

NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of
Sustainable
Fisheries

National Standard 1 Guidelines

CCC Meeting

February 20-21, 2013

National Standard 1

“Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry.”



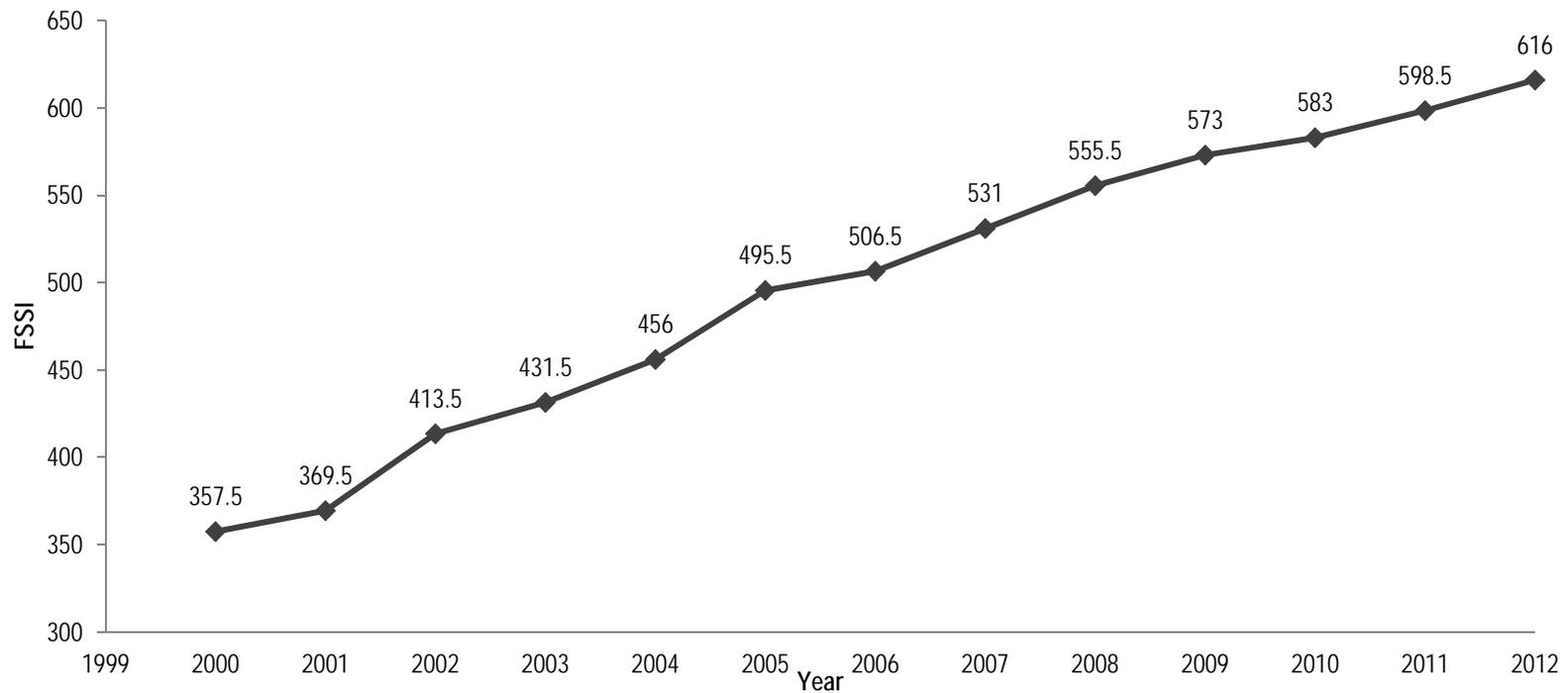
Preventing Overfishing

The most recent NS1 guideline revision, in 2009, focused on implementing the MSA requirement, from the 2007 reauthorization, for Annual Catch Limits to prevent overfishing.



Fish Stocks Sustainability Index

The FSSI shows continued progress in improving the status of fisheries throughout the U.S.



