

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Acronym List

AA – Assistant Administrator

ABC – acceptable biological catch – the catch level of a stock that is set below the OFL to account for scientific uncertainty and accounts for other components of the stock such as how quickly they reproduce and vulnerability to overfishing. This catch level is recommended by each Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee

ACCSP – Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program – a state-federal cooperative program on the Atlantic Coast that strives to streamline fishery-dependent data collection, reporting and processing through partnerships to enhance accuracy and efficiency

ACL – annual catch limit – the level of catch, set equal to or below the OFL, to prevent overfishing from occurring

ACT – annual catch target – set below the ACL at a level to ensure the ACL is not exceeded and to account for management uncertainty

ADCNR – Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Alabama’s state agency for the management and conservation of wildlife and aquatic resources

ALS – Accumulated Landings System (commercial fishing statistics) – data system housed by the SEFSC includes all commercial fishery data from the SE region of the U.S., commercial landings information usually reported by dealers on “trip tickets” to state agencies that go to regional commission databases then to this system

AM – accountability measure - management controls to prevent annual catch limits from being exceeded and to correct or mitigate overages of the annual catch limit if they occur

AP – Advisory Panel – panel of members made up of individuals with knowledge and first-hand experience of harvesting Gulf of Mexico managed species and are interested in the conservation and best practices for management of these fishery resources

APA – Administrative Procedures Act – the governing process by which federal agencies develop and issue regulations. This process includes publishing in the Federal Register and the ability for the public to comment on proposed regulations

APAIS – Access Point Angler Intercept Survey – the dockside intercept portion of the federal recreational angler survey commonly known as MRIP

ASAP – age-structured assessment program – an age-structured stock assessment model that uses various components to estimate population sizes based on observed catches, catch-at-age and indices of abundance

ASMFC – Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – a commission comprising the Atlantic states formed to coordinate and manage fishery resources along the Atlantic coast



B – stock biomass level – the total weight or volume of a stock of fish; often used in conjunction with other management acronyms such as MSY

BB – Briefing Book – the group of materials, including documents and presentations, prepared in advance of a Council meeting to provide background information on topics that will be discussed during the meeting

Bi Op – biological opinion – issued by various NOAA regional offices on a range of topics such as fisheries, dredging and offshore winds, these opinions essentially specify the conditions by which federal agencies must comply in order to minimize impacts from federal actions, usually for any actions that may affect ESA-listed species

BM – base model – the assessment model used to perform an assessment of a stock to determine status and appropriate management measures; remains consistent with previous models used in SEDAR assessments; other supplemental analyses and models are often used in conjunction with the base model

B_{MAX}

B_{MSY} – Biomass at Max Sustainable Yield - stock biomass level capable of producing an equilibrium yield at maximum sustainable yield

BRD – bycatch reduction device – a piece of equipment designed with the specific purpose of minimizing unintended capture of marine mammals

BRP – biological reference point – benchmarks against which actual status of a fish stock can be measured, usually maximum or target fishing mortality rates or minimum stock biomass levels

CCC – Council Coordination Committee – committee made up of chairs, vice chairs, and regional directors of each regional fishery management council. The committee meets twice each year to discuss issues pertinent to all the councils

CEA – Cumulative Effects Analysis

CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality – a division of the Executive Branch that coordinates federal environmental efforts and oversees NEPA implementation

CFDBS – Commercial Fisheries Data Base System

CFL – Coastal Fisheries Logbook

CFLP – Commercial Fisheries Logbook Program

CFMC – Caribbean Fishery Management Council – one of eight regional councils, responsible for managing fishery resources in the Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone off Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations – the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register



CHTS – Coastal Household Telephone Survey – survey used to collect recreational fishing effort information through random-digit dialing of residential households. Replaced by the FES survey in 2018.

