



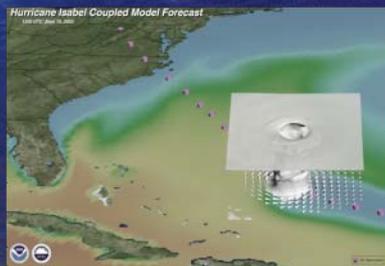
NOAA
FISHERIES

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

October 2, 2012

NOAA's Mission

Science
Service
Stewardship



The Economics of Fisheries

Commercial and Recreational marine fisheries contribute \$183 billion per year to the U.S. economy and support more than 1.5 million jobs economy-wide

In 2011:

- Americans consumed 4.7 billion pounds of seafood (second only to China)
- Commercial fishermen landed over 10 billion pounds of seafood, valued at \$5.3 billion
- Recreational anglers took 69 million trips, caught 345 million fish (60 percent released)



Managing Sustainable Fisheries

Goals:

- Manage fish stocks sustainably
- Prevent overfishing
- Rebuild overfished stocks
- Increase long-term economic-social benefits
- Ensure a safe and sustainable seafood supply



Managing Sustainable Fisheries

Primary Legislative Drivers:

- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Endangered Species Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Atlantic Coastal Act)
- Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act



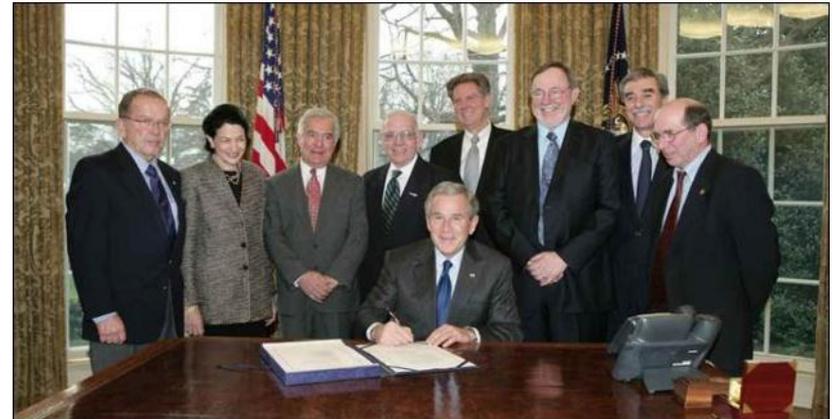
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

- Outlines the process for fisheries management
- Establishes Regional Fishery Management Councils, membership, functions, and process
- Provides the legislative structure to manage the Nation's fisheries
- Includes 10 National Standards, with goals for balancing harvest levels and socioeconomic considerations
- Provides the framework for 46 Fishery Management Plans
- Encompasses 476 regulated fish stocks



2006 Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act

- Prevent overfishing: Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures by 2010/2011
- Promote market-based management strategies: Limited Access Privilege Programs/Catch Shares
- Strengthen role of science
 - Peer review
 - Council SSCs
 - Marine Recreational Information Program
- Enhance international cooperation: Address Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported fishing and bycatch



National Standards

Conservation and management measures for fisheries shall:

- Prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield
- Use the best scientific information available
- Allocate fishing privileges fairly and equitably
- Consider the effects of regulations on fishing communities
- Minimize bycatch where feasible
- Promote the safety of human life at sea



