



Decision Support Tools for Conservation Design in the North Atlantic

Scott Schwenk
Science Coordinator, North Atlantic LCC

Restore America's Estuaries 7th National Summit

November 5, 2014



North Atlantic  Landscape Conservation Cooperative

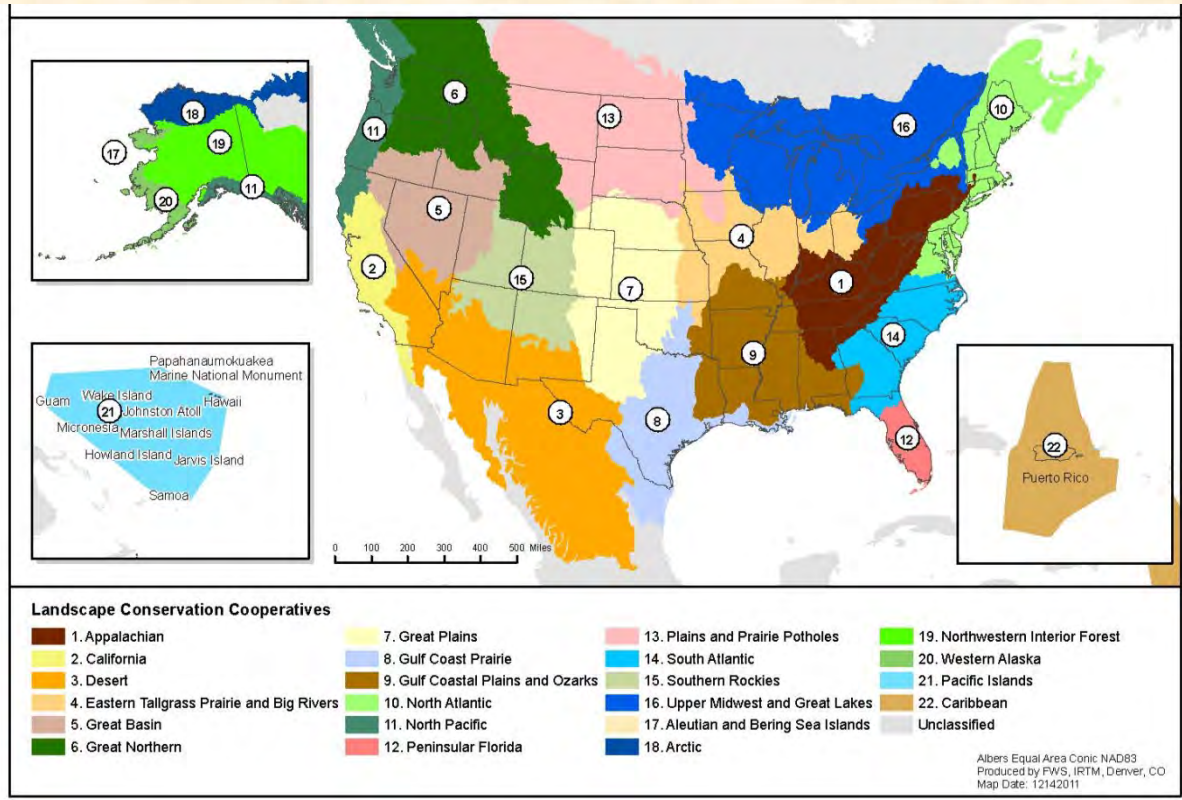


Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Geographic Areas and Objective

