



**Report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
Commission**

ISFMP Policy Board

February 7th, 2019

Steering Committee Meeting



- Met November 15 – 16 in Newburyport, MA
- Approved recommendation for FY19 NFHAP funding
- MA DMF presentation on conservation moorings
- Updates on website, SE mapping project, business plan, NFHP
- Presentation from Ipswich Shellfish Group on commercial clamming

Southeast Mapping

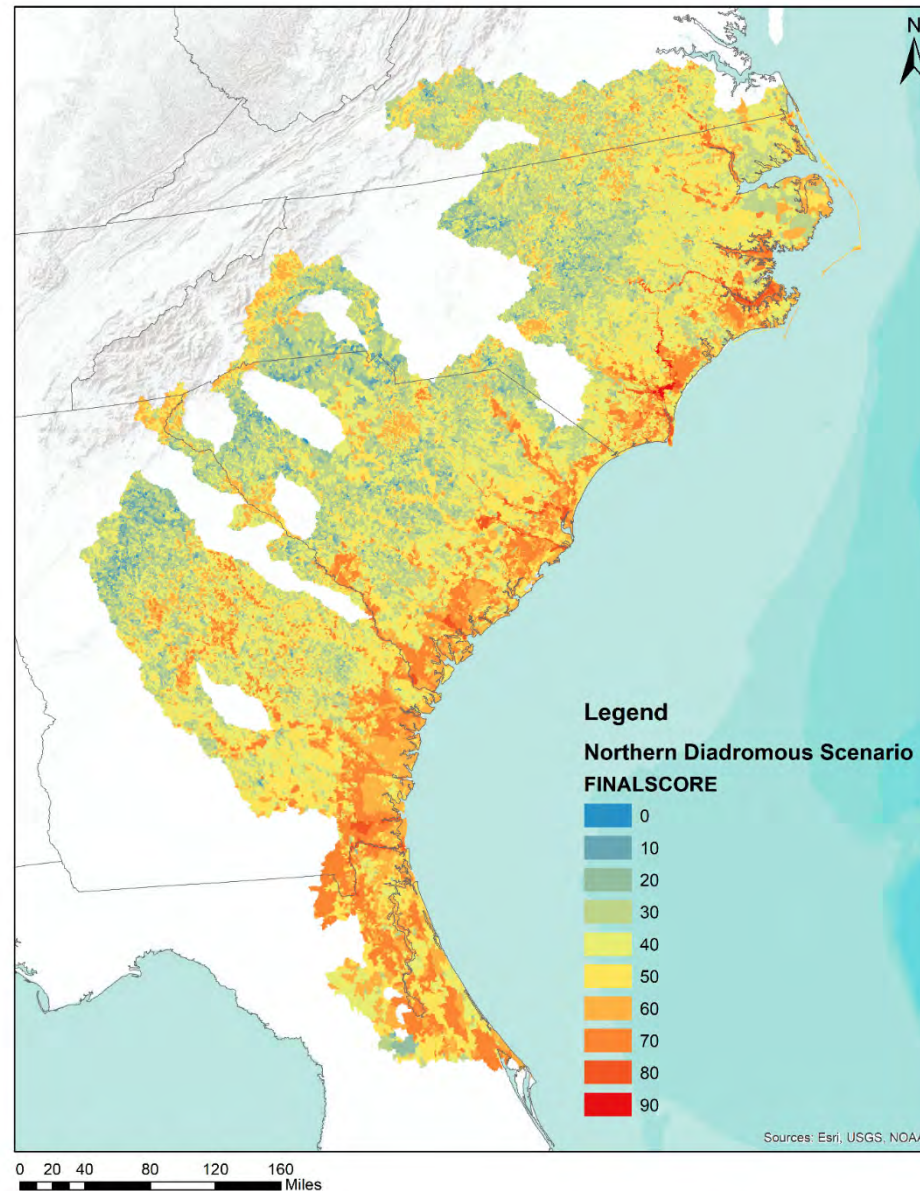


- Spatially prioritize areas for fish habitat conservation from NC through FL
- To help ACFHP and partners identify where best to invest efforts and future project funds
- Four separate analyses
 - NC to Cape Canaveral diadromous
 - NC to CC estuarine
 - CC to FL Keys estuarine
 - CC to FL Keys coastal (corals)

