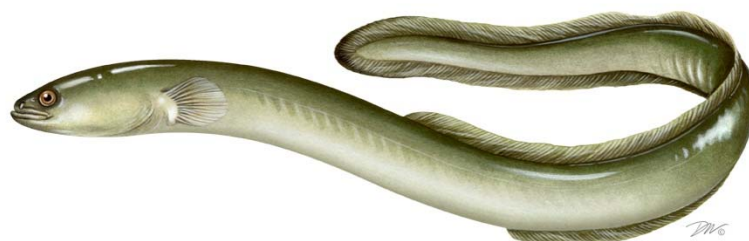




Consideration of Yellow Eel Commercial Allocation



American Eel Management Board

August 4, 2016

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Background



- Addendum IV implemented a coast wide cap of 907,671 pounds for the yellow eel commercial fishery starting in 2015.
- Two management triggers:
 1. If quota is exceeded by more than 10% in a given year (998,438 pounds)
 2. If the quota is exceeded by any amount for two consecutive years
- Triggering results in automatic state-by-state quotas



Background cont'd



- Coastwide cap of 907,669 lbs
- Addendum IV Comm Yellow Eel Allocation:
- Average landings from 2011 – 2013
- A minimum quota fixed at 2,000 lbs
- Quota can not exceed 2,000 lbs above 2010 landings
- Min quota must be within 15% of 2010 landings
- 13,762 pounds leftover divided equally to states negatively impacted





State	2010 Landings	2011-2013 Harvest Average	Initial Allocation Based on Harvest Avg	Initial Quota	After Filtering Method is Applied	Final Quota
ME	2,624	5,104	0.48%	3,943	3,907	3,907
NH	80	134	0.01%	82	2,000	2,000
MA	277	450	0.04%	329	2,000	2,000
RI	4,642	1,750	0.16%	1,314	3,946	4,642
CT	164	2,073	0.19%	1,561	2,000	2,000
NY	13,220	46,058	4.26%	34,997	15,220	15,220
NJ	107,803	110,058	10.19%	83,713	91,633	94,899
DE	68,666	75,249	6.97%	57,260	58,366	61,632
MD	511,201	612,665	56.72%	465,968	465,968	465,968
PRFC	57,755	50,446	4.67%	38,365	49,092	52,358
VA	78,076	103,433	9.58%	78,702	78,702	78,702
NC	122,104	53,350	4.94%	40,583	103,788	107,054
SC	2			0	2,000	2,000
GA	103	1,162	0.11%	904	2,000	2,000
FL	11,287	18,231	1.68%	13,802	13,287	13,287
Total	978,004	1,080,160	100%	821,523	893,909	907,669



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Total	978.004	1.080.160	100%	821.523	893.909	907.669

Background cont'd



May 2016

- NY proposed to reconsider the coastal cap and state-by-state yellow eel allocations of Addendum IV

“Move to initiate an addendum to reconsider the coastal cap and the commercial yellow eel state-by-state allocation. Motion by Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mr. Borden.”

- Motion was tabled to ASMFC Summer 2016 Meeting



New York Proposal



- Incomplete landings in NY during allocation years
- NY and other states now have several years of more accurate landings data
- ASMFC operating principle to use the most accurate data for management
- Add IV does not have a allocation revisit provision
- NY submitted a proposal for discussion
 - (1) Document why NY's landings were incomplete
 - (2) Document how much increased quota NY would need
 - (3) Current reconsideration of the commercial yellow eel state-by-state allocation
 - (4) Consideration of a revisiting timeframe moving forward





Year	NY Pounds (NMFS)	NY Pounds (NY)
1998	382	16,896
1999	44	7,945
2000	1,108	5,852
2001	15	19,187
2002	161	26,824
2003	393	3,881
2004	2,994	5,386
2005	8,964	25,515
2006	3,927	7,673
2007	4,480	15,077
2008	2,287	15,159
2009	5,687	13,115
2010	7,808	13,220
2011	35,557	56,963
2012	32,451	48,637
2013	34,697	32,573
2014	26,877	34,142
GRAND TOTALS:	167,832	348,045



Table 3. NY Quota Example 2011 – 2015

Year	NY Harvest			
2011	56,963			
2012	48,637			
2013	32,573			
2014	34,142			
2015	53,389			
	Total NY Quota	Current Quota	Additional Quota Needed	Total Coastwide Quota
2011 - 13 Average	46,058	15,220	30,838	938,507
2013 - 15 Average	40,035	15,220	24,815	932,484
2011 - 15 Average	45,141	15,220	29,921	937,590



Table 4.

