

History of U.S. Fisheries Management

Three main types of fisheries:

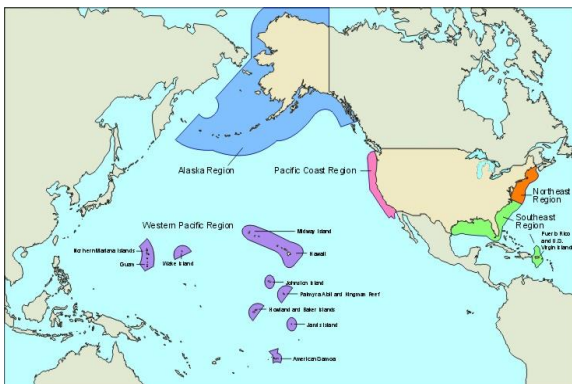
- 1) Recreational
 - Costs of research and management paid mostly by participants
- 2) Commercial
 - Costs paid mostly by taxpayer
- 3) Farming
 - Lease/own rights to water (e.g., shellfish)

History of U.S. Fisheries Management

Timeline

- 1970's (Big changes!)
 - International Law of the Sea renegotiated with more than 100 nations agreeing (1974)
 - Led to the establishment of 200 mile exclusive economic zones (EEZ) around each nation
 - Exclusive rights to harvest fishery and seabed resources off the coast
 - Government subsidies led to rapid expansion and overcapitalization

U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)



History of U.S. Fisheries Management

Timeline

- 1970's (Big changes!)
 - Passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (1976)
 - Created eight (8) regional fishery management councils responsible for U.S. marine fisheries
 - Act has been reauthorized twice
 - 1996 – Sustainable Fisheries Act
 - Created definitions of overfishing and required rebuilding timelines
 - Incorporated 'Essential Fish Habitat'
 - 2007 – mandated assessment of all U.S. stocks
 - Science and statistical committee now sets catch quotas

Regional Fishery Management Councils



Regional Fisheries Commissions

- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
 - Interstate fishery management plans (FMP's) for coastal fisheries in Atl. states (Maine to Florida (east coast))
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
 - Gulf states (Texas to Florida (west coast))
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
 - Pacific states (Alaska to California + Idaho)
- ❖ Early 1990's – compliance with commission FMP's became mandated



History of U.S. Fisheries Management

Timeline

- 1980's – mid 1990's (bad times)
 - Several high-profile fisheries collapse
 - Atlantic cod off Canada
 - New England groundfish (cod, haddock, flounder)
 - Atl. coast striped bass
 - Red drum in south Atl. and Gulf of Mexico
 - Rockfish on the west coast
 - ❖ Led to passage of the Sustainable Fisheries Act (1996)
 - Created definitions of overfishing and mandated that it was stopped and set rebuilding timelines

History of U.S. Fisheries Management

Timeline

- Late 1990's – present (the road to recovery)
 - Many U.S. fisheries are at acceptable levels of biomass and harvest rates have moderated
 - New England groundfish
 - Atl. coast striped bass
 - Red drum in south Atl. and Gulf of Mexico
 - Rockfish on the west coast
 - ❖ 2007 Magnuson reauthorization
 - Widespread application of precautionary approach
 - Mandated stock assessments for all U.S. fisheries

2012 status of U.S. fisheries (compiled by NMFS)

449 stocks currently managed

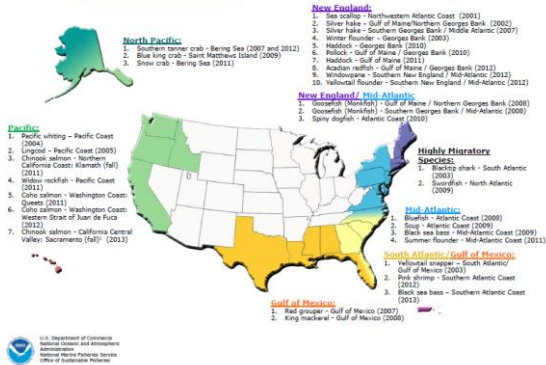
Overfishing (Harvest rate too high)

Known status	284
Not subject to overfishing	255 (90%)
Subject to overfishing	29 (10%)
Unknown status	165

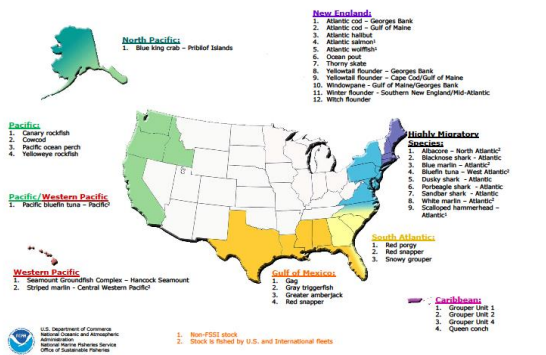
Overfished (Biomass < target)

Known status	219
Not overfished	178 (81%)
Overfished	41 (19%)
Unknown status	230

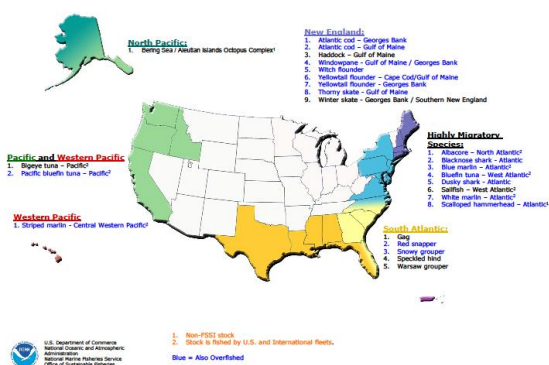
Rebuilt Stocks (34) – as of September 30, 2013



Overfished Stocks (40) – as of September 30, 2013



Stocks "Subject to Overfishing" (26) – as of September 30, 2013



Fisheries Management in North Carolina

Freshwater (inland) resources

- Oversight by the Wildlife Resources Commission
 - Agency established in 1947 for NC fish and wildlife
 - WRC commissioners (19) appointed by Governor
 - Hunting, fishing, trapping, boating laws

Marine (coastal) resources

- Oversight by the Marine Fisheries Commission (Nine members appointed by Governor)
 - NC Division of Marine Fisheries (one of 15 Divisions under NCDENR)
 - Design, execution, and enforcement of fishery management plans
 - Advisory Committees provide input to Commission
 - Commission has final vote on regulatory actions and FMP's