Southeast Mapping



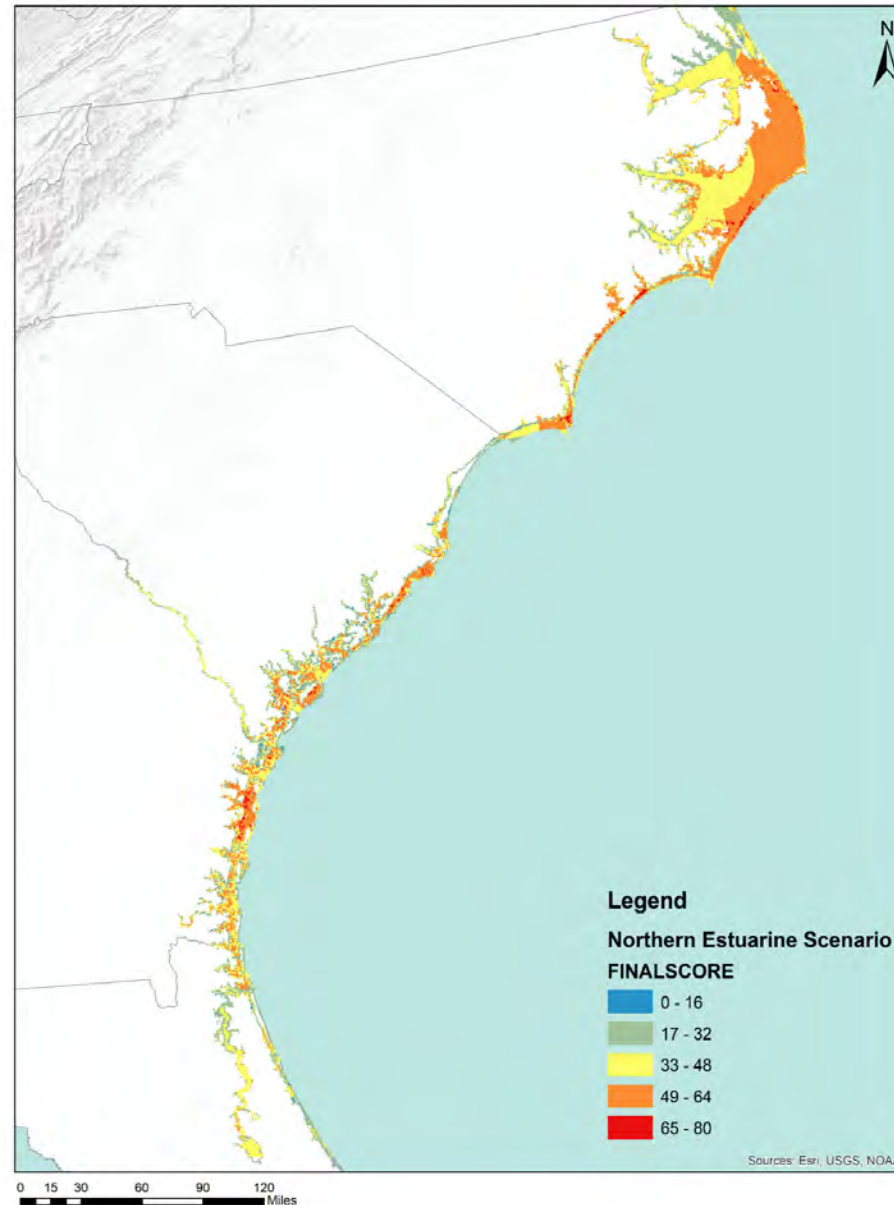
Diadromous Assessment



Southeast Mapping



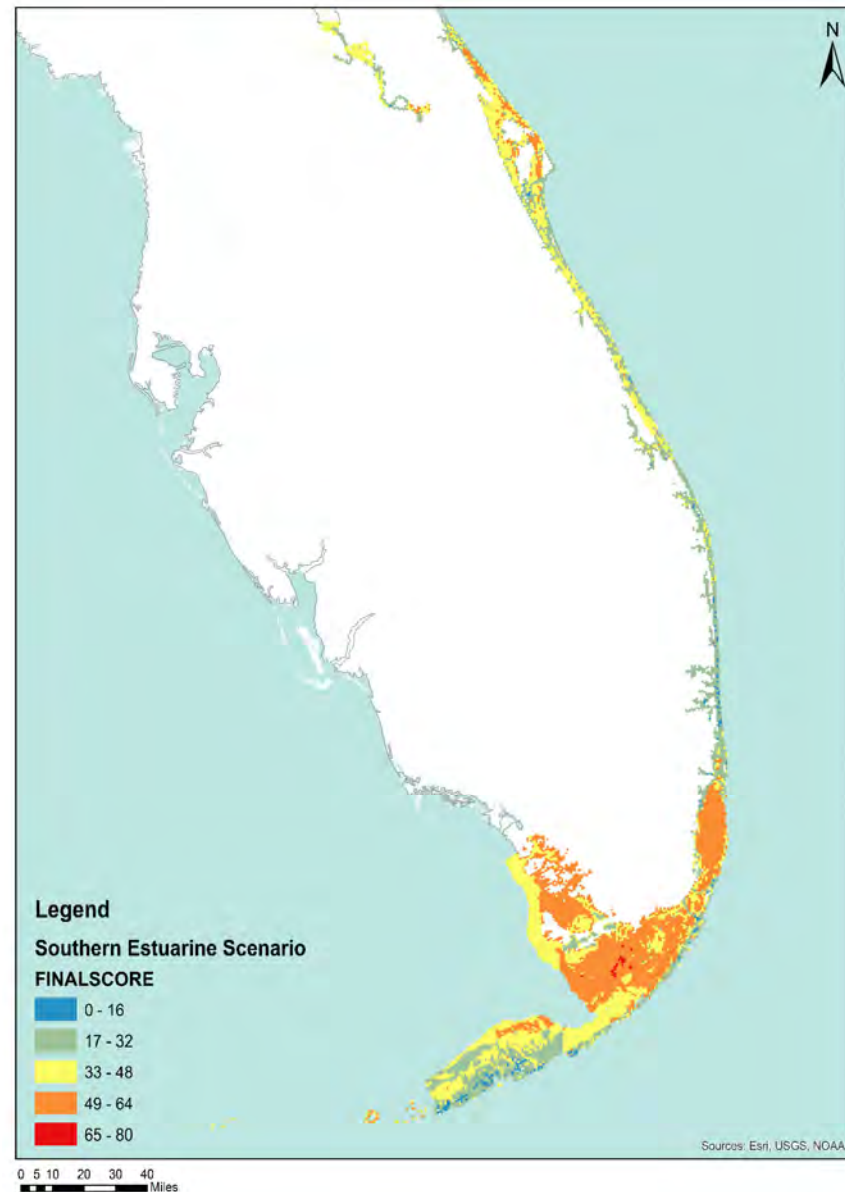
Northern Estuarine Assessment



Southeast Mapping



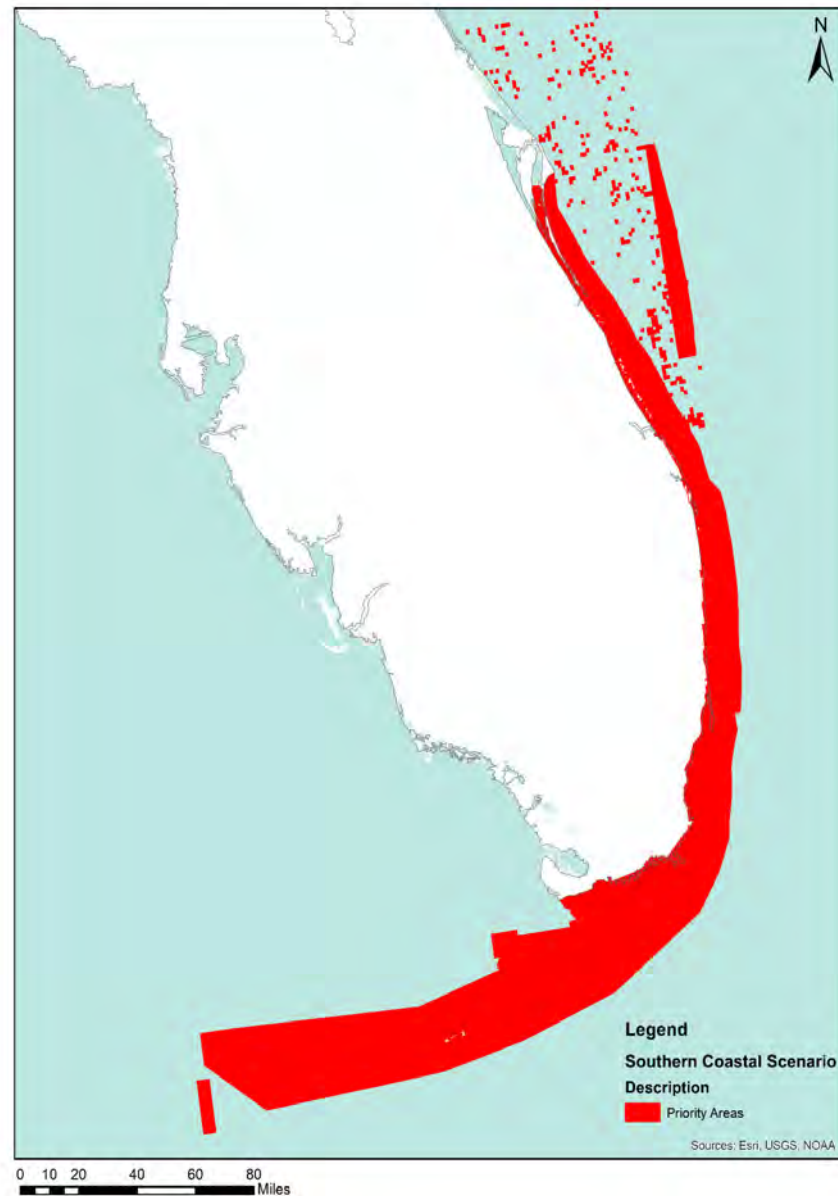
Southern Estuarine Assessment



Southeast Mapping



Coastal Assessment



Southeast Mapping

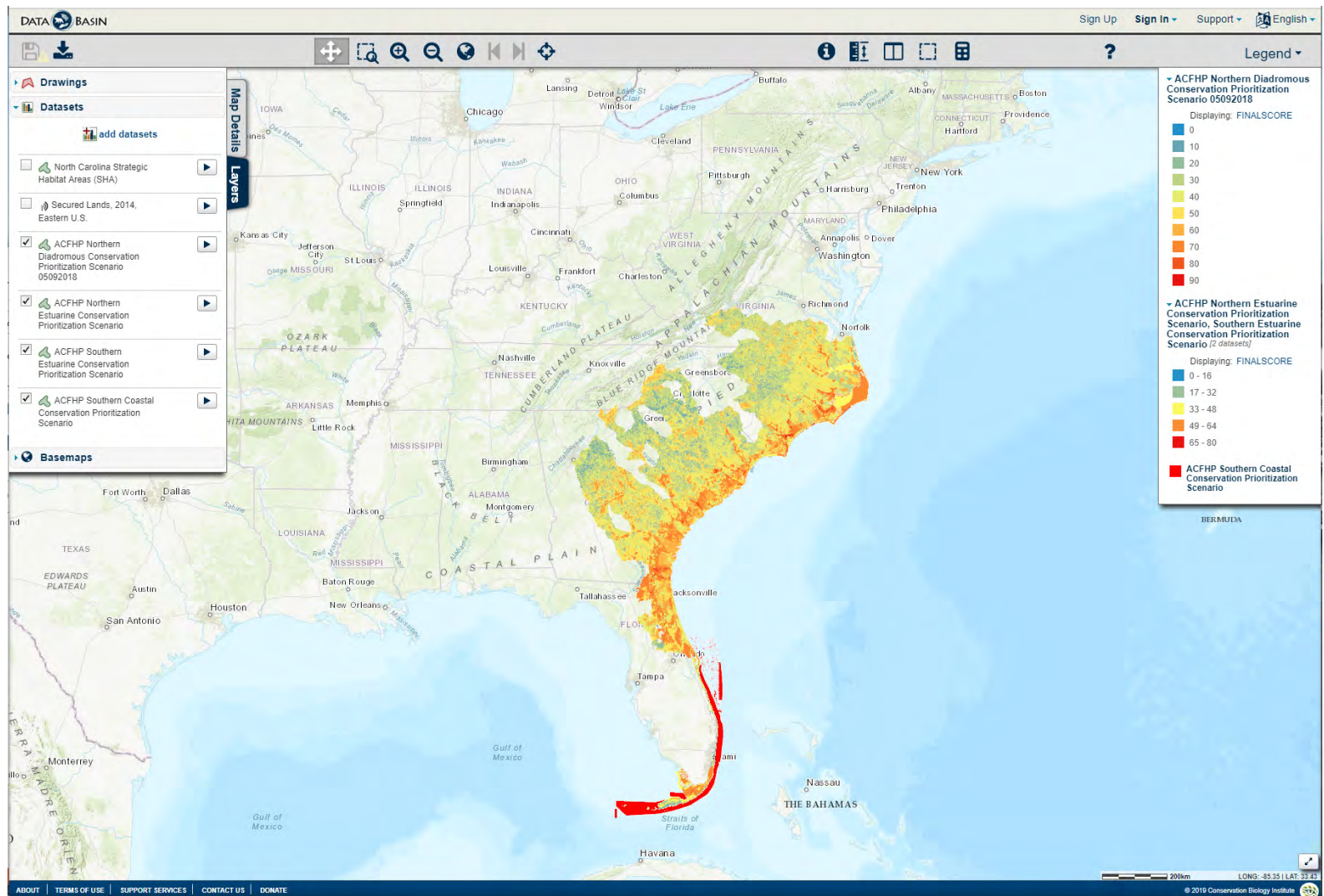


- Pilot project to start a conversation on identifying places for protection or restoration.
- Does not contain all metrics (e.g. fishing grounds) so urge caution when applying it for protection.
- Final report coming soon
- Beginning NE mapping

Southeast Mapping




- Maps online (Databasin)




New ACFHP Website






MAKING THE CONNECTION

Home About Us Priority Habitats Our Work Get Involved




