



*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015*

2013 Annual Review of Stock Rebuilding Performance

August 7, 2013



Background

- **2009 – 2013 Strategic Planning**
- **Commissioners Requested More Frequent Reviews**
- **Initiated in 2009**
- **Task in the 2013 Action Plan**



Objective

- **Validate Status/Rate of Progress**
- **If not acceptable; Identify Corrective Action**



Outcome

- **Direction/Feedback to Species Management Board**
- **Input into the 2014 Action Planning Process**



5 Categories

- **Rebuilt**
- **Rebuilding**
- **Concern**
- **Depleted**
- **Unknown**



Rebuilt/Rebuilding

- **American Lobster (GOM and GBK)**
- **Atlantic Croaker**
- **Atlantic Herring**
- **Black Sea Bass**
- **Striped Bass**
- **Bluefish**
- **Scup**
- **Spiny Dogfish**
- **Spanish Mackerel**
- **Summer Flounder**
- **Red Drum**



Species of Concern

- **American shad**
- **Spot**
- **Spotted seatrout**
- **Atlantic menhaden**
- **Coastal Sharks**
- **Horseshoe Crab**
- **Northern Shrimp**
- **GOM Winter Flounder**



Atlantic Menhaden

- **Overfishing occurring, overfished status unknown**
- **Poor Recruitment**
- **Amendment 2 set TAC**
- **MSTC developing multispecies assessment approach**



Coastal Sharks

Species or Complex	Overfished	Overfishing
Porbeagle	Approaching	Yes
Dusky	Yes	Yes
LCS	Unknown	Unknown
Blacktip (Atl.)	Unknown	Unknown
Sandbar	Yes	No
Atl. Sharpnose	No	No
Blacknose	Yes	Yes
Bonnethead	No	No
Finetooth	No	No
Smoothhound	Unknown	Unknown



Horseshoe Crab

- **Assessment and Peer Review in 2009**
 - **Delaware Bay/Southeast Increased**
 - **New England/New York Declined**
- **ARM Implementation for 2013 season**
- **Next Benchmark 2015, update 2013**
- **No survey in 2013 (lack of funding)**

