is above the 80% threshold (was previously listed as unknown).
 - Arrowtooth Flounder - B/B_{MSY} is now above the 80% threshold.
- In the Pacific Islands Region -
 - Bottomfish multi-species complex - Guam - B/B_{MSY} is above the 80% threshold (was previously listed as unknown)
- In the Alaska Region -
 - Tanner Crab - Eastern Bering Sea is now rebuilt.
 - Walleye Pollock - Western/Central - B/B_{MSY} is now below the 80% threshold.
 - Walleye Pollock - Eastern Bering Sea - B/B_{MSY} is now below the 80% threshold.
- There are no changes in the other regions.

Table 1. Description of FSSI and nonFSSI Stocks by Council, 2007.

Jurisdiction *	Stock Group	Number of Stocks	Overfishing					Overfished					Approaching Overfished Condition
			Yes	No	Not Known	Not Defined	N/A	Yes	No	Not Known	Not Defined	N/A	
NEFMC	FSSI	34	8	22	2	2	0	15	18	1	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	35	8	23	2	2	0	16	18	1	0	0	0
MAFMC	FSSI	11	2	9	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	11	2	9	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	0
NEFMC/MAFMC	FSSI	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
SAFMC	FSSI	21	10	10	1	0	0	4	5	11	0	0	1
	NonFSSI	65	1	11	51	2	0	0	1	62	2	0	0
	Total	86	11	21	52	2	0	4	6	73	2	0	1
GMFMC	FSSI	17	4	9	4	0	0	2	5	1	9	0	0
	NonFSSI	37	0	5	30	2	0	0	0	1	36	0	0
	Total	54	4	14	34	2	0	2	5	2	45	0	0
SAFMC/GMFMC	FSSI	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	7	3	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	Total	12	0	10	1	1	0	0	7	4	1	0	0
CFMC	FSSI	8	4	1	3	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	1
	NonFSSI	14	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	1
	Total	22	5	1	16	0	0	4	0	16	0	0	2
PFMC	FSSI	48	1	30	16	1	0	4	30	11	3	0	0
	NonFSSI	120	0	17	50	0	53	0	15	51	0	53	1
	Total	168	1	47	66	1	53	4	45	62	3	53	1
WPFMC	FSSI	16	1	6	9	0	0	1	7	8	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	20	0	3	15	2	0	0	1	17	2	0	0
	Total	36	1	9	24	2	0	1	8	25	2	0	0
PFMC/WPFMC	FSSI	6	1	2	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
	Total	10	1	2	7	0	0	0	3	7	0	0	0
NPFMC	FSSI	35	0	32	3	0	0	1	28	0	6	0	0
	NonFSSI	31	0	22	8	1	0	0	3	0	28	0	0
	Total	66	0	54	11	1	0	1	31	0	34	0	0
PFMC/NPFMC	FSSI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Total	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
HMS	FSSI	21	8	9	4	0	0	8	8	4	0	0	1
	NonFSSI	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
	Total	24	8	9	7	0	0	8	8	7	0	0	1
TOTAL	FSSI	230	39	143	45	3	0	44	119	46	18	0	3
	NonFSSI	298	2	60	175	8	53	1	21	152	69	53	2
	Total	528	41	203	220	11	53	45	140	198	87	53	5

* NEFMC = New England Fishery Management Council; MAFMC = Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; SAFMC = South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; GMFMC = Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; CFMC = Caribbean Fishery Management Council; PFMC = Pacific Fishery Management Council; WPFMC = Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; NPFMC = North Pacific Fishery Management Council; HMS = Atlantic Highly Migratory Species.

Biomass and Mortality Trends in Stocks under Rebuilding Plans

Following the determination that a stock is overfished, a rebuilding plan is developed to rebuild the stock biomass. Fisheries managers control fishing mortality (F) through management measures, but cannot directly control the response of the stock's biomass to those measures. Biomass (B) is affected by a number of factors in addition to fishing, including habitat conditions, environmental conditions, and interactions with other species. Controlling F is necessary for rebuilding and we would expect that by reducing F, B would increase and the stock would rebuild.