MSA National Standard 1

Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry

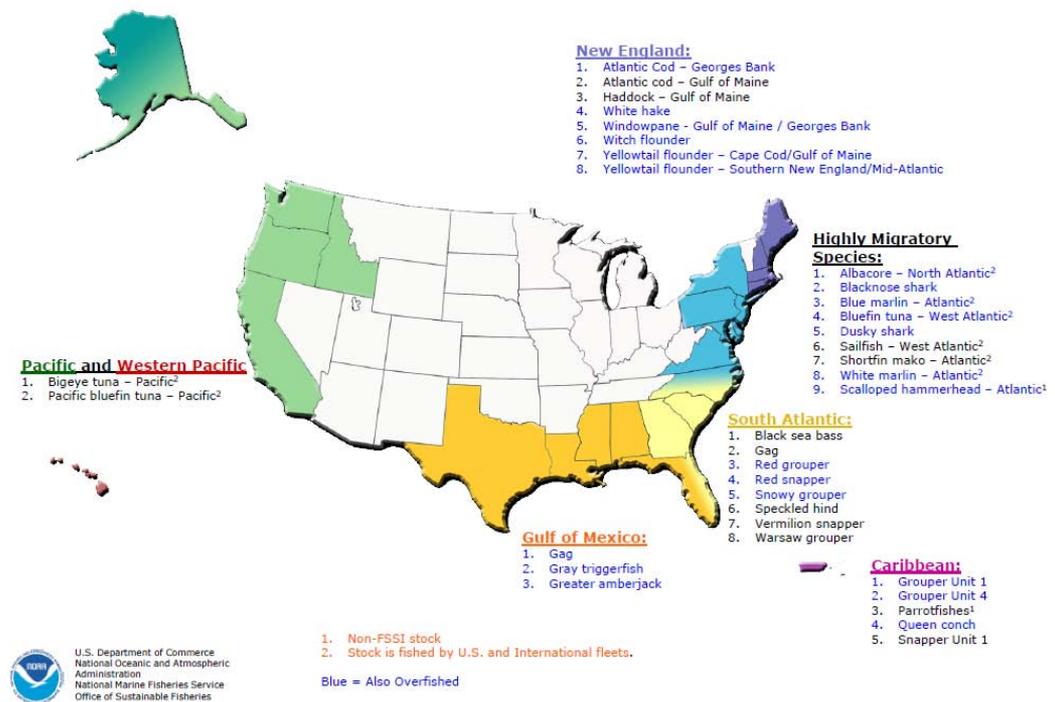
Overfishing:

Is when the rate of removal from stock is too high. A priority for the United States is ending overfishing so that all stocks can rebuild and be sustained at optimal levels.

Overfished:

Is when the population is too low, or below a prescribed threshold. A population can be overfished but be managed under a rebuilding plan that over time returns the population to optimal levels. Fish stocks can also become “overfished” for many other reasons, including natural mortality, disease, and environmental conditions.

