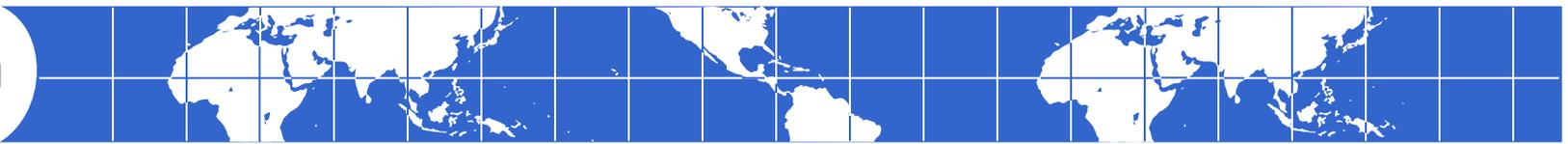


Ocean Trust

*Sustainable solutions in
fisheries, wildlife and the
environment since 1992.*

FAO Management
Framework Assessment

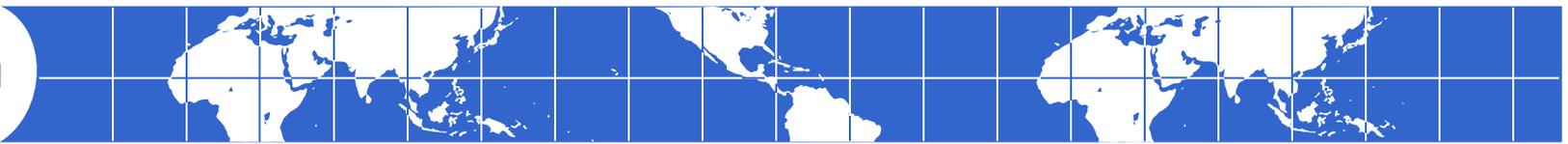




Introduction: Thor Lassen



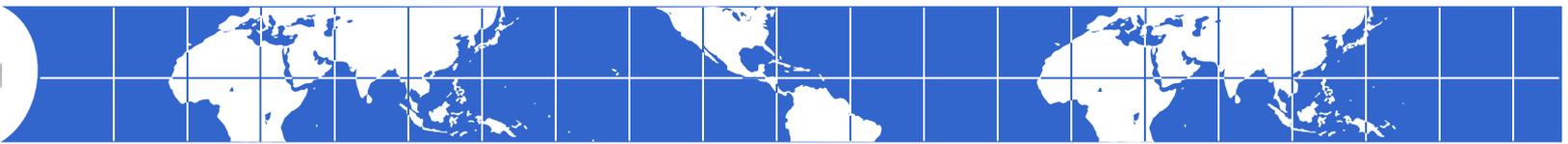
- University of Virginia, B.A. Environmental Science 1974
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science, M.A. Marine Science 1983
- Knauss Sea Grant Fellow, House MMF Committee 1980
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 1981-82
- National Fisheries Institute 1983-89
- National Council on Fishing Vessel Safety and Insurance 1983-90
- East Coast Tuna Association 1989-91
- National Fisheries Education and Research Foundation 1986-92
- Ocean Trust 1992 - Current



About Ocean Trust:

- Funding – Corporate, foundation, grants
- Partners – 100+ conservation partners throughout the US & Mexico (federal, state, local agencies, companies and NGOs)
- Board – Mr. Arnold Leo, Dr. Brian Rothschild, Mr. Les Hodgson, Dr. Dick Beamish, Dr. Patrick Burchfield
- Awards – Texas CEQ, EPA Gulf Guardian, USFWS Wetlands, Coastal America, Interior Cooperative Conservation, NOAA Environmental Hero, Seafood Business Person of Year





Industry Partnerships

*With Corporate Memberships...
(Bonefish Grill, HEB Grocery, Publix
Supermarket, Darden/Red Lobster,
High Liner Foods, WASI...)*



Legal Sea Foods is proud to support Ocean Trust in the protection and sustainable management of marine resources.