Progress in Ending and Preventing Overfishing

As of December 31, 2012:

- 86% of stocks with known status are not subject to overfishing (170 out of 197)
- 27 FSSI stocks are listed as subject to overfishing
- 7 are international stocks not subject to ACLs
- The 20 domestic stocks have ACLs and await future stock assessments – or comparisons of catch to the overfishing level – to determine if the ACLs have ended overfishing



NS1 Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

- Between 2007-2012, NMFS and Councils have implemented ACLs and AMs for all fisheries. A number of issues emerged as ACLs were implemented.
- NMFS decided to consider another revision of the NS1 guidelines.
- NMFS published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on May 3, 2012 that identified 11 issue categories.

National Standard 1 ANPR Issues

1. Stocks in a fishery
2. Overfishing and multi-year impacts
3. ACLs and optimum yield
4. Mixed-stock fisheries and optimum yield
5. Scientific and management uncertainty
6. **Unassessed stocks**
7. Acceptable biological catch control rules
8. Catch accounting
9. Accountability measures
10. ACL exceptions
11. **Rebuilding progress**



Public Comments

- 163 day comment period ended October 12, 2012.
- Comments received
 - 76 letters from Councils, State Agencies, environmental NGOs, Fishing Industry, restaurateurs, and the public.
 - 46,155 comments from 3 campaigns
- Comments available:
 - www.regulations.gov
 - Keyword "NOAA-NMFS-2012-0059"
 - NMFS website
 - www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/domes_fish/index.htm



Current Themes

- As NMFS has reviewed the ANPR comments, several key themes have emerged – in some cases combining aspects of the 11 issues identified in the ANPR.

Theme: Conservation and Management

- Determining if a fishery needs conservation and management is a fundamental MSA consideration in the establishment of FMPs.
- There is little guidance on how to determine if a fishery needs conservation and management.
- In addition to NS1, the NS3 and NS7 guidance needs to be reviewed.
- This relates to NS1 issues including what stocks are “in the fishery” and need ACLs, and the concept of ecosystem component stocks.



Theme: Alignment of Science and Management

- While all fisheries are required to have ACLs (with a small number of exceptions), the data and methods to establish ACLs and the data to manage fisheries vary significantly.
- There may be room for improvement in the alignment of science and management to ensure that each fishery has the best regime possible given the data available.
- This relates to scientific and management uncertainty, as well as ABC control rules, catch accounting, and unassessed stocks

Theme: Improving Fishery Stability

- Large changes in allowable catch – both up and down – are often disruptive to fisheries.
- Fishery management advice typically is based on terminal year results of a new stock assessment.
- Can we make better use of available information, and management control rules, to dampen the large swings while preventing overfishing?
- This theme relates to preventing overfishing, achieving optimum yield, scientific uncertainty, ABC control rules, accountability measures, and encompasses carry over of unharvested allocation from one year to the next.



Theme: Rebuilding Plans

- Many factors can affect stock rebuilding, and even when fishing is limited to levels indicated by the rebuilding plan, rebuilding progress is seldom smooth.
- Additional guidance may be warranted for several related issues:
 - Evaluating rebuilding and determining adequate progress.
 - Appropriate action if a stock is not rebuilding as planned – especially late in the rebuilding period.
 - Appropriate action if the fishery has followed the rebuilding plan but current environmental conditions are not supporting rebuilding.



Theme: What is the Right Amount of Fish to Catch?

- Determining the long-term optimum yield (OY) and the appropriate annual catch levels for a fishery involve many complex issues and tradeoffs, and may benefit from:
 - Increased consideration of social and economic factors
 - Improved understanding of the importance of ecosystem factors to stock productivity and multispecies interactions.
- Considerations for mixed-stock fisheries (including fishing on defined stock complexes) are especially challenging, as determining the appropriate OY is more complicated than summing individual stock OYs.

Upcoming Events Related to NS1 Guidelines

- Several planned or potential efforts may impact the specifics of a future NS1 proposed revision:
 - Managing Our Nations Fisheries III conference in May 2013. A number of the conference topics are related to NS1 issues.
 - National Academies report examining the U.S. requirements and program for rebuilding overfished stocks.
 - MSA amendment or reauthorization activity. NMFS expects reauthorization activity to pick up this year.

Next Steps

- In the coming months, NMFS will continue to work on the key NS1 issues to determine if guideline revisions are warranted.
- NMFS will continue to discuss NS1 issues with the Councils and other stakeholders to better understand specific problems in fisheries that revised or additional guidance could help address.
- NMFS may also consider if technical guidance, rather than NS1 guidelines, may be helpful for some issues.





Questions?



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