Stocks “Subject to Overfishing” (35) – as of June 30, 2012

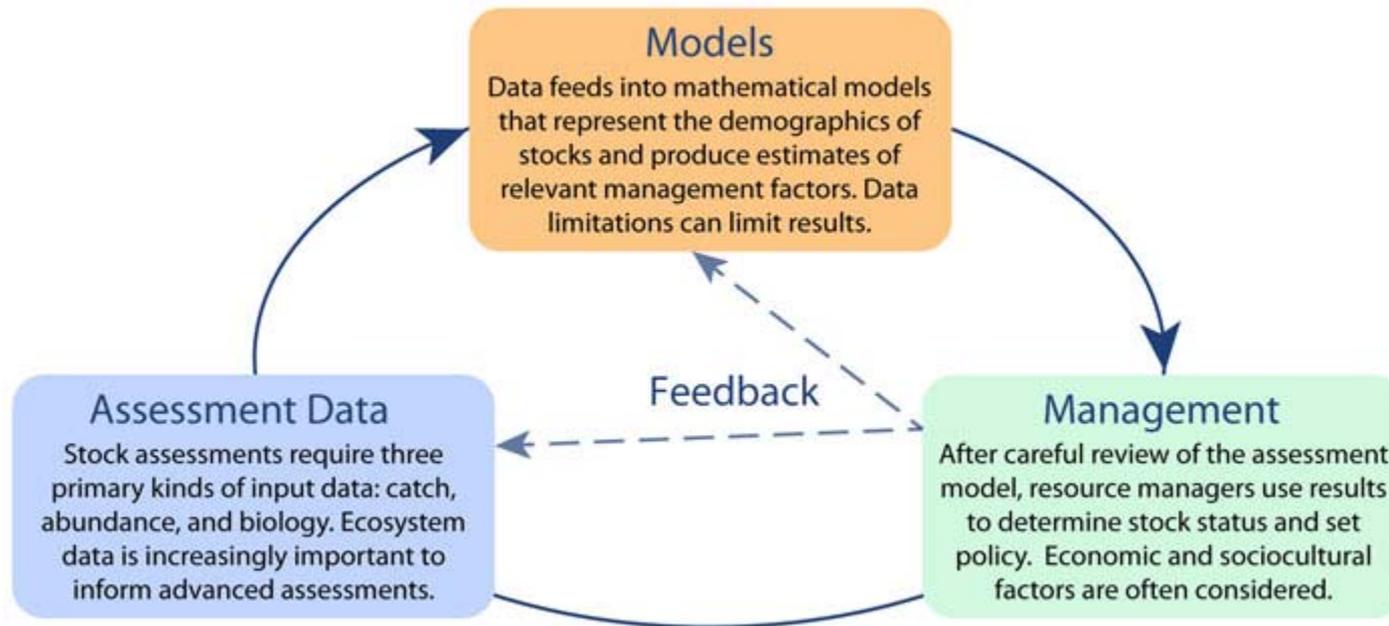


Achieve Optimum Yield/Prevent Overfishing

- The MSA defines **Optimum Yield (OY)** to mean: “the amount of fish which–
- (A) will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities, and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems;
 - (B) is prescribed on the basis of the “maximum sustainable yield” (MSY) from the fishery, as reduced by any relevant social, economic, or ecological factor; and
 - (C) in the case of an overfished fishery, provides for rebuilding to a level consistent with producing the maximum sustainable yield in such fishery.

Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) means “the largest long-term average catch or yield that can be taken from a stock or stock complex under prevailing ecological and environmental conditions.”

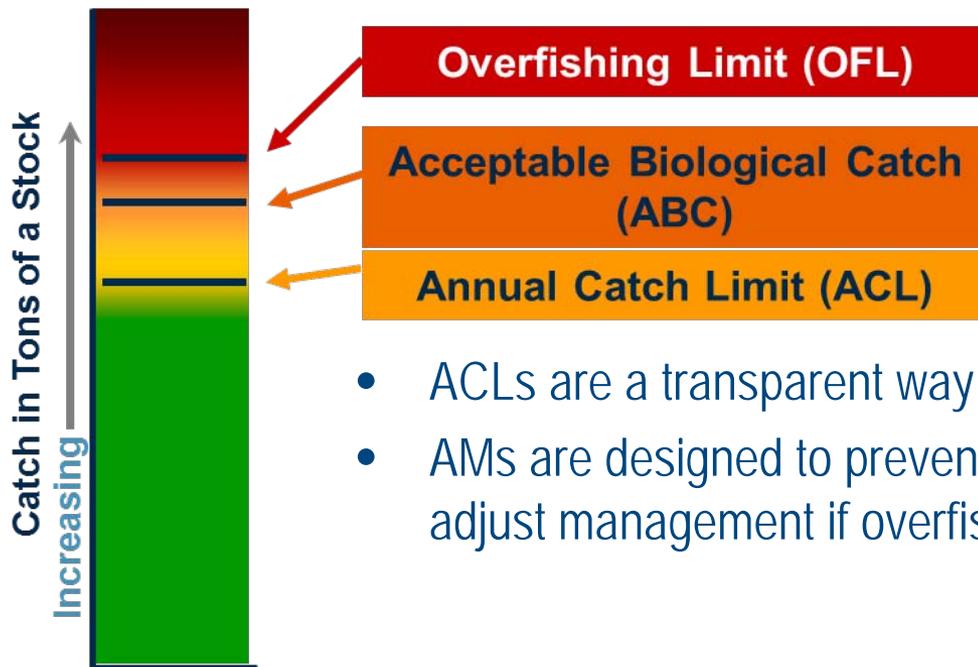
Stock Assessment Basics



NOAA Fisheries' stock assessments are key to marine resource management. They provide high-quality science information that assists managers in making important management decisions to ensure sustainable fisheries, healthy ecosystems, and productive coastal communities.