Enhancing, preserving, and protecting Atlantic diadromous, estuarine, and coastal fish habitats


MAKING THE CONNECTION



Connecting the freshwater to the estuary and sea




Connecting people with fish habitat




Connecting partners


PRIORITY HABITATS




Submerged Aquatic Vegetation




Seagrass Bottom



Tidal Vegetation




Coral and Sea-Thumb Bottom




Marine and Estuarine Shellfish Beds

RECENT NEWS


The latest news and events



Spring 2018 Issue of the Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Newsletter
2018 05 2018



Winter 2017 Issue of the Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Newsletter
2017 06 2018










ACFHP Receives 2017 National Estuarine Research Reserve Conservation Award
2017 06 2018

SIGN UP TODAY

Get the latest news straight to your inbox.

OUR FUNDING SUPPORT

[DONATE NOW](#)

CONTACT

Phone: 703-642-5526
Email: info@acfhp.org
Address: 1000 N. Highland St.
Arlington, VA 22201

QUICK LINKS

Latest News
Donate
Join Our Habitat Mailing List

FOLLOW US

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

New ACFHP Website



Search

MAKING THE CONNECTION.

- Home
- About Us
- Priority Habitats
- Our Work
- Get Involved



About Us

ABOUT US

The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) is a coastwide partnership of fish habitat resource managers, scientists, and communications professionals from 33 different state, federal, tribal and non-governmental agencies who have established a commitment to work together for the benefit of aquatic resources.