Scenario - If States had to Enact Yellow Eel State by State Quota, Based on 2014 Harvest

State	Quota	Harvest	Difference	Available Surplus	Deficit	Total Deficit
ME	3,907	7,368	-3,461		-3,461	
NH	2,000	0	2,000	2,000		
MA	2,000	3,903	-1,903		-1,903	
RI	4,642	2,378	2,264	2,264		
CT	2,000	4,386	-2,386		-2,386	
NY	15,220	34,142	-18,922		-18,922	
NJ	94,899	102,960	-8,061		-8,061	
DE	61,632	62,388	-756		-756	
MD	465,968	610,585	-144,617		-144,617	
PRFC	52,358	49,293	3,065	3,065		
VA	78,702	108,494	-29,792		-29,792	
NC	107,054	58,886	48,168	48,168		
SC	2,000	66*	1,934	1,934		
GA	2,000	66*	1,934	1,934		
FL	13,287	15,057	-1,770		-1,770	
Total	907,669	1,059,972	-152,303	59,365	-211,668	-152,303

Reconsidering Add IV Allocation



- **Option A:** Status quo from Addendum IV
- **Option B:** Allocation based on the most recent three years of data (i.e., 2013-2015).
- **Option C:** Allocation based on the most recent five years of data (i.e., 2011-2015).
- **Option D:** Allocation based on the most recent five years as a partial percentage and some historical landings timeframe as a partial percentage.



	A: Addendum IV	B: Recent 3 Yrs.	C: Recent 5 Yrs.
State	Status Quo	(2013 - 2015)	(2011 - 2015)
ME	3,907	4,285	4,731
NH	2,000	34	71
MA	2,000	2,863	1,730
RI	4,642	1,981	1,617
CT	2,000	3,240	2,410
NY	15,220	38,624	39,827
NJ	94,899	90,394	92,103
DE	61,632	60,428	58,732
MD	465,968	521,255	515,093
PRFC	52,358	36,394	40,976
VA	78,702	87,390	87,815
NC	107,054	48,449	48,830
SC	2,000	*	*
GA	2,000	*	*
FL	13,287	12,199	13,301
Total	907,669	907,669	907,669

Allocation Revisit Timeframe



- **Option A:** Status quo, no revisiting timeframe specified.
- **Option B:** Revisit allocation every three years.
- **Option C:** Revisit allocation every five years.



New York's Recommendation



- Circulate proposal to the ASMFC American Eel Board for review and discussion
- Initiation of an Addendum at the August 2016 Board meeting



Harvest vs Landings



- Harvester Reports vs Dealer Reports
 - Harvest reports account for eels sent out of state, sold to in state dealers, and used for personal consumption/bait
 - Dealer reports account for eels sold to in state dealers
 - October 2015: TC recommended that all states use harvester reporting to track quota to eliminate concerns about double counting, and to resolve issues of use for personal bait.





Move to initiate an addendum to reconsider the coastal cap and the commercial yellow eel state-by-state allocation. Motion by Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mr. Borden.



Questions?





ASMFC American Eel TC Report



American Eel Management Board
August 4th, 2016

Introduction



- American Eel TC met via conference call on July 7th
- NYSDEC Staff presented the New York yellow eel quota proposal
- NC DMF Staff presented the revised NC Aquaculture plan
- TC Meeting in September 2016

NY yellow eel quota proposal



- Several TC members were concerned regarding the reporting of landings and need to confirm reference period landings for many states
- Concern that NY's revised landings could include silver eels from the Delaware River weir fishery, overinflating their need for yellow eel allocation.
- TC Recommends that allocation decisions be addressed after the 2017 Assessment Update
 - Revised Landings will be included in the Assessment model