Annual Catch Limits (ACL) Accountability Measures (AM)

The 2006 reauthorization added new requirements for annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs).



Implementation in fishing year:

- 2010 for fisheries subject to overfishing
- 2011 for all other fisheries

- ACLs are a transparent way to measure if overfishing is occurring
- AMs are designed to prevent overfishing from occurring and to adjust management if overfishing does occur

Rebuilding Overfished Stocks



For a fishery determined to be overfished, Councils must:

- Develop and implement measures within 2 years that end overfishing immediately and begin rebuilding
- Set a rebuilding time that is:
 - As short as possible taking into account several factors
 - Does not exceed 10 years, except where biology, environmental conditions, or international agreements dictate otherwise

Councils may request that the Secretary implement interim measures until Council measures are completed

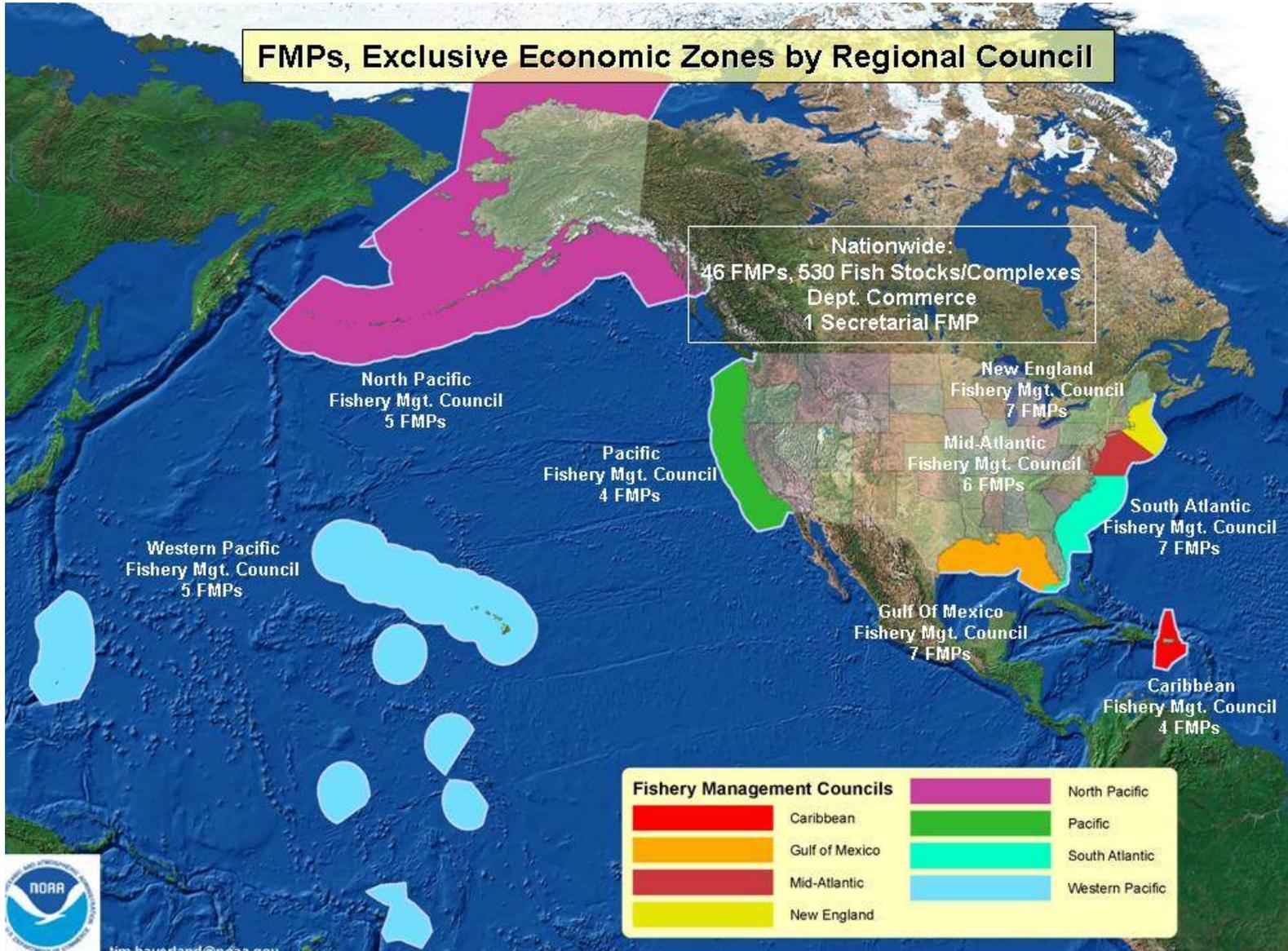
Fishery Management Councils

Role of Councils:

- For each fishery that requires conservation and management, prepare and submit to the Secretary
 - (A) a fishery management plan, and