ACFHP PRIORITY HABITATS BY SUBREGION

North Atlantic

- Riverine Bottom
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Marine and Esuarine Shellfish Beds

South Atlantic

- Riverine Bottom
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Marine and Esuarine Shellfish Beds
- Tidal Vegetation

Mid-Atlantic

- Riverine Bottom
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Marine and Esuarine Shellfish Beds
- Tidal Vegetation

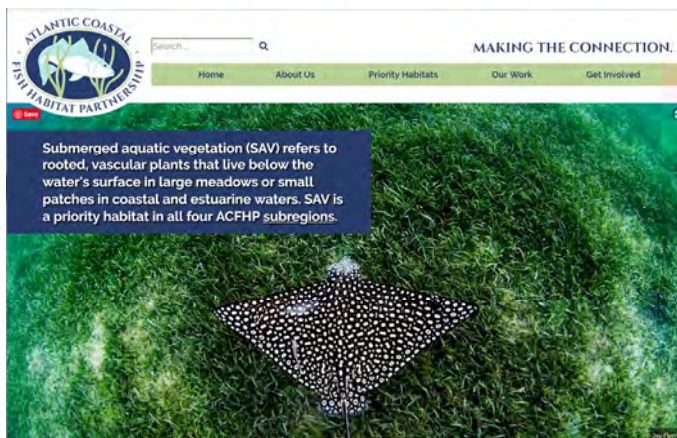
South Florida

- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Coral and Live/Hardbottom
- Tidal Vegetation (mangrove)

- [Mission and Vision](#)
- [The ACFHP Region](#)
- [Our Team](#)
- [Guidance Documents](#)
- [The National Fish Habitat Partnership](#)



New ACFHP Website



SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION

SAV ON THE ATLANTIC COAST

Tidal fresh and oligohaline plant species are generally found in areas where salinity ranges from 0.5 to 5.0. Examples include *Valoniopsis americana*, wild celery and *Ceratophyllum demersum*, coontail.

Mesohaline and polyhaline plant species are generally found in areas where salinity ranges from 5 to 30. Examples include *Zostera marina*, eelgrass and *Ruppia maritima*, widgeon grass.

WHY SAV IS IMPORTANT

Through photosynthesis, SAV removes excess CO₂ and adds oxygen to the water. According to the [Blue Carbon Initiative](#), SAV covers 177 – 60 Mha worldwide. This is only 0.2% of the ocean floor, yet SAV sequesters approximately 10% of carbon (as sediments) each year.¹ In fact, they're twice more effective at storing carbon than terrestrial forests by acreage.

SAV roots also stabilize sediments and absorb excess nutrients. Their stabilizing properties also reduce shoreline erosion, benefiting not only estuarine communities, but coastal property owners as well. SAV improves water quality and provides food and habitat for many species, especially juveniles. Overall, SAV contributes to healthy fisheries and ecosystems.

Unfortunately, SAV is one of the most rapidly declining habitats around the world, with up to 7% loss in area annually due to human activities.²

THREATS TO SAV

ACFHP has determined the following are the greatest threats to SAV in at least one subregion:

- Dredging and canal maintenance
- Water quality degradation and eutrophication
- Vessel operation impacts
- Sedimentation
- Containment of water and sediments
- Invasive species and disease
- Climate change

OUR SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION WORK

On the Ground Projects

Conservation Mooring, Hurdville, Massachusetts
 Conservation Mooring, Inverness, Massachusetts
 Conservation Mooring, Rhode Island
 Pioneer Estuary, New York
 Coos Bay Harbor, New York
 Tarpaulin Cove, Florida
 Grassy Flats, Florida

Science & Data Projects

Species Habitat Matrix
 Fish Habitat Decision Support Tool
 Assessment of Ecosystem Information

Outreach & Communications Projects

Conservation Mooring, Public
 Conservation Mooring Display in Jamestown

¹ Fourqurean et al. 2012. Seagrass ecosystems as a globally significant carbon store. *Nature Geoscience* 5: 605 – 610

² Stewart et al. 2009. Assessing loss of seagrass across the globe: Patterns coastal ecosystems. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 106: 12327 – 12331

New ACFHP Website



ATLANTIC COASTAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

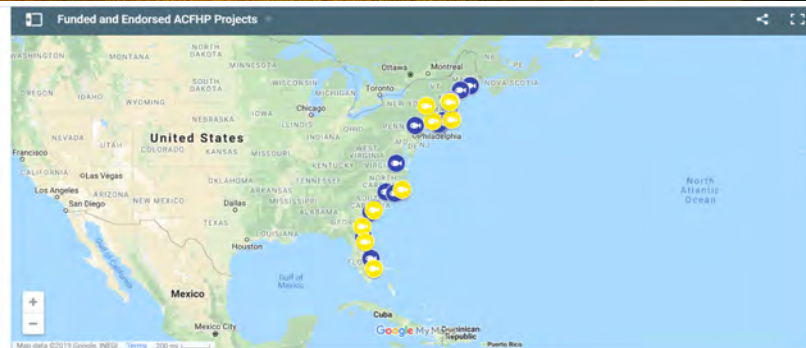
Search

MAKING THE CONNECTION.

