A MESSAGE FROM THE NOAA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR FISHERIES

Welcome to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's report on the status of the U.S. fisheries for 2005

I am pleased to present the 2005 report on the status of U.S. marine fish stocks. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recognizes the importance of ensuring sustainable management of marine fisheries and protecting lives and livelihoods of fishermen. Ending overfishing and rebuilding stocks to the level that provides maximum sustainable yield is a high priority for NMFS and the eight regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils). Together, we have been working to implement the goal envisioned by Congress in the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) of 1996.

This report updates the status of stocks previously assessed, and includes status determinations for stocks assessed for the first time in 2005. Fishery stock assessments are the foundation of sustainable fisheries management, providing needed information to determine if the number of fish taken from a fishery is too high (overfishing) or if the biomass of a stock is too low (overfished).

NMFS continues to increase the number of assessed stocks. In 2005, NMFS scientists assessed 197 stocks and complexes. This number includes 17 stocks or complexes previously listed as unknown or undefined and which now either are not subject to overfishing and/or are not overfished. Of those 17, 9 assessments were for stocks never previously assessed. Three additional complexes, previously listed as 19 individual stocks of unknown status, were assessed and found to be subject to overfishing and/or overfished.

In 2005, we have determinations of both overfishing and overfished status for 194 stocks and complexes; an additional 57 have either an overfishing or overfished determination. Overall, 81% of the stocks and stock complexes with known status are not subject to overfishing, and 74% of the stocks and stock complexes with known status are not overfished.

Six stocks are no longer subject to overfishing – American plaice, witch flounder, golden tilefish, shortspine thornyhead, black rockfish (North), and lingcod. Four stocks – Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, Georges Bank winter flounder, Central Western Pacific yellowfin tuna, and Caribbean Grouper Unit 1 – are now subject to overfishing. Appropriate management measures will be implemented to lower the fishing mortality rate for these stocks.

One stock, *lingcod*, has rebuilt to 100 percent of the biomass that results in maximum sustainable yield, or B_{MSY} , 3 years ahead of projections. Six rebuilding stocks have increased in abundance and are no longer overfished - *barndoor skate*, *bluefish*, *golden tilefish*, *widow rockfish*, *Bering Sea snow crab*, and *Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab*. Rebuilding measures for these stocks will continue until the stock has fully rebuilt to the B_{MSY} level.

Three previously assessed stocks were determined to be overfished – *Georges Bank yellowtail flounder*, *scup*, and *Pacific ocean perch*. Since this is the first time the *yellowtail flounder* stock has been declared overfished, NMFS notified the New England Council that it is overfished and the Council will be submitting a rebuilding plan for this stock. *Scup* and *Pacific ocean perch* had been declared overfished previously and rebuilding measures are in place.

A total of 81 stocks are being sustainably managed at or above 80 percent of B_{MSY} . This number includes 15 stocks added in 2005 - *witch flounder*, *Western/Central Gulf of Alaska walleye pollock*, *lingcod, shortspine thornyhead, longspine thornyhead, sablefish, Dover sole, English sole*, *starry flounder, blackgill rockfish, gopher rockfish*, *California scorpionfish, kelp greenling, Gulf of Alaska rex sole, and Gulf of Alaska rougheye rockfish*.

The great majority of our assessed fish stocks are neither overfished nor subject to overfishing. The dedicated and hard working staffs of NMFS and the Councils continue to meet the challenge of rebuilding all stocks and maintaining them at highly productive levels. We also are committed to increasing the number of stocks that are assessed. New information about a stock sometimes dramatically alters our view of its potential yield and current status. We appreciate the support of Congress as we face these challenges and continue improvement in the status of U.S. fisheries.

William T. Hogarth

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.

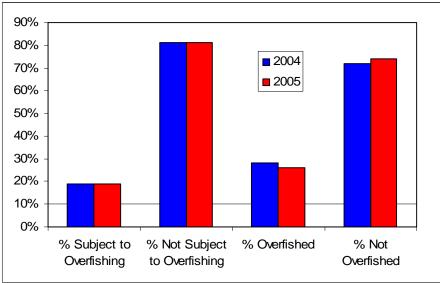
Executive Summary

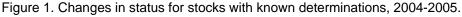
The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires that NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report annually to Congress and the Councils on the status of fisheries (Sec. 304(e)(1)). This report fulfills that requirement.

The information in this report was generated by the NMFS' regional offices and science centers, based on the most recent available stock assessments. Status determinations are generally made during a formal review of a scientific stock assessment using the best available scientific information and status determination criteria specified in a management plan.

Stocks discussed in this report are characterized under two broad categories: (1) subject to overfishing and (2) overfished. A stock that is subject to overfishing has a fishing mortality (harvest) rate above the level that provides for the maximum sustainable yield. A stock that is overfished has a biomass level below a biological threshold specified in its fishery management plan.

