

Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI)

2008 Quarter 2 Update through June 30, 2008

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

2008 Quarter 2 Score = 532 (April 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008)

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: 46 Not Overfished: 122	168	84	115	Determine the "overfished" status for the remaining 62 stocks	31
2. "Overfishing" status is known Overfishing: 40 Not subject to overfishing: 142	182	91	115	Determine the "overfishing" status for the remaining 48 stocks	24
3. Overfishing is not occurring (for stocks with known "overfishing" status)	142	142	230	End overfishing on the 40 stocks subject to overfishing. Ensure the 48 stocks (see #2 above) are not subject to overfishing.	88
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 46 overfished stocks. Ensure the biomass for the 62 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)	93	93	230	For the 46 overfished stocks and the 29 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 62 stocks (see #1 above) is at or above 80% of B_{MSY} .	137
TOTAL		532	920		388

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.

Summary of Stock Status Determination Changes from April 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008

Overview of overfished status of FSSI stocks through June 30, 2008

- 168 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
 - 122 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (3 of these stocks are approaching an overfished condition).
 - 46 stocks or stock complexes are overfished.
- 62 stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

Overview of overfishing status of FSSI stocks through June 30, 2008

- 182 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:
 - 142 stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing.
 - 40 stocks or stock complexes have a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., is subject to overfishing).
- 48 stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfishing status.

Summary of Overfishing and Overfished Changes of FSSI Stocks

<u>Stock</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Previous Status</u>	<u>Current Status</u>	<u>Previous Score</u>	<u>Current Score</u>
Smooth Skate	NE	Not Overfished	Overfished	3	2
Monkfish – North	NE	Overfished	Not Overfished / Rebuilt	2	4
Monkfish – South	NE	Overfished	Not Overfished / Rebuilt	2	4
Red Snapper – South Atlantic	SE	Overfished Unknown	Overfished	0.5	1
Gray Triggerfish – Gulf of Mexico	SE	Overfished Unknown	Overfished	0.5	1
Thorny Skate	NE	Not Subject to Overfishing	Subject to Overfishing	2	1
Finetooth Shark – Atlantic	HMS	Subject to Overfishing	Not Subject to Overfishing	3	4
Blacknose Shark – Atlantic	HMS	Not Subject to Overfishing Not Overfished	Subject to Overfishing Overfished	4	1
TOTAL FSSI SCORE				531	532

Overview of overfishing status of non-FSSI stocks through June 30, 2008

- 62³ stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:
 - 60 stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing.
 - 2 stocks have a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., is subject to overfishing).
- 240 stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfishing status.

Overview of overfished status of non-FSSI stocks through June 30, 2008

- 24³ stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
 - 23 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (2 of these stocks are approaching an overfished condition).
 - 1 stock is overfished.
- 278 stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

Summary of Overfishing and Overfished Changes of Non FSSI Stocks

<u>Stock</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Previous Status</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
Weathervane Scallop	AK	Not Overfished	Overfished Unknown⁴

FSSI stock status updates are posted quarterly at:

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

³ This number includes Pacific halibut, which is managed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

⁴ The status of this stock was incorrectly listed as not overfished in previous reports. Although the minimum stock size threshold (MSST) has been established, no estimates of biomass are available to estimate stock status.