

What is considered sustainable?

- NOAA Fisheries Service considers a stock that has never been overfished sustainably managed if:
 - It is not subject to overfishing, and
 - Its biomass is at least 80% of the level that supports the maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY})
- About 31% (71) of the 230 stocks tracked in the NMFS [Fish Stock Sustainability Index](#) are sustainably managed according to this criteria.
- We are required to build and maintain stocks at the B_{MSY} level, but this is a long term average, and we expect annual fluctuation in our estimates of stock size.