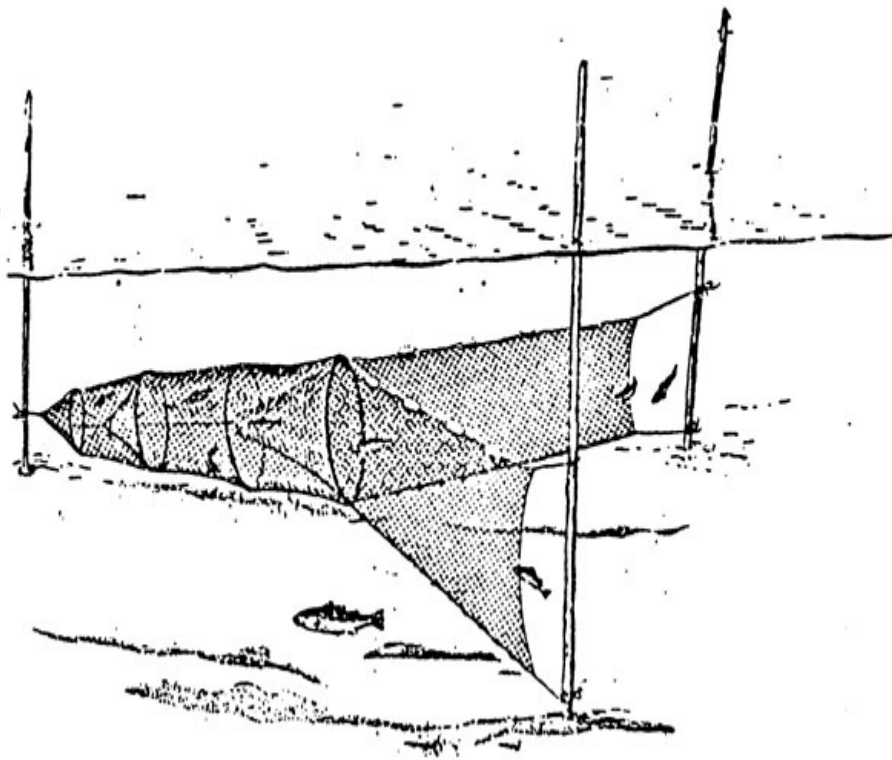
Questions ?

