



NOAA FISHERIES

Sustainable Fisheries

2023 Quarter 3 Update through September 30, 2023

2023 Quarter 3 Score = 780.5 (July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023)

Overview

The Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI) is a performance measure for the sustainability of 175 U.S. fish stocks¹ 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.

Overview of FSSI stocks through September 30, 2023 (175 stocks)

Overfishing Status	Number of Stocks	Overfished Status	Number of Stocks
Known Status	154	Known Status	155
Not Subject to Overfishing	140	Not Overfished	133
Subject to Overfishing	14	Overfished	22
Unknown Status	21	Unknown Status	20

Summary of Changes for FSSI stocks from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

Stock	Jurisdiction	Previous Status	Current Status
*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex	WPFMC	Subject to overfishing Overfished	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished B/B _{MSY} >100%
Flame Snapper and Ruby Snapper Complex			
Pacific chub mackerel - Pacific Coast	PFMC	B/B _{MSY} >80%	B/B _{MSY} <80%
Bluefish – Atlantic coast	MAFMC	Not subject to overfishing Overfished	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished - rebuilding
Summer flounder – Mid-Atlantic coast	MAFMC	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished	Subject to overfishing Not overfished

*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex was previously assessed as a single complex that contained 11 stocks. The 2023 stock assessments evaluated the 11 stocks separately as 7 stocks and 2 stock complexes (containing 2 stocks each). Flame Snapper and Ruby Snapper Complex is the new FSSI stock complex and the remaining 7 stocks and 1 stock complex are now non-FSSI stocks (see Summary of Changes for non-FSSI stocks below). Because it was determined that the 7 stocks and 2 stock complexes were not overfished in 2017 or any subsequent years, rebuilding

¹ 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.

plan requirements were dropped. Although stock size is above the B_{MSY} target for all stocks and stock complexes, they are not regarded as rebuilt because they were never overfished.

Overview of non-FSSI stocks through September 30, 2023 (317 non-FSSI stocks)

Overfishing Status	Number of Stocks	Overfished Status	Number of Stocks
Known Status	210	Known Status	102
Not Subject to Overfishing	200	Not Overfished	78
Subject to Overfishing	10	Overfished	24
Unknown Status	115	Unknown Status	223

Summary of Changes for Non-FSSI stocks from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

Stock	Jurisdiction	Previous Status	Current Status
*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex Black jack - American Samoa	WPFMC	Subject to overfishing Overfished	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished $B/B_{MSY} > 100\%$
*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex Common bluespinner snapper - American Samoa	WPFMC	Subject to overfishing Overfished	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished $B/B_{MSY} > 100\%$
*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex Golden Eye Jobfish and Crimson Jobfish Complex	WPFMC	Subject to overfishing Overfished	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished $B/B_{MSY} > 100\%$
*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex Green jobfish - American Samoa	WPFMC	Subject to overfishing Overfished	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished $B/B_{MSY} > 100\%$
*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex Oblique-banded snapper - American Samoa	WPFMC	Subject to overfishing Overfished	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished $B/B_{MSY} > 100\%$
*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex Rusty jobfish - American Samoa	WPFMC	Subject to overfishing Overfished	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished $B/B_{MSY} > 100\%$
*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex Spotcheek emperor - American Samoa	WPFMC	Subject to overfishing Overfished	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished $B/B_{MSY} > 100\%$

Stock	Jurisdiction	Previous Status	Current Status
*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex Yellow-edged lyretail - American Samoa	WPFMC	Subject to overfishing Overfished	Not subject to overfishing Not overfished $B/B_{MSY} > 100\%$

*American Samoa Bottomfish Complex was previously assessed as a single complex that contained 11 stocks. The 2023 stock assessments evaluated the 11 stocks separately as 7 stocks and 2 stock complexes (containing 2 stocks each). Flame Snapper Complex is the new FSSI stock complex and the remaining 7 stocks and 1 stock complex are now non-FSSI stocks (see Summary of Changes for FSSI stocks above). Because it was determined that the 7 stocks and 2 stock complexes were not overfished in 2017 or any subsequent years, rebuilding plan requirements were dropped. Although stock size is above the B_{MSY} target for all stocks and stock complexes, they are not regarded as rebuilt because they were never overfished.

FSSI stock status updates are posted quarterly at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/fisheries_eco/status_of_fisheries/