


# Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grant Program

Willy Goldsmith  
Pelagic Strategies LLC

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
August 8, 2024



NFWF

A close-up photograph of a fisherman's hand wearing an orange nitrile glove, gripping a metal bar. Below the bar is a red plastic basket with a grid pattern, containing several fish. The background is a metallic surface, possibly part of a boat's deck or a processing area. A yellow warning sign is visible in the upper left corner.

**Funding available to support your fisheries!**



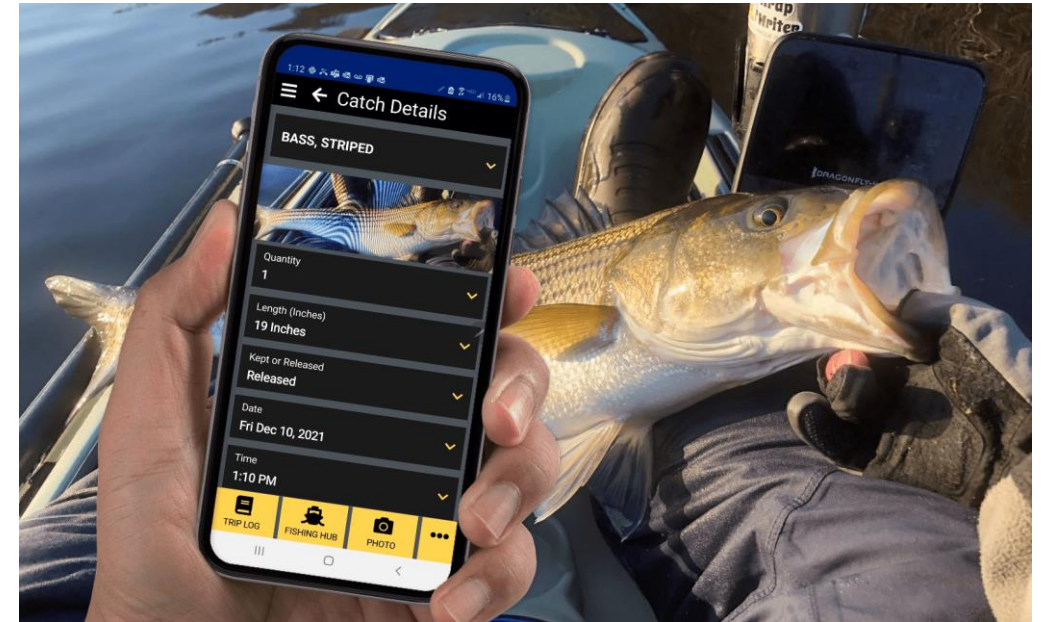
# National Fish And Wildlife Foundation

A person wearing an orange raincoat and grey gloves is handling a large flatfish on a white surface. The background is slightly blurred, showing some mechanical parts of a boat or fishing equipment.

- Created by U.S. Congress in 1984
- Independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit
- Public/Private partnerships
  - Federal agencies, corporations, & private foundations
- No advocacy, lobbying, litigation
- Focus on voluntary conservation actions

# NFWF Fisheries Programs

- Focused electronic technologies investments since 2015
  - Nationwide: \$32.9 Million awarded to 112 projects
  - Atlantic Coast: \$7.9 Million awarded to 33 projects



#70617 – Harbor Light Software, Inc.





# EMR Funding Priorities

- Support use of technologies in fisheries data collection
  - Improve & scale voluntary Electronic Monitoring
  - Expand & improve electronic reporting
  - Drive engagement with data collection in all sectors
- Modernize data management
  - Enhance ability to efficiently process & use this data
  - Reduce costs, improve timeliness & access





# Electronic Monitoring (EM): Examples

- Gulf of Maine Research Institute
  - EM for large New England groundfish boats
- Gettysburg College
  - EM aboard small boats in North Carolina and Hawaii fisheries
- Next Steps
  - Address costs
  - Integrate new tools like artificial intelligence

# Electronic Reporting (ER)

A person's hands are shown holding a tablet computer. The background is a blurred view of a rocky shore and the ocean. The person is wearing a white shirt. The tablet screen is dark and appears to be displaying some content, though it is not clearly visible.