Revised NC Aquaculture Plan

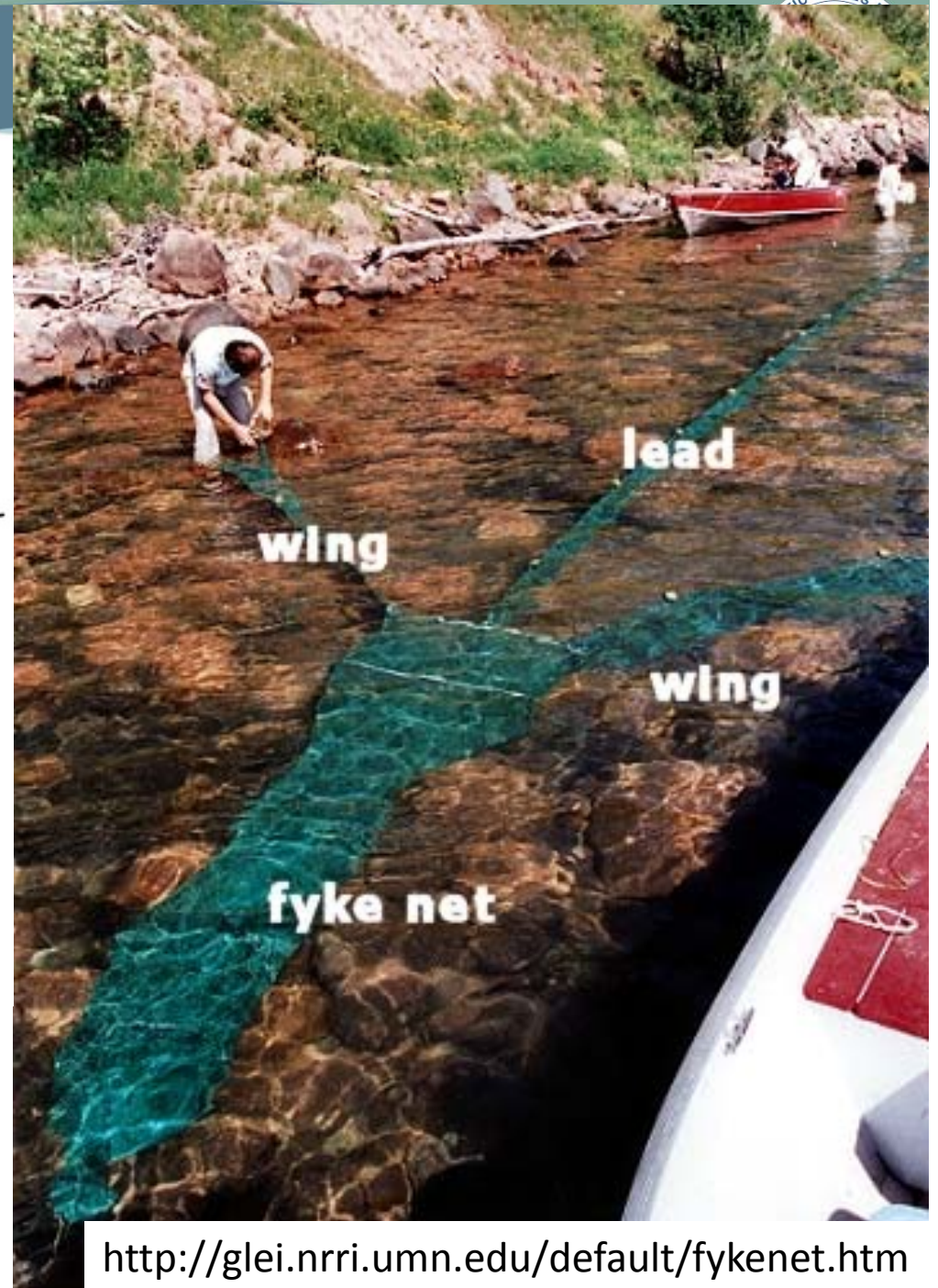


- Revised plan:
 - addresses timing of fishing effort
 - Improves reporting of harvest
 - Adds new sites in the White Oak River
- The TC accepts the revised plan contingent on two recommendations:
 - A YOY survey should be developed at one of the sites in conjunction with the aquaculture plan (year 3, 2018)
 - Fyke net mortality should be addressed during the months of January and February when the twenty-four (24) hour soak times are allowed.

Fyke Nets



http://www.fao.org/figis/common/format/popUpImage.jsp?xp_imageid=7198



<http://glei.nrri.umn.edu/default/fykenet.htm>



Question



North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel
ASMFC American Eel Management Board Meeting
August 4, 2016

Department of Environmental Quality



North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Background - 2016 Plan (Year 1 – pilot)

- February 4, 2016
 - the ASMFC American Eel Management Board (Board) approved North Carolina’s Aquaculture Plan for 2016, allowing up to 200 pounds of glass eels to be harvested for aquaculture purposes (Feb. 22 – May 31, 2016).
- The Board’s approval was contingent on two issues:
 1. export of glass eels will be prohibited, and
 2. the first year of the plan will be conducted as a pilot program.

Year 1 - NCDMF work with its industry to identify viable collection sites for glass eels.

Year 2 - NCDMF work with the TC to determine sampling protocols for obtaining glass eel abundance estimates across the identified collection sites.

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Background - 2016 Plan (Year 1 – pilot)

- February 18, 2016 (N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission)
 - Approved declaratory ruling request allowing the AEF to possess American eels less than 9 inches harvested from NC waters.
- March 18, 2016
 - AEF notified they would be able to start fishing on March 21, 2016
- March 21, 2016
 - Official start
- March 22, 2016
 - AEF received a copy of the official declaratory ruling.

