

ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED TERMS

ABC	Acceptable Biological Catch – An annual catch level recommended by a Council’s SSC. The Council’s ACL for a stock may not exceed the ABC recommendation of the SSC for that stock. The SSC’s ABC recommendation should incorporate consideration of the stock’s life history and reproductive potential, vulnerability to overfishing, and the degree of uncertainty in the science upon which the ABC recommendation is based.
ACFCMA	Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act – Federal legislation, passed in December 1993 that provides a mechanism to ensure Atlantic coastal state compliance with mandated conservation measures in Commission-approved fishery management plans.
ACFHP	Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership – A partnership of state, federal, local, and non-governmental entities aimed at protecting, restoring, and enhancing fish and aquatic communities along the Atlantic coast.
ACL	Annual Catch Limits – The level of annual catch of a stock or stock complex that serves as the basis for invoking [accountability measures]. ACL cannot exceed the ABC, but may be divided into sector-ACLs.
AP	Advisory Panel – A group of interested and knowledgeable persons (generally recreational and commercial fishermen) convened under the ASMFC's Advisory Committee Charter to assist in development of an FMP or amendment.
ARM	Adaptive Resource Management Framework – A mechanism, established through Addendum VII to the Horseshoe Crab FMP, which incorporates both shorebird and horseshoe crab abundance levels to set optimized harvest levels for horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin.
ASC	Assessment Science Committee – An ASMFC committee that coordinates the scheduling of species-specific stock assessments and assists the ISFMP Policy Board in setting priorities and timelines in relation to current workloads.
ASMFC	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – An interstate compact of the 15 Atlantic coastal states with the vision of “Sustainably managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries”
ACCSP	Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program – A cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen.
AM	Accountability Measures – Measures taken to prevent ACLs from being exceeded and to rectify the harm that may result if catch does exceed ACL.
B	Biomass – The total weight of a stock of fish.

BRDs	Bycatch reduction devices – An opening in the shrimp trawl net that allows finfish or other accidentally captured aquatic animals to escape while the target species is directed towards the tail bag or cod end of the net.
BRP	Biological reference point – A particular value of stock size, catch, fishing effort, or fishing mortality that may be used as a measure of stock status or management plan effectiveness. BRP’s can be categorized as limits, targets, or thresholds depending on their intended use.
CESS	Committee on Economics and Social Sciences – An ASMFC committee focusing on social and economic considerations in fisheries management.
CPUE	Catch-per-unit-effort – The number or weight of fish caught by a given amount of fishing effort, measured frequently by time, gear type, horsepower, etc.
DPS	Distinct population segment – A population or group of populations that is discrete from other populations of the species and significant in relation to the entire species. The Endangered Species Act provides for listing species, subspecies, or distinct population segments of vertebrate species. Atlantic sturgeon is characterized as having 3 DPSs throughout its US Atlantic coast range.
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone – U.S. federal waters that extend from 3 to 200 miles from shore. The U.S. has sole management authority of the natural resources found therein.
EPR	Eggs per recruit – The expected egg production from a female in her lifetime, usually expressed as a percentage of the egg production that would otherwise occur in an unfished stock.
F	Fishing mortality – The instantaneous rate at which fish in a stock die because of fishing. Typically includes measured bycatch, if data are available.
FGTWG	Fishing Gear Technology Work Group – An ASMFC committee focusing on fishing gear technology and bycatch reduction.
FMP	Fishery Management Plan – A plan to achieve specified management goals for a fishery, typically including data, analysis, and management measures. ASMFC, Regional Management Councils, and NMFS have the authority to develop FMPs for Atlantic coast fish stocks.
GARFO	Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
GARM	Groundfish Assessment Review Committee – The federal stock assessment review committee that evaluates groundfish assessments, such as winter flounder.
GBK	Georges Bank – A region used to describe a population segment of the American lobster resource.
GLFC	Great Lakes Fishery Commission – Established in 1955 by the Canadian/U.S. Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, the Commission coordinates fisheries research, controls the invasive sea lamprey, and facilitates cooperative fishery management among the state, provincial, tribal, and federal management agencies.
GOM	Gulf of Maine – Used to describe population segments for both American lobster and winter flounder.

