The Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI)

The FSSI is a high level index to reflect the sustainability of 230 fish stocks[1] 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.

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

Rule	Score
1. Stock has known status determinations:	
a) overfishing	0.5
b) overfished	0.5
2. Fishing mortality rate is below the "overfishing" level defined for the stock	1.0
3. Biomass is above the "overfished" level defined for the stock	1.0
4. Biomass is at or above 80% of maximum sustainable yield (MSY)[2] (this point is in addition to the point awarded for being above the "overfished" level)	1.0

The maximum score for each stock is 4. The value of the FSSI is computed by summing the individual stock scores. Since there are 230 stocks in the FSSI, an overall score of 920 would be achieved if every stock scored a 4.

The current value of the FSSI is 481.5, based on updates through September 30, 2005. The following table provides a summary of the current FSSI score and where additional points can be gained to raise the score:

Category	# Stocks	Action	Potential Points
- Stocks subject to overfishing	43	- Overfishing ended	43
- Overfished stocks	43	- Biomass increases above threshold and rebuilt	86
- Stocks that are not overfished, but biomass is not yet at a sustainable level[2]	35	- Stocks are managed at a sustainable level	35
- Stocks with one or more components[3] unknown status	87	- Status known, not subject to overfishing, biomass at sustainable level	274.5

[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 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.*

[3] *These are stocks for which either the overfishing determination or the overfished determination, or both the overfishing and overfished determinations, are unknown or undefined. Stocks where both components are unknown/undefined are counted only once.*