

A MESSAGE FROM THE NOAA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR FISHERIES

Welcome to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's report on the status of the U.S. fisheries for 2004

This report presents the status of U.S. marine fish stocks for 2004. Ending overfishing and rebuilding stocks to the level that provides maximum sustainable yield is a high priority for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the eight regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils). Together, we are dedicated to achieving the goal of sustainable fisheries envisioned by the Congress in the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996.

This report documents status changes for previously assessed stocks and new determinations for stocks assessed for the first time in 2004.

NMFS has increased the number of assessed stocks over the last several years, and this trend will continue. In 2004, NMFS completed 84 stock assessments, of which 10 were for stocks not previously assessed. Stock assessments are the foundation for sustainable U.S. marine fisheries management. These assessments provide the information to determine if the proportion of a stock taken by a fishery is too high (overfishing) or the biomass of a stock is too low (overfished).

Overall, 81% of the stocks and stock complexes with known status are not subject to overfishing, and 72% of the stocks and stock complexes with known status are not overfished. For stocks that transitioned from an unknown status to known, 87% are not subject to overfishing and 78% are not overfished. It is important to note that appropriate management measures can end overfishing quickly, but subsequent rebuilding of the stock takes time for reproduction and growth to result in increased biomass.

We approved 5 fishery management plan amendments in 2004 to implement final rebuilding plans for 23 stocks in the Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, and Alaska regions. This is a significant accomplishment, establishing new management measures to rebuild these stocks.

The following is a brief summary of how the status of our marine fisheries changed in 2004:

One stock, *Pacific whiting*, has been fully rebuilt, and overfishing is no longer occurring. This highly productive west coast groundfish stock rebuilt very

quickly following a 2002 determination that the biomass had declined below the overfished threshold.

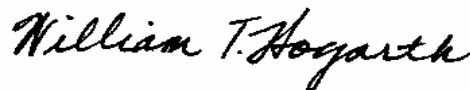
Mid-Atlantic *black sea bass* is no longer overfished, and overfishing has ended. Three more stocks have increased in abundance to the point they are no longer overfished (*lingcod*, *pacific ocean perch*, and *king mackerel – Gulf group*). Rebuilding measures for all these stocks will continue until each stock has fully rebuilt to the level that provides maximum sustainable yield. Additionally, *Gulf of Mexico red drum* is no longer subject to overfishing.

Three previously assessed stocks were determined to be overfished. Two of these are Alaska crab stocks which already have rebuilding plans and fishing is not allowed. The third stock is *butterfish*, and rebuilding measures are being developed.

Seven stocks or stock complexes were determined to be subject to overfishing (*Atlantic sea scallop*, *summer flounder*, *Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack*, *shortspine thornyhead*, *black rockfish – North*, *Hawaii bottomfish complex*, and *large coastal sharks*). Appropriate management measures will be implemented to lower the fishing mortality rate for these stocks or complexes.

A majority of our assessed fish stocks are not overfished or subject to overfishing. However, NMFS and the Councils will continue working toward the goal of rebuilding all stocks and maintaining them at highly productive levels. We also are committed to increasing the number of stocks that are assessed.

We will face challenges - the natural environment is unpredictable; management measures may not always work as planned; and as new information about a stock becomes available it may alter our view of its potential yield and status. We are addressing these challenges and will continue to improve the status of U.S. marine fisheries.



William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.

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 (MSA) as amended in 1996 by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA). 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 above an established fishing mortality (harvest) rate is said to be subject to overfishing. A stock below its prescribed biological threshold is considered overfished.

Significant progress continues in our scientific knowledge of marine fisheries and our ability to use that knowledge to manage the sustained use of the Nation's marine fish resources. This report is prepared annually in response to a Congressional requirement to report on the status of marine fisheries within each Council's geographic area of authority and to identify those fisheries overfished or approaching an overfished condition.

"The Secretary shall report annually to the Congress and the councils on the status of fisheries within each council's geographic area of authority and identify those fisheries that are overfished or are approaching a condition of being overfished."

