

Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI)

2010 Quarter 3 Update through September 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 3 Score = 582.5 (July 1, 2010 to September 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: 42 Not Overfished: 137	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)	152	152	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")	137	137	230	Increase the biomass above the overfished level for the 42 overfished stocks. Ensure the biomass for the 51 stocks (see #1 above) is above the overfished level.	93
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)	108	108	230	For the 42 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 51 stocks (see #1 above) is at or above 80% of B_{MSY} .	122
TOTAL		582.5	920		336.5

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 July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010

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

- 179 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
 - 137 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (5 of these stocks are approaching an overfished condition).
 - 42 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
Pollock - Gulf of Maine / Georges Bank	NE	Subject to Overfishing Overfished	Not Subject to Overfishing Not Overfished - Rebuilt	1	4
Winter flounder - Gulf of Maine	NE	Not Subject to Overfishing Not Overfished B/Bmsy>80%	Overfishing - Unknown Overfished - Unknown	4	0
Pacific bluefin tuna - Pacific	SW/PI	Overfishing – Unknown Overfished – Unknown	Subject to Overfishing Not Overfished B/Bmsy>80%	0	3
TOTAL FSSI SCORE				580.5	582.5

Overview of overfishing status of non-FSSI stocks through September 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 September 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

- There are no changes to any of the Regions.

FSSI stock status updates are posted quarterly at:

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