HC	Habitat Committee – An ASMFC committee that provides advice on issues related to habitat, habitat management, habitat requirements by the managed species, enforceability of proposed habitat management measures.
ISFMP	Interstate Fisheries Management Program – An ASMFC program dedicated to the development and maintenance of interstate fisheries management plans for 22 species groups.
IFA	Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act – Federal legislation that provides funding to the three Interstate Fisheries Commissions to support management of interjurisdictional fishery resources.
ITC	Interstate Tagging Committee – An ASMFC committee that focuses on improving the quality and utility of data collected by scientific and angler-based tagging programs.
ISTC	Interstate Shellfish Transport Committee – An ASMFC committee, composed of shellfish technical representatives from each of the 15 states, District of Columbia, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that is tasked with evaluating issues related to the introduction of non-native shellfish to support new commercial fisheries in Atlantic coastal waters.
JAI	Juvenile abundance index – A measure of the relative abundance of juveniles in a stock that may serve as an indication of reproductive success. For some species, the JAI may predict future adult abundance.
LEC	Law Enforcement Committee – An ASMFC committee which provides advice on issues related to law enforcement and enforceability of potential management measures, comprised of representatives of each member state, Washington, D.C., National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard.
M	Natural Mortality – The instantaneous rate at which fish die from all causes other than harvest. Typically includes unmeasured bycatch. M is very difficult to measure.
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement – A document written between parties to cooperatively work together on an agreed upon project or meet an agreed upon objective. The purpose of an MOA is to have a written understanding of the agreement between parties. The MOA can also be a legal document that is binding and hold the parties responsible to their commitment or just a partnership agreement.
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding –A document describing a bilateral or multilateral agreement between parties. It expresses a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action. It most often is used in cases where parties do not intend to imply a legal commitment. It is a more formal alternative to a gentlemen's agreement.
MRIP	Marine Recreational Information Program – An ongoing recreational data collection and reporting effort that replaces the MRFSS program that began in the 1970s. MRIP was initiated in 2007 by NOAA Fisheries and a broad collection of scientists, managers, fishermen and others with a stake in

	sustainable, abundant ocean resources (estimates the number, catch, and effort of recreational fishermen).
MSC	Management and Science Committee – The principal scientific advisory body of the ASMFC, comprised of representatives from member states, NMFS, and USFWS.
MSTC	Multispecies Technical Committee – An ASMFC committee tasked with assisting the ISFMP Policy Board on multispecies modeling efforts and facilitating movement towards the use of multispecies model results in management decisions.
MSVPA	Multispecies virtual population analysis – A series of single-species age-structured stock assessment models (VPAs) linked by a simple feeding model and used to calculate natural mortality rates. The goal of the MSVPA is to evaluate fisheries management decisions at the ecosystem level.
MSVPA-X	Expanded multispecies virtual population analysis – An enhanced version of the MSVPA that includes more complex predator-prey interactions and more flexible options for building single-species VPAs.
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield: The largest catch that can be taken from a stock over time under existing environmental conditions without curtailing the ability of the stock to replace itself.
NEAMAP	Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program – A cooperative state/federal fisheries independent research and data collection program implemented between the Gulf of Maine and Cape Hatteras, NC.
NEFMC/ MAFMC/ SAFMC	New England, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, respectively: Three of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson Act that are responsible for management of fisheries in federal waters (3-200 miles from shore).
NEFSC/SEFSC	The Northeast & Southeast Fisheries Science Centers of the NMFS, respectively – NMFS’ fisheries research and science arms.
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – One of the world’s largest conservation grant-makers, providing funding to support both the public and private sectors to protect and restore the nation’s fish, wildlife, plants and habitats.
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service – The service within NOAA dedicated to the stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management, and the promotion of healthy ecosystems; also known as NOAA Fisheries Service.
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – A federal agency within the Department of Commerce focused on the condition of the oceans and the atmosphere.
OCC	Outer Cape Cod – A management area designated under Amendment 3 to the American Lobster FMP.
OFL	Overfishing Limit – The estimate of the catch level above which overfishing is occurring.

OY	Optimum Yield – The long-term average amount of desired yield (greatest overall benefit to the nation) from a stock, stock complex, or fishery. Because the population size of fish stock fluctuates every year, the amount of fish that is available to the fishery in any given year may be above or below.
PDT	Plan Development Team –group of individuals who are knowledgeable concerning the scientific facts and fishery management issues concerning a designated fish stock and who are appointed and convened by a Management Board to prepare an FMP or amendment and its supporting Source Document.
PID	Public Information Document – A document of the ASMFC which contains preliminary discussions of biological, environmental, social, and economic information, fishery issues, and potential management options for a proposed FMP or amendment.
PRFC	Potomac River Fisheries Commission –An interstate compact of the states of Maryland and Virginia charged with coordinating the regulation of the fisheries of the main stem of the tidal Potomac River.
PRT	Plan Review Team – A group of individuals who are knowledgeable concerning the scientific facts, stock and fishery condition, and fishery management issues concerning a designated fish stock and who are appointed and convened by a Management Board for the purpose of conducting an annual plan review for an FMP.
q	Catchability coefficient – The portion of a stock caught by a single unit of fishing effort.
RHL	Recreational harvest limit – A measure that sets an upper limit for annual recreational harvest for species that are jointly managed by the ASMFC and Regional Management Councils.
SASC	Stock Assessment Subcommittee – A group of persons who are expert in stock assessment methodologies and scientific/technical matters relating to a specific fish stock. The SASC is jointly appointed by the ASC and the species technical committee, with membership consisting of a combination of SAC members and technical committee members. The Subcommittee is responsible for conducting the species assessment and reports directly to the species technical committee.
SAW/SARC	The Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop and Stock Assessment Review Committee, respectively – The SAW is a formal scientific peer-review process for evaluating and presenting stock assessment results to managers for fish stocks of the Northwest Atlantic. Assessments are prepared by SAW working groups and reviewed by an independent panel of stock assessment experts called the SARC.
SCA	Statistical catch at age – Age-based stock assessment methods utilizing catch-at-age data to derive estimates of population size and fishing mortality. However, unlike VPA, SCAA model parameters are estimated by working forward in time, rather than backwards as is done in VPA analysis.

