

Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI)

2007 Quarter 4 Update through December 31, 2007

Overview

The FSSI is a performance measure for the sustainability of 230 U.S. fish stocks¹ selected for their importance to commercial and recreational fisheries. The FSSI will increase as overfishing is ended and stocks rebuild to the level that provides maximum sustainable yield.

FSSI Scoring Method

The FSSI is calculated by assigning a score for each fish stock based on the five following criteria:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
1. "Overfished" status is known	0.5
2. "Overfishing" status is known	0.5
3. Overfishing is not occurring (for stocks with known "overfishing" status)	1.0
4. Stock biomass is above the "overfished" level defined for the stock	1.0
5. Stock biomass is at or above 80% of the biomass that produces maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY}) ² (this point is in addition to the point awarded for being above the "overfished" level)	1.0

The maximum score each stock may receive is 4. The value of the FSSI is the sum of all 230 individual stock scores. The maximum total FSSI score is 920, achieved if all 230 stocks were to each receive a score of 4.

Current FSSI Score

2007 Quarter 4 Score = 531 (October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007)

The following table summarizes the current FSSI score and where additional points can be gained to raise the score in the future.

<u>Criteria</u>	<u># Stocks</u>	<u>Current Points</u>	<u>Total Points Possible</u>	<u>Actions that Can Increase the Score</u>	<u>Potential Points to Gain</u>
1. "Overfished" status is known Overfished: 44 Not Overfished: 122	166	83	115	Determine the "overfished" status for the remaining 64 stocks	32
2. "Overfishing" status is known Overfishing: 39 Not subject to overfishing: 143	182	91	115	Determine the "overfishing" status for the remaining 48 stocks	24
3. Overfishing is not occurring (for stocks with known "overfishing" status)	143	143	230	End overfishing on the 39 stocks subject to overfishing. Ensure the 48 stocks (see #2 above) are not subject to overfishing.	87
4. Stock biomass is above the "overfished" level defined for the stock (for stocks with a known "overfished" status and that are "not overfished")	122	122	230	Increase the biomass above the overfished level for the 44 overfished stocks. Ensure the biomass for the 64 stocks (see #1 above) is above the overfished level.	108
5. Stock biomass is at or above 80% of B_{MSY} (this point is in addition to the point awarded for being above the "overfished" level, criteria #4)	92	92	230	For the 44 overfished stocks and the 30 stocks that are not overfished (but biomass is not at or above 80% of B_{MSY}), increase biomass to at or above 80% of B_{MSY} . Ensure the biomass for the 64 stocks (see #1 above) is at or above 80% of B_{MSY} .	138
TOTAL		531	920		389

¹ The majority of species are assessed as a single stock; however, there are a few that are assessed as a stock complex, which contain a group of species with similar geographic distribution, co-occurrence in fisheries, and life history.

² Stocks rebuilding from a previously overfished condition are not awarded the fourth point until they reach B_{MSY} , as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. After they have been fully rebuilt, they may fluctuate within the 80% parameter and retain the score of 4 like the other non-rebuilding stocks.