 - (B) amendments to each such plan that are necessary
- Convene Committees and Advisory panels
- Conduct Public Meetings
- Submit Periodic Reports
- Set Annual Catch Limits based on best available science
- Select management options
- Develop, with their Scientific and Statistical Committee, research priorities



FMPs, Exclusive Economic Zones by Regional Council



Fishery Management Councils - Membership

Qualifications

- Knowledgeable about fisheries
- Fair and balanced apportionment

Voting members

- NMFS Regional Administrator
- State marine fishery management officials
- Individuals appointed by the Secretary of Commerce to represent commercial, recreational, and “other” (e.g., environmental, academic) interests.

Non-voting members

- US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director
- US Coast Guard Regional Commander
- Executive Director of Marine Fisheries Commissions
- US Department of State representative

Fishery Management Tools

Fishery Management Councils and NMFS use a variety of tools to manage fish stocks:

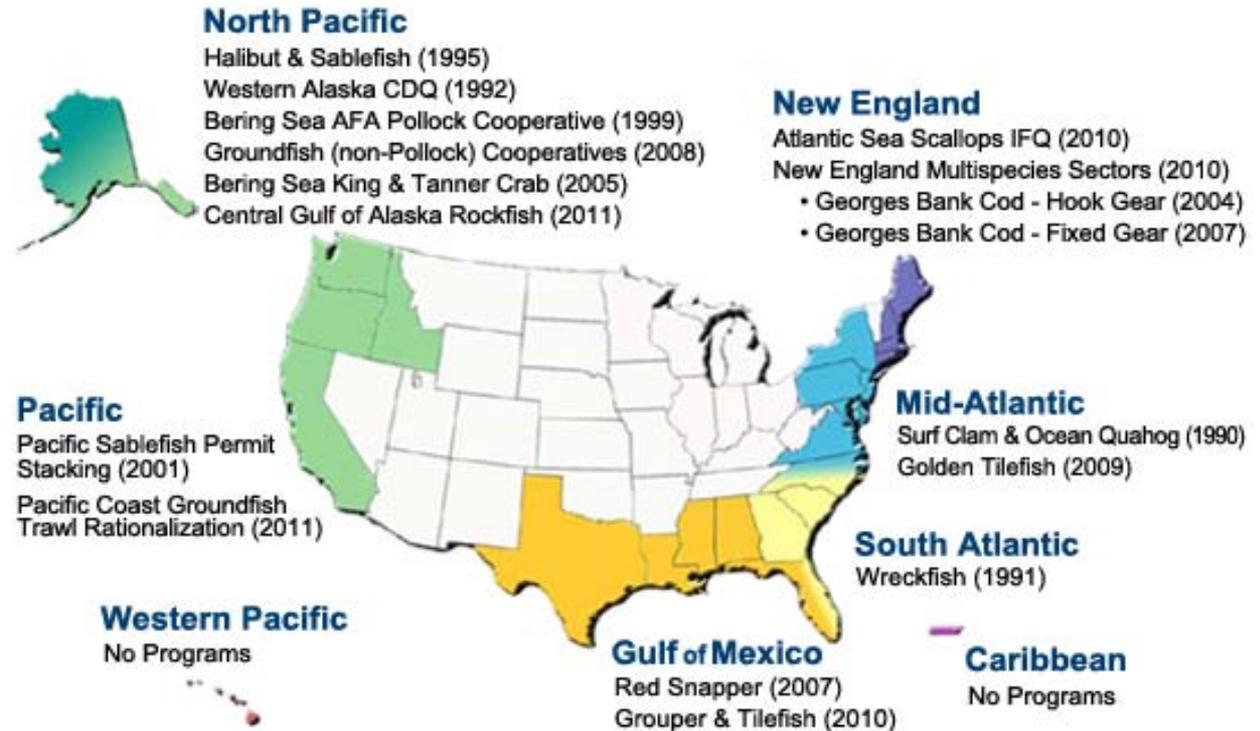
- Annual Catch Limits
- Catch Shares
- Quotas
- Size Limits
- Bag limits
- Trip limits
- Time/Area closures
- Seasonal closures
- Gear Restrictions