"TREATING FISH WITH RESPECT"
-New York Times

MASSACHUSETTS RHODE ISLAND NEW YORK NEW JERSEY MARYLAND WASHINGTON, D.C. VIRGINIA FLORIDA

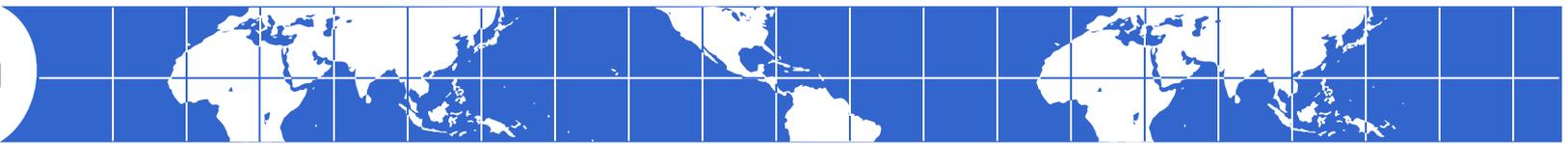
LEGAL SEA FOODS
RESTAURANT • OYSTER BAR

"If it isn't fresh, it isn't Legal!"



Caviar and
Champagne Soiree
to Benefit Ocean Trust

*...and Marketing Partnerships
(Whole Foods Market, Mexican Shrimp
Council/Ocean Garden, King & Prince,
Orca Bay Seafoods, Legal Sea Foods...)*



Providing Solutions For Sustainability

- *Fisheries – Assessments & Workshops*

- Assessments: Status of Fisheries, Swordfish Campaign, Shrimp Sustainability, Seafood Choice Cards
- Workshops: Boston Seafood Show Status of Fisheries, Ecolabeling, Bycatch, Acoustics for Stock Surveys

- *Marine Wildlife – Restoration*

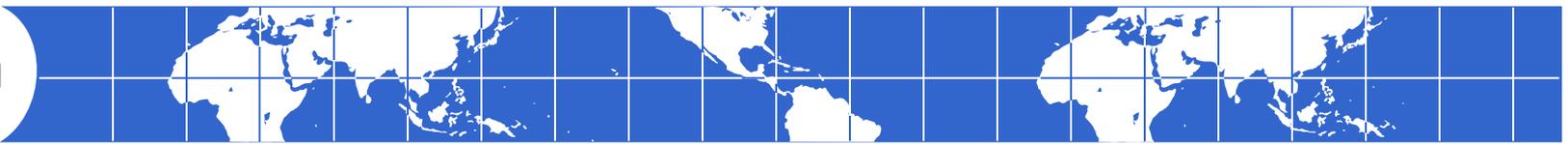
- Kemp's ridley sea turtle, Tamaulipas, Mexico
- Vaquita marina, Sea of Cortez, Mexico



- *The Environment – Habitat Enhancement*

- NOAA National Fisheries Habitat Partner 2000-2010
- USFWS/Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge Partner
- Bahia Grande Project Leader - Largest Estuary Restoration in North America





Making Sense of Sustainability:

Ocean Trust Science & Sustainability Forums 2010 - 2013

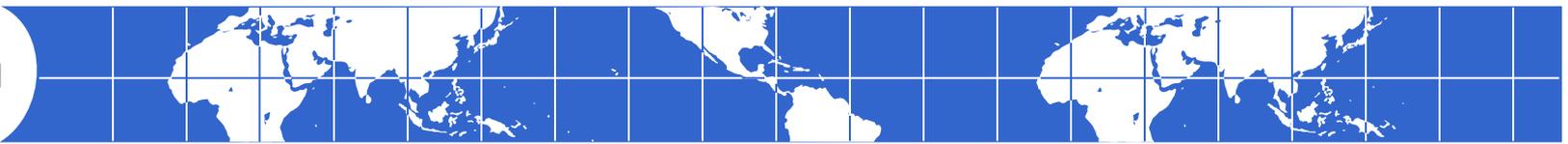
Topic: State of Fisheries & Sustainability of Seafood



Participants: senior fishery scientists & managers from leading seafood nations & institutions like: FAO, ICES, NAFO, CCAMLR, ICCAT, ISSF, NOAA, DFO, Mexico, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Brazil, New Zealand, LDWF, UWA, UMASS, UFL, Rutgers, and major buyers and distributors.

