

# Glossary of Terms – *Draft Vision Blueprint*

**Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP):** The ACCSP includes the 15 Atlantic coast states and the District of Columbia, two federal fisheries agencies (NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), three regional fisheries management councils (New England, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic), the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). These program partners work cooperatively towards the development and implementation of data collection standards and processes across jurisdictional lines.

**Bycatch:** Fish harvested in a fishery, but not sold or kept for personal use. Bycatch includes economic discards and regulatory discards, but not fish released alive under a recreational catch and release fishery management program.

**Bycatch allowance:** A portion of the allowable catch set aside to cover incidental catch of some species.

**Catch Card:** A reporting mechanism used in fisheries to report fish catches. Fishermen are required to fill out a catch card in order to land certain species of fish. (Used in Highly Migratory Species in the recreational fishery.)

**Catch Share:** A fishery management program that dedicates a secure share of the total fishery catch to individuals, cooperatives, communities, or other entities. Catch share recipients are responsible for terminating fishing activity when their specific share is reached.

**Charter Boat:** A fishing boat available for hire by recreational anglers, normally by a group of anglers for a short time period.

**Citizen Science:** Research collaborations between scientists and volunteers, particularly (but not exclusively) to expand opportunities for scientific data collection and to provide access to scientific information for community members.

**Cooperative Research:** The partnering of the fishing industry, fishermen and other stakeholders with federal and university scientists to collect fundamental fisheries information.

**Discards:** Fish captured, but released at sea.

**Discard Mortality Rate:** The % of total fish discarded that do not survive being captured and released at sea.

**Effort:** The amount of time and fishing power (i.e., gear size, boat size, horsepower) used to harvest fish.

**Electronic monitoring (EM)** – The use of technologies – such as vessel monitoring systems or video cameras – to passively monitor fishing operations through observing or tracking. Video monitoring is often referred to as EM.

**Electronic reporting (ER)** – The use of technologies - such as phones, tablets, or computers - to record, transmit, receive, and store fishery data.

**Electronic technology (ET)** – Any electronic tool used to support catch monitoring efforts both on shore and at sea, including electronic reporting (e.g., e-logbooks, tablets, apps) and electronic monitoring (VMS, video cameras, and sensors).

**Fishery Dependent Data:** Fishery data collected and reported by fishermen and dealers.

**Fishery Independent Data:** Fishery data collected and reported by scientists who catch the fish themselves.

**Fishery Management Plan:** Management plan for fisheries operating in the federal produced by regional fishery management councils and submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval.

**Fishing Effort:** Usually refers to the amount of fishing. May refer to the number of fishing vessels, amount of fishing gear (nets, traps, hooks), or total amount of time vessels and gear are actively engaged in fishing.

**Head Boat:** A fishing boat that charges individual fees per recreational angler onboard.

**Governance:** a continuing process through which governments, institutions, and stakeholders of the sector and of other interacting sectors elaborate and adopt appropriate policies, plans, and management strategies to ensure sustainable and responsible resource utilization. In the process, conflicting or diverse interests may be accommodated and cooperative action may be taken.

**Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act:** Federal legislation responsible for establishing the fishery management councils and the mandatory and discretionary guidelines for federal fishery management plans.

**Marine Protected Area (MPA):** Geographic area with discrete boundaries that has been designated to enhance the conservation of marine resources. This includes MPA-wide restrictions on some activities such as oil and gas mining and the use of zones such as fishery and ecological reserves to provide higher levels of protection.

**MARMAP (Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction) program:** A cooperative fisheries project of the SC Department of Natural Resources, Marine Resources Research Institute and NOAA Fisheries which conducts fishery-independent assessments of reef fish abundance and life history from Cape Lookout, North Carolina to Fort Pierce, Florida.

**Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS):** Survey operated by NMFS in cooperation with states that collects marine recreational data.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):** Federal agency within NOAA responsible for overseeing fisheries science and regulation.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:** Agency within the Department of Commerce responsible for ocean and coastal management.

