

DRAFT

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Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee on Working
Definitions For Use in Management Plans

A. Determinants of Catch Levels

1. Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) is an average over a reasonable length of time of the largest catch which can be taken continuously from a stock under current environmental conditions. It should normally be presented with a range of values around its point estimate.

Where sufficient scientific data as to the biological characteristics of the stock do not exist or the period of exploitation or investigation has not been long enough for adequate understanding of stock dynamics, the MSY will be estimated from the best information available (e.g. the application of fishing mortality rates from other fisheries to an estimate of total stock size).

2. Equilibrium Yield (EY) The annual or seasonal harvest which maintains the resource at approximately the same level of abundance in succeeding seasons or years.
3. Total allowable catch (TAC) is a seasonally determined catch that may differ from MSY for biological or ecological reasons. It may be lower or higher than MSY in

some years for species with fluctuating recruitment. It may be set lower than MSY in order to rebuild overfished stocks.

4. Optimum Yield (OY) may be a plus or minus deviation from TAC for purposes of promoting economic and social objectives as established by law and public participation processes.

Where there is a lack of sufficient scientific data and appropriate means of analysis of economic and social groups and systems interacting with and dependent upon the results of fisheries management programs, OY may be assumed to be the same as TAC.

B. Determination of Domestic Annual Fishing Capacity and Expected Harvest

The domestic annual fishing capacity is the total potential physical capacity of the fleets, modified by logistical factors. The components of the concept are:

1. An inventory of total potential physical capacity, defined in terms of appropriate vessel and gear characteristics (e.g. size, horsepower, hold capacity, gear design, etc.).
2. Logistic factors determining total annual fishing capacity, (e.g. variations in vessel and gear performance, trip length between fishing location and landing points, weather constraints, etc.).

Expected domestic annual fisheries harvest is the domestic annual fishing capacity modified by other factors which will determine estimates of what the fleets will harvest (e.g. how fishermen will respond to price changes in the subject species and other species, etc.).

These concepts should be placed in a dynamic context of past trends and future projections. For example, physical fleet capacity should not simply be last season's inventory of vessels and hold measurements (although this is appropriate for present interim planning), but also next year's projected movement into and out of the fishery. Vessels under construction should be included and an estimate of attrition made. The determination of domestic annual fishing capacity and expected harvest should be made on the best available information.

C. Determination of Foreign Allocation

The foreign allocation is determined by deducting the domestic annual expected harvest from the optimum yield.