For 2005, NMFS reviewed 530 individual stocks and stock complexes and made determinations of both overfishing and overfished status for 194 stocks and complexes; an additional 57 have either an overfishing or overfished determination. Of those 251 determinations, 237 have known overfishing determinations: 192 (81%) are not subject to overfishing and 45 (19%) are subject to overfishing. Two-hundred and six stocks have known overfished determinations: 152 (74%) are not overfished and 54 (26%) are overfished. These numbers reflect no change in the overfishing percentages compared to 2004, where 81% were also not subject to overfished numbers compared to that year, where 72% were not overfished and 28% were overfished (See Figure 1.).





Introduction

his report describes the state of our nation's marine fisheries and the effectiveness of fisheries management under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Public Law 94-294 (MSA), as amended in 1996 by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA). The SFA emphasized the need to end overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, and establish management plans designed to ensure biologically and economically sustainable fisheries. A stock that is subject to overfishing has a fishing mortality (harvest) rate above the level that provides for the maximum sustainable yield. A stock that is overfished has a biomass level below its prescribed biological threshold.

Definitions

<u>Overfishing</u> – Harvest rate is above a prescribed fishing mortality threshold

<u>Overfished</u> - Stock size is below a prescribed biomass threshold

<u>Approaching Overfished Condition</u> - Based on trends in harvesting effort, fishery resource size, and other appropriate factors, it is estimated that the fishery will become overfished within 2 years

<u> B_{MSY} </u> – The weight (biomass) of a group of fish necessary to produce MSY on a continuing basis.

 $\underline{F_{MSY}}$ - The level of fishing mortality (harvest) that results in the maximum sustainable yield.

<u>MSY</u> - Maximum Sustainable Yield - The largest long-term average catch or yield that can be taken from a stock or stock complex under prevailing ecological and environmental conditions. We continue to make progress in our scientific knowledge of marine fisheries and in our ability to use that knowledge to manage for the sustained use of these resources. This report fulfills the Congressional requirement for an annual report on the status of fisheries within each Council's geographic area of authority and to identify fisheries that are overfished or approaching a condition of being overfished.

This report lists the managed marine fish stocks in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone¹, including stocks that straddle international boundaries and highly migratory stocks. In response to the Congressional requirement, the report categorizes stocks according to their individual status. The report answers four questions which help determine the effectiveness of management measures in meeting the provisions of the SFA:

- 1. What stocks are subject to overfishing?
- 2. What stocks are overfished?
- 3. What stocks are approaching an overfished condition?
- 4. How do this year's determinations compare to previous years?

¹ The U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone extends from 3 to 200 miles offshore and covers more than 2 million square miles.

Using the Best Available Data

To categorize marine fish stocks for this report, NMFS reviewed each stock relative to the status determination criteria (SDC) contained in the relevant fishery management plan (FMP)². Sometimes the SDC do not apply to an individual stock, but to a group of similar species harvested together or sharing a similar life history. These groups are referred to as stock complexes, units, or assemblages. Such groupings may be particularly useful when data are sparse or lacking because they provide a level of protection for all related stocks and allow data collection on them. In some cases, the status of a stock complex is determined using the SDC for one stock in the complex. In other cases, the SDC apply to the complex as a whole. This report includes the FMPs' stock complexes, rather than listing species individually.

Based on a review of the best scientific information available against the SDC for each stock or stock complex, NMFS determined the overfishing and overfished condition, including whether or not the stock is approaching an overfished condition. NMFS used many resources to make these determinations, including final, peer-reviewed documents such as Stock Assessment Review Committee reports and recommendations of each Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee. For species not included in a federal FMP (i.e., species managed by international agreement), the stock status determination was made in accordance with the relevant FMP or agreement.

More information on stock complexes and the methodology used to include them in this report can be found in Appendix 1 located on the NMFS website. Stock complexes are used in the Southeast, the Pacific Islands, and the Alaska Regions, as well as by the NMFS Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) division.

Changes to Determinations

This year's report is based on assessments completed as of December 31, 2005. Results from fishery stock assessments in progress on that date will be summarized in next year's report.

Changes in status determinations from 2004 to 2005 are summarized in Table 1. These changes are illustrated in Tables 11 and 12.

² In order to use the best available data, some Southeast stocks use SDC specified in the most recent scientific assessment, rather than those contained in the FMPs. Alaska SDC are generally specified in the annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report, rather than in the FMP itself.

Table 1. Changes in status, comparing 2005 to 2004 (number of stocks changing categories). The "Known to known" column shows the number of stocks that have a known determination in 2005 (left column), that had a different known determination in 2004. The "Unknown to known" column shows the numbers of stocks that have a known determination in 2005 (left column) that were unknown or undefined in 2004.

Status Category in 2005	Known to known	Unknown to known	Total
Overfishing	4 ^a	3 ^b	7
Not overfishing	6 ^c	10 ^d	16
Overfished	3 ^e	1 ^f	4
Not overfished	6 ^g	7 ^h	13

a. Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, Georges Bank winter flounder, Central Western Pacific yellowfin tuna, and Caribbean Grouper Unit 1 b. Caribbean Grouper Unit 4, Snapper Unit 1, and Parrotfishes.
c. American plaice, witch flounder, golden tilefish, shortspine thornyhead, black rockfish (North), and lingcod.

d. Little, winter, barndoor, thorny, clearnose, rosette, and smooth skates, and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) shortraker rockfish, longnose skate, and big skate.

e. Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, scup, and Pacific ocean perch.

f. Caribbean Grouper Unit 4.

g. Barndoor skate, bluefish, golden tilefish, widow rockfish, Bering Sea snow crab, and Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab. h. Starry flounder, blackgill rockfish, gopher rockfish, California scorpionfish, kelp greenling, and GOA rex sole and rougheye rockfish.