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Results - 2016 Spring Season (Year 1 – pilot)

- Fished for a three week period (last week of March through mid-April)
- Fished 5 of the 13 sites
- Zero glass eel harvest
- 2 elvers captured and released
- Confirmed it is difficult to catch glass eels with fyke nets in coastal waters

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Background - 2017 Plan (Year 2 – proposed pilot)

- May 3, 2016 (ASMFC spring meeting)
 - NCDMF informed the American Eel Management Board of its intent to submit a new aquaculture plan as a second year pilot program due to:
 1. Late start date
 2. Zero harvest

- no new information collected on recruitment to inform the TC about designing a young-of-year abundance survey.
- May 31, 2016
 - NCDMF submitted 2017 Plan to ASMFC

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Monitoring Program

General Conditions:

2016 Plan

- Dates of Harvest: Feb. 22 – May 31, 2016

2017 Plan

- Dates of Harvest: **Jan. 1 – Apr. 30, 2017**

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Monitoring Program

General Conditions:

2016 Plan

- Dates of Harvest: Feb. 22 – May 31, 2016
- Fishing Time: 2 hours before sunset through 2 hours after sunrise

2017 Plan

- Dates of Harvest: Jan. 1 – Apr. 30, 2017
- Fishing Time: **Jan. 1 – Feb. 28 fish nets once every 24 hours and March 1 – April 30 fish nets from 2 hours before sunset through 2 hours after sunrise**

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Monitoring Program

General Conditions:

2016 Plan

- Dates of Harvest: Feb. 22 – May 31, 2016
- Fishing Time: 2 hours before sunset through 2 hours after sunrise
- 3 individuals on permit and allowed one mate each (3 mates total)

2017 Plan

- Dates of Harvest: Jan. 1 – Apr. 30, 2017
- Fishing Time: Jan. 1 – Feb. 28 fish nets once every 24 hours and March 1 – April 30 fish nets from 2 hours before sunset through 2 hours after sunrise
- **1 individual on permit and allowed 2 mates**

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Monitoring Program

General Conditions:

2016 Plan

- Dates of Harvest: Feb. 22 – May 31, 2016
- Fishing Time: 2 hours before sunset through 2 hours after sunrise
- 3 individuals on permit and allowed one mate each (3 mates total)
- 10 Primary Sites