-Section 304(e)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996

This report identifies managed marine fish stocks in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone¹, including stocks that straddle international boundaries and highly migratory stocks. In response to the Congressional requirement, the report categorizes stocks according to their individual status. The report also provides answers to four questions to help gauge the effectiveness of management measures designed to meet the provisions of the SFA:

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?*

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). Sometimes the SDC do not apply to each individual stock, but rather are applied broadly to a group of similar species harvested together or sharing a similar life history. These groups are referred

¹ The U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone extends from 3 to 200 miles offshore and covers more than 2 million square miles.

to as “stock complexes” or assemblages and may be particularly useful when data are sparse or lacking. A stock complex is measured either against the SDC for its proxy stock or against the complex as a whole, depending on the data and assessment tools available to the scientists. For the first time, this years’ report includes these stock complexes, rather than listing species individually.

Based on a review of the best scientific information available against the SDC for each stock or stock complex, NMFS determined the overfishing and overfished condition, including whether or not it 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 using other official sources of information, as adopted in accordance with the relevant FMP.

Determinations

Overfished - A stock size that is below a prescribed biomass threshold

Overfishing - Harvesting at a rate above a prescribed fishing mortality threshold

Approaching Overfished Condition - Based on trends in harvesting effort, fishery resource size, and other appropriate factors, it is estimated that the fishery will become overfished within 2 years

More information on stock complexes and the methodology used to include them in this report can be found in Appendix 1 located on the NMFS website. Stock complexes are used in the Pacific Islands and the Alaska Regions, as well as by the NMFS Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) division.

Changes to Determinations

This report is based on assessments completed as of December 31, 2004. Results from fishery stock assessments in progress on December 31, 2004 will be captured in next year’s report. Changes in status determinations from 2003 to 2004 appear in Table 1 below. These changes are fully illustrated in Tables 10 and 11 at the end of this report.

Table 1. Changes in Status Determinations from 2003 to 2004 in number of stocks. “Known to known” means the stock had a known determination in 2003 and 2004. “Unknown to Known” means the stock was listed in 2003 as “unknown” and in 2004 has a known determination.

Status Category in 2004	Known to known	Unknown to known	Total
Overfishing	5	2	7
Not overfishing	3	13	16
Overfished	3	2	5
Not overfished	6	7	13

The MSA requires action to end overfishing and to develop rebuilding plans for overfished stocks. A summary of the management actions, where required, is listed below for those stocks with new overfished and overfishing determinations.

Management action is being taken on the seven stocks newly listed as subject to overfishing.

- The *Atlantic sea scallop* stock is currently at a high biomass level. The New England Fishery Management Council implemented measures for the 2005 fishing year, starting March 1, 2005, including revised access area trip and days-at-sea allocations, implementation of the Georges Bank Closed Area Access Program in full, that are expected to eliminate overfishing for this stock.
- *Summer flounder* is a rebuilding stock that continues to increase in biomass. The stock size is at the highest level in the past 25 years but is not yet fully rebuilt. The most recent assessment determined that overfishing is occurring for this stock. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council was notified of the change in status for this stock on May 11, 2005. The Council will recommend action to reduce the fishing mortality rate and end overfishing as part of their annual specification setting process.
- *Shortspine thornyhead* was determined to be subject to overfishing in 2004 following analysis of 2003 harvest data, since data were not yet available for the full 2004 fishing year to make a determination. The Pacific Fishery Management Council took action to prevent continued overfishing on *shortspine thornyhead*, by implementing a 35% reduction in participating vessels through a December, 2003 vessel/permit buyback program and by expanding the trawl Rockfish Conservation Area. This area now includes greater coverage of continental slope areas to provide stronger protection for overfished *darkblotched rockfish*, which co-occurs with other slope species like *shortspine thornyhead*.
- *Black rockfish - North* was determined to be subject to overfishing in 2004 following analysis of 2003 harvest data. *Black rockfish* is an abundant nearshore species targeted by commercial and recreational fisheries. Our state partner in managing *black rockfish*, Oregon, implemented a commercial license limitation program to constrain the capacity of their nearshore commercial fisheries for several rockfish species, including *black rockfish*. Further, *black rockfish* was separated out of the State's minor nearshore rockfish species complex in order to give it more targeted management, including area-specific harvest set asides that facilitated State monitoring and harvest constraints and inseason closures in their recreational fisheries.
- A March, 2005, update of data for *Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack* shows catches are close to the rebuilding levels for 2004 and only moderately over for 2003, although the overfishing level was exceeded. In response to the overfishing determination, an increase in