The status of all 530 stocks and stock complexes is summarized in Table 2.

Summary of Stock Status Determination Changes

Overview of stocks subject to overfishing

237 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. These stocks or stock complexes account for approximately 72 percent of the landings of our nation's fisheries. Of these:

- 192 (81%) stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing. 0
- 45 (19%) stocks or stock complexes have a fishing mortality rate that 0 exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., are subject to overfishing).

293 stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfishing status.

Changes in overfishing status

In the Northeast Region -

- American plaice is no longer subject to overfishing.
- Witch flounder is no longer subject to overfishing.
- *Golden tilefish* is no longer subject to overfishing.
- o *Little skate* is not subject to overfishing (status previously unknown).
- *Winter skate* is not subject to overfishing (status previously unknown).
- Barndoor skate is not subject to overfishing (status previously unknown).
- o *Thorny skate* is not subject to overfishing (status previously unknown).
- o Clearnose skate is not subject to overfishing (status previously unknown).
- *Rosette skate* is not subject to overfishing (status previously unknown).
- Smooth skate is not subject to overfishing (status previously unknown).
- Yellowtail flounder Georges Bank is subject to overfishing.
- Winter flounder Georges Bank is subject to overfishing.

In the Southeast Region –

- Caribbean Grouper Unit 1 is subject to overfishing. This unit, composed solely of Nassau grouper, was added to the Caribbean Reef Fish FMP as part of Amendment 3 to the FMP, approved by NMFS on September 15, 2005. Prior to that approval, the species in the unit was listed individually as not subject to overfishing, using a pre-SFA determination criterion.
- Caribbean Grouper Unit 4 is subject to overfishing. This unit, composed of red, misty, tiger, yellowedge, and yellowfin grouper was added to the Caribbean Reef Fish FMP as part of Amendment 3 to the FMP, approved by NMFS on September 15, 2005. Prior to that approval, the species in the unit were listed individually as unknown using pre-SFA determination criteria.
- Caribbean Snapper Unit 1 is subject to overfishing. This unit, composed of silk, black, vermilion, and blackfin snapper was added to the Caribbean Reef Fish FMP as part of Amendment 3 to the FMP, approved by NMFS on September 15, 2005. Prior to that approval, the species in the unit were listed individually as unknown using pre-SFA determination criteria.
- Caribbean Parrotfishes is subject to overfishing. This unit, composed of blue, midnight, princess, queen, rainbow, striped, redband, redtail, redfin, and stoplight parrotfishes, was added to the Caribbean Reef Fish FMP as part of Amendment 3 to the FMP, approved by NMFS on September 15, 2005. Prior to that approval, the species in the unit were listed individually as unknown using pre-SFA determination criteria.
- Caribbean spiny lobster is unknown post SFA (status previously not subject to overfishing using a pre-SFA criterion).
- South Atlantic *goliath grouper* is unknown, based on results of the 2004 stock assessment.
- Gulf of Mexico *goliath grouper* is unknown, based on results of the 2004 stock assessment.

In the Northwest Region –

- Shortspine thornyhead is no longer subject to overfishing.
- Black rockfish (North) is no longer subject to overfishing.
- Lingcod is no longer subject to overfishing.

In the Pacific Islands Region –

• Yellowfin tuna – Central Western Pacific – is subject to overfishing.

In the Alaska Region -

- *Gulf of Alaska shortraker rockfish* is not subject to overfishing (status previously undefined).
- Gulf of Alaska longnose skate is not subject to overfishing (status previously listed as part of the Other Skates Complex and is now listed as a single stock).
- Gulf of Alaska big skate is not subject to overfishing (status previously listed as part of the Other Skates Complex and is now listed as a single stock).

There are no changes to the other regions.

Overview of overfished stocks

206 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. These stocks or stock complexes account for approximately 75 percent of the landings of our nation's fisheries. Of these:

- o 152 (74%) stocks or stock complexes are not overfished.
 - 4 of these are approaching an overfished condition.
- o 54 (26%) stocks or stock complexes are overfished.

324 stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

Changes in overfished status

In the Northeast Region -

- o Barndoor skate is not overfished.
- o Bluefish is not overfished.
- Golden tilefish is not overfished.
- Yellowtail flounder Georges Bank is overfished.
- *Scup* is overfished.