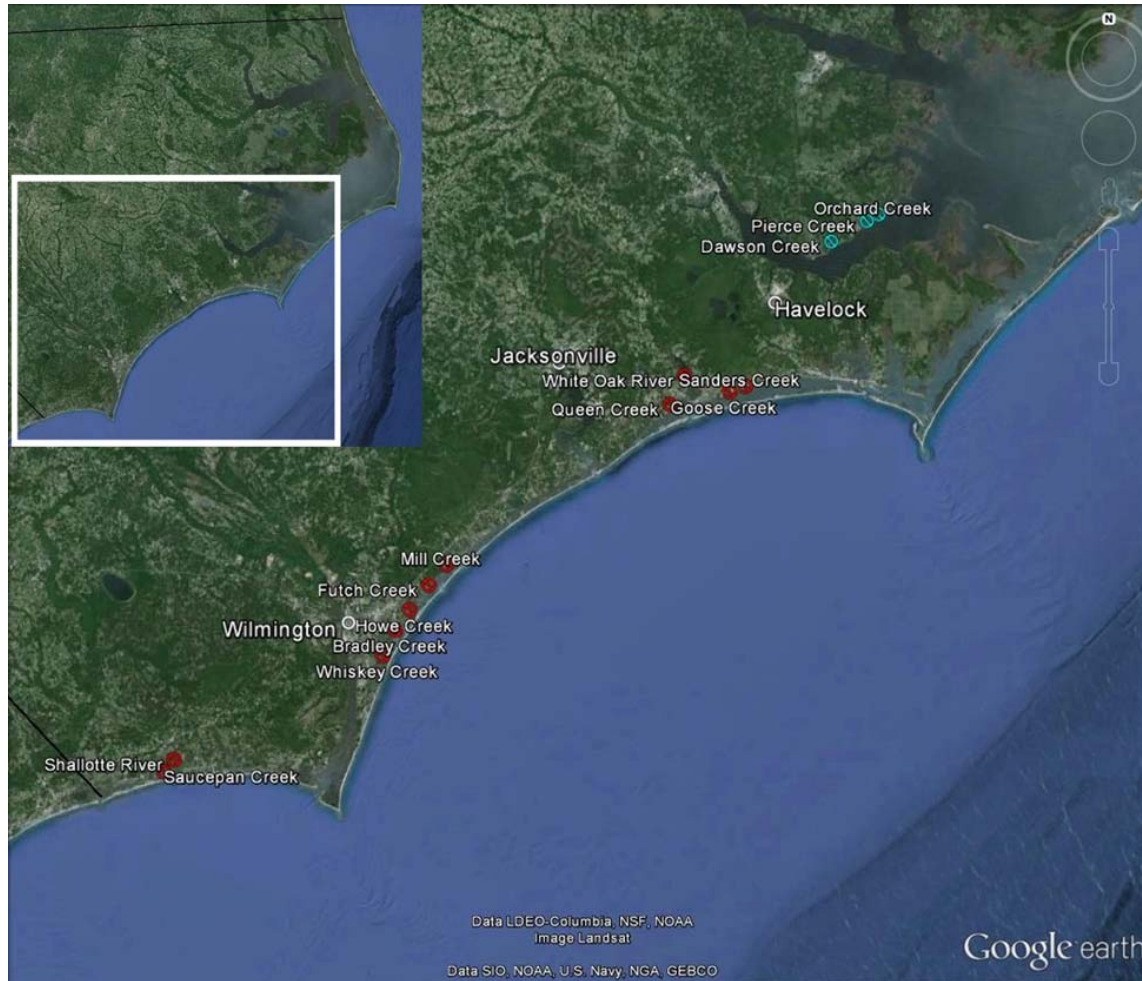
2017 Plan

- Dates of Harvest: Jan. 1 – Apr. 30, 2017
- Fishing Time: Jan. 1 – Feb. 28 fish nets once every 24 hours and March 1 – April 30 fish nets from 2 hours before sunset through 2 hours after sunrise
- 1 individual on permit and allowed 2 mates
- **11 Primary Sites**

- White Oak River



North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel



White Oak River
proposed
primary
harvest site

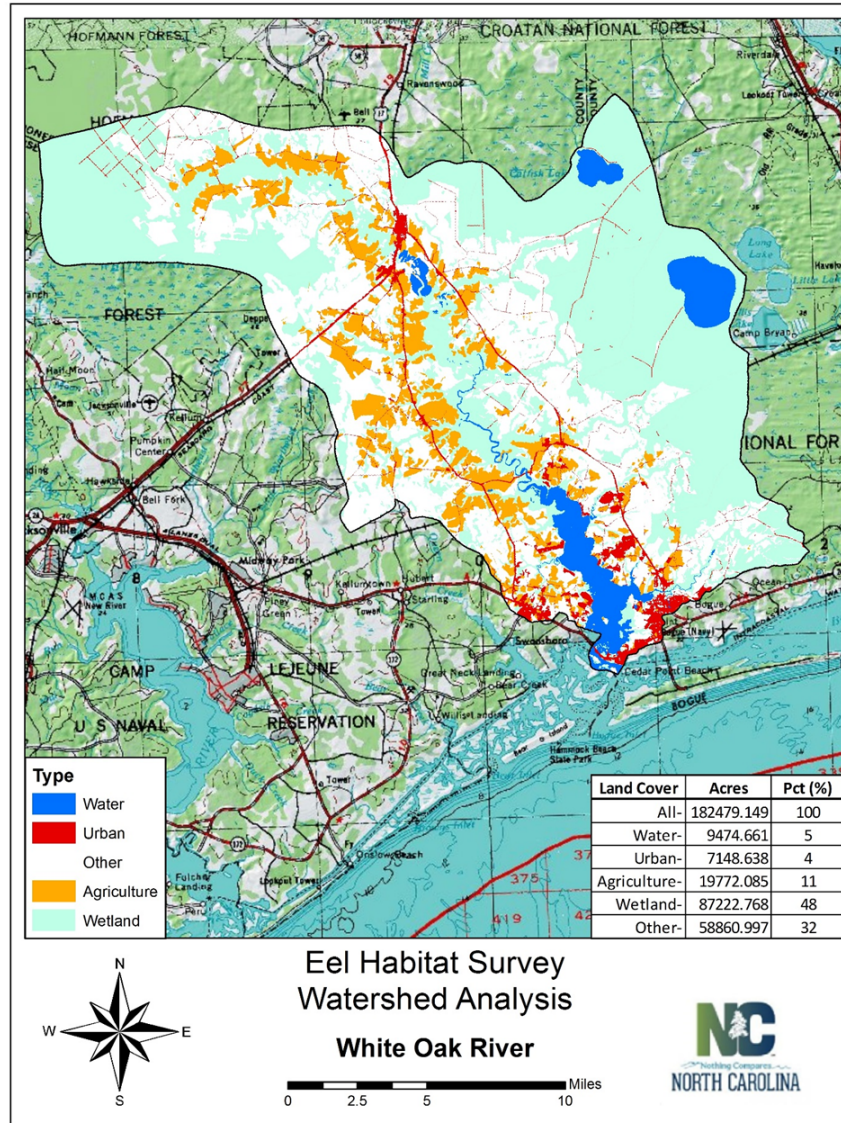
General location of proposed primary (red circles) and alternate (blue circles) harvest sites along the North Carolina coast.

