Marine Fishery Resilience Through Habitat Conservation at the Atlantic States Marine **Fisheries Commission**

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Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Meeting

June 19, 2017

ASMFC Overview

- Formed in 1942 interstate compact
- 15 Atlantic coast states Maine to Florida
- 0-3 miles offshore
- More than 25 nearshore fish species
- Deliberative forum for states
- Cooperative management of transboundary resources
- Standards established by Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act



ASMFC-Managed Species in the Chesapeake Bay System



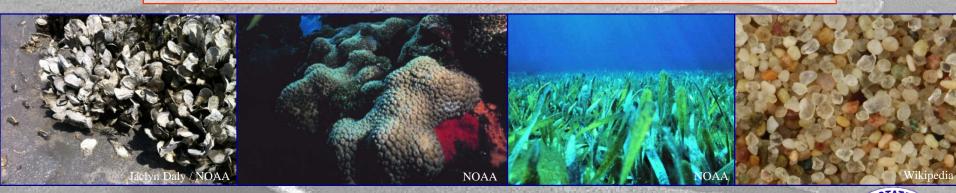
Addressing Ecosystem Services in Fisheries Management

- Management primarily single species
- Increasing demand for and need to address ecosystem services and impacts
 - Predator/prey interactions, Ecological Reference Points for menhaden
 - Climate change impacts to species abundance and distribution
 - Habitat quality and availability



ASMFC Habitat Goals

Goal 4: Protect and enhance fish habitat and ecosystem health through partnerships and education





Habitat Strategies

- Shad habitat plans
- ASMFC Habitat Program
 - Education
 - Outreach
 - Advocacy
- Partnership with Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP)





Shad Habitat Plans

- Shad managed under Amendment 3 (2010) to the FMP
- Response to stock status concerns
- Requires states and jurisdictions to submit a habitat plan: comprehensive assessment of threats to restoration for each state or river system
 - Shad: regardless of whether their commercial fishery remains open

http://www.asmfc.org/species/shad-river-herring



ASMFC Habitat Program

- Incorporate habitat recommendations into FMPs
- Provide comments on projects that could have adverse effects to our managed species
- Produce outreach tools to communicate the benefits and threats associated with fish habitat
 - Habitat Hotline Atlantic
 - Species habitat factsheets
 - Habitat Management Series
 - 14 publications
 - Most recent: sciaenid habitats







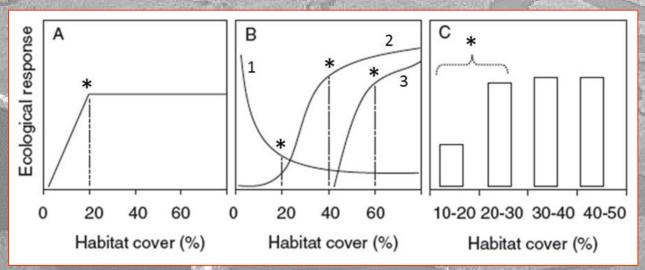
Habitat Bottlnecks and Fisheries Management

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries



Habitat bottleneck

A constraint on a species' ability to survive, reproduce, or recruit to the next life stage that results from reductions in available habitat extent and/or capacity and reduces the effectiveness of traditional fisheries management options to control mortality and spawning stock biomass.





Summer and winter flounder

Environmental bottleneck: hypoxia in nursery areas





Horseshoe crabs

Environmental bottleneck: spawning beach availability & distribution





Gregory Breese, USFWS

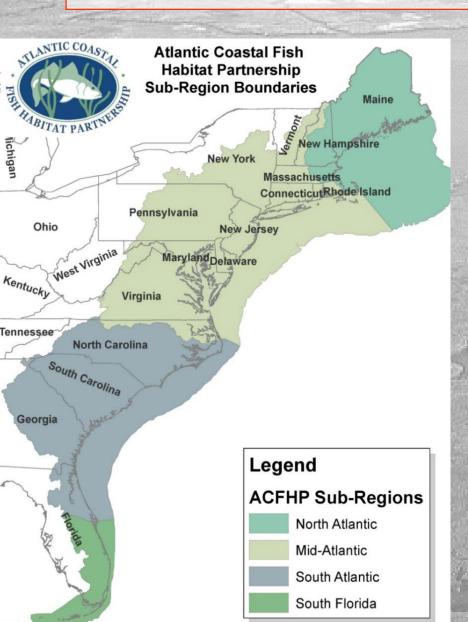
Atlantic sturgeon

Physical bottlenecks: dams and dredging Environmental bottleneck: water quality





Partnership with ACFHP



Mission

To accelerate the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes through partnerships between federal, tribal, state, local and other entities.



Partnership with ACFHP

- Science and data
 - Decision support tool
 - Species-Habitat Matrix
 - Spatial prioritization
 - Research
- On the ground conservation
 - Funding
 - Endorsement
- Outreach and communication
 - Social media
 - Articles/newsletters
 - Reports
 - Website



Partnership with ACFHP

- Science and data
 - Join our committee and/or provide expertise to projects
 - Provide funding
- On the ground conservation
 - Annual funding opportunity
 - Always willing to endorse projects
- Outreach and communication
 - We will post articles, funding opportunities, etc. to Facebook and our website