Partners: AIFRB, Norway MoF/Seafood Council, Sealord, Mazzetta, Inland Seafood, Bonefish Grill/Outback, HEB

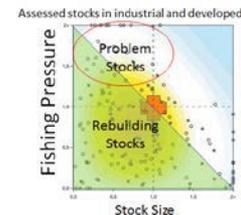
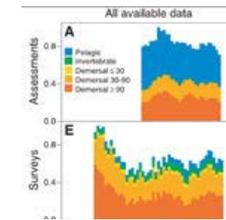




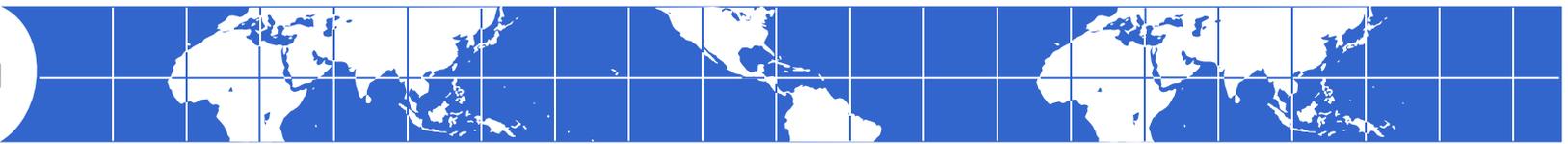
Major Findings

Information from assessed or surveyed stocks shows that fisheries for those stocks have been sustainability managed for the last few decades.

- Overfishing has been reduced in most developed countries and some developing countries.
- There have been considerable successes in rebuilding, and current fishing rates are expected to lead to further improvements in stock status over time.
- In comparison to other sources of nutrition, seafood is relatively environmentally-friendly.



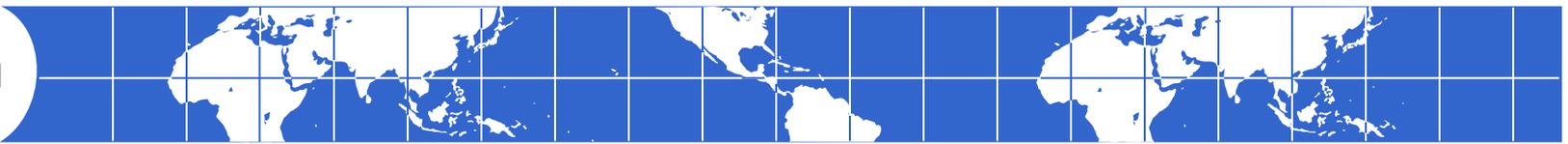
The terms ‘overfishing’, ‘overfished’, ‘over-exploited’ refer to a rate of fishing that is not optimal, but they are not synonymous with the term ‘unsustainable.’ Effective management systems will include adequate responsive action to end overfishing and avoid irreversible harm.



Major Findings

Sustainability is the result of a process of a well-designed and implemented fishery management system.

- The performance of management systems is more meaningful than the status of any single stock.
- *Fisheries sustainability is best defined by management systems, not snapshots of stock status or fishing level at any given point in time or of one fishery in isolation, but rather by the capacity of the system to respond to changes in stock levels or impacts via management measures in all fisheries under the system's jurisdiction (2012).*
- Fishery products from well-managed systems (e.g., many US marine fisheries) should be considered to be sustainably harvested.