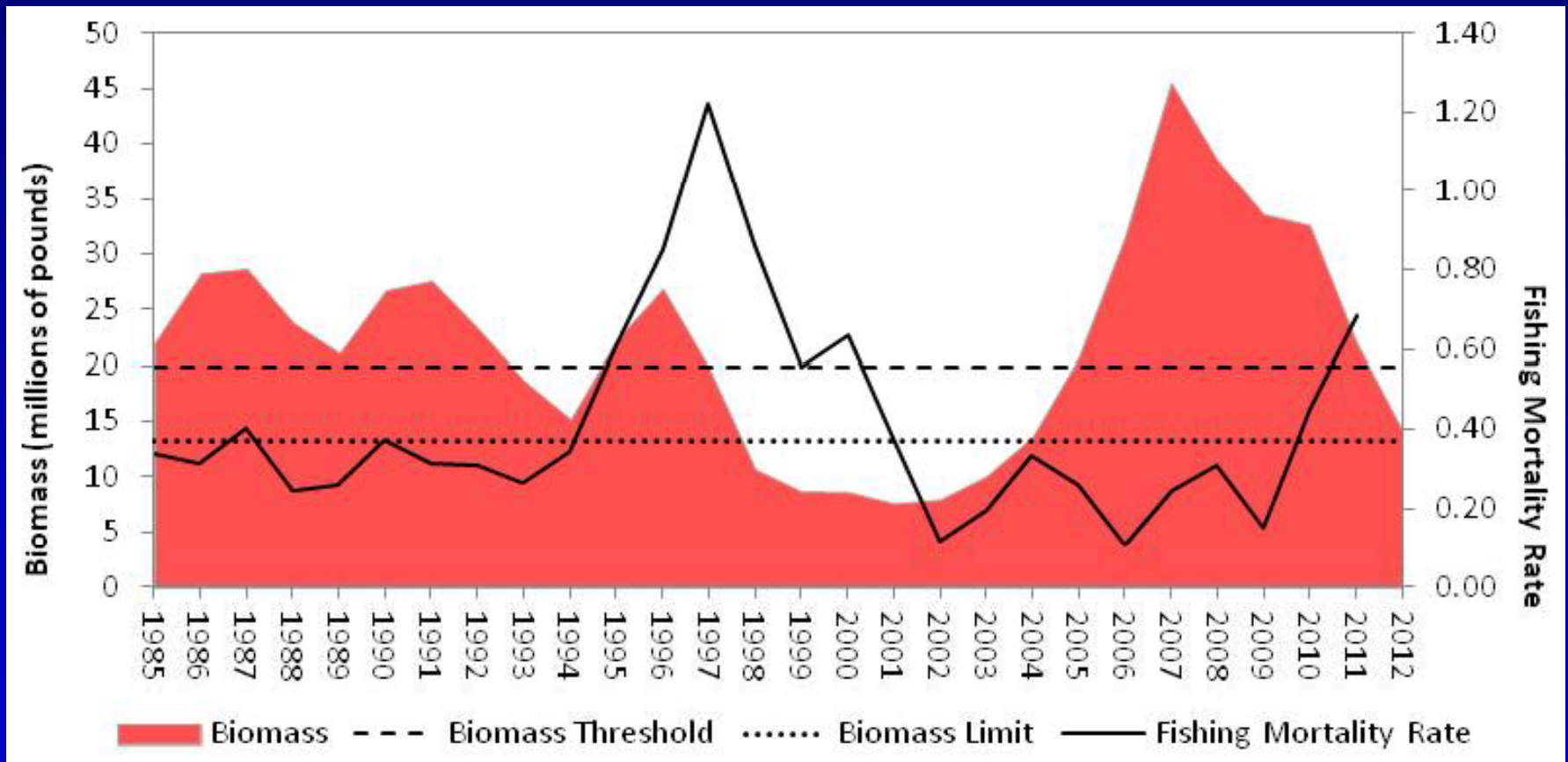


Northern Shrimp

- **Overfished and overfishing occurring-2012 assessment**
 - **16% of the biomass threshold**
 - **Need to conserve spawners**
- **TAC was set on F threshold as opposed to the target to offset economic impacts**



Northern Shrimp





GOM Winter Flounder

- **BMSY and FMSY unknown**
- **Proxy F threshold: overfishing not occurring**
- **Biomass estimate could not be generated**
- **2013 maintained the state water subcomponent of 272 mt**



Depleted

- **American Eel**
- **American Lobster**
SNE
- **Tautog**
- **River Herring**
- **Weakfish**
- **Winter Flounder**
SNE/MA
- **Tautog**
- **SNE/MA Winter**
Flounder



Tautog

- **SSB at 39% of Target (11 Assessment)**
- **Overfishing Occurring**
- **Board Approved $F=0.15$ Target**
- **States Implementing New Regulations**
- **Unlikely to Meet 2015 Rebuilding Target**



SNE/MA Winter Flounder

- **SSB at 16% of Target ('11 Assessment)**
- **Overfishing not occurring**
- **Followed TC advice**
- **Board Approved Limited Fishery in 2009; Discourage Directed Harvest**
- **Implemented annual specification process**