the target catch level for *greater amberjack* planned for 2005 was cancelled, and the stock will be assessed again in 2005 to determine if overfishing has ended or if further management measures are needed to reduce fishing mortality. The stock assessment for greater amberjack is currently underway.

- The *Bottomfish Multi-species Complex – Hawaiian Archipelago* contains up to 19 species previously listed as unknown. The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC) was notified on May 27, 2005, that this complex is subject to overfishing. NMFS published a notice of a control date for this fishery on July 13, 2005 (70 FR 40305). The WPFMC is currently analyzing management options to reduce fishing effort in the EEZ around the main Hawaiian Islands, and will prepare an amendment to the Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish FMP.
- The assessment for the *Large Coastal Shark Complex* is based on 22 stocks. Management of this complex includes measures to reduce fishing mortality in both the commercial (retention limits, landing restrictions, seasons, quotas, and gear restrictions) and recreational (minimum size, bag limits, and landing restrictions) sectors. An assessment of this complex's status is scheduled for 2006 to determine if these measures have successfully reduced overfishing. Further action will be taken if necessary.

Management action, as appropriate, is being taken on the five stocks newly listed as overfished.

- *Blue king crab – St Matthew Island* and *Tanner crab – Eastern Bering Sea* are in rebuilding plans and directed fisheries are closed. The biomass for both stocks is near their threshold levels. Both stocks had been declared not overfished in the 2003 report after being listed as overfished for several years. Fluctuation around the threshold level could result from environmental conditions or from variability in assessment results. Since a rebuilding plan is in place and the fisheries are closed, no further action is needed at this time.
- The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council was notified of the overfished status of *Atlantic butterflyfish* on February 11, 2005. Management measures to rebuild this stock are under development.
- *Pelagic armorhead complex – Hancock seamount* is a complex that was previously listed only by its indicator stock, *pelagic armorhead*. This stock complex uses *pelagic armorhead* as the indicator species of a three-species seamount groundfish complex that includes *raftfish* and *alfonsin*. This stock complex does not have a formal rebuilding plan or time period for rebuilding. The fishery in the U.S. EEZ has been closed under sequential 6-year moratoria since the inception of the FMP in 1986. The current moratorium is effective until 2010. These moratoria have been treated by NMFS as a de facto rebuilding plan, and previous versions of this report referred to the cumulative period of these moratoria as the time period for rebuilding. The WPFMC is

currently considering more permanent conservation and management measures for this stock complex.

- The assessment for the *Large Coastal Shark Complex* is based on 22 stocks. Management of this complex includes measures to rebuild the stock for both the commercial (retention limits, landing restrictions, seasons, quotas, and gear restrictions) and recreational (minimum size and bag limits, and landing restrictions) sectors. An assessment of this complex's status is scheduled for 2006 to determine if these measures have resulted in rebuilding as anticipated. Further action will be taken if necessary.

The status of all 688 stocks and stock complexes is summarized in Table 2.

Overview of Overfishing in 2004²

- 236 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:
 - 192 stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing.
 - 44 stocks or stock complexes have a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., subject to overfishing).
- 452 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 2004

Changes in overfishing status determinations for 2004 are listed below. Specific changes from 2003 to 2004 by region are found in Table 10, at the end of this report.