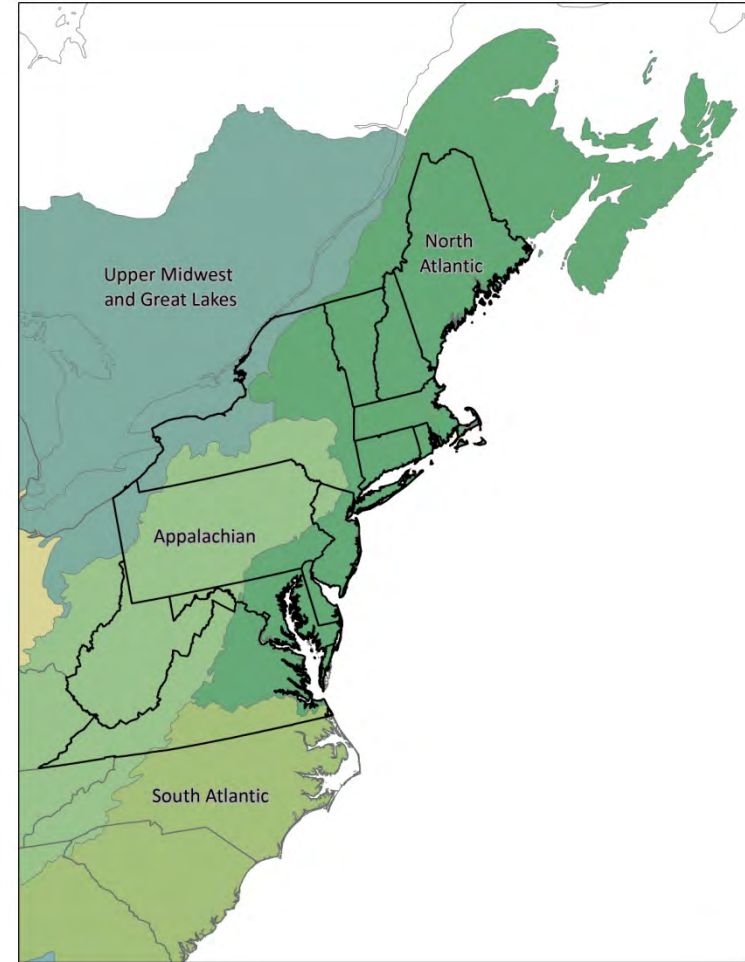


- 22 established in 2010 by DOI
- Regional
- Self-directed partnerships
- Link science to management
- Goal: landscapes that sustain natural resources



The North Atlantic LCC - Partnership

- 7 U.S. federal agencies,
- 1 Canadian federal agency
- 14 state agencies
- 1 tribal representative
- 6 non-governmental organizations

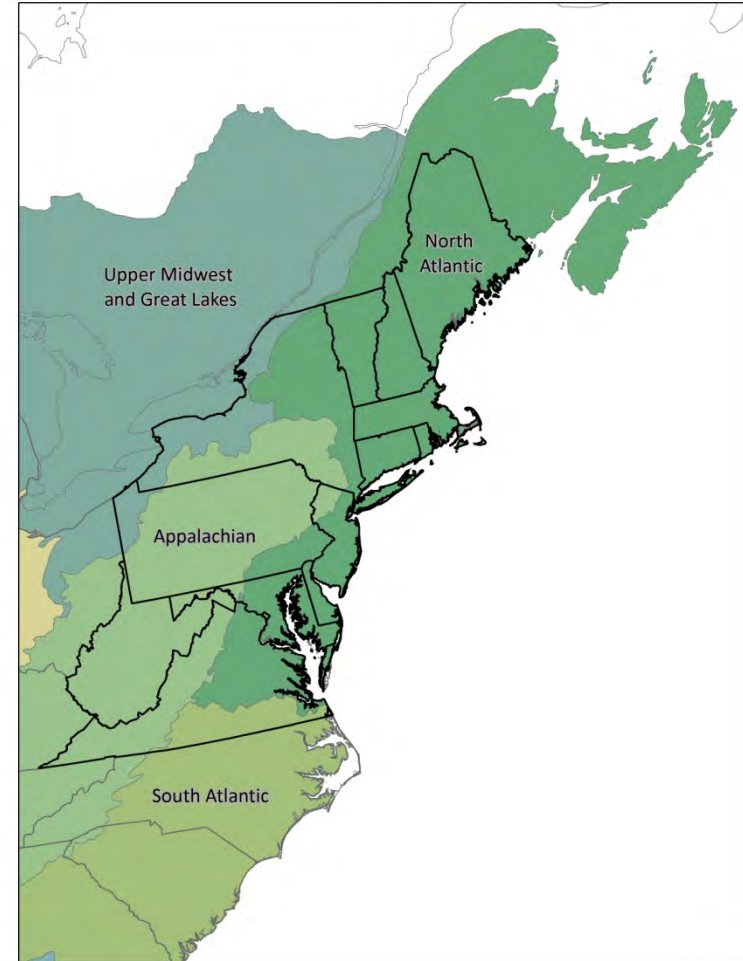


North Atlantic LCC

Mission:

provides a partnership in which the conservation community works together to address increasing land use pressures and widespread resource threats and uncertainties amplified by a rapidly changing climate

by jointly developing and delivering scientific information and tools needed to prioritize and guide more effective conservation actions towards common goals



North Atlantic  Landscape Conservation Cooperative



LCC Science Projects

- Over 20 completed or ongoing science projects providing foundational data, assessments and decision support for terrestrial, aquatic and coastal systems
- <http://www.northatlanticlcc.org/projects>

North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Search Site Search
 only in current section

Home The Cooperative Resources **Projects** Work Spaces LCC Network News Calendar Members Help

Companion Sites **LOG IN**

You are here: Home > Projects

Projects

This area describes conservation science projects sponsored by the North Atlantic LCC, and other regional partners, that contribute regional-scale scientific information to aid decision makers who are working to sustain natural and cultural resources, including fish and wildlife populations.