CI – confidence interval – upper and lower limits that bound a plausible range of values or a specified probability that a parameter value lies within this range

CLM – commercial landings monitoring

CM – continuity model

CMP – coastal migratory pelagics

COI – certificate of inspection

Council – Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

CPI – Consumer Price Index

CPUE – catch per unit effort

CS – Consumer surplus

CZMA – Coastal Zone Management Act

DEIS – draft environmental impact statement

DOC – Department of Commerce

DPNR – Department of Planning and Natural Resources of the USVI

DPS – distinct population segment

DQA – Data Quality Act

DWG – deep-water grouper

DWH – Deepwater Horizon

E.O. – Executive Order

EA – environmental assessment

EBFM – Ecosystem-based fishery management

EC – ecosystem component species

EEZ – exclusive economic zone

EFH – essential fish habitat

EIS – environmental impact statement

EJ – environmental justice



ELB – electronic logbook

ELMR – Estuarine Living Marine Resources

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

ER – ecological reserve

ESA – Endangered Species Act

F – instantaneous rate of fishing mortality

F30% SPR – fishing mortality corresponding to 30% spawning potential ratio

FAC – Florida Administrative Code

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations)

FDA – Food and Drug Administration

FEIS – final environmental impact statement

FES – Fishing Effort Survey

FHS – for-hire-survey

FIN – Fisheries Information Network

FIS – Fishery Impact Statement

FKNMS – Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

FL – fork length

FLEC – Florida East Coast

F_{MAX} – fishing mortality rate corresponding to maximum yield-per-recruit

FMP – Fishery Management Plan

F_{MSY} – fishing mortality rate corresponding to an equilibrium yield at maximum sustainable yield

FMU – Fishery Management Unit

FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact

FOY – fishing mortality rate corresponding to an equilibrium yield at optimum

FR – Federal Register

FWC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



FWRI – Fish and Wildlife Research Institute – Integrates research activities with management efforts of other FWC divisions to provide information to protect, conserve and manage Florida’s fish and wildlife resources

FWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service

GMFMC – Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

GPS – global positioning system

GRFS – Gulf Reef Fish Survey – Florida’s supplemental state survey for certain species of reef fish from 2015 to June of 2020. Replaced by SRFS

GRSC – Great Red Snapper Count

GSMFC – Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Gulf – Gulf of Mexico

Gulf Council – Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

GulfFIN – Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Information Network

gw – gutted weight

HACCP – Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points

HAPC – habitat area of particular concern

HBS – Headboat Survey

HCR – Harvest control rule

HMS – highly migratory species

IA – interim analysis

ID – Stock identification process

IFQ – individual fishing quota

IPCC – International Panel on Climate Change

IPT – Interdisciplinary Plan Team

IRFA – Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

ITA – individual transferable quota

ITS – incidental take statement

K – time constant

kg – kilograms



L_{MAX} – maximum length

LAPP – limited access privilege program

lbs – pounds

LDWF – Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries – Louisiana’s state agency for freshwater and saltwater resources

LEAP – Law Enforcement Advisory Panel

LPS – Large Pelagics Survey – a specialized survey conducted from Maine to Virginia that collects catch and effort data for tuna, sharks, billfishes, swordfish and other offshore recreational species

LRP – limit reference point – a type of biological reference point; point at which status of fishery will decline or collapse

M – instantaneous natural mortality rate

MAFMC – Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Magnuson-Stevens Act – Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

MARMAP – Marine Resources Monitoring Assessment and Prediction Program

MDMR – Mississippi Department of Marine Resources – state of Mississippi’s marine resources agency

MEY – maximum economic yield

MFA

MFMT – maximum fishing mortality threshold

Mid-Atlantic Council – Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

MMPA – Marine Mammal Protection Act

mp – million pounds

MPA – marine protected area

MRFSS – Marine Recreational Fisheries Survey and Statistics

MREP – Marine Resource Education Program

MRIP – Marine Recreational Information Program – federal program by which NOAA Fisheries collects, analyzes and reports fishery-dependent information, or data gathered from recreational anglers

mt – metric tons – unit of weight often used with commercial fisheries data, equal to 1,000 kg or approximately 2,204.6 pounds