Unknown

- **Atlantic Sturgeon**
- **Black Drum**



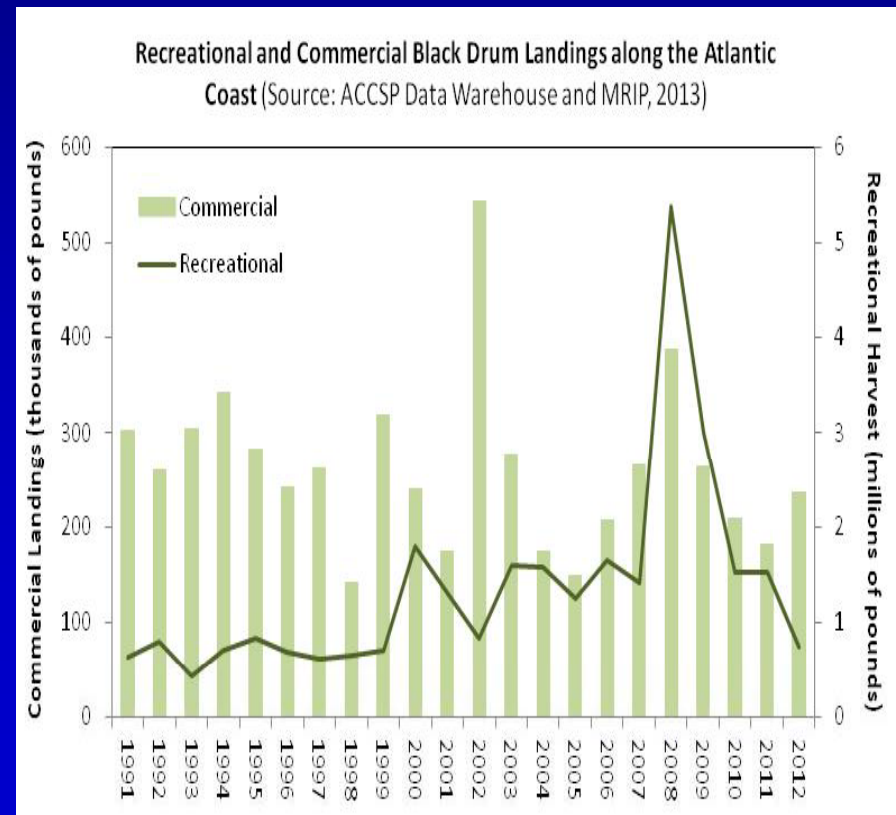
Atlantic Sturgeon

- **At Low Abundance**
- **Need River Specific Abundance Estimates**
- **Need Better Bycatch Information**
- **4 DPS –endangered 1-threatened**
- **Benchmark assessment in 2014**



Black Drum

- **Benchmark Assessment 2014**
- **Adopted FMP in 2013**
 - **Size and possession limits**





Questions



Photo by Roy Miller



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Habitat Committee Guidance Document

Formerly known as
**Habitat Program
Operational Procedures Manual**



Reasons for Change

- **Incorporates 2012 Habitat Program Review recommendation**
- **Guidance for FMP habitat sections**
- **Complements *Committee Guidance & Assessment Process***



Habitat Program Review (2012)

Recommendations:

- **One Governing Habitat Document**
- **Annual Work Plan**
- **Member Descriptions**
- **Bottlenecks for Commission species:
FMP Habitat Sections**
- **Clarify relationship with ACFHP**



~~Vision & Mission~~

Goal

“Protecting and enhancing fish habitat and ecosystem health through partnerships and education.”



Artificial Reefs Committee

- **May 2013: PB approved Artificial Reefs as stand-alone committee**
 - **Will continue close coordination between HC & ARC**



Habitat Area of Particular Concern

- **Regulations implementing MSFCMA also use the term HAPC**
 - **For NMFS & Councils, designation triggers a review of Federal actions**
- **No changes in this document**
- **HC is developing a paper to identify all HAPC designations for ASMFC-managed species with in an FMP.**



Habitat Bottlenecks

Definition:

“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 effectiveness of traditional fisheries management options to control fishing mortality and spawning stock biomass”



Distinguishing HC and ACFHP

➤ Key difference:

The **HC** advises the Policy Board on conservation and protection of vital fish habitats for ASMFC-managed species, while **ACFHP** prioritizes and provides support to on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts.



**Report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
ISFMP Policy Board**

August 8, 2013

Funded Project :

Restoring Coastal Fish Habitat Using Oysters, Mussels, and Marsh Grass at Guana Peninsula

Action:

Restore and enhance fish habitat by preventing shoreline erosion and promoting shoreline accretion using a combination of mussel and oyster-based living shorelines, and *Spartina alterniflora* planting at specific sites.



Southern portion of the proposed restoration site.

Partners:

- Friends of the Guana Tolomato Matanzas Reserve
- Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve
- University of North Florida
- USFWS-ACFHP

Funded Project :

Expanding Marine Meadow Habitat in the Peconic Estuary

Action:

Restore eelgrass and widgeon grass at selected sites within the Peconic Estuary.

Partners:

- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
- Moore Charitable Trust
- Suffolk County
- Town of East Hampton
- Peconic Estuary Program
- USFWS-ACFHP



Representative photo of project site conditions.

Endorsed Project Proposal: River Herring Habitat Restoration in the West River

Action:

Seeks to remove the Pond Lily Dam, restoring upstream habitat and providing benefits for river herring, as well as American eel.



Pond Lily Dam

Partners:

- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
- New Haven Land Trust
- Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound

Endorsed Project Proposal: North River Farms Tidal Marsh Restoration

Action:

The proposed project seeks to create seven acres of salt marsh and 2,500 feet of tidal creek.

Partners:

- NC Coastal Federation
- NC Department of Natural Resources
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NC State University
- Duke University
- local hunting club



North River Farms Restoration Site

FY2014 Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Application Cycle

Requesting project applications to restore and conserve habitat necessary to support coastal, estuarine dependent, and diadromous fish species.

Funds can only be used for on-the-ground habitat conservation and improvement projects and related design and monitoring activities.

To ensure available funding is being directed most effectively, projects should be geared toward meeting ACFHP's protection and restoration objectives described in its [Conservation Strategic Plan](#).

The maximum amount available for an individual project is \$50,000.

FY2014 Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Application Cycle

Applications must be received by Friday, September 20, 2013 at midnight.

For complete information and guidelines on how to apply please visit: www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/acfhpfunding/