Using the most current scientific stock assessments for 34 rebuilding stocks, NMFS prepared a series of figures to illustrate the trends in F and B. For most stocks, the time series extends from four years prior to the overfished determination, through the most recent year data are available. Each time a stock is assessed, the estimates of F and B for prior years are recalculated. The recalculated estimates may differ, sometimes significantly, from the estimates made at the time the overfished determination was made. The figures include, for reference, the estimates on which the overfished determination was based.

Of the 34 rebuilding stocks that were evaluated, 24 stocks (71%) have had F controlled by the end of the time series. For this discussion, "controlled" means that F is reduced below, or kept under, the overfishing level. For these 24 stocks, 18 (75%) show increases in biomass and 6 stocks (25%) show declines or flat trends in biomass. For the remaining 10 stocks (29%) where F has not been adequately controlled, 7 stocks (70%) show declines or flat trends in biomass.

Included in this report are figures for two stocks that illustrate the results. Figure 1 shows a stock where a clear trend in decreasing F corresponds to an increase in B. Figure 2 shows a stock where F has not yet been controlled and the biomass does not show signs of rebuilding. The figures for all 34 stocks can be found on the NMFS website at:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/SOSmain.htm#07>

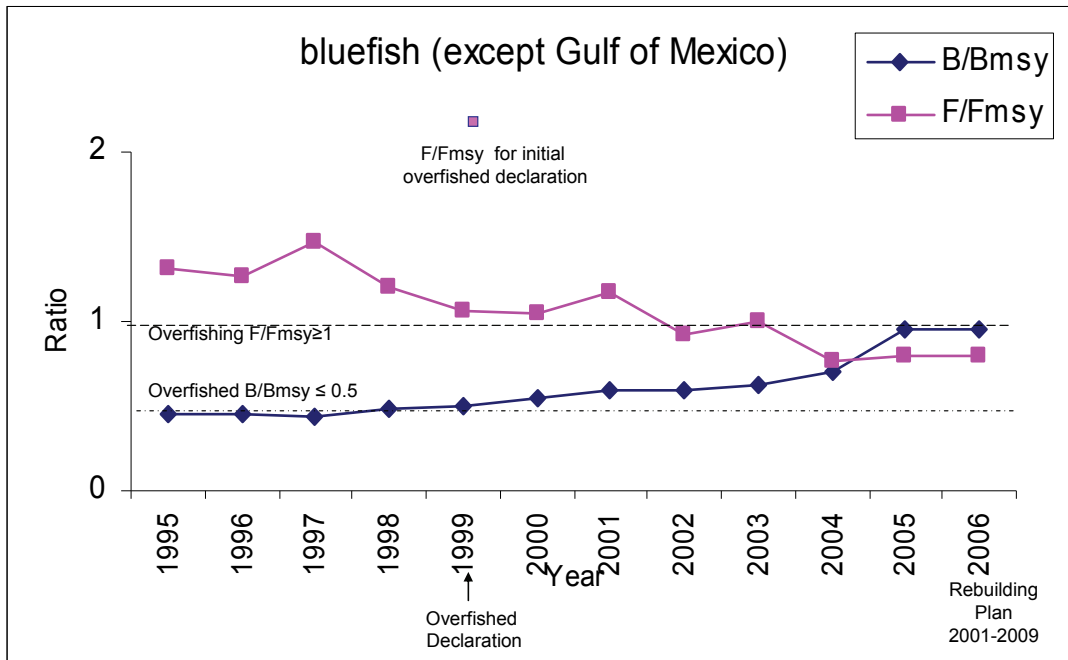


Figure 1. The Northeast Region's bluefish stock is an example of a stock showing controlled fishing mortality and a corresponding improvement in biomass.