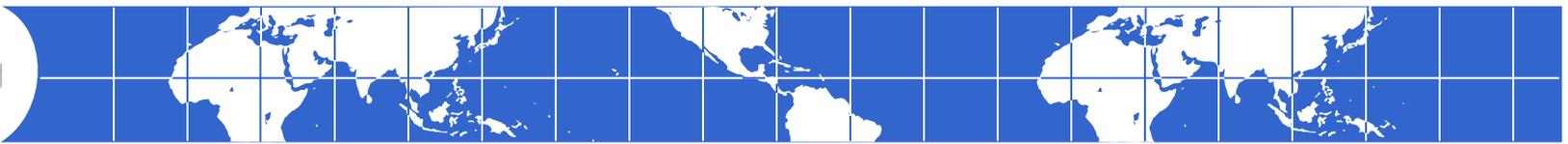
US GSMFC Framework Assessment

Underlying assumption: If a fishery is managed under the Magnuson Stevens Act and similar State management frameworks it is sustainable.

NOAA has often stated that “fisheries managed under the MSA are sustainable,” but has not provided a program to document its sustainability and distinguish US managed seafood products in the marketplace.

Ocean Trust with support from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is conducting a benchmark assessment of federal, regional, and Gulf States management systems’ conformance to FAO’s *Ecolabelling Guidelines for Marine Capture Fisheries*.

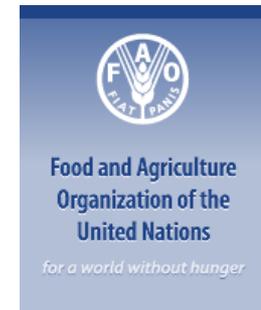




US GSMFC Framework Assessment

Benchmark:

The 2010 FAO *“Draft Evaluation Framework to Assess the Conformity of Public and Private Ecolabelling Schemes with the FAO Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries”*



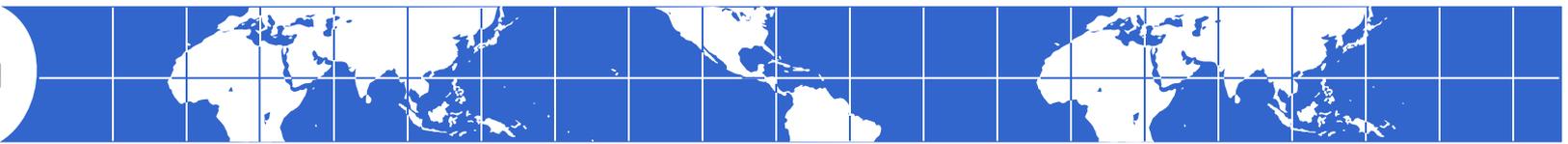
Objective:

Evaluate the management and stock assessment process, identify gaps between federal/state systems and FAO criteria, and develop recommendations for consideration by NOAA/State managers.



Partners

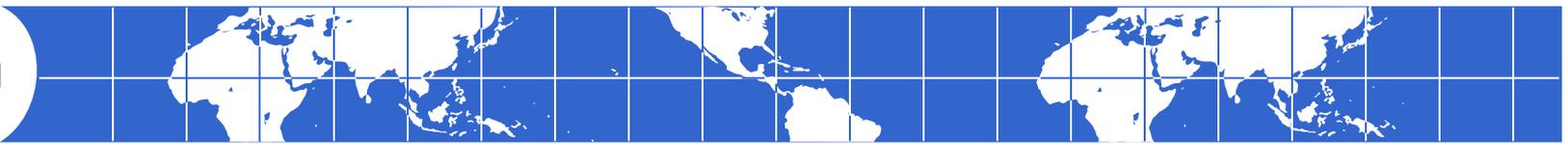
Gulf States/GSMFC, NOAA Office of Domestic Fisheries