Catch Shares

“Catch Share” – a generic term used to describe programs that exclusively allocate a specific portion of the total allowable fishery catch to individuals, cooperatives, communities, or other entities.

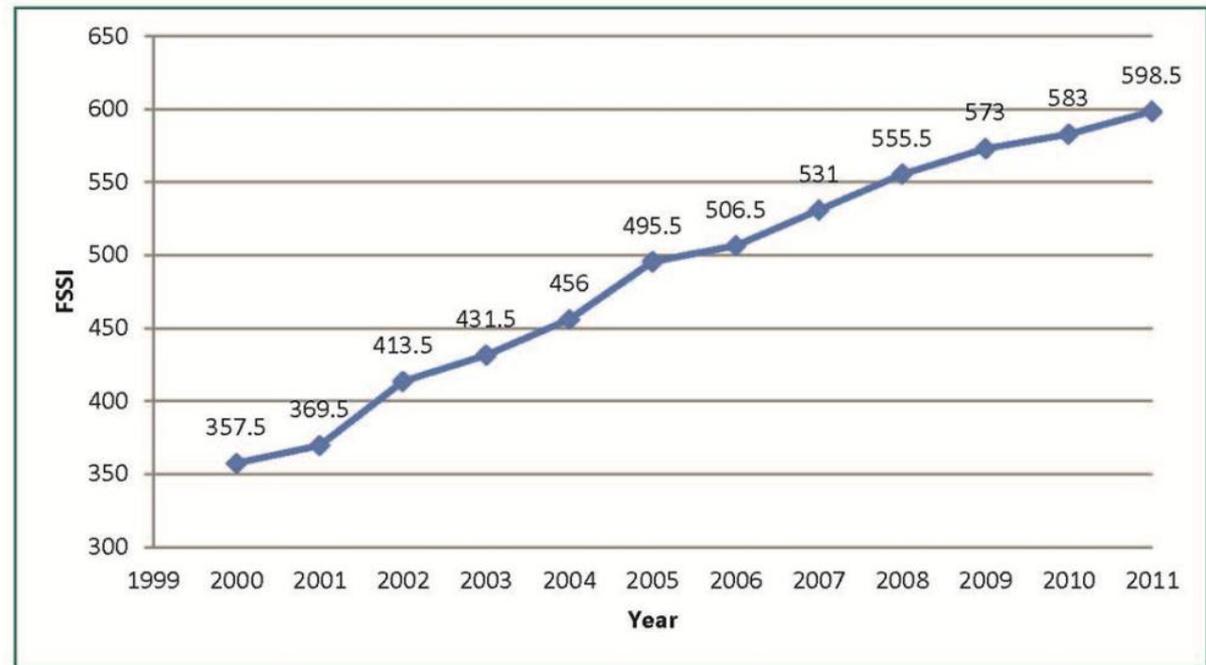
2010 NOAA Catch Share Policy: Catch shares may not be the best management option for every fishery or sector. NOAA will not require the use of catch shares in any particular fishery or sector, but it will promote and encourage the careful consideration of catch shares as a means to achieve the conservation, social, and economic goals of sustainable fishery management.



Measuring Progress – FSSI

The Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI): a performance measure for the sustainability of 227 fish stocks comprising the most important species in the United States.