Each year, the North Atlantic LCC invests in conservation science projects to help the LCC partnership define, design, and deliver sustainable landscapes in the face of major regional conservation threats, including climate change and habitat loss. Projects are selected in a collaborative process that involves input from partners on the highest priority science needs that should be addressed. Requests for Proposals to address science needs will be prominently announced on the LCC website and elsewhere (most recently in July 2012).

Search Projects

Type in keywords or refine your search using the categories below

Focused Project Search

ECOSYSTEM TYPES

- Land
- Freshwater
- Coastal
- Wetlands

CONSERVATION TARGETS

- Amphibians and reptiles
- Birds
- Fish
- Invertebrates
- Mammals
- Plants
- Ecosystems

FEATURED PROJECTS

Revisions to the Northeastern Aquatic Habitat Classification

This project will update the 2008 Northeastern Aquatic Habitat Classification (NAHCS) prepared by The Nature Conservancy and the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA). The updates will add a tidal component to the classification of streams and rivers and a mapped classification of lakes.

1 2 3 4 5

Search Results

Sort by: Alphabetical Most recent Oldest first NALCC-funded

Application of the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standards (CMECS) to the Northeast

This project will utilize the national Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) to classify estuarine and marine environments in the northwest Atlantic region (Maine to Virginia).

Completion Date
December 2013

Climate Change Vulnerability Index for Northeast species

NatureServe and State Heritage Programs collaborators have developed a Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI) to provide a rapid, scientifically defensible assessment of species' vulnerability to climate change. This project will apply the CCVI

Completion Date
June 30, 2013

Examples of Decision Support Projects Related to Coastal and Estuarine Restoration

- Hurricane Sandy Resiliency Projects: Tidal Marshes and Beaches in face of storms and sea level rise
- Aquatic Connectivity and Flood Resiliency for Road-Stream Crossings



History: Aquatic Decision Support tool for Watersheds and Estuaries

- 2012 LCC Science Needs Process, included ACFHP and other partners
- High priority: better understand distribution, threats, and status of aquatic and coastal species
- 2012 RFP



Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership

Working together to conserve coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fish habitat

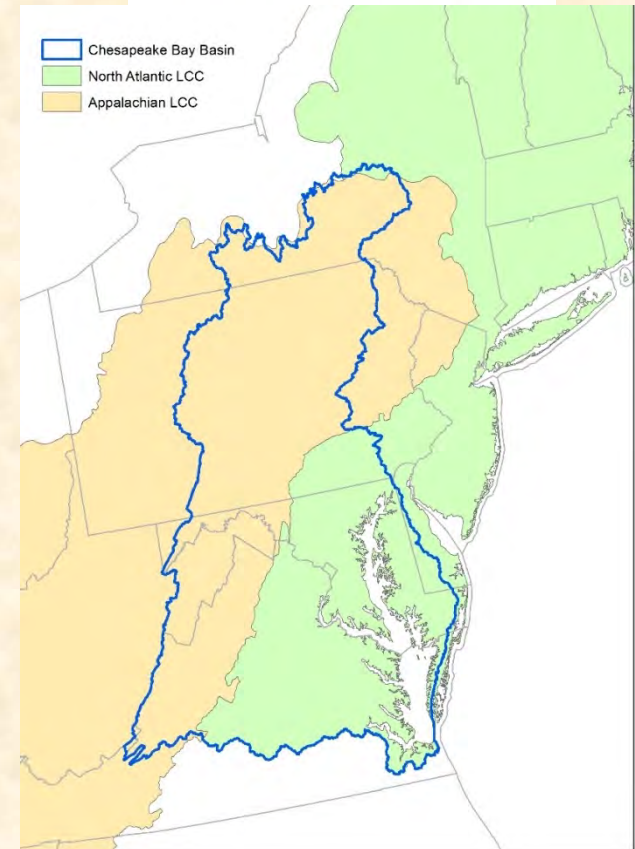
Project History, part 2

- Review panel selected Decision Support Tool project led by Downstream Strategies
- Project began in 2013
- Multiple species: also includes tool for winter flounder
- Potential for river herring tool being evaluated



Why Brook Trout in the Chesapeake?

- Nation's largest estuary at 64,000 square miles
 - 150 major rivers and streams
 - Portions of 6 states (MD, VA, PA, NY, DE, WV) and Washington, D.C.
- Nation's most productive estuary
 - 500 million pounds of seafood harvested annually
 - Estuary health depends on upstream and upland conditions
- Brook trout as indicator of high quality headwater aquatic habitat



Project Team

- Oversight and Coordination



North Atlantic LCC

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Julie Devers,
Callie McMunigal, Meredith Bartron



Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership – Emily
Greene (former rep.)



Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture – Steve Perry

- Tool Development:

Downstream
Strategies



North Atlantic  Landscape Conservation Cooperative

