



# General situation of world fish stocks

## United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

### Contents:

1. Definitions
2. Snapshot of the global situation
3. Short list of "depleted" fish stocks
4. Global list of fish stocks ranked as either "overexploited," "depleted," or recovering by region

## 1. Definitions

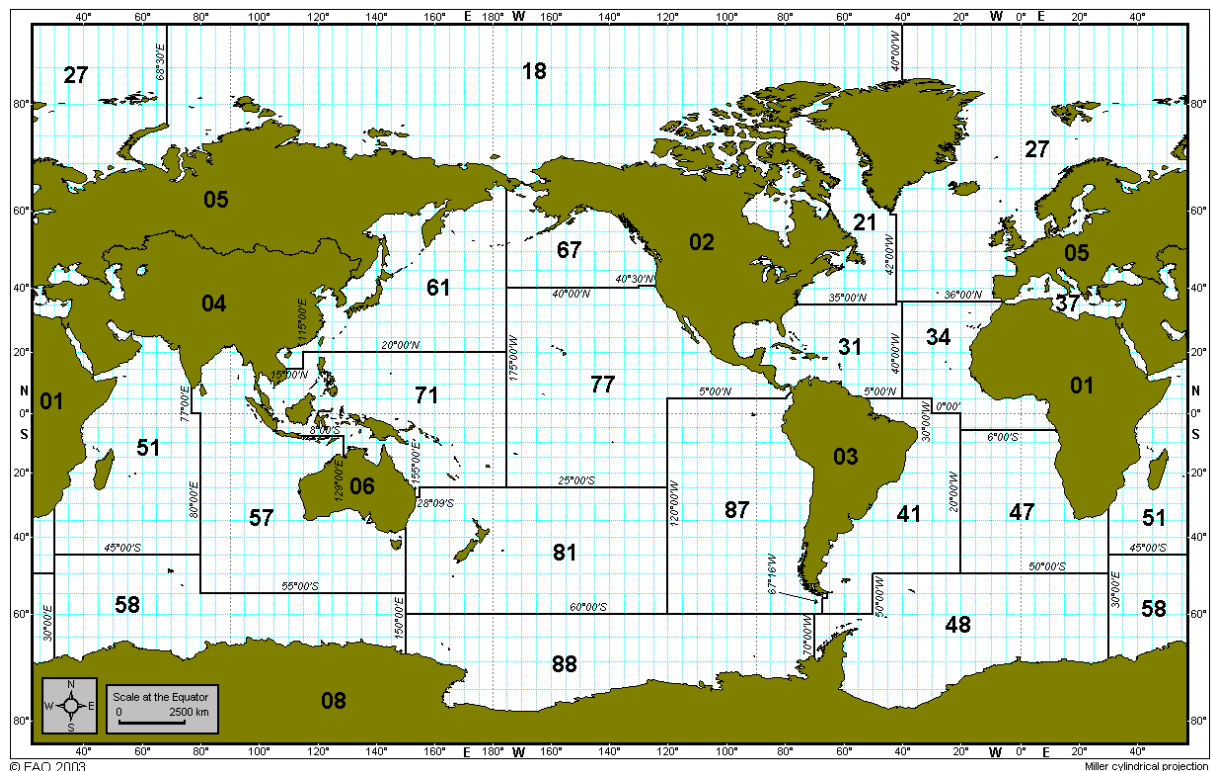
<i>Underexploited</i>	Undeveloped or new fishery. Believed to have a significant potential for expansion in total production;
<i>Moderately exploited</i>	Exploited with a low level of fishing effort. Believed to have some limited potential for expansion in total production;
<i>Fully exploited</i>	The fishery is operating at or close to an optimal yield level, with no expected room for further expansion;
<i>Overexploited</i>	The fishery is being exploited at above a level which is believed to be sustainable in the long term, with no potential room for further expansion and a higher risk of stock depletion/collapse;
<i>Depleted</i>	Catches are well below historical levels, irrespective of the amount of fishing effort exerted;
<i>Recovering</i>	Catches are again increasing after having been depleted

## 2. Snapshot of the global situation

Of the 600 marine fish stocks monitored by FAO:

3% are underexploited  
20% are moderately exploited  
52% are fully exploited  
17% are overexploited  
7% are depleted  
1% are recovering from depletion

Map of world fishing statistical areas monitored by FAO



Source: FAO's report "Review of the State of World Marine Fisheries Resources", tables D1-D17,  
<http://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5852e/y5852E23.pdf>