FAO CRITERIA: 25 CATEGORIES

Management Systems, Stocks, Ecosystem Impacts

Compliance: local, national, and international laws; Documented management approaches; Precautionary approach; Ecosystem effects of fishing; Types and scales of fisheries; Best scientific evidence/adequate data; Traditional, fisher or community knowledge; Total fishing mortality; Maximum sustainable yield; Specify limits or directions in key performance indicators; Actions taken if limits approached or exceeded; Timeliness reasonable time frames; Goal of long-term sustainability; Framework at the local, national or regional level; Effective mechanisms for monitoring/enforcement; Less elaborate stock assessment should not preclude fisheries; Stock is not overfished; Optimal utilization; Restoration and recovery; Stock structure/composition contributing to its resilience; Generic evidence based on similar stocks/situations; Non-target catch and discards; Ecosystem-based management; Knowledge of the essential habitats; Past record of good management



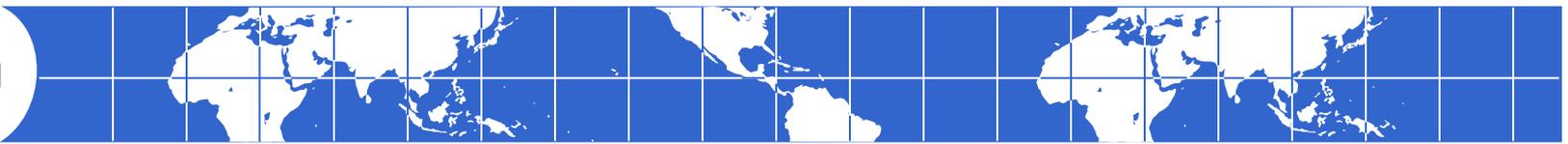
FAO Evaluation Guideline

★ **Internal evidence** (i.e., the management system says it does something; e.g., statutes or regulations require that fisheries are not overfished)

★★ **Outcome evidence** (i.e., the system demonstrably does what it says it does; e.g. actions taken & assessments indicate that fisheries not overfished)

★★★ **Independent evidence** (i.e., an independent expert has determined that the management system does what it says it does; MSC, GAA, GT, CIE, etc.)

Black stars (★) indicate strong evidence for all fisheries under jurisdiction of the management system, while white stars (☆) indicate conformance with variable evidence among fisheries (i.e., strong evidence for some but not for others).



Structure of Evaluation

SUBJECT (bold, small caps)

FAO Guideline (heading bold/guideline **text red**): as per the *FAO Guidelines*

FAO Conformance Comments/Indicator (italics): as per the *FAO Draft Evaluation Framework*

Conformance Assessment (bold, italics):

1. ***Applicable Statues***: as per MSA, MMPA, or ESA

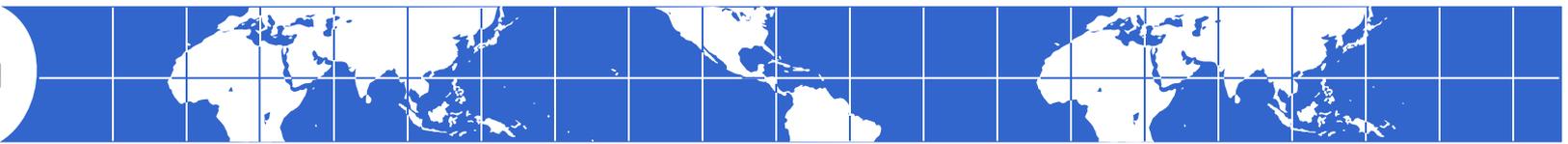
2. ***Regulations/Guidelines***: as per NOAA Fisheries' *National Standards Guidelines*

3. ***Discussion***

- Evidence (Internal, Outcome, Independent)
- Highlighted examples from major stocks

