



# NOAA FISHERIES

Sustainable Fisheries

## 2013 Quarter 4 Update through December 31, 2013

2013 Quarter 4 Score = 631.5 (October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013)

### Overview

The Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI) is a performance measure for the sustainability of 227<sup>1</sup> U.S. fish stocks<sup>2</sup> selected for their importance to commercial and recreational fisheries. The FSSI will increase as stock status becomes known, overfishing is ended, and stocks increase 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 ( $B_{MSY}$ ) <sup>3</sup> (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 227<sup>1</sup> individual stock scores. The maximum total FSSI score is 920, achieved if all 227<sup>1</sup> stocks were to each receive a score of 4.

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<sup>1</sup> The FSSI previously contained 230 stocks. Gulf of Mexico stone crab and little tunny are no longer managed under federal fishery management plans (FMPs), and Gulf of Mexico black grouper is now managed as a combined Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic stock under the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish and Snapper-Grouper FMPs. To provide continuity in the FSSI, the final point score for these 3 stocks remains in the index until FY 2015.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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 Changes for FSSI stocks from October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status	Previous FSSI Score	Current FSSI Score
Hogfish – Gulf of Mexico	GMFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Subject to Overfishing	0	0.5
Gulf of Alaska Deepwater Flatfish Complex	NPFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished B/Bmsy>80%	1.5	4
Rex sole - Pacific coast	PFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished B/Bmsy>80%	0	2.5
Brown rockfish - Pacific coast	PFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished B/Bmsy>80%	0	2.5
Pacific sanddab - Pacific coast	PFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished B/Bmsy>80%	0	2.5
Rougheye rockfish - Pacific coast	PFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished B/Bmsy>80%	0	2.5
Cowcod - Pacific coast	PFMC	Overfished	No longer Overfished – Rebuilding	2	3
Rosette skate - Southern New England / Mid-Atlantic	NEFMC	B/Bmsy>80%	B/Bmsy<80%	4	3
<b>Total FSSI Score</b>				<b>618.5</b>	<b>631.5</b>

## FSSI Stocks through December 31, 2013

### Overview of overfishing status

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

### Overview of overfished status

- 181 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
  - 145 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (4 of these stocks are approaching an overfished condition).
  - 36 stocks or stock complexes are overfished.
  - 46 stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

### Summary of Changes for non-FSSI stocks from October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status
Blueline tilefish – Southern Atlantic Coast	SAFMC	Overfishing – Unknown Overfished – Unknown	Subject to Overfishing Overfished
Gulf of Mexico Jacks Complex	GMFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Subject to Overfishing
Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands Octopus Complex	NPFMC	Subject to Overfishing	No Longer Subject to Overfishing
Aurora rockfish - Pacific Coast	PFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished
China rockfish - Pacific Coast	PFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished
Copper rockfish - Pacific Coast	PFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished
Sharpchin rockfish - Pacific Coast	PFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished
Stripetail rockfish - Pacific Coast	PFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished

## Non-FSSI Stocks through December 31, 2013

### Overview of overfishing status

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

### Overview of overfished status

- 49 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
- 45 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (1 of these stocks is approaching an overfished condition).
- 4 stocks are overfished.
- 202 stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

### Southeast Region

- The following stock complexes in the Caribbean are now broken out into 3 island level complexes (were previously listed Caribbean-wide and are now listed as Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas/St. John): Angelfishes Complex, Boxfishes Complex, Goatfishes Complex, Grunts Complex, Jacks Complex, Porgies Complex, Squirrelfishes Complex, Surgeonfishes Complex, Triggerfishes and Filefishes Complex, and Wrasses Complex.

### Pacific Islands Region

- Westpac Bed Refugium- Precious Corals Complex is now listed under the Hawaii Archipelago Ecosystem Fishery Ecosystem Plan.
- The Western Pacific Squid Complex in the Pacific Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region Ecosystem was inadvertently listed as an ecosystem complex and is now listed as a non-FSSI stock.

### Alaska Region

- Pacific cod – Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands is now split into 2 stocks. The Bering Sea stock is assessed and continues to have a known status (FSSI stock), while the Aleutian Islands stock is unknown (non-FSSI).

FSSI stock status updates are posted quarterly at:

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