### 3. Fish stocks identified by FAO as falling into its "worst" category, "depleted":

D: depleted | F-D: ranging from fully exploited to depleted | O-D: ranging from over exploited to depleted | U-D: ranging from unexploited to depleted

#### Northwest Atlantic (Area 21\*):

Atlantic cod (D)  
Haddock (D)

#### Northeast Atlantic (27):

Atlantic Cod (O-D)  
Atlantic salmon (F-D)  
Haddock (O-D)  
Other cods, hakes, and haddocks (F-D)  
Salmons, trouts, smelts, etc. (F-D)  
Whiting (F-D)

#### Southwest Atlantic: (41)

Argentine Hake (O-D)

#### Western Atlantic (31,41):

Atlantic bluefin tuna

#### Indian Ocean (51,57,58):

Southern Bluefin Tuna

#### Pacific Ocean (61,67,71,77,81,87):

Southern Bluefin Tuna

#### Southeast Atlantic (47):

Geelbek Croaker (D)  
Red steenbras (D)

#### Mediterranean/Black Sea (37)

Albacore (F-D)  
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (D)  
Atlantic Bonito (F-D)  
Azov Sea Sprat (D)  
European Sprat (D)  
Sardinellas (U-D)  
Pontic Shad and other Shads (D)  
Whiting (F-D)

#### Northeast Pacific (67)

North Pacific Hake (U-D)  
Other shrimp, prawns, etc. (F-D)

#### Southeast Pacific (87):

Eastern Pacific Bonito (O-D)  
South Pacific Hake (F-D)

#### Southern Ocean (48, 58, 88):

Antarctic Rockcods (D)  
Blackfin Icefish (D)  
Patagonian Toothfish (F-D)  
Mackerel Icefish (D)

\*See map previous page

### 4. Global list of fish stocks ranked as either "overexploited," "depleted," or "recovering," by FAO statistical region

(Stock assessments based on 2004 data, catch volumes based on 2002 data)

#### Northwest Atlantic (FAO area 21)

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons caught
Atlantic cod <i>Gadus morhua</i>	Depleted	Canada, USA, Greenland	55,000
Haddock <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Depleted	Canada, USA	23,000
Atlantic Herring <i>Clupea harengus</i>	Ranging from underexploited to recovering	Canada, USA	259,000
American lobster <i>Homarus americanus</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Canada, USA	82,000

#### Northeast Atlantic (FAO area 27)

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons caught
Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden	2,000
Salmons, trouts, smelts, etc.	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	-	7,000
European plaice <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Overexploited	Netherlands, Denmark, UK, Belgium	99,000
Other flounders, halibuts and soles	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	-	176,000
Atlantic cod <i>Gadus morhua</i>	Ranging from overexploited to depleted	Norway, Iceland, Russian Federation	835,000
Blue whiting <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Overexploited	Norway, Iceland, Russian Federation, Faeroe Islands	1,589,000
Haddock <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Ranging from overexploited to depleted	Norway, UK, Iceland, Russian Federation	244,000
Pollock <i>Pollachius virens</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Norway, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, France	370,000
Whiting <i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	France, UK, Ireland, Netherlands	43,000
Other code, hakes and haddock type fish	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	-	181,000

**Western Central Atlantic (FAO area 31)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Grouper	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Mexico, USA, Dominican Rep.	20,000
Scianids	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Venezuela	23,000
Snapper	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Venezuela, Dominican Rep., Mexico, USA	39,000
Albacore <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Ranging from overexploited to depleted	China, Taiwan	10,000
King Mackerel <i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to (possibly) overexploited	Mexico, Venezuela, USA, Trinidad and Tobago	12,000
Skipjack tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Overexploited	Venezuela, Cuba, St. Vincent	4,000
Yellowfin Tuna <i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	Venezuela, USA, Cuba, St. Vincent	18,000
Caribbean Spiny Lobster <i>Panulirus argus</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Cuba, Bahamas, Nicaragua, Dom. Rep.	29,000
Redspotted shrimp <i>Penaeus brasiliensis</i>	Incomplete data, probably ranging from overexploited to depleted	-	-
Stromboid conchs <i>Strombus spp</i>	Deplete	Mexico, Turk Caicos, Dom. Rep, Belize	20,000