SCS	Small coastal shark complex – A shark species grouping that includes Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth and bonnethead sharks.
SEAMAP	Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program – A cooperative state, federal, and university program for the collection, management, and dissemination of fishery-independent data and information in the Southeastern US and Caribbean.
SEDAR	Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review – The stock assessment peer-review process used by the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, and the ASMFC to improve the quality and reliability of fishery stock assessments in the US Southeast.
SNE	Southern New England – Used to describe a population segment of the American lobster resource.
SNE/MA	Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic – Used to describe a population segment of the winter flounder resource.
SPR	Spawning potential ratio – A biological index used to assess red drum stock status.
S-R	Stock-recruitment curve – A classic discrete population model which gives the expected number of individuals in generation (e.g., recruitment) as a function of the number of individuals in the previous generation (e.g., spawning stock biomass).
SRT	Status Review Team – Used as part of the Endangered Species Act listing process.
SSB	Spawning stock biomass – The total weight of the mature females within a stock of fish; frequently used instead of total biomass as a better measure of the ability of a stock to replenish itself.
SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee – An advisory committee of a regional fishery management council composed of scientists, economists, and other technical experts that assist in gathering and analyzing statistical, biological, ecological, economic, social, and other scientific information that is relevant to the management of council fisheries.
TAC or TAL	Total Allowable Catch or Landings – The annual recommended catch by a management authority to preserve or rebuild a stock.
TC	Technical Committee – A group of persons who are expert in the scientific and technical matters relating to a specific fish stock and who are appointed and convened by a Management Board to provide scientific and technical advice in the process of developing and monitoring FMPs and amendments.
TRAC	Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee – A forum for U.S. and Canadian scientists to collaboratively recommend biological reference points and biomass levels based on updated stock assessment information.
u	Exploitation – The percent of a fish population removed by fishing over the course of a year.

- USFWS** **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** – a bureau within the Department of the Interior with the mission of “working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”
- VPA** **Virtual Population Analysis** – A method of estimating stock size through examination of the sizes, growth, and mortality rates of individual age groups and using that information to “back calculate” the virtual populations that must have existed previously to produce the catches currently observed in a fishery.
- YPR** **Yield per recruit** – The expected yield in weight for a single fish or year class over the life of the fish or year class.
- Z** **Total Mortality** – The instantaneous rate at which fish die from both natural and fishing related causes. $Z = F + M$.

OTHER USEFUL TERMS (AS DEFINED BY ISMFP CHARTER)

Action plan	A document prepared annually by ASMFC staff and approved by the Policy Board to provide priorities and schedules for the specific activities of the ISFMP during a given year.
Adaptive Management	An iterative process which includes evaluation of the response of the managed fishery and stock to specific management measures and adjusting such measures based on that evaluation. FMPs may provide for changes within the management program to adapt to changing circumstances. FMPs which provide for adaptive management shall identify specifically the circumstances under which adaptive management changes may be made, the types of measures that may be changed, the schedule for state implementation of changes, and the procedural steps necessary to effect a change.
Addendum	The mechanism by which changes are made to FMPs and Amendments under adaptive management.
Best scientific information available	Includes but is not limited to that body of biological, environmental, ecological, economic, and social data concerning the fish stock and fisheries which are the subject of an FMP or amendment, provided that the methods of collecting such information are clearly described and are generally accepted as scientifically valid. Data may come from state, federal, or private databases and from published and unpublished sources. Information that becomes available during preparation of an FMP or amendment should be incorporated to the extent practicable.
Bycatch	That portion of a catch taken in addition to the targeted species because of non-selectivity of gear to either species or size differences; may include non-directed, threatened, or endangered and protected species.
Compliance	Condition in which a state has implemented and is enforcing all measures required by an FMP. States are presumed to be in compliance unless determined to be out of compliance pursuant to Section Seven.
Conservation	The restoring, rebuilding, and maintaining of any coastal fishery resource and the marine environment, in order to assure the availability of coastal fishery resources on a long-term basis.

