

Performance Measures

This Reference Document provides an overview of some of the formal and informal processes used by the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to measure performance of Fishery Management Plans. It also provides an overview of other projects with a focus on performance evaluation of fisheries within and outside of the region.

Ongoing Biological Assessments

- Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) – surveys and stock assessments
- Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) – review and analyze landings, dealer, and observer data to manage Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and assess the need for triggering in-season adjustments or Accountability Measures (AMs).
- NEFMC – analyses the status of stocks by describing and assessing goals/objectives of FMPs in the Affected Environment sections of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents (i.e., environmental assessments (EAs) and environmental impact statements (EIS)).
- NEFMC/NMFS – compliance with the MSA National Standards is addressed in NEPA documents.
- NEFMC – through the specification setting process (annual, biannual or triennial), the Science and Statistical Committee approves Overfishing Limits and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) recommended by Plan Development Teams (PDTs) that assess all available catch, discard, and stock assessment data since the previous specifications were set.
- NEFMC - the MSA requires preparation of a Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation (SAFE) report. These reports are supposed to summarize the most recent biological, social, and economic conditions of the fishery and fishing communities. In the Greater Atlantic Fisheries Region, this requirement is met using a web page that provides access to the documents with this information:
<https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/multispecies/safe/>
- NEFMC – through operationalizing the relatively new Council Risk Policy, PDTs and other technical bodies will assess the consistency of FMPs with the Risk Policy over time. This may include use of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) technique.

Ongoing Social & Economic Assessments

- NEFSC, Social Science Branch (SSB) - Final reports on the Performance of the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery (available for fishing years [FY] 2010 – 2014) The report for FY 2015 is under review:
<https://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/read/socialsci/groundfish-report.php>

- Information on landings and revenues is documented in the Affected Environment section of NEPA documents for management actions, as referenced in the SAFE reports.

Former Evaluations and Approaches

In 2010 and 2011, Preston Pate (Touchstone) conducted a regional assessment and management review of the fishery management process in New England, focusing on relationships among NEFMC, GARFO, and the NEFSC. This independent study contracted by NMFS also incorporated a review of other factors that influence the effectiveness of those three entities in carrying out their responsibilities under the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). This study was requested by John Pappalardo, Chair of the NEFMC at the time, acting in his personal capacity. Mr. Pappalardo's request stemmed from frustration resulting from struggles implementing the MSA requirements and concern that the goals established by the Act were unattainable and not adequately supported by the necessary scientific resources.

One recommendation of this report was to "Design a cost-effective performance management system to track the progress of decisions and capture lessons learned and best practices." For more information, review the final report, referred to as the "Touchstone Report":

http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/2d_fullreport_touchstonereport.pdf

In response to a recommendation in the Touchstone Report, the NEFMC hired a consultant to develop a systematic approach to measuring performance of FMPs. This approach was presented at the Council meeting on January 31, 2012, when the Council approved "to adopt the draft FMP performance evaluation white paper." There was additional work to be completed by Council staff prior to implementing the inaugural review in order to request additional funding from NMFS to implement the proposal. Funding was not received and a formal evaluation system has not been adopted.

For more information on this approach, refer to the: Draft memo to NEFMC Members re: FMP Performance Evaluation White Paper. January 20, 2012.
http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Tues-George-Lapointe_Draft-FMP-Performance-Evaluation-Memo-and.pdf. This is the LaPointe White Paper referred to below.

Other Regional and National Evaluation Projects

Dr. Patricia Pinto Da Silva et al. also conducted a study, *Measuring Success in Regional Fisheries Management: A retrospective analysis of stated goals and objectives*, in 2013, that included several FMP amendments from the New England region. The purpose of this study was to identify and compare stated goals and objectives of key federally managed fisheries in the US with a particular focus on

social and economic goals. While biological goals are often well defined, social goals lack clarity. This study demonstrates the start of one approach to measuring performance of FMP goals and objectives that is referred to in the Lapointe White Paper. *A poster demonstrating several examples is included in the subfolder of additional reference documents. There are limited publically available documents on this study.*

MSA § 303A (c)(1)(G) requires a detailed review 5 years after the implementation of a Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) “determining progress in meeting the goals of the program and this Act, and any necessary modification of the program to meet those goals...”

In June 2017, the Council voted to approve the Scallop Limited Access General Category Individual Fishing Quota Program Review for fishing years 2010-2015. For more information:

http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/180202_LAGC_IFQ_Council_Approved.pdf

In 2018, the 5-year catch share review of the Groundfish sector system is listed as a Council priority. Because the sector system is not considered an LAPP, there isn't a statutory requirement to conduct this review. The review, however, will be conducted consistent with NMFS policies and guidance.

In 2016-2017, The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) conducted a review of their trawl catch share program as well as inter-sector allocations to the groundfish FMP. The reviews were completed in 2017, and both were approved by the PFMC. For more information: <https://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/five-year-review-trawl-catch-share-program-amendment-20-intersector-allocation-amendment-21/>

For more information, refer to the following documents:

1. Clay, P.M, P. Pinto da Silva, and A. Kitts. 2010. Defining social and economic performance measures for catch share systems in the northeast U.S. presented at IIFET 2010 Montpelier Proceedings. *A copy of this document is included in the subfolder of additional reference documents.*
2. MRAG Americas. Measuring the Effects of Catch Shares.
<http://www.catchshareindicators.org>
3. MRAG Americas. 2011. Developing a Methodology and Indicators for Evaluating Catch Shares in New England. *This is not available online, though a copy is provided in the PDF subfolder of additional reference documents.*
4. Anderson JL, Anderson CM, Chu J, Meredith J, Asche F, Sylvia G, et al. (2015) The Fishery Performance Indicators: A Management Tool for Triple Bottom Line Outcomes. PLoS ONE 10(5): e0122809.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0122809>

5. National Marine Fisheries Service Policy Directive #01-121-01: Guidance for Conducting a Review of Catch Share Programs (4/13/17).

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/documents/01/121/01-121-01.pdf>

6. Clay PM et al. Measuring the social and economic performance of catch share programs: Definition of metrics and application to the U.S. Northeast Region groundfish fishery. Marine Policy (2013),

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2013.08.009>

A copy of this document is included in the subfolder of additional reference documents.