Home About Us Priority Habitats Our Work Get Involved

On the Ground Projects

Bob Hood/shutterstock.com




- Partners We've Funded
- The Nature Conservancy
 - NY Department of Environmental Conservation
 - East Carolina University
 - Atlantic Salmon Federation
 - North Carolina Coastal Federation
 - Town of Sully, Maine
 - Cape Fear River Watch
 - University of North Florida
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - MA Division of Marine Fisheries
 - James River Association
 - Marine Resources Council
 - SC Department of Natural Resources
 - Great Works Regional Land Trust



New ACFHP Website



Search 

MAKING THE CONNECTION.

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Priority Habitats](#)

[Our Work](#)

[Get Involved](#)



GET INVOLVED

There are a variety of ways to help us achieve our mission. If you're interested in conserving fish habitat along the Atlantic coast, see below for ways you can make a difference!

[Meetings](#)

[Donate](#)

[Stay in Touch](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Project Endorsement](#)

[Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award](#)

[Join Us](#)

Species-Habitat Matrix



Online Query Database



MAKING THE CONNECTION.

Home

About Us

Priority Habitats

Our Work

Get Involved

SPECIES-HABITAT MATRIX

The Species-Habitat Matrix is a conservation planning tool to evaluate the relative importance of various coastal, estuarine, and freshwater habitats in terms of their value to a number of selected fish and invertebrate species. Specifically, the Matrix evaluates the importance of different habitat types as shelter, nursery, feeding, or spawning areas for each species. The goal is to provide an index of habitat value through this one lens.

The Matrix is limited in that it does not consider other important functions, beyond the ones listed above, of habitat that also benefit species. Filtering water, processing nutrients, securing sediments, maintaining dissolved oxygen levels, and other ecosystem functions are critical for fishes and invertebrates, but are not considered in the analysis in order to keep the matrix and analyses simple and manageable.

Please refer to the [Species-Habitat Matrix Report](#) for important information on how the data were gathered, how to interpret results, and qualifiers and exclusions.

DOWNLOAD RESULTS TO CSV

DOWNLOAD ALL TO CSV

Species ↑	Region ↓	Habitat Category ↓	Habitat Type ↓	Life Stage ↓	Rank ↓	Numeric Rank ↓
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Coastal Inert Substrates	Firm Hard Bottom (boulders to embedd	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Medium	2.00
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Coastal Inert Substrates	Firm Hard Bottom (boulders to embedd	Spawning Adult	Medium	2.00
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Coastal Inert Substrates	Loose Coarse Bottom (gravel to cobble	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Medium	2.00
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Coastal Inert Substrates	Loose Coarse Bottom (gravel to cobble	Spawning Adult	Medium	2.00
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Coastal Inert Substrates	Loose Fine Bottom (mud, silt, and sand	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Low	1.00
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Coastal Inert Substrates	Loose Fine Bottom (mud, silt, and sand	Spawning Adult	Low	1.00
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Coastal Inert Substrates	Structured Sand (shoals, capes, offshor	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Medium	2.00
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Riverine	Coastal Headwater Pond	Egg & Larva	High	3.50
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Riverine	Coastal Headwater Pond	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Medium	2.00
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Riverine	Coastal Headwater Pond	Spawning Adult	High	3.50
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Riverine	Low Gradient Coastal Stream	Egg & Larva	High	3.50
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Riverine	Low Gradient Coastal Stream	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Low	1.00
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Riverine	Low Gradient Coastal Stream	Spawning Adult	High	3.50
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Riverine	Moderate Gradient Large Mainstem Riv	Egg & Larva	Low	1.00
Alewife	Mid Atlantic	Riverine	Moderate Gradient Large Mainstem Riv	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Low	1.00