- **Cornell Cooperative Extension**
  - Transitioning New York for-hire and commercial fleets to electronic trip reporting
- **Oyster Recovery Partnership**
  - Integrate Maryland commercial shellfish harvest reporting into existing system for other fisheries
- **Virginia Institute of Marine Science**
  - Recreational and citizen science reporting application - RecFish
- **Next Steps**
  - Ease of use
  - Support recreational engagement



# Data Modernization

- Element in majority of projects
- Teem Fish Monitoring, Inc.
  - Using artificial intelligence to automate New England groundfish discard data
- Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (RI)
  - Testing buoyless gear location marking application for mobile and fixed gear fishers
- Next Steps
  - Increasing efficiency & accessibility





# Interested in Funding?

- Application window live now
- **October 2 deadline (11:59pm ET)**
- \$4.8 million in funding

More information: [bit.ly/EMRRFP2024](https://bit.ly/EMRRFP2024)

# What Makes a Good Proposal?

- Partnerships!
  - Fishermen engagement
  - Agency involvement
- Strong technical elements
- Prepared grantees
  - Financial documents in order





# NFWF EMR Program Field Liaison

2024 RFP Cycle: Contract with **Field Liaison:**

- Spread awareness of opportunity
- Identify prospective applicants
- Brainstorm project ideas/partners
- Serve as a resource when developing application materials



Willy Goldsmith

[Wgoldsmith@pelagicstrategies.com](mailto:Wgoldsmith@pelagicstrategies.com)

617-763-3340

Thank You!  
Any Questions?

Gray Redding

[Gray.Redding@nfwf.org](mailto:Gray.Redding@nfwf.org)

202-595-2438

Willy Goldsmith

[Wgoldsmith@pelagicstrategies.com](mailto:Wgoldsmith@pelagicstrategies.com)

617-763-3340

RFP information: [bit.ly/EMRRFP2024](https://bit.ly/EMRRFP2024)







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

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Simen Kaalstad

# ACE Act Reauthorization



- Application for Congressional Designation submitted by all FHPs to NFHP Board (Dec. 2023). Submission to Congress in Summer 2024.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Enhanced support and additional funding for fish habitat projects and FHP operations.
- Encourages greater collaboration among various stakeholders (e.g., new board seats).
- Promotes conservation of recreational & commercial fisheries and sustainable fishery management practices.
- Provides data and tools to support effective habitat management and decision-making.



# Recently Completed Projects



1. Norwalk River, Dana Dam Removal, CT (FY22).
  - Opened 6.5 miles of high-quality habitat to migratory fish and reconnects 1.13 acres of heterogeneous floodplain.
2. Cape Fear River Wetland Restoration, USS North Carolina Battleship, NC (FY21).
  - Restored 800 linear feet of hardened berth with a living shoreline and created 2 acres of tidal wetlands in existing parking area.
3. Armstrong Dam Removal, Monaquot River, MA (FY21).
  - Opened 36 miles of river and reconnects 180 acres of river herring spawning habitat.

# FY24 Habitat Restoration Projects



- Final approval from USFWS; **\$300,000** funding.
- Projects to begin soon:
  - Maryland Coastal Bays Salt Marsh Restoration
    - 39 acres of wetland habitat.
  - Engineering, Design, and Permitting for Upper E.R. Collins Dam Removal, Pequest River, NJ
    - 3 miles of river access.



# FY25 Habitat Restoration Projects



- Recommended to and approved by NFHP Board.
- ACFHP retained top funding tier status (appx. \$300,000 for FY25); seeking funds for **3 projects**:
  1. Cedar Grove Dam Removal, Pequest River, NJ.
  2. No Name Dam Removal, Pequest River, NJ.
    - Removals add 57 miles of riverine habitat access
  3. Oyster Reef Restoration, Matanzas River, FL.
    - 500 ft. of living shoreline using innovative oyster arches



# Habitat Committee Report

Presented to ISFMP Policy Board

August 8th, 2024



# Recent Activities



- The Habitat Committee (HC) held a virtual summer meeting – July 2024
- Habitat Management Series (HMS)
  - Approved final draft of **Acoustic Impacts HMS**
  - Began development of next issue of HMS; focused on shell recycling programs along the Atlantic coast.
- Habitat Hotline Atlantic 2024
  - Discussed most useful content, format, and next steps; Anticipated release date: Dec. 2024

# HMS Acoustic Impacts



- **Effects of Anthropogenic Noise on Fish**

- Physiological:

- Damage to ear and lateral line tissues; hearing loss; potentially lethal (e.g., pile driving, explosions).

