



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

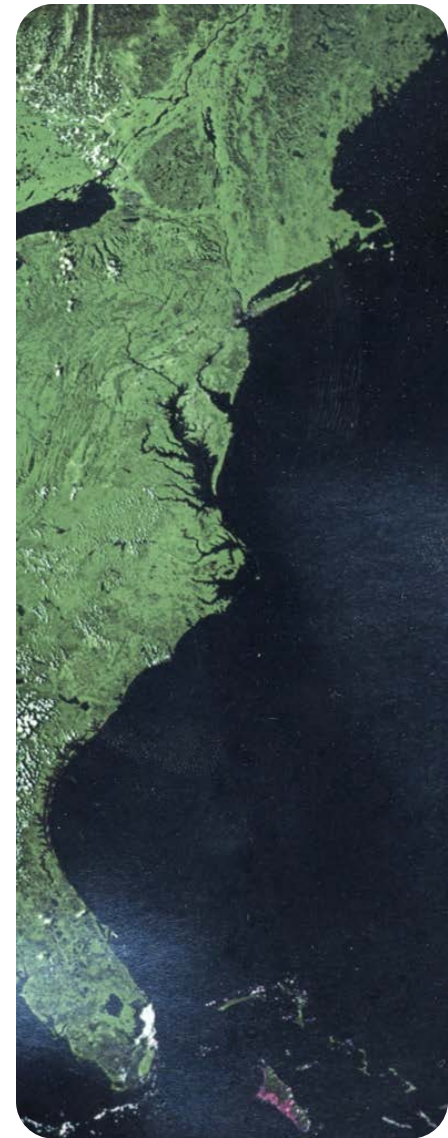
By

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ASMFC Overview



- **Formed in 1942 – Interstate Compact**
- **15 Atlantic coast states, ME – FL**
- **0 – 3 miles from shore**
- **Deliberative forum for states**
- **Cooperative management of transboundary resources**
- **Standards est. by Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Management Act**





Addressing Ecosystem Services in Fisheries Management

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

ASMFC Focal Areas



- **Multispecies assessment modeling**
- **Horseshoe Crab Adaptive Resource Management Framework**
- **Habitat needs & bottlenecks**
 - **Habitat Committee**
 - **American Shad Habitat Plans**
 - **ACFHP on-the-ground restoration projects**



Habitat Needs & Bottlenecks



- **ASMFC Habitat Program**
 - Education, outreach, advocacy
 - Habitat management series
 - Alternative energy, harbor deepening, diadromous species habitat needs, fish passage
- **American Shad Habitat Plans**
- **Eel Management Incentives**
- **ACFHP on-the-ground restoration projects**



American Shad



- **Stock assessment – 30 river-specific stocks**
 - **At all time lows and do not appear to be recovering**
- **Closure of shad ocean-intercept fishery in 2005**
- **Moratorium on harvest unless sustainability can be demonstrated (Jan 1, 2013)**
 - **Sustainable FMPs - fisheries will not diminish future stock reproduction and recruitment**
 - **Catch and release allowed**
- **Complementary federal protection through bycatch caps**

American Shad Habitat Plans



- **Comprehensive assessment of most pressing habitat threats to shad restoration by state/river system**
 - **Fish passage**
 - **Climate change**
 - **Water quality (DO)**
- **Address threats outside state marine fish agency**
 - **State Inland Fish & Wildlife Agencies**
 - **FERC – dam relicensing**
 - **Corps of Engineers**





Savannah River Shad Habitat Plan

- Jointly managed with GA and SC
- Threats
 - Barriers to migration inventory and assessment
 - Point and nonpoint source activities
 - Channelization and dredging inventory and assessment
 - Climate change assessment
 - Competition and predation by invasive and managed species assessment

Eel Management Incentives

- Harvest allowance based on stock enhancement
- Demonstrate a measurable increase in passage or survival
 - Habitat restoration
 - Passage improvements



Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership



- **Coastwide partnership of fish habitat resource managers and scientists from state, federal, and tribal entities, and NGOs**
- **Support projects that protect and maintain healthy aquatic systems and prevent further degradation**
- **Funded projects include:**
 - **Shellfish beds (FL), marine meadow habitat (NY), eel grass beds (MA), sturgeon habitat (VA), mangroves (FL), fish passage (NH, NY, SC), shoreline stabilization (SC), restoration**

Questions?