- In the Northeast Region -
 - *Sea scallop* is subject to overfishing.
 - *Summer flounder* is subject to overfishing.
 - *Black sea bass* is no longer subject to overfishing.
 - *Deep-sea red crab* is not subject to overfishing, having been listed previously as unknown.
- In the Southeast Region -
 - Gulf of Mexico *greater amberjack* is subject to overfishing.
 - Gulf of Mexico *red drum* is no longer subject to overfishing.
 - *Dolphin* is not subject to overfishing, having been listed previously as unknown.
 - *Cobia* is not subject to overfishing, having been listed previously as unknown.

² Numbers in this section should be viewed with care, as listing by complex may impact this number. This change would be most obvious with the stock complexes in the *Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks FMP*. In 2003, all individual species in the complexes were assigned the determination made for the complex, without regard for whether or not that individual stock was specifically assessed. In fact, the determination was never made for all the individual species. NMFS believes the 2004 number represents a truer picture of stocks and stock complexes subject to overfishing.

- In the Southwest Region
 - *Skipjack tuna – Eastern Pacific* is not subject to overfishing. This stock was listed previously as unknown in the Pacific Islands Region.
- In the Northwest Region -
 - *Shortspine thornyhead* is subject to overfishing.
 - *Black rockfish - North* is subject to overfishing.
 - *Pacific whiting* is no longer subject to overfishing.
- In the Pacific Islands Region –
 - The *Bottomfish multi-species complex – Hawaiian archipelago* is subject to overfishing. This complex contains up to 19 species listed previously as unknown.
- In the Alaska Region –
 - *BSAI Other Rockfish* complex is not subject to overfishing. This complex contains 8 species, 6 of which were listed previously as unknown.
 - *BSAI Other Flatfish* complex is not subject to overfishing. This complex contains 12 species, all of which were listed previously as unknown.
 - *BSAI Other Species* complex is not subject to overfishing. This complex contains 63 species, 26 of which were listed previously as unknown. The remainder are newly listed.
 - *BSAI shortraker rockfish* is not subject to overfishing, having been listed previously as unknown.
 - *BSAI rougheyeye rockfish* is not subject to overfishing, having been listed previously as unknown.
 - *GOA Thornyhead Rockfish* complex is not subject to overfishing. This complex contains 2 species, 1 of which was listed previously as unknown.
 - *GOA Pelagic Shelf Rockfish* complex is not subject to overfishing. This complex contains 4 species, 2 of which were listed previously as unknown and 1 is newly listed.
 - *GOA Shallow Water Flatfish* complex is not subject to overfishing. This complex contains 14 species, 5 of which were listed previously as unknown.
 - *GOA Skates* complex is not subject to overfishing. This complex contains 9 species, 7 of which were listed previously as unknown.
- For the Atlantic HMS division –
 - *Large Coastal Sharks* complex is subject to overfishing. This complex is assessed as 22 species, 16 of which were listed as subject to overfishing in 2003.

Overview of overfished status in 2004

- 200 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
 - 144 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished.

- 56 stocks or stock complexes are overfished.
- 487 stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

Changes in overfished status in 2004

Changes in overfished status determinations are listed below. Specific changes from 2003 to 2004 by region are found in Table 11, at the end of this report.