- Behavioral:

- Freezing; increased swimming speed; disrupted feeding/spawning/schooling and other critical life functions.

- Specific Species Responses:

- *Cod* freeze or swim faster; *Elasmobranchs* startled by sudden noises but may habituate; *Crab* settlement delayed by turbine noise.

# HMS Acoustic Impacts



- **Cumulative Effects and Fisheries Catch Rates**

- Cumulative Effects:

- Chronic noise leads to stress, reduced condition, and decreased fitness.
- Population-level impacts if spawning behavior is disrupted.

- Fisheries Catch Rates:

- Catch rates decrease in areas exposed to seismic air gun blasts.
- Redistribution of fish populations due to noise exposure.
- Responses vary among species.



# HMS Acoustic Impacts



- **Mitigation Strategies**

- Vessel Noise Reduction:

- Alternative propeller designs; soundproofed hulls; onshore power in ports

- Marine Spatial Planning:

- Protect critical spawning and aggregation sites; monitor compliance with tracking technologies.

- Seismic Survey Methods:

- Higher sensitivity hydrophone; non-impulsive, low-frequency marine vibroseis.

# HMS Acoustic Impacts



- **Additional Mitigation and Research Needs**

- Construction Noise Mitigation:

- “Quiet” foundation technologies for offshore wind turbines
    - Sound dampening measures (bubble curtains, isolation casings).
    - Soft-start and ramp-up strategies to deter mobile species.

- Research Priorities:

- Further study on the impacts of particle motion.
    - Evaluation of novel seismic survey technologies.
    - Development of best practices and noise thresholds.
    - Research on the effectiveness of various noise mitigation measures



**Questions?**





# **Stock Assessment Schedule Update**

ASMFC Summer Meeting  
2024

# Updated Schedule



Long-Term Stock Assessment Schedule (July 2024 - Not Board-Approved)

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
American Eel			Benchmark					Update	
American Shad	Benchmark								
American Lobster	Benchmark					Benchmark (Q3)			
Atlantic Croaker						Benchmark (Q3)			
Atlantic Menhaden			Update			Update (Q4)			Update
Atl. Menhaden ERPs						Benchmark (Q4)			
Atlantic Sea Herring	Update		Update		Update (Q3)	Benchmark (Q2)	Update		Update
Atlantic Striped Bass			Update		Update (Q4)		*Update	Benchmark	
Atlantic Sturgeon					Update (Q3)				Benchmark
Black Drum			Benchmark					Benchmark	
Black Sea Bass		Update		Benchmark	Update (Q3)	Update (Q3)		Update	
Bluefish		Update	Benchmark	Update		Update (Q3)		Update	
Coastal Sharks	Benchmark			Benchmark			Benchmark		
Cobia							Benchmark (Q1)		
Horseshoe Crab					Update (Q2)				
Horseshoe Crab ARM		Benchmark		Update	Update (Q4)	Update (Q4)	Update	Update	Update
Jonah Crab				Benchmark					Update
Northern Shrimp		Update				Update (Q1)			
Red Drum			Benchmark		Benchmark (Q4)				
River Herring					Benchmark (Q3)				
Scup		Update		Update		Update (Q3)		Update	Benchmark
Spanish Mackerel			Update						
Spiny Dogfish			Benchmark	Update			Update		
Spot							Benchmark (Q4)		
Spotted Seatrout									
Summer Flounder		Update		Update		Update (Q3)		Update	
Tautog		Update				Update (Q4)			
Weakfish						Update (Q1)			
Winter Flounder	Update		Update		Update (Q4)		Benchmark	Update	

# Newly Added Assessments



- Cobia – 2025 benchmark
- Coastal sharks (tiger, spinner, bull, finetooth) – 2026 benchmark
- Black drum – 2027 benchmark
- Scup – 2025 and 2027 update; 2028 benchmark
- Striped bass – 2027 benchmark
- Sturgeon – 2028 benchmark



# Moved Assessments



- Atlantic Croaker – 2025 Q3 benchmark
- Spot – 2026 Q4 benchmark

# Long-term Schedule



- 2027 assessment updates:
  - American eel, black sea bass, bluefish, horseshoe crab ARM, scup, summer flounder, winter flounder
- 2028 assessment updates:
  - Atlantic sea herring, horseshoe crab ARM, Jonah crab, and potentially Atlantic menhaden