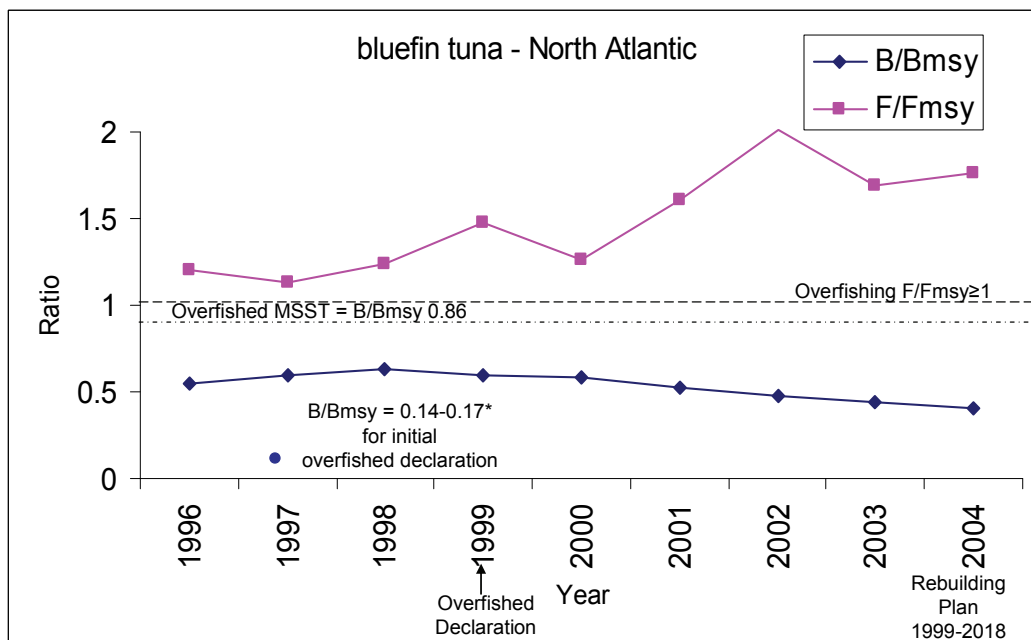


Figure 2. The Highly Migratory Species bluefin tuna – North Atlantic stock is an example of a stock showing fishing mortality above reference points and no corresponding improvement in biomass.

Status Determinations by Region

Northeast Region

Thirteen FMPs containing 49 stocks or complexes are managed by NMFS and the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils: Atlantic Sea Scallop; Northeast Multispecies; Northeast Skate; Atlantic Herring; Red Crab; Monkfish; Spiny Dogfish; Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass; Atlantic Bluefish; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Tilefish; and Atlantic Salmon. Within these FMPs, 10 stocks are subject to overfishing, 21 stocks are overfished, and no stocks are approaching an overfished condition. See Table 4.

Table 4. Northeast Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

Council	FMP	Overfishing	Overfished	Approaching
NEFMC	Atlantic salmon	-	<i>Atlantic salmon</i>	-
	Northeast Multispecies	<i>cod - Gulf of Maine</i> <i>cod - Georges Bank</i> - - <i>yellowtail flounder - Georges Bank</i> <i>yellowtail flounder - Southern New England (SNE)/Mid-Atlantic (MA)</i> <i>yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine</i> <i>white hake</i> - <i>winter flounder - SNE/MA</i> <i>winter flounder - Georges Bank</i> - -	<i>cod - Gulf of Maine</i> <i>cod - Georges Bank</i> <i>haddock - Gulf of Maine</i> <i>haddock - Georges Bank</i> <i>American plaice</i> <i>yellowtail flounder - Georges Bank</i> <i>yellowtail flounder - Southern New England SNE/MA</i> <i>yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine</i> <i>white hake</i> <i>windowpane flounder - SNE/MA</i> <i>winter flounder - SNE/MA</i> - - <i>ocean pout</i> <i>Atlantic halibut</i>	-
	Northeast Skate	- -	<i>thorny skate</i> <i>winter skate</i>	-
NEFMC/ MAFMC	Monkfish	- -	<i>monkfish - North*</i> <i>monkfish - South*</i>	-
MAFMC	Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass	<i>summer flounder</i> <i>scup</i>	<i>summer flounder</i> <i>scup</i>	-
	Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish		<i>butterfish</i>	-

* Based on the biomass reference points in the FMP as of December 31, 2007, the stock is considered overfished. However, the stock assessment conducted in July 2007 recommended revised biomass reference points. These revised reference points were recently incorporated into the Monkfish FMP on May 1, 2008, through a recent action (Framework Adjustment 5). As a result, both stocks are no longer considered overfished, and the status will be updated in the next report..