4. ***Conclusions (Gaps)***: includes conformance rubric

5. ***Recommendations***

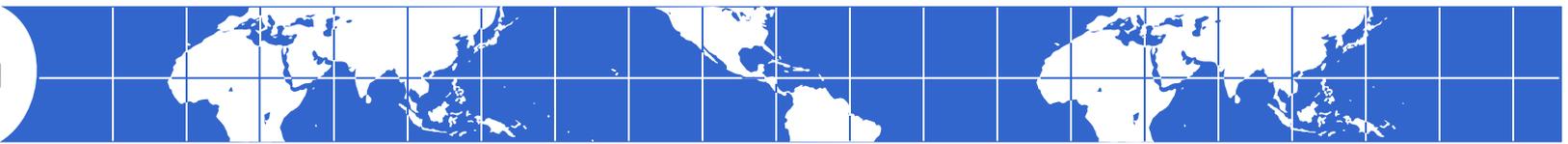


Compliance with Applicable Laws

28. Requirement: The fishery is conducted under a management system which is based upon good practice and that ensures the satisfaction of the requirements and criteria described in Paragraph 29. The management system and the fishery operate in **compliance with the requirements of local, national and international law and regulations**, including the requirements of any regional fisheries management organization that manages the fisheries on the “stock under consideration”.

Conformance Comments: The standard should include consideration of the management system (see also above – paragraph 27).

Conformance Indicator: The standard for the management system is based on current international norms with respect to good practice and satisfies benchmarking requirements established under Guideline Paragraphs 29/31.



Compliance with Applicable Laws

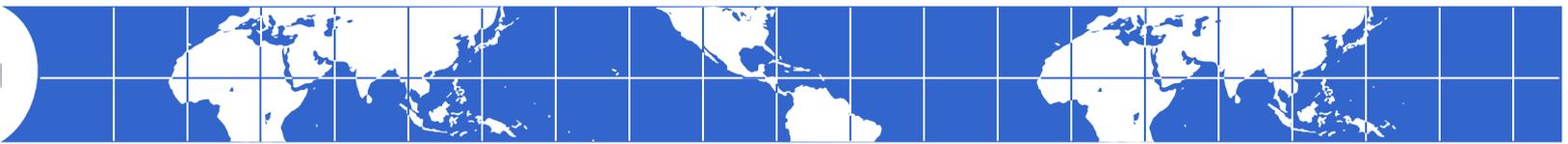
Conformance Assessment: Applicable Statute(s)

MSA: TITLE III—NATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SEC. 301. NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any fishery management plan prepared, and any regulation promulgated to implement any such plan, pursuant to this title shall be consistent with the following national standards for fishery conservation and management:

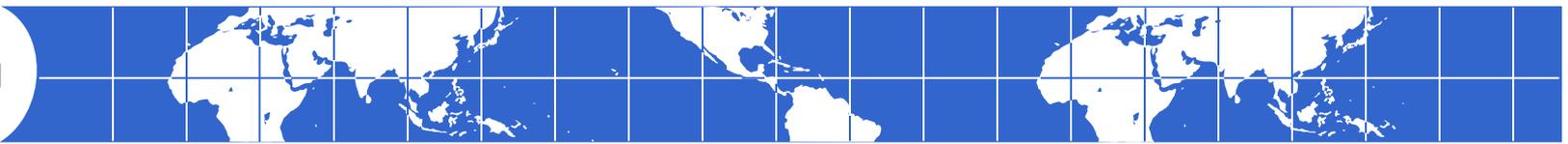
(1) Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield (OY) from each fishery for the United States fishing industry.



Compliance with Applicable Laws

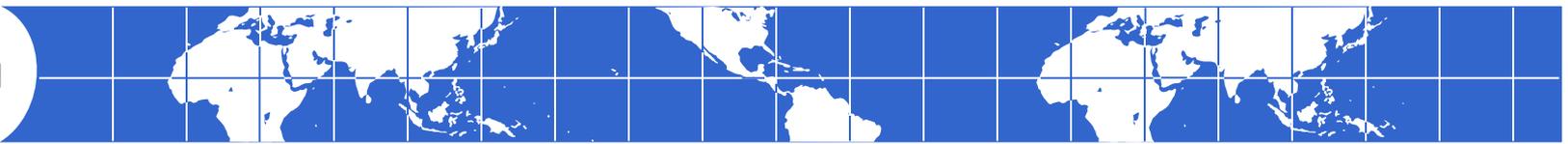
3. *Discussion/Evidence: Internal, Outcome, Independent*
4. *Conclusions: Compliance/Gaps*
5. *Recommendations: Voluntary consideration in FMP development process or stock assessment reviews or legislative/regulatory changes*