- In the Northeast Region –
 - *Butterfish* is overfished.
 - *Black sea bass* is no longer overfished and is rebuilding.
- In the Southeast Region –
 - *Tilefish*, listed as *golden tilefish* in previous reports, is no longer listed as overfished.
 - *King mackerel - Gulf group* is no longer overfished and is rebuilding.
 - *Dolphin* is not overfished, having been listed previously as unknown.
 - *Cobia* is not overfished, having been listed previously as unknown.
- In the Southwest Region
 - *Skipjack tuna – Eastern Pacific* is not overfished. This stock was listed previously as unknown in the Pacific Islands Region.
- In the Northwest Region –
 - *Lingcod* is no longer overfished and is rebuilding.
 - *Pacific ocean perch* is no longer overfished and is rebuilding.
 - *Pacific whiting*, which was estimated to be above the target rebuilding biomass in 2003, is no longer considered overfished and is rebuilt.
 - *Cabezon* is not overfished, having been listed previously as unknown.
- In the Pacific Islands Region –
 - The *Seamount Groundfish complex – Hancock seamounts* is overfished. Previous determinations had indicated that *pelagic armorhead* is overfished. In this year's report, that stock is assessed as the indicator species of this 3-species complex that includes *raffish* and *alfonsin*.
- In the Alaska Region –
 - *Blue king crab - Saint Matthew Island* is overfished.
 - *Tanner crab - Eastern Bering Sea* is overfished.
 - *BSAI Northern rockfish* is not overfished, having been listed previously as unknown.
 - *GOA Deep Water Flatfish complex* is not overfished. This complex contains 3 species, all of which were listed previously as unknown.

- *GOA flathead sole* is not overfished, having been listed previously as unknown.
- For the Atlantic HMS division –
 - *Large Coastal Sharks* complex is overfished. This complex is assessed as 22 species, 15 of which were listed as overfished in 2003.

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. Unless the status of the stock is known, a determination about whether the stock will become overfished within 2 years cannot be made with any certainty. Therefore, the definition for the biomass threshold in the FMP, along with trends in fishing effort, should be the determining criteria in evaluating whether a stock is approaching an overfished condition. In some cases, the pre-SFA definition has remained in the FMP and was used as the basis for the determinations. Also, for Pacific salmon stocks, the determining criteria are based on maximum sustainable yield/maximum spawner potential objectives for natural stocks or stock complexes.

- One stock is listed as approaching an overfished condition: HMS *yellowfin tuna - Atlantic*.

Table 2. Description of Major and Minor Stocks by Council, 2004.

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	Major	27	9	12	5	1	0	10	15	2	0	0	0
	Minor	9	0	2	6	1	0	5	4	0	0	0	0
	Total	36	9	14	11	2	0	15	19	2	0	0	0
MAFMC	Major	11	3	8	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	0
	Minor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	11	3	8	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	0
NEFMC/MAFMC	Major	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
	Minor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
SAFMC	Major	24	8	9	7	0	0	5	11	8	0	0	0
	Minor	64	3	13	46	2	0	6	5	46	7	0	0
	Total	88	11	22	53	2	0	11	16	54	7	0	0
GMFMC	Major	22	4	7	9	2	0	4	6	9	3	0	0
	Minor	33	0	7	26	0	0	2	0	26	5	0	0
	Total	55	4	14	35	2	0	6	6	35	8	0	0
SAFMC/GMFMC	Major	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0
	Minor	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	Total	11	0	9	1	1	0	0	9	1	1	0	0
CFMC	Major	4	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
	Minor	175	0	8	152	15	0	2	0	136	37	0	0
	Total	179	1	9	154	15	0	3	1	138	37	0	0
PFMC	Major	65	3	36	14	1	11	4	34	13	3	11	0
	Minor	102	0	4	56	0	42	2	1	57	0	42	0
	Total	167	3	40	70	1	53	6	35	70	3	53	0
WPFMC	Major	13	1	4	8	0	0	0	5	8	0	0	0
	Minor	22	0	3	17	2	0	1	1	18	2	0	0
	Total	35	1	7	25	2	0	1	6	26	2	0	0
PFMC/WPFMC	Major	5	1	1	3	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0
	Minor	5	0	1	4	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0
	Total	10	1	2	7	0	0	0	3	7	0	0	0
NPFMC	Major	53	0	49	3	1	0	1	31	0	21	0	0
	Minor	17	0	9	8	0	0	3	1	0	13	0	0
	Total	70	0	58	11	1	0	4	32	0	34	0	0
PFMC/NPFMC	Major	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Minor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
HMS	Major	15	6	7	2	0	0	4	8	2	0	0	1
	Minor	7	3	0	4	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0
	Total	22	9	7	6	0	0	7	8	6	0	0	1
TOTAL	Major	252	38	145	53	5	11	32	131	48	29	11	1
	Minor	436	6	47	320	21	42	24	13	292	65	42	0
	Total	688	44	192	373	26	53	56	144	340	94	53	1

* 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.