In the Southeast Region –

- Caribbean Grouper Unit 4 is overfished. This unit was added to the Caribbean Reef Fish FMP as part of Amendment 3 to the FMP, approved by NMFS on September 15, 2005. Prior to that approval, this unit was listed as unknown using a pre-SFA determination criterion.
- SA/GM spiny lobster is unknown post SFA (status previously not overfished using pre SFA criteria)
- *Caribbean spiny lobster* is unknown post SFA (status previously not overfished using pre SFA criteria)

In the Northwest Region -

- Widow rockfish is not overfished.
- o *Starry flounder* is not overfished (status previously unknown).
- o Blackgill rockfish is not overfished (status previously unknown).
- o Gopher rockfish is not overfished (status previously unknown).
- o California scorpionfish is not overfished (status previously unknown).
- Kelp greenling is not overfished (status previously unknown).
- *Pacific ocean perch* is overfished.

In the Alaska Region -

- o Bering Sea Snow crab is not overfished.
- Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab is not overfished.
- o Gulf of Alaska rex sole is not overfished (status previously undefined).
- Gulf of Alaska rougheye rockfish is not overfished (status previously undefined).
- *Gulf of Alaska longnose skate* is undefined (status previously listed as part of the *Other Skates Complex* and is now listed as a separate stock).
- *Gulf of Alaska big skate* is undefined (status previously listed as part of the *Other Skates Complex* and is now listed as a separate stock).

There are no changes to the other regions.

Approaching an overfished condition

The basis for determining whether a stock is approaching an overfished condition is an examination of the current stock biomass and trends in fishing effort. Unless the status of the stock is known, a determination about whether the stock will become overfished within 2 years cannot be made with any certainty. Therefore, the definition for the biomass threshold in the FMP, along with trends in fishing effort, should be the determining criteria in evaluating whether a stock is approaching an overfished condition. In some cases, the pre-SFA definition has remained in the FMP and was used as the basis for the determinations. Also, for Pacific salmon stocks, the determining criteria are based on maximum sustainable yield/maximum spawner potential objectives for natural stocks or stock complexes.

In the Southeast Region –

- Caribbean Snapper Unit 1 is approaching an overfished condition.
- Caribbean Parrotfishes is approaching an overfished condition.
- In the Northwest Region -
 - *Klamath River fall (Klamath and Trinity Rivers) Chinook salmon* is approaching an overfished condition.

For the Atlantic HMS division -

• Yellowfin tuna – Atlantic is approaching an overfished condition.

There are no changes to the other regions.

The Fish Stock Sustainability Index

In previous *Status of U.S. Fisheries* reports, NMFS listed stocks or stock complexes deemed "major" and "minor" separately, based on the amount of recorded landings for that stock or stock complex. NMFS no longer uses this distinction; instead, NMFS identifies a group of stocks that are included in the Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI) and a second group containing the remaining stocks. The FSSI contains 230 stocks and stock complexes selected by the regions for their importance to commercial and recreational fisheries.³ Most of the FSSI stocks were listed as major in previous reports and represent all but 3 of the overfished stocks⁴.

³ Criteria for inclusion in the FSSI include: major stocks (landings greater than 200,000 pounds), stocks that are overfished or subject to overfishing, stocks that have assessments scheduled within the next 5 years, and stocks that have previously been identified as important. Some major stocks were specifically excluded from the FSSI for the following reasons: (1) they are managed under the Endangered Species Act; (2) they are managed on the basis of escapement rates, not biomass targets; (3) the overfishing and/or overfished status is unknown and not likely to become known in the next 5 years; (4) determinations were made using pre-SFA status determination criteria and are not likely to be reassessed in the next 5 years; (5) they are managed by state fisheries managers; or 6) no status determination criteria exist to assess the overfishing or overfished status nor will they likely exist in the next 5 years. Most minor stocks were thus not included in the FSSI because these species co-occur with other stocks but are not landed in large quantities and they are not important to the targeted fishery.

⁴ The 3 overfished stocks that are non-FSSI stocks include *Atlantic salmon*, South Atlantic *red drum*, and South Atlantic *Nassau grouper. Atlantic salmon* is listed under the ESA and a recovery plan is being developed. The fishery for South Atlantic *red drum* is primarily in state waters, and thus, management authority is scheduled to be transferred to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. For South Atlantic *Nassau grouper*, the determination using pre-SFA SDC is uncertain, data are insufficient to develop a rebuilding plan, and no fishery is allowed.

NMFS developed the FSSI in 2005 to track the outcome of rebuilding and maintaining stocks and stock complexes at productive levels, and to incorporate critical components of managing harvest rates and increasing knowledge about the status of stocks. The FSSI is calculated by assigning a "score" to each stock or complex. Each stock can earn a maximum score of 4 points. The FSSI score will increase as overfishing is ended and the stock rebuilds to the level that provides maximum sustainable yield. Additional information on the FSSI can be found in Appendix I on the NMFS website⁵.

Changes in biomass levels

The FSSI establishes a threshold of 80% of the biomass that supports the maximum sustainable yield. Stocks with biomass above that level are considered to be within the range of natural fluctuation around the B_{MSY} level, which is defined as a long-term average. Beginning this year, we are reporting those stocks whose biomass has been determined, in 2005, to be above the 80% threshold. We also report stocks whose biomass has declined below the 80% threshold but remains above the overfished threshold.