Conformance	Footnote #	Topic Description	Reference Guideline #
☆	2	Documented management approaches	
☆☆	3	Precautionary approach	



Systems Assessment

- Many states, commissions and councils already follow procedures to ensure the sustainability of fisheries.
- Current certification programs conduct stock assessment reviews and management evaluations on fisheries that have already been approved under the MSA process. This creates an additional expense and duplication of effort.
- Our approach seeks to integrate FAO sustainability criteria into existing fishery management and stock assessment process, and presents a fishery management system assessment rather than a fishery-by-fishery assessments to ensure the sustainability of fisheries.



FAO Uses

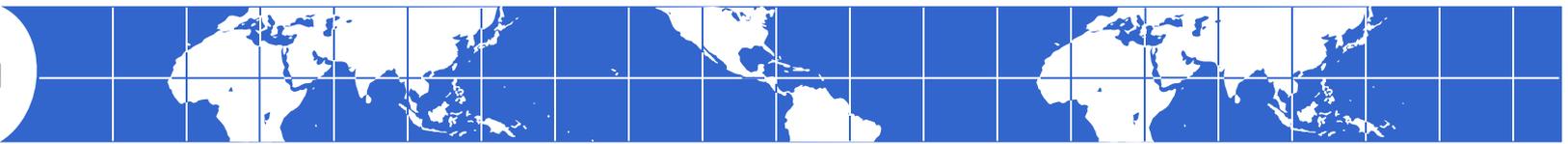
The Evaluation Framework will provide an assessment in relation to the biological sustainability component of the scheme.

The Guidelines provide a mechanism/opportunity to voluntarily affix a label on the packaging, or a list (e.g. a menu) containing the fishery product demonstrating that the product was sourced from a fishery that conforms to an environmental sustainability standard.

Evaluation Framework may be used to assess conformity with FAO Guidelines through a variety of means:

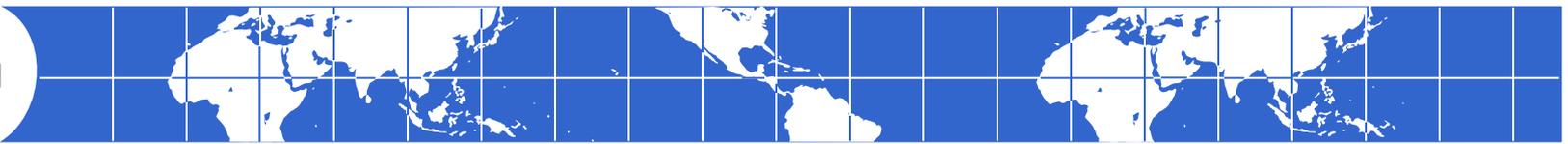
1. as a self-assessment tool by the ecolabelling scheme holder; or
2. assessing the conformity of ecolabelling schemes with the Guidelines.

By governments, consumers, retailers, processors and harvesters that are seeking to make their own assessments against the agreed criteria.



Potential Outcomes

- Self-assessment tool by management agencies
- Management system assessment versus fishery by fishery assessments
- Synchronize regional efforts and normalize variability in management
- Integrate FAO sustainability standards into existing management systems
- Process to reduce duplication and cost of sustainability assessments
- Provides a basis for ecolabel or market recognition (e.g., once a management system has been deemed compliant under the *FAO Ecolabelling Guidelines*, fisheries operating under such systems may be eligible for a sustainable fisheries ecolabel and/or other recognition in the marketplace with third party certification.

