

NOTE: See additional changes at 2nd quarter 2006 update

Summary of Stock Status Determination Changes – Update through March 31, 2006

Overview of overfishing status of FSSI stocks through March 31, 2006

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

Changes in overfishing status and/or score of FSSI stocks

- In the Northeast Region –
 - *Silver Hake – Southern Georges Bank / Middle Atlantic* is not subject to overfishing (was previously unknown) – score increased from 1.5 to 3.
- In the Southeast Region –
 - *Caribbean Snapper Unit 1* is undergoing overfishing (was previously unknown and listed as a single stock, *Silk Snapper*) – overfishing score increased from 0 to 2 (see overfished changes).
 - *Caribbean Grouper Unit 1* is undergoing overfishing (was previously not undergoing overfishing and listed as a single stock, *Nassau grouper*) – score decreased from 2 to 1.
 - *Caribbean Grouper Unit 4* is undergoing overfishing (was previously unknown and listed as a single stock, *Yellowfin Grouper*) – overfishing score increased from 0 to 1 (see overfished changes).
- There are no changes to the other regions.

Overview of overfished status of FSSI stocks through March 31, 2006

- 159 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:

- 115 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished.
 - 44 stocks or stock complexes are overfished.
- 71 stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

Changes in overfished status and/or score of FSSI stocks

- In the Northeast Region –
 - *Monkfish – North* is now overfished – score decreased from 2 to 1.
 - *Monkfish – South* is now overfished – score decreased from 2 to 1.
- In the Southeast Region –
 - *Caribbean Snapper Unit 1* is not overfished (was previously unknown and listed as a single stock, silk snapper) – overfished score increased from 0 to 2 (see overfishing changes).
 - *Caribbean Grouper Unit 4* is overfished (was previously unknown and listed as a single stock, *Yellowfin Grouper*) – overfished score increased from 0 to 1 (see overfishing changes).
- In the Northwest Region –
 - The biomass of *Pacific Whiting* is now below 80% of maximum sustainable yield – score decreased from 4 to 3.
- There are no changes to the other regions.

Overview of overfishing status of non-FSSI stocks through March 31, 2006

- 63 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:
 - 61 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).
- 237 stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfishing status.

Changes in overfishing status of non-FSSI stocks

- In the Southeast Region –
 - The *Parrotfishes* group is subject to overfishing (was previously unknown and listed as blue, midnight, princess, queen, rainbow, striped, redband, redtail, redfin, and stoplight parrotfishes).
- There are no changes to the other regions.

Overview of overfished status of non-FSSI stocks through March 31, 2006

- 24 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
 - 23 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished.
 - 1 stock is overfished.
- 276 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 Southeast Region –
 - The *Parrotfishes* group is not overfished, but approaching an overfished condition (was previously unknown and listed as blue, midnight, princess, queen, rainbow, striped, redband, redtail, redfin, and stoplight parrotfishes).
- There are no changes to the other regions.

The Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI)

The FSSI is a performance measure for the sustainability of 230 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. The FSSI is calculated by assigning a score for each fish stock based on the following rules:

<u>Rule</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 the sum of 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 496, based on updates through March 31, 2006. The following table provides a summary of the current FSSI score and where additional points can be gained to raise the score:

<u>Category</u>	<u># Stocks</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Potential Points</u>
- Stocks subject to overfishing	43	- Overfishing ended	43
- Overfished stocks	44	- Biomass increases above threshold and rebuilt	88
- Stocks that are not overfished, but biomass is not yet at a sustainable level ²	33	- Stocks are managed at a sustainable level	33
- Stocks with one or more components ³ unknown status	82	- Status known, not subject to overfishing, biomass at sustainable level	260

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.