Southeast Region

Eighteen FMPs⁶ containing 175 stocks or complexes are managed by NMFS and the South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils: South Atlantic Golden Crab; South Atlantic Shrimp; South Atlantic Snapper Grouper; Atlantic Coast Red Drum; Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region; Pelagic Sargassum Habitat of the South Atlantic Region; Dolphin Wahoo; Coastal Migratory Pelagics of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Spiny Lobster; Gulf of Mexico Stone Crab; Gulf of Mexico Shrimp; Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; Gulf of Mexico Red Drum; Coral and Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico; Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; Spiny Lobster Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and Corals and Reef Associated Invertebrates of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Within these FMPs, 20 stocks are subject to overfishing, 10 stocks are overfished, and 3 stocks are approaching an overfished condition. See Table 5.

Table 5. Southeast Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

Council	FMP	Overfishing	Overfished	Approaching
SAFMC	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>vermilion snapper</i> <i>red snapper</i> <i>snowy grouper</i> <i>red grouper</i> <i>black sea bass</i> <i>gag</i> <i>speckled hind</i> <i>warsaw grouper</i> <i>tilefish</i> <i>black grouper</i> - - -	- - <i>snowy grouper</i> - <i>black sea bass</i> - - - - - - - <i>red porgy</i>	<i>gag</i>
	South Atlantic Shrimp	-	<i>pink shrimp</i>	
	Atlantic Coast Red Drum	<i>red drum</i>	-	
GMFMC	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	<i>red snapper</i> <i>greater amberjack</i> - - <i>gag</i> gray triggerfish	<i>red snapper</i> <i>greater amberjack</i> - - - -	
	Gulf of Mexico Red Drum	-	-	
CFMC	Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the USVI	<i>Grouper Unit 1</i> - <i>Grouper Unit 4</i> <i>Snapper Unit 1</i> <i>Parrotfishes</i>	<i>Grouper Unit 1</i> <i>Grouper Unit 2</i> <i>Grouper Unit 4</i> - -	- - - <i>Snapper Unit 1</i> <i>Parrotfishes</i>
	Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the USVI	<i>queen conch</i>	<i>queen conch</i>	-

⁶ Last year's report listed a calico scallop FMP as under development; however, no plans exist to implement an FMP in the EEZ for this species.

Southwest Region

Two FMPs containing 19 stocks or complexes⁷ are managed by NMFS and the Pacific Fishery Management Council: Coastal Pelagic Species and West Coast Highly Migratory Species. Within these FMPs, 2 stocks are subject to overfishing, no stocks are overfished, and no stocks are approaching an overfished condition. See Table 6.

Table 6. Southwest Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

FMP	Overfishing	Overfished	Approaching
West Coast Highly Migratory Species	<i>Yellowfin tuna - Eastern Pacific</i> <i>bigeye tuna - Pacific*</i>	- -	

* This stock also appears in Table 7 as a stock subject to overfishing in the Pacific Islands Region's *Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region FMP*. Each of the 10 stocks shared between these two FMPs is listed only once in the support tables as a single stock managed under both FMPs. The Southwest and the Pacific Islands Regions, along with the Pacific and Western Pacific Fishery Management Councils, are working together to end overfishing in this stock.

⁷ Total includes 10 pelagic species shared with the Pacific Islands Region.

Northwest Region

Two FMPs containing 158 stocks or complexes are managed by NMFS and the Pacific Fishery Management Council: West Coast Salmon and Pacific Coast Groundfish. In addition, Pacific halibut is managed jointly with the Alaska Region and the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Within these FMPs, no stock is subject to overfishing, 4 stocks are overfished, and 1 stock is approaching an overfished condition. See Table 7.

Table 7. Northwest Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

FMP	Overfishing	Overfished	Approaching
Pacific Coast Groundfish	- - - -	<i>bocaccio</i> <i>darkblotched rockfish</i> <i>cowcod</i> <i>yelloweye rockfish</i>	
West Coast Salmon	-	-	<i>Klamath River fall (Klamath and Trinity Rivers) Chinook salmon</i>

Pacific Islands Region

Five FMPs containing 45 stocks or complexes⁸ are managed by NMFS and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council: Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region; Crustaceans Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region; Precious Coral Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region; Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region; and Coral Reef Ecosystems of the Western Pacific Region. Within these FMPs, 2 stocks or stock complexes are subject to overfishing, 1 stock or stock complex is overfished, and no stock or stock complexes are approaching an overfished condition. See Table 8.