In the Northeast Region -

- The biomass of witch flounder is 84% of B_{MSY} .
- The biomass of *winter flounder Georges Bank* is 66% of B_{MSY} , but is above the overfished threshold (therefore is not overfished).

In the Northwest Region –

- o Lingcod is rebuilt and the biomass is 160% of B_{MSY} .
- o The biomass of *shortspine thornyhead* is 157% of B_{MSY} .
- The biomass of *sablefish* is 86% of B_{MSY} .
- The biomass of *Dover sole* is 158% of B_{MSY} .
- The biomass of *English sole* is 229% of B_{MSY} .
- The biomass of *longspine thornyhead* is 178% of B_{MSY}.
- The biomass of *starry flounder* is 124% of B_{MSY}.
- o The biomass of *blackgill rockfish* is 131% of B_{MSY} .
- The biomass of *gopher rockfish* is 242% of B_{MSY} .
- The biomass of *California scorpionfish* is 200% of B_{MSY} .
- The biomass of *kelp greenling* is 122% of B_{MSY} .

In the Alaska Region –

- $\circ~$ The biomass of Gulf of Alaska walleye pollock Western/Central is 99% of $B_{MSY}.$
- o The biomass of Gulf of Alaska rex sole is 272% of B_{MSY} .
- o The biomass of Gulf of Alaska rougheye rockfish is 136% of B_{MSY} .

There are no changes for the other regions.

⁵ http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/SOSmain.htm

Jurisdiction *	Stock Group	Number of Stocks			Overfish	ing		Overfished			Approaching Overfished Condition		
Inf	Sto	z	Yes	No	Not Known	Not Defined	N/A	Yes	No	Not Known	Not Defined	N/A	d O O
NEFMC	FSSI	34	9	20	3	2	0	14	19	1	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	35	9	21	3	2	0	15	19	1	0	0	0
MAFMC	FSSI	11	2	9	0	0	0	2	8	1	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	11	2	9	0	0	0	2	8	1	0	0	0
NEFMC/ MAFMC	FSSI	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
	NonFSSI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
SAFMC	FSSI	22	10	10	2	0	0	9	11	2	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	65	1	11	51	2	0	2	5	51	7	0	0
01/51/0	Total	87	11	21	53	2	0	11	16	53	7	0	0
GMFMC	FSSI	18	4	8	6	0	0	6	6	5	1	0	0
	NonFSSI	37	0	5	30	2	0	0	0	30	7	0	0
SAFMC/	Total FSSI	55 9	4	13 9	36 0	2	0	6	6 8	35 1	8	0	0
GMFMC		-	-		1		0			1			
	NonFSSI	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
CFMC	Total	11	0	9	1	1	0	0	8	2	1	0	0
CFINIC	FSSI NonFSSI	8 14	4	1 0	3 13	0	0	4 0	0	13	0	0	1
	Total	22	5	1	16	0	0	4	0	16	0	0	2
PFMC	FSSI	48	0	28	10	1	0	6	26	13	3	0	0
	NonFSSI	119	0	15	51	0	53	0	13	52	0	53	1
	Total	167	0	43	70	1	53	6	39	65	3	53	1
WPFMC	FSSI	16	2	4	10	0	0	1	6	9	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	19	0	3	15	2	0	0	1	17	2	0	0
	Total	35	2	7	25	2	0	1	7	26	2	0	0
PFMC/ WPFMC	FSSI	6	1	2	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
	Total	10	1	2	7	0	0	0	3	7	0	0	0
NPFMC	FSSI	35	0	32	3	0	0	2	26	0	7	0	0
	NonFSSI	34	0	25	8	1	0	0	6	0	28	0	0
	Total	69	0	57	11	1	0	2	32	0	35	0	0
PFMC/ NPFMC	FSSI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NonFSSI	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Total	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
HMS	FSSI	20	9	7	3	1	0	7	8	3	1	0	1
	NonFSSI	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
	Total	23	9	7	6	1	0	7	8	6	1	0	1
TOTAL	FSSI	230	43	131	52	4	0	51	123	41	13	0	2
	NonFSSI	300	2	61	176	8	53	3	25	171	46	53	2
	Total	530	45	192	228	12	53	54	148	212 ement Counc	59	53	4

Table 2. Description of FSSI and nonFSSI Stocks by Council, 2005.

* NEFMC = New England Fishery Management Council; MAFMC = Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; SAFMC = South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; GMFMC = Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; CFMC = Caribbean Fishery Management Council; PFMC = Pacific Fishery Management Council; WPFMC = Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; NPFMC = North Pacific Fishery Management Council; HMS = Atlantic Highly Migratory Species.

Status Determinations by Region

Northeast Region

Thirteen FMPs⁶ containing 49 stocks or complexes are managed by NMFS and the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils: Atlantic Sea Scallop; Northeast Multispecies; Northeast Skate; Atlantic Herring; Red Crab; Monkfish; Spiny Dogfish; Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass; Atlantic Bluefish; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Tilefish; and Atlantic Salmon. Within these FMPs, 13 stocks are subject to overfishing, 17 stocks⁷ are overfished, and no stocks are approaching an overfished condition. See Table 3.

