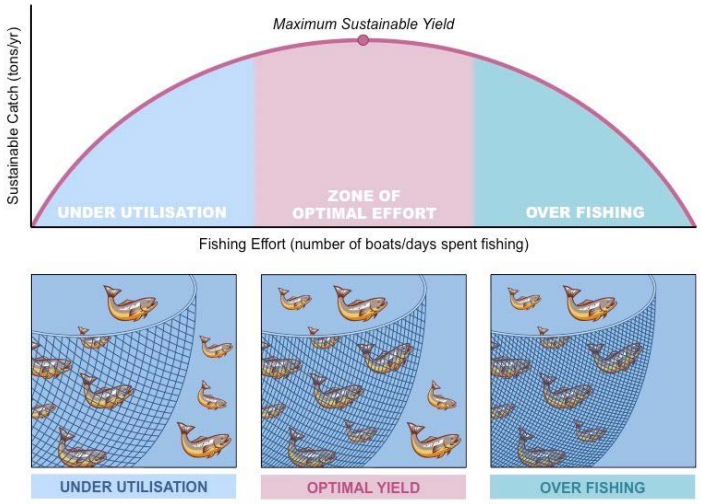
- Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)
    - The amount of fish, or catch, recommended for removal from a stock or stock complex by a regional fishery management council
- Aggregate production model
    - Used to estimate production for stock complexes. These models are informed by catch and biomass estimates for the stock complexes but do not include any predator/prey interactions.
- Benthic
    - Refers to the bottom habitat of the ocean and the animals that live there. For example, lobsters live on the bottom of the ocean and are therefore a **benthic** species. The benthic region of the ocean ranges from the shallows to areas of the bottom that are several miles deep in the ocean.
    - Related terms - demersal, pelagic
- Biomass
    - The total weight of living matter, generally measured within a specific area or volume. Biomass is usually calculated by species, stock, or other grouping. For example, the total biomass of bluefin tuna or the total biomass of groundfish.
    -
- Bycatch
    - Fish and/or other marine creatures caught by gear in addition to the target species of that gear. Bycatch can be fish, but also includes other animals such as dolphins, whales, sea turtles, and seabirds that become hooked or entangled in fishing gear.
- Climate
    - Climate refers to the long term minimums, averages, and maximums of temperature and precipitation that are characteristic of a particular region. This is different from weather which refers to the conditions of temperature and precipitation that are experienced on a day to day basis.
- Catch
    - The total number of fish caught in a fishery in a given period of time. Catch is given in either weight or number of fish and may include landings, unreported landings, discards, and incidental deaths. Note that catch, harvest, and landings have different definitions.
- Demersal
    - Refers to species that live in close relation to and depend on the seabed. For example, cod and groundfish are demersal fish.
- Ecological Production Unit
    - Geographically specific areas on the continental shelf that have unique characteristics of: bathymetry, bottom sediments, temperature, salinity, and primary production from phytoplankton.
    - George’s Bank is an example of an EPU, other EPUs in the northeast include the Scotian Shelf, Gulf of Maine, and Mid-Atlantic Bight.
- Ecosystem

    - A community of plants, animals, and other organisms, and the nonliving components, like soil, rocks, water, and nutrients, with which they live. George's Bank, and everything that lives in it, is an example of an ecosystem.
- Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM)
    - A holistic approach to fisheries management that considers the physical, biological, economic, and social interactions between the various parts of the ecosystem related to fisheries.The process considers the diverse needs and pressures on fish, fish habitat, and the food web within a geographically specific area, while also accounting for the needs of fishermen, our communities, and the economy.
- Ecosystem Catch Cap
    - The total amount of fish that can be sustainably removed from the ecosystem or ecological production unit (EPU). This cap includes both managed and non-managed species and varies annually because it depends on available energy within an ecosystem or EPU. Removal is limited to allow enough energy to remain and support the ecosystem or EPU. 1.
    - Estimation of catch cap. Large et al 2013, 2015. Examined total catch of an ecosystem to determine what the catch cap should be.
- Energy
    - The power required to fuel motion, growth, or any other process. All living things use energy. Primary producers get their energy from the sun, and use it to assemble molecules, which store the sun's energy as chemical energy. Other organisms in the food web use that chemical energy. Energy moves through an ecosystem via the food web.
    - In a healthy ecosystem, more energy at the base of the food web means more energy to "run" the ecosystem.
- Filter feeder
    - An organism, such as a menhaden, that filters and consumes plankton out of the water. Filter feeding fish are an essential food source for larger, commercially important species.
- Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)
    - A comprehensive plan that Illustrates how applying the proposed EBFM strategy and framework could provide needed information for fisheries management.
- Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
    - A document that describes a fishery and establishes measures for conserving and managing specific fisheries and fish stocks.
- Harvest
    - The total number or poundage of fish caught and kept from an area over a period of time. Note that harvest, catch and landings have different definitions.
- Harvest Control Rules
    - A set of well-defined management actions that describe how the harvest is to be managed (e.g., catch or effort-related limits) based on the state of the fishery.
- Landings