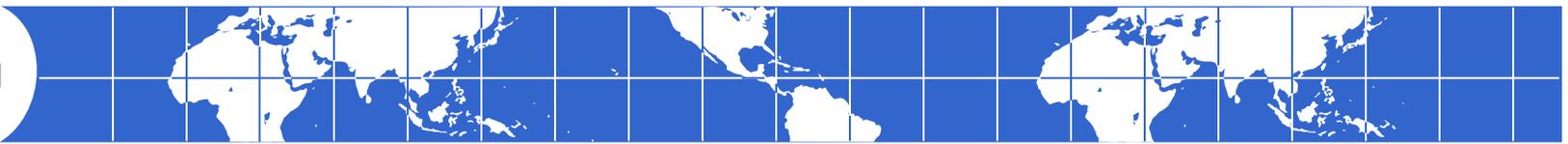


Timelines Presentations

- FAO Peer Review – March 2013
- LDWF Framework Assessment Review – June 2013
- SE Region, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida – 2013

2013/14 Presentations:

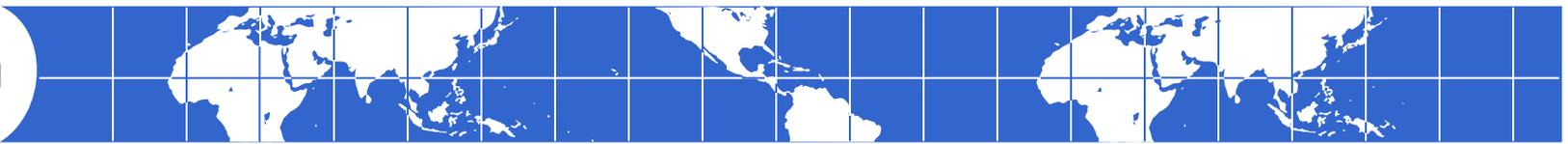
- American Fisheries Society - 2013
- GSMFC Workshop - 2013
- Gulf of Mexico Science & Sustainability Forum - 2014
- FAO Subcommittee on Trade - 2014



Fishery Management Council Actions on Sustainability

Recent actions passed by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils illustrate the need for a mechanism to recognize the sustainable fisheries management under the MSA:

“The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council recommends to the organizers of the Managing our Nations Fisheries 3 that an important amendment to the MSA would authorize the National Marine Fisheries Service to provide the U.S. industry with a Sustainability Certification Program and Certification Mark, which would provide the industry with the ability to promote and sell its seafood products, in both domestic and export markets, as sustainable based upon the requirements of the Act.”



Conclusions

1. NOAA Fisheries and Gulf of Mexico fisheries management systems evaluated to date (LDWF) are largely in conformance with the FAO's guidelines for seafood product ecolabelling based on three types of evidence to assess conformance.
2. We view this exercise as a very significant initial step for improving fishery management systems and providing a process to systematically document the sustainability of US and State managed fisheries.

Ocean Trust

Your link to
Sustainable Fisheries Wildlife
& the Environment

Excellence in Conservation

- ✓ DOI Cooperative Conservation Award, 2006
- ✓ NOAA Environmental Hero Award, 2004
- ✓ *SeaFood Business* Person of the Year, 2000

Solutions for Sustainability

- ✓ Wildlife & Habitat Restoration
- ✓ Marine Resource Enhancement
- ✓ Seafood Sustainability Assessments
- ✓ Corporate Conservation Partnerships
- ✓ Eco-labeling & Environmental Marketing

www.oceantrust.org

Visit us to see how we helped
Ocean Garden & Mexican shrimpers
advance sustainability
in the Sea of Cortez

Ocean Trust

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Ocean Trust received the
Department of Interior's Cooperative
Conservation Award for the Bahía
Grande Restoration Project on May 4.

Pictured above left to right: Assistant Secretary for
Fish and Wildlife and Parks Mark Hogan; Fish and
Wildlife Service Director Dale Hall; Acting Interior
Secretary Lynn Scarlett; Ocean Trust
President Thor Lassen; USFWS
South Texas Refuge Leader
Kurt H. Wentz.



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Save the Oceans that Feed the World

www.oceantrust.org

SUSTAINABLE OCEANS

Thank You!

Ocean Trust

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Thor Lassen, President