**Eastern Central Atlantic (FAO area 34)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Common sole <i>Solea solea</i>	Overexploited	Morocco, Italy	4,000
Various other flatfish <i>Pleuronectiformes</i>	Overexploited	Spain, Senegal, Morocco, Mauritania	25,000
Other flounders, halibut and sole like fish	Overexploited	Nigeria, Korea, Cameroon, Sierra Leone	3,000
Senegalese hake <i>Merluccius senegalensis</i>	Overexploited	Spain	8,000
Other cods, hakes and haddocks	Overexploited	-	5,000
Bigeye Tuna <i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Overexploited	Spain, China, Taiwan, Japan	44,000
Common Octopus <i>Octopus vulgaris</i>	Overexploited	Spain, Italy	9,000
Various other octopus <i>Octopodidae</i>	Overexploited	Morocco, Senegal, Mauritania	63,000

**Mediterranean and Black Sea (FAO area 37)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Azov Sea Sprat <i>Clupeonella cultriventris</i>	Depleted	Russian Federation, Ukraine	27,000
Pontic Shad <i>Alosa pontica</i>	Depleted	Bulgaria	0
Other Shads	Depleted	Nigeria, Korea, Cameroon, Sierra Leone	3,000
European Hake <i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Overexploited	Italy, Spain, Greece, France	21,000
Whiting <i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	Turkey, Russian Federation	10,000
Red Mullet <i>Mullus barbatus</i>	Ranging from moderately exploited to depleted	Turkey, Tunisia, Spain	5,000
European Anchovy <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Turkey, Italy	483,000
European Sprat <i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Depleted	Ukraine, Bulgaria, Russian Federation	70,000
Sardinellas <i>Sardinella spp</i>	Ranging from underexploited to depleted	Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Spain	67,000
Albacore <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Fully exploited to depleted	Italy, Greece	6,000
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Depleted	France, Italy, Tunisia, Turkey	22,000
Swordfish <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Overexploited	Italy, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia	12,000
Atlantic Bonito <i>Sarda sarda</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Tunisia	12,000
Striped venus <i>Chamelea gallina</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Italy, Turkey	36,000

Source: FAO's report "Review of the State of World Marine Fisheries Resources", tables D1-D17, <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5852e/Y5852E23.pdf>

**Southwest Atlantic (FAO area 41)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Argentine Hake <i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>	Overexploited to depleted	Argentina, Uruguay	409,000
Southern Blue Whiting <i>Micromesistius australis</i>	Fully exploited to over exploited	Argentina, Japan, Chile	64,000
Argentina Croaker <i>Umbrina canosai</i>	Moderately exploited to overexploited	Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina	18,000
Whitemouth Croaker <i>Micropogonias furnieri</i>	Moderately exploited to overexploited	Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina	8,000
Striped Weakfish <i>Cynoscion striatus</i>	Moderately exploited to overexploited	Argentina, Uruguay	20,000
Brazilian Sardinella <i>Sardinella brasiliensis</i>	Overexploited	Brazil	28,000
Other shrimps	Fully exploited to over exploited	Argentina	42,000

**Southeast Atlantic (FAO area 47)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Cape hakes <i>Merluccius capensis</i> <i>M. paradox</i>	Fully exploited to overexploited	Namibia, South Africa	306,000
Geelbeck Croaker <i>Atractoscion aequidens</i>	Depleted	South Africa	0
Red Steenbras <i>Petrus rupestris</i>	Depleted	South Africa	0
Kingklip <i>Genypterus capensis</i>	Overexploited	Namibia, South Africa	13,000
Bigeye Tuna <i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Overexploited	China, Taiwan, Japan	19,000
Southern Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	Overexploited	Japan, China, Taiwan	42,000
Cunene Horse Mackerel <i>Trachurus trecae</i>	Overexploited	Angola	45,000
Cape Rock Lobster <i>Jasus lalandii</i>	Overexploited or recovering from depletion	South Africa, Namibia	3,000
Southern Spiny Lobster <i>Palinurus gilchristi</i>	Overexploited	South Africa	1,000
Perlemoen Abalone <i>Haliotis midae</i>	Overexploited	South Africa	1,000
Cape Hope Squid <i>Loligo reynaudi</i>	Fully exploited to over exploited	South Africa	7,000

**Western Indian Ocean (FAO area 51)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Emperors <i>Lethrinidae</i>	Fully exploited to over exploited	UAE, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania	65,000
Narrow-barred Spanish Mackerel <i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	Fully exploited to over exploited	India, Madagascar, Iran, Pakistan	79,000
Various Nantian Decapods <i>Nantantia</i>	Fully exploited to over exploited	India, Madagascar	128,000