Table 3. Northeast Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

Council	FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
NEFMC	Atlantic salmon	Atlantic salmon	-	Y	-
	Atlantic Sea Scallop	Atlantic sea scallop	Y	-	-
	Northeast Multispecies	cod - Gulf of Maine	Y	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	cod - Georges Bank	Y	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	haddock - Gulf of Maine	-	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	haddock - Georges Bank	-	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	American plaice	-	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	yellowtail flounder –Georges Bank	Y	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	yellowtail flounder - Southern New England (SNE)/Mid-Atlantic	Y	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine	Y	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	white hake	Y	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	windowpane flounder – SNE/Mid- Atlantic	-	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	winter flounder – SNE/Mid- Atlantic	Υ	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	winter flounder – Georges Bank	Y	-	-
	Northeast Multispecies	ocean pout	-	Y	-
	Northeast Multispecies	Atlantic halibut	-	Y	-
	Northeast Skate	thorny skate	-	Y	-
NEFMC/ MAFMC	Monkfish	monkfish - North	Y	-	-
	Monkfish	monkfish – South	Y	-	-
MAFMC	Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass	summer flounder	Y	-	-
	Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass	scup	Y	Y	-
	Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish	butterfish	-	Y	-

⁶ A Hagfish FMP is under consideration for development; however there is no schedule for completion.

⁷ There is currently no definition in the Spiny Dogfish FMP to make a determination of biomass target. Based on the current NMFS recommended biomass threshold, however, the biomass estimates indicate this stock is overfished.

Southeast Region

Eighteen FMPs⁸ containing 175 stocks or complexes are managed by NMFS and the South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils: South Atlantic Golden Crab; South Atlantic Shrimp; South Atlantic Snapper Grouper; Atlantic Coast Red Drum; Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region; Pelagic Sargassum Habitat of the South Atlantic Region; Dolphin Wahoo; Coastal Migratory Pelagics of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic Spiny Lobster; Gulf of Mexico Stone Crab; Gulf of Mexico Shrimp; Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; Gulf of Mexico Red Drum; Coral and Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico; Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; Spiny Lobster Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; Oueen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; Auge Corals and Reef Associated Invertebrates of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Within these FMPs, 20 stocks are subject to overfishing, 21 stocks are overfished, and 2 stocks are approaching an overfished condition. See Table 4.

Council	FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
SAFMC	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	vermilion snapper	Y	-	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	red snapper	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	snowy grouper	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	red grouper	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	black sea bass	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	gag	Y	-	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	speckled hind	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	Warsaw grouper	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	tilefish	Y	-	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	black grouper	Y	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	goliath grouper	-	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	Nassau grouper	-	Y	-
	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper	red porgy	-	Y	-
	Atlantic Coast Red Drum	red drum	Y	Y	-
GMFMC	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	red snapper	Y	Y	-
	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	red grouper	Y	-	-

Table 4. Southeast Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

⁸ Last year's report listed a calico scallop FMP as under development; however, no plans exist to implement an FMP in the EEZ for this species.

Council	FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	vermilion snapper	Y	Y	-
	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	greater amberjack	Y	Y	-
	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	Nassau grouper	-	Y	-
	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	goliath grouper	-	Y	-
	Gulf of Mexico Red Drum	red drum	-	Y	-
CFMC	Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the USVI	Grouper Unit 1 (Nassau grouper)	Y	Y	-
	Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the USVI	Grouper Unit 2 (goliath grouper)	-	Y	-
	Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the USVI	Grouper Unit 4	Y	Y	-
	Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the USVI	Snapper Unit 1	Y	-	Y
	Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the USVI	Parrotfishes	Y	-	Y
	Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the USVI	queen conch	Y	Y	-

Southwest Region

Two FMPs containing 19 stocks or complexes⁹ are managed by NMFS and the Pacific Fishery Management Council: Coastal Pelagic Species and the new West Coast Highly Migratory Species. Within these FMPs, 1 stock is subject to overfishing, no stocks are overfished, and no stocks are approaching an overfished condition. See Table 5.

Table 5. Southwest Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
West Coast Highly Migratory Species	bigeye tuna - Pacific *	Y	-	-

^{*} This stock also appears in Table 7 as a stock subject to overfishing in the Pacific Islands Region' s *Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region FMP*. Each of the 10 stocks shared between these two FMPs is listed only once in the support tables as a single stock managed under both FMPs. The Southwest and the Pacific Islands Regions, along with the Pacific and Western Pacific Fishery Management Councils, are working together to end overfishing in this stock.

⁹ Total includes 10 pelagic species shared with the Pacific Islands Region.

Northwest Region

Two FMPs containing 158 stocks or complexes are managed by NMFS and the Pacific Fishery Management Council: West Coast Salmon and Pacific Coast Groundfish. In addition, Pacific halibut is managed jointly with the Alaska Region and the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Within these FMPs, no stocks are subject to overfishing, 6 stocks are overfished, and 1 stock is approaching an overfished condition. See Table 6.