**Overfished:** A stock or stock complex is considered overfished when stock biomass falls below the minimum stock size threshold (MSST) (e.g., current biomass < MSST = overfished).

**Overfishing:** Overfishing occurs when a stock or stock complex is subjected to a rate of fishing mortality that exceeds the maximum fishing mortality threshold (e.g., current fishing mortality rate > MFMT = overfishing).

**Quota:** % or annual amount of fish that can be harvested.

**Quota-based Management:** A broad term for a type of sub-regional fisheries management program that designates a certain amount of quota (pounds of fish) to a specific group or individual based on a specified program design and criteria (e.g., region fished, catch history, economic qualifier, etc.). Specific types of quota-based management include but are not limited to:

- **Catch Shares (see above)**
- **Community Share program** – a portion of the quota is allocated to a specific community within a region; the community could be defined geographically (e.g., Outer Banks of NC, Florida Keys, etc.) or by some other type of common factor.
- **Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ):** Fishery management tool that allocates a certain portion of the Total Allowable Catch to individual vessels, fishermen, or other eligible recipients.
- **Sector Share program** – a portion of the quota is allocated to a specific sector; sectors could be defined as a group of interested fishermen, a specific gear type (hook and line, longline, etc.), a specific sector within a fishery (i.e., for-hire) and other types of sectors as defined by the program.
- **State-by-State quota program** – a portion of the quota is allocated to each state within a region.

**Research Set-Aside Program:** A funding program provided by the sale of Set-Aside allocations for quota. (Commonly used in Northeast fisheries.)

**SAFE Report (Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report):** A document or set of documents that provides Councils with a summary of information concerning the most recent biological condition of stocks and the marine ecosystems in the Fishery Management Unit (FMU) and the social and economic condition of the recreational and commercial fishing interests, fishing communities, and the fish processing industries.

**Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC):** Fishery management advisory body composed of federal, state, and academic scientists, which provides scientific advice to a fishery management council.

**SEDAR (SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review):** The cooperative process by which stock assessment projects are conducted in NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Region.

**Special Management Zone (SMZ):** A designated area surrounding an artificial reef or fish attracting device that prohibits or restrains the use of specific types of fishing gear that are not compatible with the intent of the artificial reef or fish attracting device.

- **Spawning SMZ:** A designated area whose habitat characteristics, bottom topography and current systems provide important snapper grouper spawning habitat where fishing for or retention of snapper grouper species is prohibited and certain activities (types of fishing, anchoring, etc.) are restricted.

**South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (SAFMC):** One of eight regional councils mandated in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to develop management plans for fisheries in federal waters. The SAFMC develops fishery management plans for fisheries off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and the east coast of Florida.

**Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology:** A standardized methodology that can be applied to estimate bycatch in fisheries. A mechanism to establish, maintain, and utilize biological sampling programs designed to minimize bias to the extent practicable, thus promoting accuracy while maintaining sufficiently high levels of precision.

**Stock Assessment:** The process of collecting and analyzing biological and statistical information to determine the changes in the abundance of fishery stocks in response to fishing, and, to the extent possible, to predict future trends of stock abundance. Stock assessments are based on resource surveys; knowledge of the habitat requirements, life history, and behavior of the species; the use of environmental indices to determine impacts on stocks; and catch statistics. Stock assessments are used as a basis to assess and specify the present and probable future condition of a fishery.

**Swipe Card:** A reporting mechanism used in fisheries to report fishery landings and transactions. Typically swipe cards are magnetic and are swiped at an established reporting station. (Used in the Maine elver fishery.)

**Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)** – Electronic monitoring technology that allows the tracking of fishing vessels, including their position, time at position, course, and speed.

***Compiled from:***

*SAFMC Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan Glossary*

*NOAA Fisheries Glossary*

*Citizen Science Direct (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit/about/definition>)*