

Project Information

Project Title:	Evaluating the Effectiveness of Stock Rebuilding Plans of the 2006 Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act
PIN:	DELS-OSB-10-03
Major Unit:	Division on Earth and Life Studies
Sub Unit:	Ocean Studies Board
RSO:	Waddell, Kim
Subject/Focus Area:	Biology and Life Sciences; Environment and Environmental Studies

Committee Membership

[Committee Membership](#)

Meetings

[Meeting 1 - 03/08/2012](#)

[Meeting 2 - 06/07/2012](#)

[Meeting 3 - 07/09/2012](#)

[Meeting 4 - 10/24/2012](#)

Reports

Reports having no URL can be seen at the Public Access Records Office

Project Scope

An ad hoc committee will undertake an analysis of the effects of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) (and subsequent amendments) mandate to rebuild overfished stocks, including an evaluation of success in stock rebuilding, and the identification of changes made to fisheries management in response to rebuilding requirements. In particular, the study will:

- 1) Evaluate methods and criteria used (1) to set target fishing mortality and biomass levels for rebuilding overfished stocks, and (2) to determine the probability that a particular stock will rebuild by a certain date. Consider the quantity and quality of information available for defining maximum sustainable yield (MSY)-based reference points or proxies for such reference points. Compare these methods and criteria to those used in major fishery management settings outside the U.S.
- 2) Assess the effects of uncertainty in current stock abundance, population dynamics, and variability in recruitment in setting rebuilding targets. Identify criteria for adjusting rebuilding targets and schedules based on new information and updated stock assessments.
- 3) Provide an overview of the success of rebuilding plans under the MSA and compare to success of approaches used outside the U.S. Using a few representative rebuilding plans, identify factors (such as fishing mortality rate, life histories, uncertainty in stock assessments, and others) that affect the timeframe over which a stock is rebuilt.
- 4) Consider the effects of climate and environmental conditions, habitat loss and degradation, ecological effects of fishing on the food chain, and ecological interactions among multiple species, and identify ways to adjust rebuilding plans to take these factors into account.
- 5) Assess the types of information needed and current understanding of the economic and social impacts of rebuilding programs, particularly on fishing communities. Identify the economic, social, and ecological tradeoffs of rebuilding a fishery associated with shorter or longer rebuilding times. Evaluate available methods for integrating these social, economic and ecological factors when designing and evaluating rebuilding plans.
- 6) Summarize how the social, economic and ecological impacts of rebuilding plans are affected by the structure of fisheries management measures, e.g., limited entry, catch shares systems, and closed areas.
- 7) Identify the biological, ecological, social and economic knowledge gaps that impede the implementation and effectiveness of rebuilding programs, and determine what additional data and analyses are needed to address those gaps.

The project is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The approximate start date for the project is 07/01/2011. A report will be issued at the end of the project in approximately 20 months.

Project Duration: 20 months

Provide **FEEDBACK** on this project.

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