Species-Habitat Matrix



Online Query Database

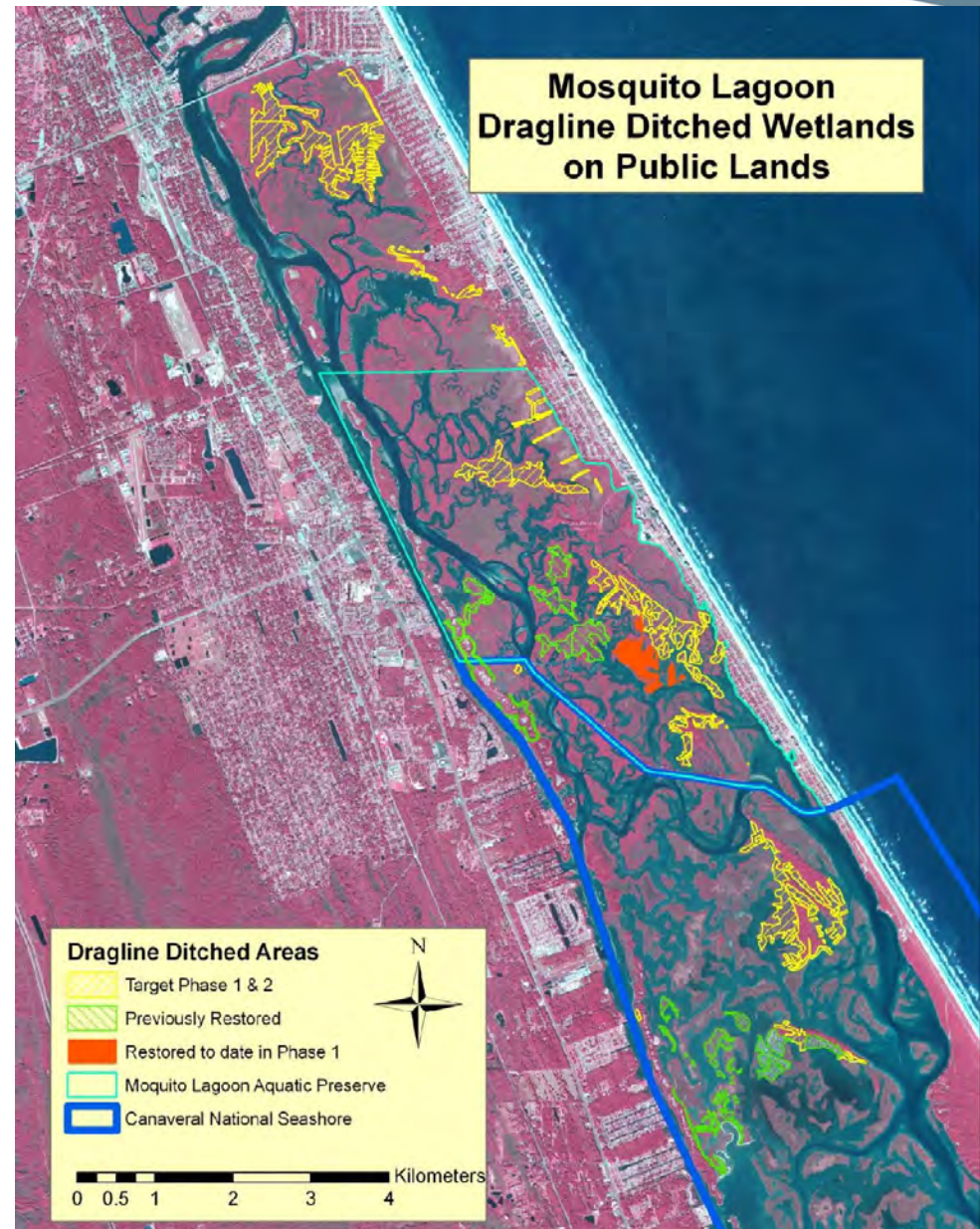
Species	Region	Habitat Category	Habitat Type	Life Stage	Rank	Numeric Rank
<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Atlantic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Egg & Larva <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juvenile & Young-of-Year	<input type="text"/>	
American Eel	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Mesohaline & Polyhaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Medium	2.00
American Eel	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Tidal Fresh & Oligohaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Medium	2.00
American Shad	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Mesohaline & Polyhaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Medium	2.00
American Shad	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Tidal Fresh & Oligohaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	High	3.50
Atlantic Croaker	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Mesohaline & Polyhaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Medium	2.00
Atlantic Croaker	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Tidal Fresh & Oligohaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Medium	2.00
Atlantic Menhaden	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Mesohaline & Polyhaline Species	Egg & Larva	Low	1.00
Atlantic Menhaden	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Mesohaline & Polyhaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Low	1.00
Atlantic Menhaden	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Tidal Fresh & Oligohaline Species	Egg & Larva	Low	1.00
Atlantic Menhaden	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Tidal Fresh & Oligohaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Low	1.00
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Mesohaline & Polyhaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Low	1.00
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Tidal Fresh & Oligohaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Low	1.00
Atlantic Silverside	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Mesohaline & Polyhaline Species	Egg & Larva	High	3.50
Atlantic Silverside	South Atlantic	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	Mesohaline & Polyhaline Species	Juvenile & Young-of-Year	Medium	2.00

