

Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI)

2010 Quarter 2 Update through June 30, 2010

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

2010 Quarter 2 Score = 580.5 (April 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010)

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: 43 Not Overfished: 136	179	89.5	115	Determine the "overfished" status for the remaining 51 stocks	25.5
2. "Overfishing" status is known Overfishing: 39 Not subject to overfishing: 153	192	96	115	Determine the "overfishing" status for the remaining 38 stocks	19
3. Overfishing is not occurring (for stocks with known "overfishing" status)	153	153	230	End overfishing on the 39 stocks subject to overfishing. Ensure the 38 stocks (see #2 above) are not subject to overfishing.	77
4. Stock biomass is above the "overfished" level defined for the stock (for stocks with a known "overfished" status and that are "not overfished")	136	136	230	Increase the biomass above the overfished level for the 43 overfished stocks. Ensure the biomass for the 51 stocks (see #1 above) is above the overfished level.	94
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)	106	106	230	For the 43 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 51 stocks (see #1 above) is at or above 80% of B_{MSY} .	124
TOTAL		580.5	920		339.5

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 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, 2010 through June 30, 2010

Overview of overfishing status of FSSI stocks through June 30, 2010

- 192 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:
 - 153 stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing.
 - 39 stocks or stock complexes have a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., is subject to overfishing).
- 38 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 FSSI stocks through June 30, 2010

- 179 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
 - 136 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (5 of these stocks are approaching an overfished condition).
 - 43 stocks or stock complexes are overfished.
- 51 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 FSSI Stocks

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status	Previous Total FSSI Score	Current Total FSSI Score
Spiny dogfish - Atlantic Coast	NE	Not Overfished – Rebuilding	Rebuilt	3	4
Black grouper - Southern Atlantic Coast	SE	Subject to Overfishing Overfished – Unknown	Not Subject to Overfishing Not Overfished B/Bmsy > 80%	0.5	4
Red grouper - Southern Atlantic Coast	SE	Overfished – Unknown	Overfished	0.5	1
Black grouper - Gulf of Mexico	SE	Overfishing - Unknown Overfished – Unknown	Not Subject to Overfishing Not Overfished B/Bmsy > 80%	0	4
TOTAL FSSI SCORE				571.5	580.5

Overview of overfishing status of non-FSSI stocks through June 30, 2010

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

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

Changes in overfishing status of non-FSSI stocks

- There are no changes to any of the Regions.

Overview of overfished status of non-FSSI stocks through June 30, 2010

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

Changes in overfished status of non-FSSI stocks

- In the Northeast Region –
 - Atlantic wolffish - Gulf of Maine / Georges Bank – is overfished (was previously unknown; this stock is newly contained in the Northeast Multispecies FMP).
- There are no changes to the other Regions.

FSSI stock status updates are posted quarterly at:

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