**Eastern Indian Ocean (FAO area 57)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Croakers and drums <i>Sciaenidae</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia	83,000
Ponyfish <i>Leiognathidae</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	India, Indonesia	63,000
Stolephorus anchovies <i>Stolephorus spp</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Indonesia, Malaysia	89,000
Indian Mackerels <i>Rastrelliger spp</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand	173,000
Scads <i>Decapterus sso</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Indonesia	44,000
Banana Prawn <i>Penaeus merguensis</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Indonesia, Thailand	15,000
Giant Tiger Prawn <i>Penaeus monodon</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	India, Indonesia	56,000

Source: FAO's report "Review of the State of World Marine Fisheries Resources", tables D1-D17, <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5852e/y5852E23.pdf>

**Northwest Pacific (FAO area 61)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Largehead Hairtail <i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	China	1,371,000

**Northeast Pacific (FAO area 67)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Chinook Salmon <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	USA, Canada	10,000
Coho Salmon <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	USA	18,000
North Pacific Hake <i>Merluccius productus</i>	Ranging from underexploited to depleted	USA	130,000
Pacific Herring <i>Clupea pallasii</i>	Ranging from moderately exploited to overexploited	USA, Canada	62,000
Other Shrimps	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	-	4,000

**Western Central Pacific (FAO area 71)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Lizardfishes <i>Synodontidae</i>	Ranging from moderately exploited to overexploited	Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines	83,000
Ponyfishes <i>Leiognathidae</i>	Ranging from moderately exploited to overexploited	Indonesia, Philippines	141,000
Giant Tiger Prawn <i>Penaeus monodon</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Indonesia, Australia	46,000

**Eastern Central Pacific (FAO area 77)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Miscellaneous coastal fishes	Ranging from moderately exploited to overexploited		64,000
Shrimps and prawns	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	-	51,000

**Southwest Pacific (FAO area 81)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Orange Roughy <i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	New Zealand	19,000
Oreo Dories <i>Oreosomatidae</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	New Zealand	18,000
Silver Gemfish <i>Rexea solandri</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	New Zealand, Australia	1,000

**Southeast Pacific (FAO area 87)**

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
Patagonia Grenadier <i>Macruronyx magellanicus</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Chile	132,000
South Pacific Hake <i>Merluccius gayi</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	Chile, Peru	162,000
Southern Hake <i>Merluccius australis</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Chile	32,000
Miscellaneous demersal fishes			36,000
Anchoveta <i>Engraulis ringens</i>	Ranging from overexploited to depleted	Peru, Chile	9,703,000
Araucanian herring <i>Strangomera bentincki</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Chile	347,000
South American Pilchard <i>Sardinops sagax</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Chile, Peru, Ecuador	28,000
Eastern Pacific Bonito <i>Sarda chiliensis</i>	Ranging from overexploited to depleted	Peru	1,000
Chilean Jack Mackerel <i>Trachurus murphyi</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Chile, Peru	1,750,000

### The Southern Ocean (FAO areas 48, 58 and 88)

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
<b>Area 48:</b>			
Antarctic Rockcods <i>Nototheniidae</i>	Depleted	United Kingdom	0
Blackfin Icefish <i>Chaenocephalus aceraturus</i>	Depleted	United Kingdom, Republic of Korea	0
Mackerel Icefish <i>Champscephalus gunnari</i>	Depleted	Russian Federation, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Poland	0
Patagonia Toothfish <i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to depleted	United Kingdom, Chile, Spain, Uruguay	6,000
<b>Area 58:</b>			
Mackerel Icefish <i>Champscephalus gunnari</i>	Depleted	Australia	1,000

### Tuna and tuna-like species, all oceans

Fish	Status	Main fishing countries	Tons/year
<b>Atlantic Ocean (areas 21,27,31,34,37,41,47 and 48):</b>			
Albacore <i>Thunnus alalungae</i>	North: Overexploited South: Overexploited Med. Sea: ?	Taiwan, China, Spain, South Africa	61,000
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	West: Depleted East: Overexploited	France, Italy, Spain, Morocco	35,000
Bigeye Tuna <i>Thunnus obesusi</i>	Overexploited	Spain, Taiwan, Japan	79,000
Southern Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	Depleted	Japan, Taiwan, South Africa	1,000
<b>Indian Ocean (areas 51, 57 and 58)::</b>			
Bigeye Tuna <i>Thunnus obesusi</i>	Ranging from fully exploited to overexploited	Taiwan, Indonesia, Spain	130,000
Southern Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	Depleted	Australia, Japan, Indonesia	12,000
<b>Pacific Ocean (61, 67, 71, 77, 81 and 87)</b>			
Pacific Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Overexploited	Japan, Taiwan, Mexico	9,000
Southern Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	Depleted	Japan, New Zealand, Australia	2,000