MSE – management strategy evaluations

MSST – minimum stock size threshold



MSY – maximum sustainable yield

NCDENR – North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

NEFSC – Northeast Fisheries Science Center

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

NFWF – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NGO – non-governmental organization

nm – nautical mile

NMFS – National Marine Fisheries Service

NMSA – National Marine Sanctuaries Act

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOR – net operating revenue

NOS – National Ocean Service

NRDC – National Resource Defense Council

NRC – National Research Council

NS # - National Standard 1-10 (in the Magnuson-Stevens Act)

NSAR – National Saltwater Angler Registry

OA – operational assessment

OFL – overfishing limit

OLE – Office of Law Enforcement

OMB – Office of Management and Budget

OST – Office of Science and Technology

OY – optimum yield

P* – (P-star; defined as the probability of overfishing)

PDF – (probability density function; used to generate the P*)

PIMS – Permits Information Management Systems

POC – point of contact

PPS – proportional probability sampling

ppt – parts per thousand



PRA – Paperwork Reduction Act

PRD – Protected Resources Division of Southeast Regional Office

PRDNER – Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources

PS – producer surplus

PSA – productivity-susceptibility analyses

PSE – proportional standard error

QA/QC – Quality Assurance/Quality Control

RA – Regional Administrator

RF – Reef Fish

RFA – Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980

RFAA – Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

RFFA – reasonably foreseeable future actions

RIR – Regulatory Impact Review

ROD – Record of Decision

RPM – reasonable and prudent measures

RQ – regional quotient

RVC – Reef Visual Census – Fishery independent study that collects data on both juvenile and adult life stages

SAFIS – Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System

SAFMC – South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

SAP – Stock Assessment Panel

SBA – Small Business Association

SBRM – standardized bycatch reporting methodology

SCDNR – South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

SDC – status determination criteria

SEAMAP – Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program

Secretary – Secretary of Commerce



SEDAR – Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review - a cooperative process among the Southeast Regional Fishery Management Councils, NOAA Fisheries and the Interstate Fisheries Commissions with the goal to improve the quality and reliability of fishery resource assessments within the southeastern U.S.

SEFSC – Southeast Fisheries Science Center – headquartered in Miami, the Center conducts a variety of research to inform marine resource management in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and South Atlantic.

SEIS – supplemental environmental impact statement – reviews the results of an existing environmental impact statement by considering new or additional environmental impacts

SEP – Socioeconomic Panel – panel of members within the scientific and statistical committees who are knowledgeable about the social and economic aspects of Gulf of Mexico fisheries

SERO – Southeast Regional Office – Office located in St. Petersburg, Florida, operating under NOAA Fisheries, works with scientists and fisheries managers to safeguard sustainable fishing practices, protect endangered species and marine mammals and conserve marine habitats

SESSC – Socioeconomic Scientific and Statistical Committee - panel of members within the scientific and statistical committees who are knowledgeable about the social and economic aspects of Gulf of Mexico fisheries

SFA – Sustainable Fisheries Act – amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to bolster requirements to prevent overfishing, set standards for fishery management plans to specify measures for stock status determinations, added three new national standards to address fishery concerns, and introduced habitat as integral to fisheries management

SIA – Social Impact Assessment – similar to environmental impact assessments, it is a method of assessing cultural and social impacts from alternative fishery management actions or policies

SMZ – special management zone – designation of an area within artificial reef sites that prohibits the use of some fishing gear to prevent overexploitation of species but acts as an incentive to increase fish populations in an area and/or fishing opportunities that did not previously exist

SOFI – Statement of Financial Interest – a form asking questions pertaining to financial interests and disclosures given to voting members of regional fishery management councils, SSC members and Council staff as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The purpose of the report is to assist the involved parties with avoiding conflicts between official duties and private financial interests or affiliations

SOI – Statistics of income

SoVI – social vulnerability index – 14 indices that measure a coastal community’s ability to respond to social, economic and environmental conditions, a useful tool for policy makers, fishery managers and interested stakeholders

SOW – statement of work – a project management document that describes step-wise, the project’s work requirements including deliverables, methods and timelines



SPA – sanctuary preservation area – a distinct biologically important area that helps sustain critical marine species and habitats.