Conservation equivalency	Actions taken by a state which differ from the specific requirements of the FMP, but which achieve the same quantified level of conservation for the resource under management. For example, various combinations of size limits, gear restrictions, and season length can be demonstrated to achieve the same targeted level of fishing mortality. The appropriate Management Board/Section will determine conservation equivalency.
Conservation program	Enactment of rules or statutes, research, biological monitoring, collection of statistics, stock enhancement, and enforcement activities conducted by a state to maintain, restore, and/or rebuild a fish stock and its habitat.
<i>De minimis</i>	A situation in which, under existing conditions of the stock and scope of the fishery, conservation and enforcement actions taken by an individual state would be expected to contribute insignificantly to a coastwide conservation program required by an FMP or amendment.
Directed fishery	Fishing for a stock using gear or strategies intended to catch a given target species, group of species, or size class.
Emergency	Unanticipated changes in the ecosystem, the stock, or the fishery which place public health, the conservation of coastal fishery resources, or attainment of fishery management objectives substantially at risk.
Non-compliance	A condition under which the ASMFC has determined that a state has failed to implement and enforce a conservation program as required in an FMP or amendment.
Overfishing	In the context of the ISFMP, harvesting from a stock at a rate greater than the stock's reproductive capacity to replace the fish removed through harvest. Each FMP contains a plan-specific definition of overfishing.

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REFERENCES AND OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON U.S. MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

REFERENCES

- ASMFC Guide to Fisheries Science & Stock Assessments (June 2009)
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- Understanding Fisheries Management: A Manual for Understanding the Federal Fisheries Management Process, Including Analysis of the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act,
<http://nsgl.gso.uri.edu/masgc/masgch00001.pdf>
- A Guide to Fisheries Stock Assessment: From Data to Recommendations by Andrew B. Cooper, Department of Natural Resources, University of New Hampshire,
<http://www.seagrant.unh.edu/stockassessmentguide.pdf>
- America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change by the Pews Oceans Commission (May 2003), http://www.pewoceans.org/oceans/oceans_report.asp
- Fish or Cut Bait: An Introductory Guide to the Federal Management System for Atlantic Coast Fishermen and Women by Bonnie McCay and Carolyn Creed. Available from the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, Bldg. 22, Fort Hancock, New Jersey 077732 (Phone: 908-872-1300, ext. 18)
- Improving Fish Stock Assessments by the National Research Council (1998),
<http://books.nap.edu/catalog/5951.html>
- FAO Fisheries Glossary, <http://www.fao.org/fi/glossary/>
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- The Design and use of Limited Access Privilege Programs by Lee G. Anderson and Mark C. Holliday, US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, NMFS, NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-F/SPO-86
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LITERATURE

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- The Founding Fish by John McPhee, Published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux
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- The Great Gulf: Fishermen, Scientists, and the Struggle to Revive the World's Greatest Fishery by David Dobbs

- The Hungry Ocean: A Swordboat Captain's Journey by Linda Greenlaw
- The Living Ocean: Understanding and Protecting Marine Biodiversity by Boyce Thorne-Miller and Sylvia A. Earle
- The Lobster Chronicles: Life on a Very Small Island by Linda Greenlaw
- On the Run: An Angler's Journey Down the Striper Coast by David DiBenedetto
- The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea by Sebastian Junger
- Song for the Blue Ocean: Encounters Along the World's Coasts and Beneath the Seas by Carl Safina
- The Secret Life of Lobsters: How Fishermen and Scientists Are Unraveling the Mysteries of Our Favorite Crustacean by Trevor Corson, <http://www.secretlifeoflobsters.com/>
- Striper Wars: An American Fish Story by Dick Russell

LEGISLATION

- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (as amended in 2006)
- Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act of 1993

WEBSITES

Federal & Regional Agencies

- United States Commission on Ocean Policy, <http://oceancommission.gov/>
- NOAA Fisheries, <http://www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html>
- New England Fishery Management Council, <http://www.nefmc.org/>
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, <http://www.mafmc.org/mid-atlantic/mafmc.htm>
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, <http://www.safmc.net/>
- Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, <http://www.gulfcouncil.org/>
- Pacific Fishery Management Council, <http://www.pcouncil.org/>
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council, <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>
- Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, <http://www.wpcouncil.org/>
- Caribbean Fishery Management Council, <http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/>

Interstate Fisheries Commissions

- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, <http://www.asmfmc.org>
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, <http://www.gsmfc.org>
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, <http://www.psmfc.org>

Fisheries Data

- Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, www.accsp.org (To access non-confidential data go to http://snapper.accsp.org:7777/pls/htmldb_accsp/f?p=104:1:1917551402608552 and follow directions)
- NOAA Fisheries, Office of Science & Technology, Fisheries Statistics Division, <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/index.html>