Department of Environmental Quality



North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Land use characteristics for the sub-basin containing White Oak River



Department of Environmental Quality

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

White Oak River – Justification:

Meets Criteria

- NCDWR Impaired (Cat. 4 & 5)
- Shellfish Prohibited
- Relatively small river, located outside of the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds, along the central North Carolina coast

Benefits

- May not need to use the alternate sites located near the mouth of the Neuse River
- Data poor area that has not been previously sampled for American eels
- Greater fresh water influence compared to other sites increases the likelihood of encountering glass eels

Department of Environmental Quality



North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Monitoring Program

Harvest:

2016 Plan

- Glass eel harvest at each net - estimated weight

2017 Plan

- Glass eel harvest at each net - **actual weight.**

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Monitoring Program

Harvest:

2016 Plan

- Glass eel harvest at each net - estimated weight
- Total glass eel harvest reported before returning to landing site - estimated weight

2017 Plan

- Glass eel harvest at each net - actual weight
- Total glass eel harvest reported before returning to landing site - **actual weight**

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Monitoring Program

Harvest:

2016 Plan

- Glass eel harvest at each net - estimated weight
- Total glass eel harvest reported before returning to landing - estimated weight
- No elver work-up

2017 Plan

- Glass eel harvest at each net - actual weight.
- Total glass eel harvest reported before returning to landing - actual weight
- **Record elver weight at each net**

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Monitoring Program

Harvest:

2016 Plan

- Glass eel harvest at each net - estimated weight
- Total glass eel harvest reported before returning to landing - estimated weight
- No elver work-up
- CPUE – end of the harvest season

2017 Plan

- Glass eel harvest at each net - actual weight.
- Total glass eel harvest reported before returning to landing - actual weight
- Record elver weight at each net
- **CPUE - monthly**

North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Monitoring Program

Other:

