



NOAA FISHERIES

Sustainable Fisheries

2013 Quarter 3 Update through September 30, 2013

2013 Quarter 3 Score = 618.5 (July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013)

Overview

The Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI) is a performance measure for the sustainability of 227¹ U.S. fish stocks² 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}) ³ (<i>this point is in addition to the point awarded for being above the “overfished” level</i>)	1.0

The maximum score each stock may receive is 4. The value of the FSSI is the sum of all 227¹ individual stock scores. The maximum total FSSI score is 920, achieved if all 227¹ stocks were to each receive a score of 4.

Summary of Changes for FSSI stocks from July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status	Previous FSSI Score	Current FSSI Score
Thorny skate - Gulf of Maine	NEFMC	Not Subject to Overfishing	Subject to Overfishing	2	1
Winter skate - Georges Bank / Southern New England	NEFMC	Not Subject to Overfishing	Subject to Overfishing	4	3
Haddock - Gulf of Maine	NEFMC	Stock is approaching an overfished condition since 2012, but score did not reflect this change so has now been corrected		3	2

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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 July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013, cont.

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status	Previous FSSI Score	Current FSSI Score
Red grouper - Southern Atlantic Coast	SAFMC	Subject to Overfishing Overfished	Not Subject to Overfishing Not Overfished – Rebuilding	1	3
Black sea bass - Southern Atlantic Coast	SAFMC	Subject to Overfishing Not Overfished – Rebuilding	Not Subject to Overfishing Rebuilt	2	4
Gag - Gulf of Mexico	GMFMC	Subject to Overfishing	Not Subject to Overfishing	1	2
Gray triggerfish - Gulf of Mexico	GMFMC	Subject to Overfishing	Not Subject to Overfishing	1	2
Greater amberjack - Gulf of Mexico	GMFMC	Subject to Overfishing	Not Subject to Overfishing	1	2
Striped marlin - Central Western Pacific	WPFMC	Overfishing – Unknown Overfished – Unknown	Subject to Overfishing Overfished	0	1
Total FSSI Score				613.5	618.5

FSSI Stocks through September 30, 2013

Overview of overfishing status

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

Overview of overfished status

- 176 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
 - 139 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (4 of these stocks are approaching an overfished condition).
 - 37 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 Changes for non-FSSI stocks from July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status
Cobia – Southern Atlantic Coast	SAFMC/ GMFMC	Overfishing – Unknown Overfished – Unknown	Not Subject to Overfishing Not Overfished

Non-FSSI Stocks through September 30, 2013

Overview of overfishing status

- 88 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:
 - 86 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).
- 134 stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfishing status.

Overview of overfished status

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

Changes to number of managed stocks

- Cobia – Southern Atlantic Coast – Now assessed as 2 stocks (previously assessed as a single Gulf of Mexico stock)

FSSI stock status updates are posted quarterly at:
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/SOSmain.htm#07>