SPR – spawning potential ratio – the ratio of the number of eggs that could be produced by a fish over its lifetime that has recruited to a fishery, over the number of eggs that could be produced by an average fish in a stock that is unfished

SRD – Science and Research Director – the director of NOAA’s different regional Fisheries Science Centers

SRFS – State Reef Fish Survey – Florida’s supplemental reef fish survey for certain species that replaced the GRFS survey in July of 2020

SRHS – Southeast Region Headboat Survey – a federal data collection program that collects fisheries dependent data such as lengths, weights and sex from fish caught on headboat trips. The survey collects data from vessels throughout the southeast region.

SS – stock synthesis – an age-structured population dynamics model that is used to assess the impacts of fisheries on stocks while also accounting for environmental impacts or stressors.

SSB – spawning stock biomass – the total weight of all the fish in a stock that are old enough to reproduce, usually considered to be all fish beyond a certain age or size in which 50% of the individuals are sexually mature.

SSBR – spawning stock biomass per recruit – an estimate of the lifetime reproductive potential of an average recruit. Important for examining the population growth potential of a stock

SSC – Scientific and Statistical Committee – a committee composed of scientists in the fields of biology, statistics, economics, the environment and social science. The committee makes recommendations to the Regional Councils on assessments and other technical matters leading to more informed fishery management decisions.

SWG – shallow-water grouper – complex of grouper species managed in the Gulf of Mexico by the Gulf Council and NOAA Fisheries. Includes red grouper, black grouper, gag, scamp, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, rock hind and red hind

TAC – total allowable catch – a catch limit set for a specific fishery within a set period of time, usually a year or a fishing season

TED – turtle excluder device – a specialized device, often used in the shrimp fishery, applied to trawl nets that allows a captured sea turtle to escape when caught.

TIP – Trip Interview Program – data collected by port samplers from commercial fishermen, includes length, weight, number of fish landed, gear used and trip identifiers such as date and location

TL – total length – the maximum length from mouth to tail. For example, when measuring a fish, the total length extends from the front of the snout with the mouth closed to the end of the longest portion of the tail fin. Some agencies compress or squeeze the tail to get this measurement.



TLR – trip limit reduction – a reduction in the number or pounds of a species that can be harvested per trip

TnS/TNS – Tails n’ Scales – Mississippi’s mandatory red snapper electronic reporting program. Voluntary reporting for other reef fish species is available

TPWD – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – state agency that oversees and works to conserve Texas wildlife and their habitats as well as state parks, historical areas and aquatic resources.

TOR – Terms of Reference – a list of terms that define certain aspects of a project: what has to be achieved, how and when it will be achieved and who will take part to ensure project completion

TRP – target reference point – a type of biological reference point, desired status of the fishery

TWG – topical working group – an interdisciplinary group made of up individuals with expertise that is relevant to a certain topic

U.S. Caribbean – Caribbean islands of Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix

USCG – U.S. Coast Guard

USVI – U.S. Virgin Islands – group of Caribbean Islands consisting of the main islands of St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas

VEC – valued environmental component – the fundamental elements that comprise the physical, biological or socio-economic environment including air, water, vegetation, and wildlife, among other components that may be affected by a proposed project.

VIDPNR – Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources – department mandated to protect, manage and maintain the natural and cultural resources of the Virgin Islands through economic development and inter-agency collaboration.

VMS – vessel monitoring system – a general term used for equipment that is used to track a vessel’s geographic position through a satellite communication system.

VOC – volatile organic compound – compounds that have a high vapor pressure and are not very soluble in water. They are emitted as gases from certain solids and liquids.

VPA – virtual population analysis – simulation to reconstruct a population by taking a year class (a group of fish born in the same year) using the number of fish caught each year from a year class and the mortality rate for the size of that year class

VTR – Vessel Trip Report

ww – whole weight

YPR – yield-per-recruit

Z – total mortality