- The FSSI score increases as new assessments are conducted, overfishing is ended, and stock size increases to sustainable levels.
- Measures management success
- Have rebuilt 30 stocks since 2000





FISHWATCH

U.S. SEAFOOD FACTS

Search



This site All of NMFS

SEAFOOD PROFILES

WILD-CAUGHT SEAFOOD

FARMED SEAFOOD

BUYING SEAFOOD

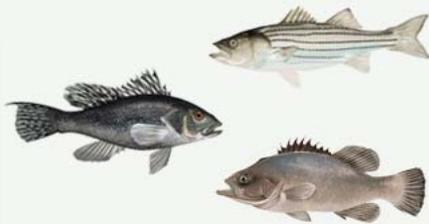
EATING SEAFOOD

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Anchovy



Bass



Bluefish

FISH FINDER



Counting Fish 101: An Analysis of Fish Stock Assessments

MORE...

FishWatch provides easy-to-understand science-based facts to help you make smart sustainable seafood choices. U.S. seafood profiled here is responsibly harvested under strict regulations that work to keep the environment healthy, fish populations

SEAFOOD NEWS

10.11.12
Report: EU facilitating illegal fishing [EXIT](#)

10.10.12
Gulf of Maine phytoplankton productivity plunges [EXIT](#)

10.10.12
New Zealand scientists make mussel breakthrough [EXIT](#)

10.10.12

SUSTAINABILITY FACTS

People often assume the sustainability of wild-caught seafood just depends on fishing—what fishing gear we use and how much we catch. If that were the case, our job would be pretty easy because those are factors we can control. Unfortunately it's a bit more complicated—wild-caught seafood

SCIENCE BEHIND SEAFOOD



Making Sense of Fish Stock Assessment Models
Stock assessments are one important piece of a dynamic cycle of management aimed at preserving

Fisheries Management in Action: Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico



Red Snapper: A Complex Fishery

- Jurisdiction
 - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
 - NMFS Southeast Regional Office, Science Center
- Overfished & undergoing overfishing since late 1980s
- Stock status is impacted by multiple fisheries
- The fishery is managed with adjustments to quotas, size limits, bag limits, season lengths, and Individual Fishing Quota Program
- Multiple stakeholders from recreational, commercial, and seafood industries; coastal communities; NGOs

Red Snapper – The History

1990 – First rebuilding plan; set 4 million pounds quota

1993 & 1996 – Rebuilding plan modified to extend rebuilding time

1998 & 2005 – Bycatch reduction devices required in the shrimp fishery to reduce mortality of juvenile red snapper

1997-2005 – Management adjustments to restrict harvest included adjustments to minimum sizes, recreational bag limits, commercial trip limits and 10-day per month commercial seasons (which led to derby fishing)

2005 – Revised the rebuilding plan to end overfishing between 2009 and 2010 and rebuild the red snapper stock by 2032

2007 – Commercial IFQ Program implemented

2008 – Amendment 27/14 revised the rebuilding plan

Progress in the Fishery

Year	Quota	Commercial	Recreational
1990	4 mp	2.04 mp	1.96 mp
1993	6 mp	3.06 mp	2.94 mp
1996	9.12 mp	4.65 mp	4.46 mp
2007	6.5 mp	3.315 mp	3.185 mp
2008	5.0 mp	2.55 mp	2.45 mp
2010	6.945 mp	3.542 mp	3.403 mp
2011	7.185 mp	3.664 mp	3.521 mp
2012	8.080	4.121 mp	3.959 mp

In 2012, the Gulf Council's Science and Statistical Committee determined overfishing is no longer occurring.

Next Steps for Red Snapper

- Gulf Council is conducting a 5-year review of the commercial IFQ program
- A benchmark stock assessment is underway
- As the red snapper population recovers, the size of the fish being caught is increasing, resulting in the quota being filled more quickly and creating shorter recreational seasons.

Thus, the Gulf Council is considering:

- Pilot programs for charter for-hire vessels
- Alternative seasons (weekends only)
- Regional management



QUESTIONS?



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