Status Determinations by Region

Northeast Region

NMFS and the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils manage stocks through thirteen FMPs: 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. A Hagfish FMP is under development. Within these FMPs, 14 stocks subject to overfishing, 18 stocks³ are overfished, and no stocks are approaching an overfished condition. Stocks are identified in Table 3.

Table 3. Northeast Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, overfished, or approaching an overfished condition.

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

³ There is currently no definition in the Spiny Dogfish FMP to make a determination of biomass target. Based on the current NMFS recommended biomass threshold, however, the biomass estimates indicate this stock is overfished.

Southeast Region

NMFS and the South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils manage stocks through eighteen FMPs: 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. In addition, a Calico scallops FMP is under development. Within these FMPs, 16 stocks are subject to overfishing, 20 stocks are overfished, and no stocks are approaching an overfished condition. Stocks are identified in Table 4.

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

Council	FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
SAFMC	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>vermillion snapper</i>	Y	-	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>red snapper</i>	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>snowy grouper</i>	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>red grouper</i>	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>black sea bass</i>	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>gag</i>	Y	-	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>speckled hind</i>	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>Warsaw grouper</i>	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>tilefish</i>	Y	-	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>black grouper</i>	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>goliath grouper</i>	-	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>Nassau grouper</i>	-	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	<i>red porgy</i>	-	Y	-
	Atlantic Coast Red Drum	<i>red drum</i>	Y	Y	-
GMFMC	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	<i>red snapper</i>	Y	Y	-
	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	<i>red grouper</i>	Y	-	-

Council	FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	<i>vermilion snapper</i>	Y	Y	-
	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	<i>greater amberjack</i>	Y	Y	-
	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	<i>Nassau grouper</i>	-	Y	-
	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	<i>goliath grouper</i>	-	Y	-
	Gulf of Mexico Red Drum	<i>red drum</i>	-	Y	-
CFMC	Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the USVI	<i>Nassau grouper</i>	-	Y	-
	Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the USVI	<i>goliath grouper</i>	-	Y	-
	Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the USVI	<i>queen conch</i>	Y	Y	-

Southwest Region

NMFS and the Pacific Fishery Management Council manage stocks through two FMPs: Coastal Pelagic Species and the new West Coast Highly Migratory Species. Within these FMPs, 1 stock is subject to overfishing (see Table 5), no stocks are overfished, and no stocks are approaching an overfished condition.

Table 5. Southwest Region stocks subject to overfishing, overfished, or approaching an overfished condition.

FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
West Coast Highly Migratory Species	<i>bigeye tuna - Pacific</i> *	Y	-	-

* 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.

Northwest Region

NMFS and the Pacific Fishery Management Council manage stocks through two FMPs: West Coast Salmon and Pacific Coast Groundfish. Within these FMPs, 3 stocks are subject to overfishing, 6 stocks are overfished, and no stocks are approaching an overfished condition. The stocks are identified in Table 6.

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

FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
Pacific Coast Groundfish	<i>lingcod</i>	Y	-	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	<i>black rockfish - North</i>	Y	-	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	<i>shortspine thornyhead</i>	Y	-	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	<i>Bocaccio</i>	-	Y	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	<i>canary rockfish</i>	-	Y	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	<i>darkblotched rockfish</i>	-	Y	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	<i>widow rockfish</i>	-	Y	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	<i>Cowcod</i>	-	Y	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	<i>Yelloweye rockfish</i>	-	Y	-

Pacific Islands Region

NMFS and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council manage stocks through five FMPs: 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 stock 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. These stocks or stock complexes are identified in Table 7.

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

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

* 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*.