Table 8. Pacific Islands Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

FMP	Overfishing	Overfished	Approaching
Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region	<i>bigeye tuna - Pacific</i> *	-	
Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region	- <i>Bottom Multispecies complex - Hawaiian archipelago</i>	<i>Seamount Groundfish complex - Hancock Seamount</i> ** -	

* This stock also appears in Table 5 as a stock subject to overfishing in the Southwest Region's *West Coast Highly Migratory Species FMP*. Each of the 10 stocks shared between these two FMPs is listed only once in the support tables as a single stock managed under both FMPs. The Southwest and the Pacific Islands Regions, along with the Pacific and Western Pacific Fishery Management Councils, are working together to end overfishing in this stock.

** *Pelagic armorhead* is assessed as the indicator species of a 3-species groundfish complex that includes *raftfish* and *alfonsin*.

⁸ Total includes 10 pelagic species shared with the Southwest region.

Alaska Region

Five FMPs containing 69 stocks or complexes are managed by NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council: GOA Groundfish; BSAI Groundfish; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab; Alaska Weathervane Scallops; and Alaska High Seas Salmon. In addition, Pacific halibut is managed jointly with the Northwest Region and the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Within these FMPs, no stocks or stock complexes are subject to overfishing, 1 stocks or stock complex is overfished, and no stocks or stock complexes are approaching an overfished condition. See Table 9.

Table 9. Alaska Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

FMP	Overfishing	Overfished	Approaching
BSAI King and Tanner Crab	-	<i>blue king crab - Pribilof Islands</i>	

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

One FMP containing 23 stocks or complexes are managed by NMFS: Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species. Within this FMP, 8 stocks or stock complexes are subject to overfishing, 8 stocks or stock complexes are overfished, and 1 stock is approaching an overfished condition. See Table 10.

Table 10. Atlantic Highly Migratory stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

FMP	Overfishing	Overfished	Approaching
Atlantic Highly Migratory Species	<i>blue marlin - Atlantic</i> <i>white marlin - Atlantic</i> <i>sailfish - West Atlantic</i> <i>albacore - North Atlantic</i> <i>bluefin tuna - West Atlantic</i> - <i>finetooth shark</i> <i>Dusky shark</i> <i>sandbar shark*</i>	<i>blue marlin - Atlantic</i> <i>white marlin - Atlantic</i> <i>sailfish - West Atlantic</i> <i>albacore - North Atlantic</i> <i>bluefin tuna - West Atlantic</i> Porbeagle shark - <i>Dusky shark</i> <i>sandbar shark*</i>	<i>yellowfin tuna - Atlantic</i>

* This stock is part of the Large Coastal Shark complex, but is assessed separately.

Table 11. Comparing stocks or stock complexes with "subject to overfishing" determinations in 2006 and 2007. Stocks in *ITALICS* under "2006" were *removed* from the list in 2007.

COUNCIL	2006	2007	COUNCIL	2006	2007
NEFMC	cod - Gulf of Maine cod - Georges Bank yellowtail flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine white hake winter flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Georges Bank winter flounder - Georges Bank <i>WINTER SKATE</i>	cod - Gulf of Maine cod - Georges Bank yellowtail flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine white hake winter flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Georges Bank winter flounder - Georges Bank -	CFMC	Queen conch Grouper Unit 1 Grouper Unit 4 parrotfishes Snapper Unit 1	Queen conch Grouper Unit 1 Grouper Unit 4 parrotfishes Snapper Unit 1
NEFMC/MAFMC	<i>MONKFISH - NORTH</i> <i>MONKFISH - SOUTH</i>	- -	PFMC	Yellowfin tuna - Eastern Pacific <i>PETRALE SOLE</i>	Yellowfin tuna - Eastern Pacific -
MAFMC	scup summer flounder	scup summer flounder	WPFMC	bottomfish multi-species complex - Hawaiian archipelago <i>YELLOWFIN TUNA - CENTRAL WESTERN PACIFIC</i>	bottomfish multi-species complex - Hawaiian archipelago -
SAFMC	vermillion snapper red snapper snowy grouper tilefish red grouper black sea bass gag speckled hind warsaw grouper black grouper red drum	vermillion snapper red snapper snowy grouper tilefish red grouper black sea bass gag speckled hind warsaw grouper black grouper red drum	PFMC/ WPFMC	bigeye tuna - Pacific	bigeye tuna - Pacific
SAFMC/GMFMC	None	None	NPFMC	None	None
GMFMC	red snapper <i>RED GROUPER</i> greater amberjack Gray triggerfish Gag	red snapper - greater amberjack Gray triggerfish Gag	HMS	blue marlin - Atlantic white marlin - Atlantic sailfish - West Atlantic <i>BIGEYE TUNA - ATLANTIC</i> albacore - North Atlantic bluefin tuna - West Atlantic sandbar shark finetooth shark Dusky shark	blue marlin - Atlantic white marlin - Atlantic sailfish - West Atlantic - albacore - North Atlantic bluefin tuna - West Atlantic Atlantic sandbar shark finetooth shark Dusky shark