Project Endorsement

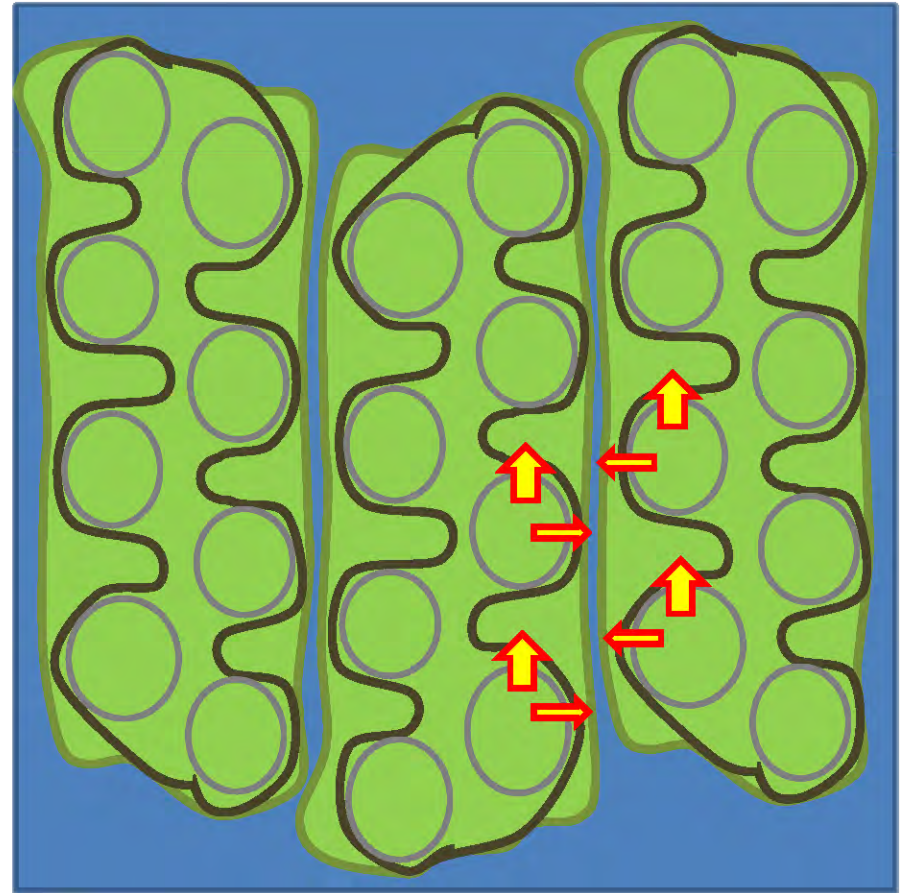
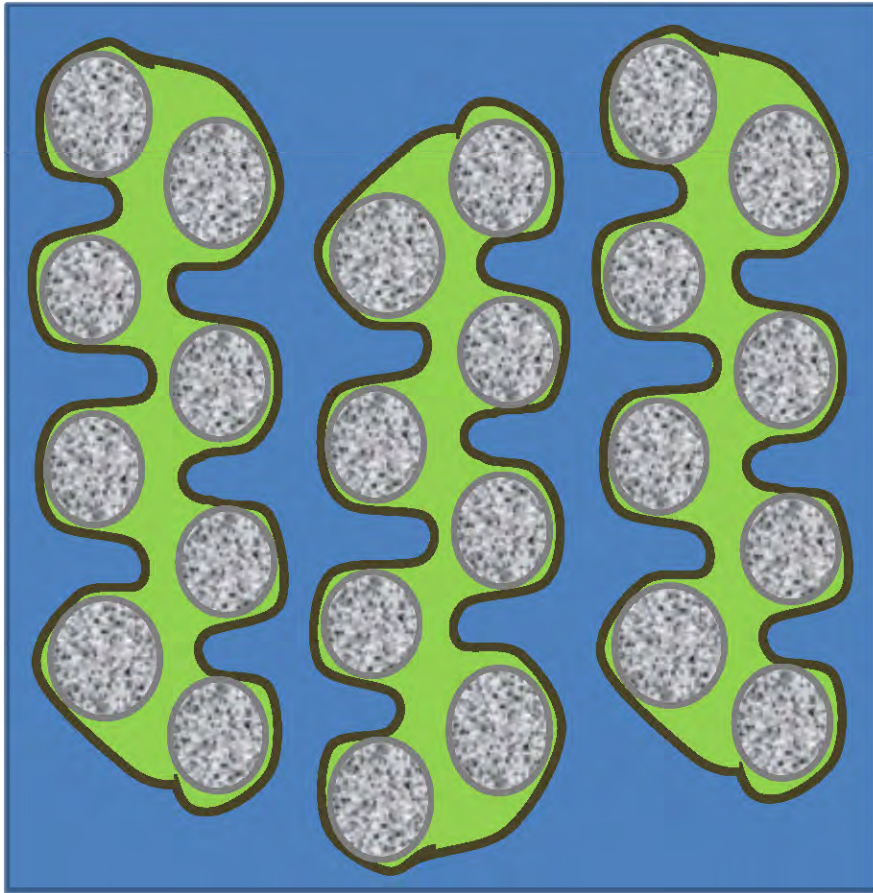


Dragline Ditch Restoration

- ~625 acres addressed
- 250 new acres
- 50 lbs of fish/acre/yr
- 31,250 lbs/yr



Project Endorsement



Project Endorsement



Project Endorsement



Project Endorsement



July 2009

Project Endorsement



June 2015



**ACFHP would like to
thank ASMFC for your
continued operational
support**



ASMFC Habitat Committee Aquaculture Survey in Near Future

Questions?

Atlantic Herring

2019 Specifications



Overview



- 2018 Stock Assessment showed concerning signs for the Atlantic herring resource
- In August 2018, NOAA Fisheries made an in-season adjustment to reduce the risk of overfishing
- NEFMC was scheduled to develop 2019-2021 specs but due to timing, 2019 was separated out from 2020-2021
- 2019 specs filed this morning

	2018 In-Season Adjustment	2019 NEFMC Recommended	2019 Proposed Rule- Making	2019 Specs
OFL	111,000	30,688	30,688	30,668
ABC	110,000	21,266	30,688	21,266
ACL	49,900	15,065	24,488	15,065
Area 1A	27,743	4,354	7,077	4,354
Area 1B	2,639	647	1,053	647
Area 2	8,200	4,188	6,808	4,188
Area 3	11,318	5,876	9,550	5,876
FGSA	295	39	64	39
RSA	3%	3%	3%	3%