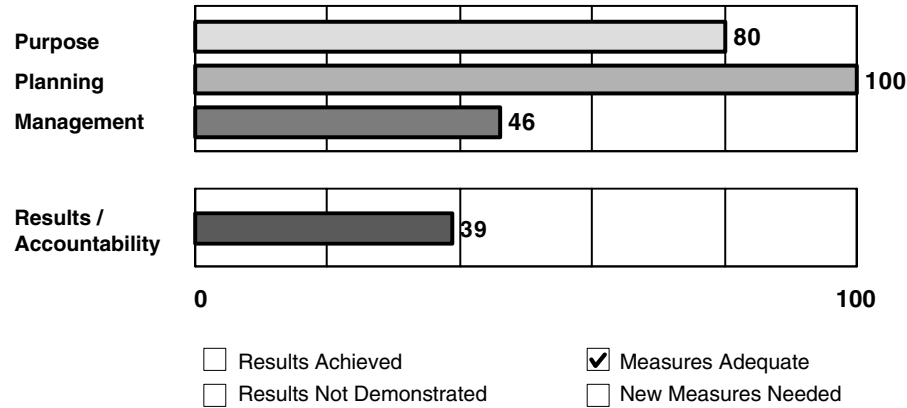


Program: National Marine Fisheries Service

Agency: Department of Commerce

Bureau: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Long-term Measure: Reduce the number of overfished stocks out of 287 major stocks	2001	46	46
	2002	45	
	2003	45	
	2004	43	
Long-term Measure: Reduce the number of major stocks with an unknown stock status	2001	120	120
	2002	120	
	2003	118	
	2004	115	
Long-term Measure: Increase the number of major stocks with known sustainable stock levels	2001	121	121
	2002	122	
	2003	124	
	2004	129	

Rating: Adequate

Program Type: Regulatory

Program Summary:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the management and conservation of marine animals (fish, marine mammals, and sea turtles) and their habitats off the coast of the United States and its territories.

1. Less than half of major fish stocks are known to be at sustainable levels. Stock levels are unknown for 40 percent, and 17 percent are known to be overfished. NMFS has rebuilding plans in place for most overfished fisheries. Due to biological limits, some plans will take a number of years to achieve goals.
2. NMFS's long-term goals are to significantly reduce the number of overfished stocks, reduce the likelihood of extinction of endangered species, and ensure that important habitats are protected. There is some belief that existing goals could be more ambitious if Congress fully supported the President's Budget request. NMFS is implementing a number of management changes and proposing budget and legislative changes based on prior program assessments. The PART reaffirmed the need for such changes.
3. Several independent and outside reviews of NMFS indicate NMFS has been somewhat effective -- within its existing authorities. NMFS is burdened with significant congressional earmarking that is often not tied to its primary performance goals. In addition, the Administration has requested substantial funding increases for fish stock inventories and surveys, not all of which have been provided by Congress.

In response, the 2004 Budget sustains the President's 2003 Budget policy of reallocating funds away from earmarks and toward core NMFS missions. NMFS will continue work implementing its proposed management and organizational changes.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
603	602	561