NEFMC = New England Fishery Management Council; MAFMC = Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; SAFMC = South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; GMFMC = Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; CFMC = Caribbean Fishery Management Council; PFMC = Pacific Fishery Management Council; WPFMC = Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; NPFMC = North Pacific Fishery Management Council; HMS = Atlantic Highly Migratory Species.

Table 12. Stocks or stock complexes with “overfished” determinations in 2006 and 2007. Stocks in **BOLD** were added to the list in 2007. Stocks in *ITALICS* under “2006” were removed from the list in 2007.

Council	2006	2007	Council	2006	2007
NEFMC	cod - Gulf of Maine cod - Georges Bank haddock - Gulf of Maine haddock - Georges Bank American plaice yellowtail flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder - Georges Bank white hake windowpane Flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic winter Flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic ocean pout Atlantic halibut thorny skate - Atlantic salmon	cod - Gulf of Maine cod - Georges Bank haddock - Gulf of Maine haddock - Georges Bank American plaice yellowtail flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder - Georges Bank white hake windowpane Flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic winter Flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic ocean pout Atlantic halibut thorny skate WINTER SKATE Atlantic salmon	CFMC	queen conch Grouper Unit 1 Grouper Unit 2 Grouper Unit 4	queen conch Grouper Unit 1 Grouper Unit 2 Grouper Unit 4
NEFMC/ MAFMC	Monkfish - North Monkfish - South	Monkfish - North Monkfish - South	PFMC	bocaccio <i>CANARY ROCKFISH</i> darkblotched rockfish cowcod yelloweye rockfish <i>PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH</i>	bocaccio - darkblotched rockfish cowcod yelloweye rockfish -
MAFMC	Butterfish scup -	butterfish scup SUMMER FLOUNDER	WPFMC	Seamount Groundfish complex - Hancock Seamounts	Seamount Groundfish complex - Hancock Seamounts
SAFMC	snowy grouper black sea bass red porgy pink shrimp	snowy grouper black sea bass red porgy pink shrimp*	PFMC/ WPFMC	None	None
SAFMC/ GMFMC	None	None	NPFMC	blue king crab - Pribilof Islands <i>BLUE KING CRAB - SAINT MATTHEW ISLAND</i>	blue king crab - Pribilof Islands -
GMFMC	red snapper greater amberjack	red snapper greater amberjack	HMS	blue marlin - Atlantic white marlin - Atlantic sailfish - West Atlantic <i>BIGEYE TUNA - ATLANTIC</i> albacore - North Atlantic bluefin tuna - West Atlantic sandbar shark Porbeagle shark Dusky shark	blue marlin - Atlantic white marlin - Atlantic sailfish - West Atlantic - albacore - North Atlantic bluefin tuna - West Atlantic sandbar shark Porbeagle shark Dusky shark

NEFMC = New England Fishery Management Council; MAFMC = Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; SAFMC = South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; GMFMC = Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; CFMC = Caribbean Fishery Management Council; PFMC = Pacific Fishery Management Council; WPFMC = Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; NPFMC = North Pacific Fishery Management Council; HMS = Atlantic Highly Migratory Species
* Pink shrimp are an annual crop. An advisory panel concluded the apparent decline in *pink shrimp* abundance appears to be due to environmental factors, rather than overfishing.