Alaska Region

NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council manage stocks through five FMPs: 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, 4 stocks or stock complexes are overfished, and no stocks or stock complexes are approaching an overfished condition. These stocks or stock complexes are identified in Table 8.

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

FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
BSAI King and Tanner Crab	<i>snow crab - Bering Sea</i>	-	Y	-
BSAI King and Tanner Crab	<i>blue king crab - Pribilof Islands</i>	-	Y	-
BSAI King and Tanner Crab	<i>blue king crab – Saint Matthew Island</i>	-	Y	-
BSAI King and Tanner Crab	<i>Tanner crab – Eastern Bering Sea</i>	-	Y	-

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

NMFS manages Atlantic highly migratory species through two FMPs: Atlantic Billfish and Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks. Within these FMPs, 9 stocks or stock complexes are subject to overfishing, 7 stocks or stock complexes are overfished, and one stock or stock complex is approaching an overfished condition. The stocks or stock complexes are identified in Table 9.

Table 9. Atlantic Highly Migratory stocks that are subject to overfishing, overfished, or approaching an overfished condition.

FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
Atlantic Billfish	<i>white marlin - Atlantic</i>	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Billfish	<i>blue marlin - Atlantic</i>	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Billfish	<i>sailfish - West Atlantic</i>	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	<i>bigeye tuna - Atlantic</i>	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	<i>albacore - North Atlantic</i>	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	<i>bluefin tuna - West Atlantic</i>	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	<i>yellowfin tuna - Atlantic</i>	-	-	Y
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	<i>sandbar shark</i>	Y	-	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	<i>finetooth shark</i>	Y	-	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	<i>Large coastal shark complex*</i>	Y	Y	-

* This complex is assessed as 22 stocks, 16 of which had been declared subject to overfishing and 15 of which were overfished in last year's report. However, the assessment applies to all species within the complex and no determination should have been applied to each species.

Table 10. Overfishing determinations in 2003 and 2004. Text in **BOLD** were added to the list in 2004. Stocks in *ITALICS* were removed from the list in 2004.

COUNCIL	2003	2004	COUNCIL	2003	2004
NEFMC	cod - Gulf of Maine cod - Georges Bank American plaice witch flounder yellowtail flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine white hake winter flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic	cod - Gulf of Maine cod - Georges Bank American plaice witch flounder yellowtail flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine white hake winter flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP	CFMC	queen conch	Queen conch
NEFMC/MAFMC	monkfish – North monkfish – South	monkfish - North monkfish – South	PFMC	lingcod <i>PACIFIC WHITING</i>	lingcod SHORTSPINE THORNYHEAD BLACK ROCKFISH - NORTH
MAFMC	scup <i>BLACK SEA BASS</i> golden tilefish	scup golden tilefish SUMMER FLOUNDER	WPFMC	Bigeye Tuna - Pacific ⁴	BOTTOMFISH MULTI-SPECIES COMPLEX – HAWAIIAN ARCHIPELAGO⁵
SAFMC	vermillion snapper red snapper snowy grouper golden 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/ PFMC	None	bigeye tuna – Pacific ⁵
SAFMC/GMFMC	None	None	NPFMC	None	None
GMFMC	red snapper red grouper vermillion snapper <i>RED DRUM</i>	red snapper red grouper vermillion snapper GREATER AMBERJACK	HMS	blue marlin - Atlantic white marlin - Atlantic sailfish - West Atlantic bigeye tuna - Atlantic albacore - North Atlantic bluefin tuna - West Atlantic sandbar shark finetooth shark bull shark spinner shark silky shark dusky shark bignose shark night shark Caribbean reef shark tiger shark lemon shark sand tiger shark nurse shark scalloped hammerhead shark great hammerhead shark smooth hammerhead shark white shark	blue marlin - Atlantic white marlin - Atlantic sailfish - West Atlantic bigeye tuna - Atlantic albacore - North Atlantic bluefin tuna - West Atlantic sandbar shark finetooth shark LARGE COASTAL SHARK COMPLEX⁶

* 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.