Table 6. Northwest Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or	are
approaching an overfished condition.	

FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
Pacific Coast Groundfish	bocaccio	-	Y	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	canary rockfish	-	Y	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	darkblotched rockfish	-	Y	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	cowcod	-	Y	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	yelloweye rockfish	-	Y	-
Pacific Coast Groundfish	Pacific ocean perch	-	Y	-
West Coast Salmon	Klamath River fall (Klamath and Trinity Rivers) Chinook salmon	-	-	Y

Pacific Islands Region

Five FMPs containing 45 stocks or complexes¹⁰ are managed by NMFS and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council: Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region; Crustaceans Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region; Precious Coral Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region; Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region; and Coral Reef Ecosystems of the Western Pacific Region. Within these FMPs, 3 stock or stock complexes are subject to overfishing, 1 stock or stock complex is overfished, and no stock or stock complexes are approaching an overfished condition. See Table 7.

approaching an overnshed condition.						
FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?		
Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region	bigeye tuna - Pacific *	Y	-	-		
Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region	yellowfin tuna – central Western Pacific	Y	-	-		
Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region	Seamount Groundfish complex – Hancock Seamount**	-	Y	-		
Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region	Bottom Multispecies complex – Hawaiian archipelago	Y	-	-		

Table 7. Pacific Islands Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

^{*} This stock also appears in Table 5 as a stock subject to overfishing in the Southwest Region's *West Coast Highly Migratory Species FM*P. Each of the 10 stocks shared between these two FMPs is listed only once in the support tables as a single stock managed under both FMPs. The Southwest and the Pacific Islands Regions, along with the Pacific and Western Pacific Fishery Management Councils, are working together to end overfishing in this stock.

* Pelagic armorhead is assessed as the indicator species of a 3-species groundfish complex that includes raftfish and alfonsin.

¹⁰ Total includes 10 pelagic species shared with the Southwest region.

<u>Alaska Region</u>

Five FMPs containing 69 stocks or complexes are managed by NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council: GOA Groundfish; BSAI Groundfish; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab; Alaska Weathervane Scallops; and Alaska High Seas Salmon. In addition, Pacific halibut is managed jointly with the Northwest Region and the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Within these FMPs, no stocks or stock complexes are subject to overfishing, 2 stocks or stock complexes are overfished, and no stocks or stock complexes are approaching an overfished condition. See Table 8.

FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
BSAI King and Tanner Crab	blue king crab - Pribilof Islands	-	Y	-
BSAI King and Tanner Crab	blue king crab – Saint Matthew Island	-	Y	-

Table 8. Alaska Region stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

Two FMPs containing 23 stocks or complexes are managed by NMFS: Atlantic Billfish; and Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks. Within these FMPs, 9 stocks or stock complexes are subject to overfishing, 7 stocks or stock complexes are overfished, and one stock or stock complex is approaching an overfished condition. See Table 9.

FMP	Stock	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Approaching?
Atlantic Billfish	blue marlin - Atlantic	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Billfish	white marlin - Atlantic	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Billfish	sailfish - West Atlantic	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	bigeye tuna - Atlantic	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	albacore - North Atlantic	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	bluefin tuna - West Atlantic	Y	Y	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	yellowfin tuna - Atlantic	-	-	Y
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	sandbar shark*	Y	-	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	finetooth shark	Y	-	-
Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	Large coastal shark complex	Y	Y	-

Table 9. Atlantic Highly Migratory stocks that are subject to overfishing, are overfished, or are approaching an overfished condition.

* This stock is part of the Large Coastal Shark complex, but is assessed separately.

Table 11. Stocks or stock complexes with "subject to overfishing" determinations in 2004 and 2005. Stocks in **BOLD** were added to the list in 2005. Stocks in *ITALICS* under "2004" were removed from the list in 2005.

COUNCIL	2004	2005	COUNCIL	2004	2005
NEFMC	cod - Gulf of Maine cod - Georges Bank <i>AMERICAN PLAICE</i> WITCH FLOUNDER yellowtail flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine white hake winter flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic Atlantic sea scallop	cod - Gulf of Maine cod - Georges Bank yellowtail flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine white hake winter flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic Atlantic sea scallop YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER – GEORGES BANK WINTER FLOUNDER – GEORGES BANK	CFMC	Queen conch	Queen conch GROUPER UNIT 1 GROUPER UNIT 4 PARROTEISHES SNAPPER UNIT 1
NEFMC/MAFMC	monkfish - North monkfish – South	monkfish - North monkfish – South	PFMC	LINGCOD SHORTSPINE THORNYHEAD BLACK ROCKFISH - NORTH	None
MAFMC	scup GOLDEN TILEFISH summer flounder	scup summer flounder	WPFMC	bottomfish multi-species complex – Hawaiian archipelago	bottomfish multi-species complex – Hawaiian archipelago YELLOWFIN TUNA – CENTRAL WESTERN PACIFIC
SAFMC	vermilion snapper red snapper snowy grouper tilefish red grouper black sea bass gag speckled hind Warsaw grouper black grouper red drum	vermilion snapper red snapper snowy grouper tilefish red grouper black sea bass gag speckled hind Warsaw grouper black grouper red drum	PFMC/ WPFMC	bigeye tuna – Pacific	bigeye tuna – Pacific
SAFMC/GMFMC GMFMC	None red snapper vermilion snapper greater amberjack	None red snapper red grouper vermilion snapper greater amberjack	NPFMC HMS	None blue marlin - Atlantic white marlin - Atlantic sailfish - West Atlantic bigeye tuna - Atlantic albacore - North Atlantic bluefin tuna - West Atlantic sandbar shark finetooth shark large coastal shark complex ¹¹	None blue marlin - Atlantic white marlin - Atlantic sailfish - West Atlantic bigeye tuna - Atlantic albacore - North Atlantic bluefin tuna - West Atlantic sandbar shark finetooth shark large coastal shark complex