Overfished Stocks (45) - 2007

New England:

1. Cod – Gulf of Maine
2. Cod – Georges Bank
3. Haddock – Gulf of Maine
4. Haddock – Georges Bank
5. American Plaice
6. Yellowtail flounder – Georges Bank
7. Yellowtail flounder – Southern New England/Middle Atlantic
8. Yellowtail flounder – Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine
9. White Hake
10. Windowpane Flounder – Southern New England/Middle Atlantic
11. Winter Flounder – Southern New England/Middle Atlantic
12. Ocean Pout
13. Atlantic Halibut
14. Winter skate
15. Thorny skate
16. *Atlantic Salmon

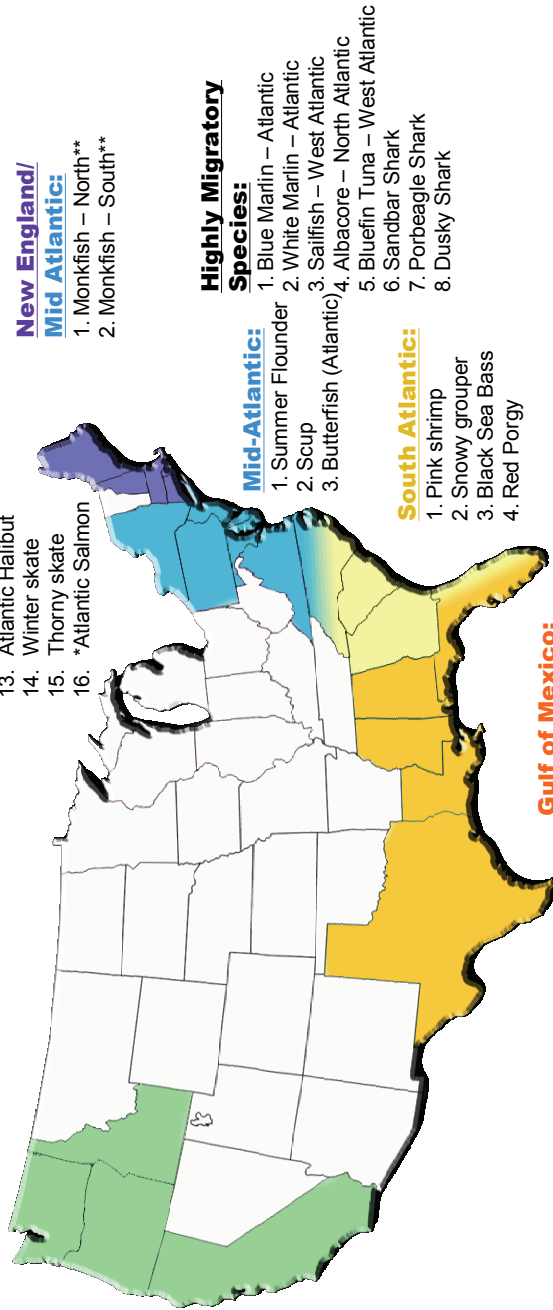


North Pacific:

1. Blue King Crab – Pribilof Islands

Pacific:

1. Bocaccio
2. Darkblotched Rockfish
3. Cowcod
4. Yelloweye Rockfish



Western Pacific:

1. Seamount Groundfish Complex – Hancock Seamount

Gulf of Mexico:

1. Red Snapper
2. Greater Amberjack

South Atlantic:

1. Pink shrimp
2. Snowy grouper
3. Black Sea Bass
4. Red Porgy

Mid-Atlantic:

1. Summer Flounder
2. Scup
3. Butterfish (Atlantic)

Highly Migratory Species:

1. Blue Marlin – Atlantic
2. White Marlin – Atlantic
3. Sailfish – West Atlantic
4. Albacore – North Atlantic
5. Bluefin Tuna – West Atlantic
6. Sandbar Shark
7. Porbeagle Shark
8. Dusky Shark

New England/ Mid Atlantic:

1. Monkfish – North**
2. Monkfish – South**

Caribbean:

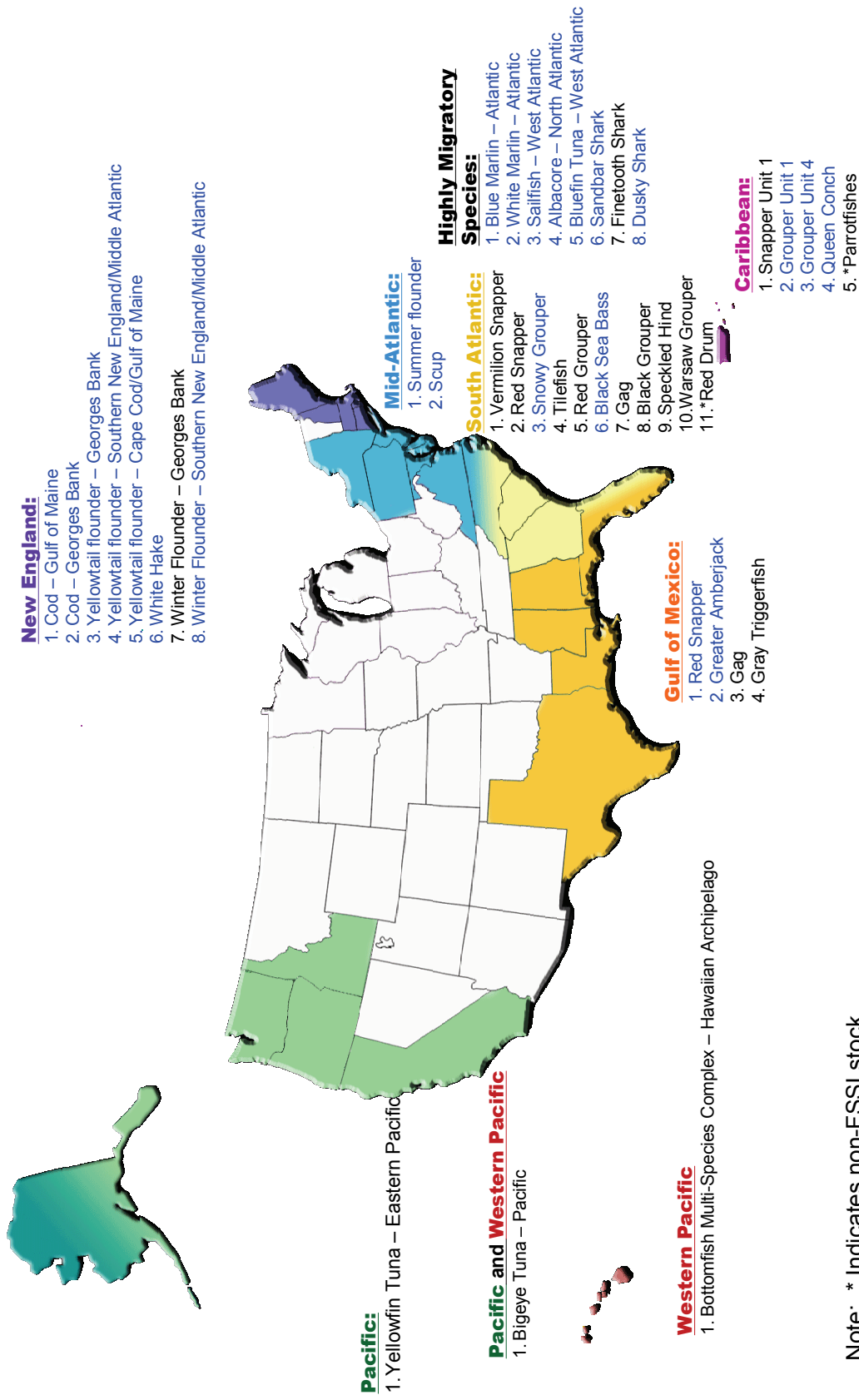
1. Grouper Unit 1
2. Grouper Unit 2
3. Grouper Unit 4
4. Queen Conch

Notes:

* Indicates non-FSSI stock

** Based on the current biomass reference points in the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), the stock remains overfished. However, a July 2007 stock assessment recommended revising the biomass reference points in the FMP. If the FMP is revised, the status will change to not overfished.

Stocks “Subject to Overfishing” (41) –2007



Note: * Indicates non-FSSI stock
 Blue = Also Overfished

An online version of this report is available at
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/SOSmain.htm>

This publication may be cited as:
NMFS, 2008, Annual Report to Congress on the Status of U.S. Fisheries-2007, U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, Natl., Mar. Fish. Serv., Silver Spring, MD, 23 pp.

Cover photos: NOAA photo library



U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Carlos M. Gutierrez

**Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere and Administrator, National Oceanic
and Atmospheric Administration—NOAA**

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries Service

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.

www.nmfs.noaa.gov

National Marine Fisheries Service

1315 East West Highway
SSMC 3, F/SF, Room 9535
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910