



# NOAA FISHERIES

## Sustainable Fisheries

### 2014 Quarter 3 Update through September 30, 2014

**2014 Quarter 3 Score = 640.5** (July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014)

#### 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> ( <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 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 July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014

Stock	Jurisdiction	Previous Status	Current Status	Previous FSSI Score	Current FSSI Score
Haddock – Gulf of Maine	NEFMC	Subject to overfishing Approaching an overfished condition/ $B/B_{MSY} < 80\%$	Not subject to overfishing $B/B_{MSY} > 80\%$	2	4
Gag – Gulf of Mexico	GMFMC	Overfished	Not Overfished Rebuilt	2	4
Gag – South Atlantic	SAFMC	Subject to overfishing Approaching an overfished condition	Not subject to overfishing No longer approaching an overfished condition	3	4
Rosette skate - Southern New England / Mid-Atlantic	NEFMC	$B/B_{MSY} < 80\%$	$B/B_{MSY} > 80\%$	3	4
Bonnethead – Atlantic	HMS	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished	Overfishing – Unknown Overfished – Unknown	4	0
Greater Amberjack – Gulf of Mexico	GMFMC	Not subject to overfishing	Subject to overfishing	2	1
Gray Triggerfish – Gulf of Mexico	GMFMC	Not subject to overfishing	Subject to overfishing	2	1
<b>Total FSSI Score</b>				<b>640.5</b>	<b>640.5</b>

## FSSI Stocks through September 30, 2014

### Overview of overfishing status

195 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:

- 172 stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing.
- 23 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 are unknown or are not applicable with respect to their overfishing status.

### Overview of overfished status

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

- 148 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (2 of these stocks are approaching an overfished condition).
- 34 stocks or stock complexes are overfished.

45 stocks or stock complexes are unknown or are not applicable with respect to their overfished status.

### Summary of Changes for non-FSSI stocks from July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status
Atlantic sharpnose shark	HMS	One stock – not subject to overfishing/not overfished	Stock split – both stocks not subject to overfishing/not overfished (other stock is FSSI stock)
Atlantic bonnethead	HMS	One stock – not subject to overfishing/not overfished	Stock split – both stocks are now unknown overfishing and unknown overfished (other stock is FSSI stock)
Gulf of Mexico Jacks Complex	CFMC	Subject to overfishing	Not subject to overfishing
Puerto Rico Scups and Porgies Complex	CFMC	Not subject to overfishing	Subject to overfishing
Puerto Rico Wrasses Complex	CFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Subject to overfishing
Gulf of Mexico cubera snapper	CFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Gulf of Mexico gray snapper	CFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Gulf of Mexico lane snapper	CFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Grouper Complex	CFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Gulf of Mexico Mid-water Snapper Complex	CFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Gulf of Mexico Tilefishes Complex	CFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Puerto Rico Angelfishes Complex	CFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Puerto Rico Squirrelfishes Complex	CFMC	Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing

## Non-FSSI Stocks through September 30, 2014

### Overview of overfishing status

122 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:

- 118 stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing
- 4 stocks have a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., is subject to overfishing).

131 stocks or stock complexes are unknown or are not applicable with respect to their overfishing status.

### Overview of overfished status

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

- 47 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 are unknown or are not applicable with respect to their overfished status.

### Southeast Region

- Blue runner – Southern Atlantic Coast has been removed from the Snapper-Grouper fishery management plan and is no longer under federal management.

FSSI stock status updates are posted quarterly at:

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