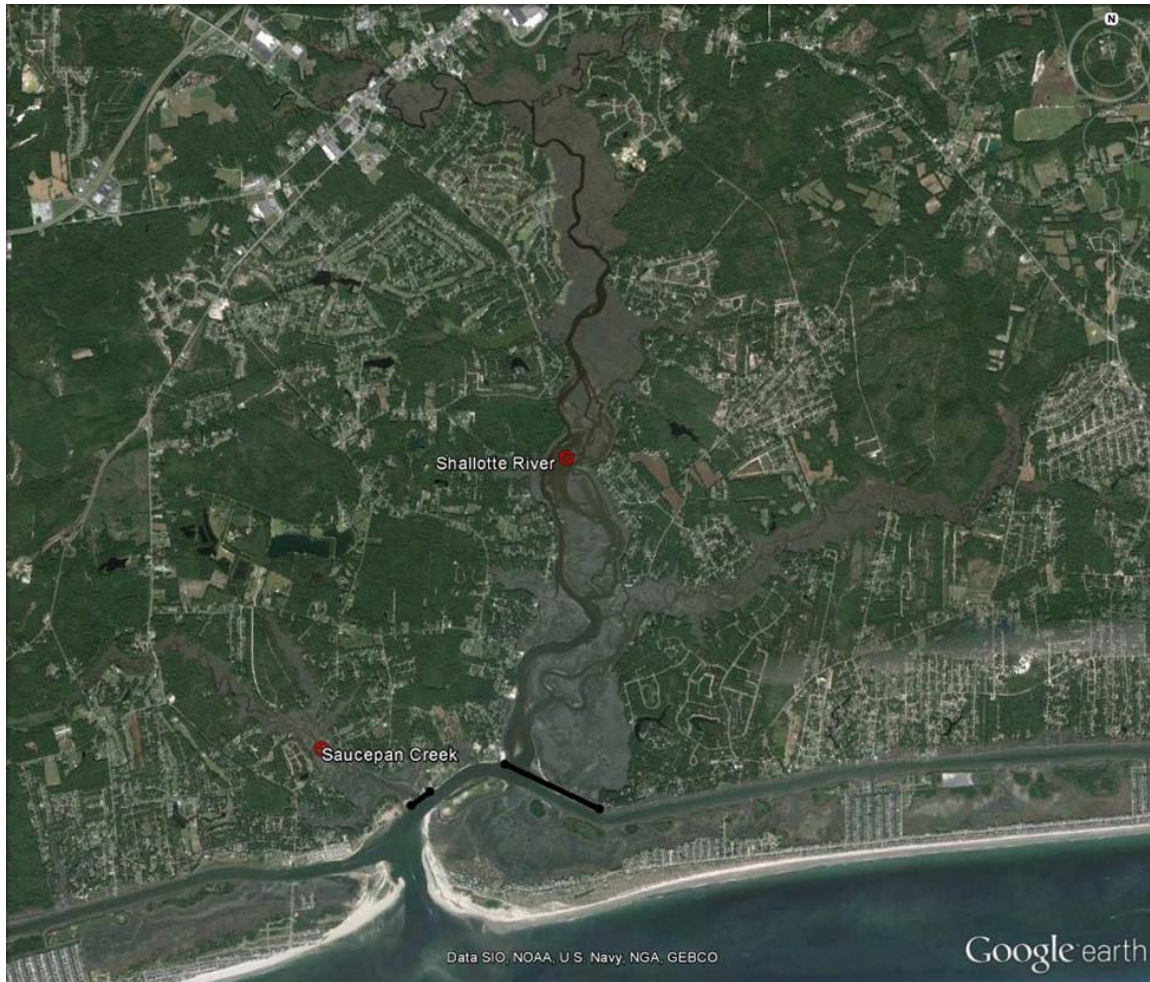
2017 Plan

- Removed: Agree to warrantless inspections and searches of any gear, vessels, equipment, vehicles, and their person
- Less phone calls to MP Communications Center (e.g., reporting GPS coordinates)
- Shift in time when gear must be inoperable on weekends
 - Jan 1-Feb. 28: cod ends must be opened from noon Friday – noon Sunday
 - March 1 – April 30: fyke nets must be removed from water from noon Friday – noon Sunday
- Establish downstream glass eel harvest boundaries

Department of Environmental Quality



North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel



The solid line represents the downstream glass eel harvest boundary.

Department of Environmental Quality



North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

2016 Plan

- Dates of Harvest: Feb. 22 – May 31, 2016
- Fishing Time: 2 hours before sunset through 2 hours after sunrise
- 3 individuals on permit and allowed one mate each (3 mates total)
- 10 Primary Sites
- Glass eel harvest at each net - estimated weight
- Total glass eel harvest reported before returning to landing - estimated weight
- No elver work-up
- CPUE – end of the harvest season

2017 Plan

- Dates of Harvest: Jan. 1 – Apr. 30, 2017
- Fishing Time: Jan. 1 – Feb. 28 fish nets once every 24 hours and March 1 – April 30 fish nets from 2 hours before sunset through 2 hours after sunrise
- 1 individual on permit and allowed 2 mates
- 11 Primary Sites: White Oak River
- Glass eel harvest at each net - actual weight.
- Total glass eel harvest reported before returning to landing - actual weight
- Record elver weight at each net
- CPUE - monthly



North Carolina Aquaculture Plan for American Eel

Next Steps

- Discuss NCDMF Aquaculture Plan
- Develop TC Recommendation
- Law Enforcement Committee
- American Eel Management Board - August 2016