⁴ Bigeye tuna was listed exclusively under the WPFMC in 2003, but is now listed under the shared jurisdiction of PFMC/WPFMC.

⁵ This newly added complex contains up to 19 species listed in 2003 as unknown.

⁶ Due to a change in listing protocol, stocks listed individually in previous reports are now listed only as part of their management complex. From the assessment, the *Large Coastal Shark* complex includes: *Spinner Shark*, *Silky Shark*, *Bull Shark*, *Tiger Shark*, *Lemon Shark*, *Nurse Shark*, *Scalloped Hammerhead Shark*, *Great Hammerhead Shark*, *Smooth Hammerhead Shark*, *Dusky Shark*, *Bignose Shark*, *Galapagos Shark*, *Night Shark*, *Caribbean Reef Shark*, *Narrowtooth Shark*, *Sand Tiger Shark*, *Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark*, *Whale Shark*, *Basking Shark*, and *White Shark*.

Table 11. Overfished determinations in 2003 and 2004. Text in **BOLD** were added to the list in 2004. Stocks in *ITALICS* were removed from the list in 2004.

Council	2003	2004	Council	2003	2004
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 white hake windowpane flounder – SNE/ Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic ocean pout Atlantic halibut barndoor skate 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 white hake windowpane Flounder – SNE/ Mid-Atlantic winter Flounder – SNE/ Mid-Atlantic ocean pout Atlantic halibut barndoor skate thorny skate Atlantic salmon	CFMC	queen conch Nassau grouper goliath grouper (Jewfish)	queen conch Nassau grouper goliath grouper
NEFMC/ MAFMC	None	None	PfMC	bocaccio canary rockfish darkblotched rockfish widow rockfish cowcod yelloweye rockfish <i>LINGCOD</i> <i>PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH</i> <i>PACIFIC WHITING</i>	bocaccio canary rockfish darkblotched rockfish widow rockfish cowcod yelloweye rockfish
MAFMC	<i>BLACK SEA BASS</i> bluefish (except Gulf of Mexico) golden tilefish	bluefish (except Gulf of Mexico) golden tilefish BUTTERFISH	WPFMC	pelagic armorhead	PELAGIC ARMORHEAD COMPLEX - HANCOCK SEAMOUNTS
SAFMC	red snapper snowy grouper <i>GOLDEN TILEFISH</i> red grouper black sea bass speckled hind Warsaw grouper black grouper red porgy goliath grouper Nassau grouper red drum	red snapper snowy grouper red grouper black sea bass speckled hind Warsaw grouper black grouper red porgy goliath grouper Nassau grouper red drum	PfMC/ WPFMC	None	None
SAFMC/ GMFMC	<i>KING MACKEREL - GULF GROUP</i>	None	NPFMC	Pribilof Islands blue king crab Bering Sea snow crab	blue king crab - Pribilof Islands snow crab - Bering Sea BLUE KING CRAB - SAINT MATTHEW ISLAND TANNER CRAB - EASTERN BERING SEA
GMFMC	red snapper greater amberjack vermillion snapper Nassau grouper goliath grouper (Jewfish) red drum	red snapper greater amberjack vermillion snapper Nassau grouper goliath grouper red drum	HMS	blue marlin (Atlantic) white marlin (Atlantic) sailfish (West Atlantic) bigeye tuna (Atlantic) albacore (North Atlantic) bluefin tuna (West Atlantic) bull shark spinner shark silky shark dusky shark bignose shark night shark Caribbean reef shark tiger shark lemon shark sand tiger shark nurse shark scalloped hammerhead shark great hammerhead shark smooth hammerhead shark white Shark	blue marlin (Atlantic) white marlin (Atlantic) sailfish (West Atlantic) bigeye tuna (Atlantic) albacore (North Atlantic) bluefin tuna (West Atlantic) LARGE COASTAL SHARK COMPLEX

* 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