NEFMC = New England Fishery Management Council; MAFMC = Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; SAFMC = South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; GMFMC = Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; CFMC = Caribbean Fishery Management Council; PFMC = Pacific Fishery Management Council; WPFMC = Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; NPFMC = North Pacific Fishery Management Council; HMS = Atlantic Highly Migratory Species.

¹¹ From the assessment, the Large Coastal Shark complex includes: Spinner Shark, Silky Shark, Bull Shark, Tiger Shark, Lemon Shark, Nurse Shark, Scalloped Hammerhead Shark, Great Hammerhead Shark, Smooth Hammerhead Shark, Dusky Shark, Bignose Shark, Galapagos Shark, Night Shark, Caribbean Reef Shark, Narrowtooth Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Whale Shark, Basking Shark, and White Shark.

Table 12. Stocks or stock complexes with "overfished" determinations in 2004 and 2005. Stocks in BOLD were added to the list in 2005. Stocks in ITALICS under "2004" were removed from the list in 2005.

Council	2004	2005	Council	2004	2005
NEFMC	cod - Gulf of Maine cod - Georges Bank haddock - Gulf of Maine haddock - Georges Bank American plaice yellowtail flounder – SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine white hake windowpane Flounder – SNE/ Mid-Atlantic winter Flounder – SNE/ Mid-Atlantic ocean pout Atlantic halibut <i>BARNDOOR SKATE</i> thorny skate Atlantic salmon	cod - Gulf of Maine cod - Georges Bank haddock - Gulf of Maine haddock - Georges Bank American plaice yellowtail flounder – SNE/ Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER – GEORGES BANK white hake windowpane Flounder – SNE/ Mid-Atlantic winter Flounder – SNE/ Mid-Atlantic ocean pout Atlantic halibut thorny skate Atlantic salmon	CFMC	queen conch Nassau grouper goliath grouper	queen conch GROUPER UNIT 1* GROUPER UNIT 2* GROUPER UNIT 4
NEFMC/ MAFMC	None	None	PFMC	bocaccio canary rockfish darkblotched rockfish <i>WIDOW ROCKFISH</i> cowcod yelloweye rockfish	bocaccio canary rockfish darkblotched rockfish cowcod yelloweye rockfish PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH
MAFMC	BLUEFISH (EXCEPT GULF OF MEXICO) GOLDEN TILEFISH butterfish	butterfish scup	WPFMC	Seamount Groundfish complex - Hancock Seamounts**	Seamount Groundfish complex - Hancock Seamounts
SAFMC	red snapper snowy grouper red grouper black sea bass speckled hind Warsaw grouper black grouper red porgy goliath grouper Nassau grouper red drum	red snapper snowy grouper red grouper black sea bass speckled hind Warsaw grouper black grouper red porgy goliath grouper Nassau grouper red drum	PFMC/ WPFMC	None	None
SAFMC/ GMFMC	None	None	NPFMC	SNOW CRAB - BERING SEA blue king crab - Pribilof Islands blue king crab - Saint Matthew Island TANNER CRAB - EASTERN BERING SEA	blue king crab - Pribilof Islands blue king crab - Saint Matthew Island
GMFMC	red snapper greater amberjack vermilion snapper Nassau grouper goliath grouper red drum	red snapper greater amberjack vermilion snapper Nassau grouper goliath grouper red drum	HMS	blue marlin (Atlantic) white marlin (Atlantic) sailfish (West Atlantic) bigeye tuna (Atlantic) albacore (North Atlantic) bluefin tuna (West Atlantic) large coastal shark complex gement Council; SAFMC = Sout	blue marlin (Atlantic) white marlin (Atlantic) sailfish (West Atlantic) bigeye tuna (Atlantic) albacore (North Atlantic) bluefin tuna (West Atlantic) large coastal shark complex

NEFMC = New England Fishery Management Council; MAFMC = Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; SAFMC = South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; GMFMC = Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; CFMC = Caribbean Fishery Management Council; PFMC = Pacific Fishery Management Council; WPFMC = Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; NPFMC = North Pacific Fishery Management Council; HMS = Atlantic Highly Migratory

* In Table 11 of last year's report, this complex was erroneously termed "Pelagic Armorhead complex – Hancock Seamount".