    - The portion of the catch (usually in pounds though sometimes as number of fish) that is harvested for personal use or sold. Landings are reported at the points at which fish are brought to shore. Note that harvest, catch, and landings have different definitions.
- Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA)
    - The Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), commonly referred to as the Magnuson–Stevens Act (MSA) is the primary law governing marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters. It is responsible for establishing the fishery management councils (FMCs) and the mandatory and discretionary guidelines for Federal fishery management plans (FMPs).
    - This legislation was originally enacted in 1976 as the Fishery Management and Conservation Act; its name was changed to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1980, and in 1996 it was renamed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
- Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
    - A tool used to simulate the workings of a fisheries system and test which potential harvest strategies are likely to perform best. A MSE will use one or more operating models.
- Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)
    - The maximum catch that can be continuously taken from a fish stock without compromising the sustainability of the stock.



- Mortality
    - The number of fish dying within a given time period either from fishing activities or natural causes.
- Multispecies assessment model
    - Multispecies assessment models use data from surveys and catch to estimate biomass and reference points for multiple species or multiple species complexes. They include interactions such as predation and/or competition among the species or complexes.
- Operating Models

    - Operating models simulate population and fishery dynamics. These models incorporate life-history processes such as recruitment, growth, migration, maturation, and mortality of the fish population, as well as fishery processes such as selectivity, availability, and catchability. Examples of models used by the NEFMC include the Hydra and Kraken models.
    - These operating models form the base for the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
- Pelagic
    - Inhabiting the water column as opposed to being associated with the seafloor. The pelagic area of the ocean generally refers anywhere from the surface to 1,000 meters deep. Can also be used to describe the species that live in the open ocean - pelagic fish live in this area and usually migrate long distances. Examples of pelagic fish include swordfish, tuna, and several species of sharks.
- Predator
    - A living thing that eats other living things. For example, a carnivore is a predator of an herbivore. The food of a predator is called prey.
- Prey
    - Living food of another organism, or a predator. For example, an herbivore is prey of a carnivore.
- Primary production
    - Phytoplankton in the ocean use energy from the sun and nutrients in the water to grow and reproduce. This is where energy enters the ecosystem and forms the base of the food web. All other organisms in the ecosystem are directly or indirectly dependant on this primary production for survival.
- Recruitment
    - The number of fish added to a fishable stock each year due to growth and/or migration into the stock
- Single-species management
    - Fisheries management approach that focuses on the health of one species at a time
- Species Biomass Floors
    - The total amount (biomass) of an individual species below which the species is not allowed to drop. This is the floor. Biomass levels below the floor would put the species at risk. Floors are designed to protect individual species and are determined by the best scientific evidence and Council policies.
- Stock
    - A grouping of fish usually based on genetic relationship, geographic distribution and movement patterns. A region may have more than one stock of a species (for example, Gulf of Maine cod and Georges Bank cod). A species, subspecies, geographical grouping, or other category of fish capable of management as a unit.
- Stock Complex
    - Fish that are caught together, share similar life histories, and play similar roles in the ecosystem. The purpose of a stock complex is to allow for more flexibility,

allowing fishing vessels to catch and land a variety of species within a stock complex.
    - Examples of stock complexes include - bottom dwellers, bottom feeders, filter feeding fish, large plankton eaters, crustaceans and fish eaters, fish eaters, and top carnivores
- Stock Complex Catch Ceilings
    - The total catch that can be sustainably removed from each of the stock complexes. The ceiling takes into account estimates of predator and prey interactions within an ecosystem. The goal of stock complex catch ceilings is to keep the ecosystem in balance - i.e. healthy numbers of predators vs. prey and vice versa.
    - Catch ceilings are estimated using index based methods. Indicators are set for catch, catch per unit effort, age-structure, and survey indices. These indicators are then compared to thresholds for each and catch advice is then set.