



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

Overview

Atlantic Sturgeon ESA Listing Response



Background

- **February 6 – Federal Register**
- **April 6 – Effective Date of ESA Listing**
- **GOM DPS – Threatened**
- **4 DPSs -- Endangered**



Correspondence

➤ **February – ASMFC**

Questions to NMFS

➤ **March – ASMFC Request**

NMFS to Delay



NMFS Response

- April – NMFS Response to Delay Request
- April – NMFS Response to ASMFC Questions



Discussions

- March - April – Discussions between Commissioners/NMFS/Technical Reps.



Moving Forward

- Section 7 ???
- State-Specific Section 10 Applications
 - State Workload
 - Flexible Timeline



Moving Forward

- Coordinated Section 10 Application
 - Decrease State Workload?
 - Allocation of Coastwide Take Coverage
 - Schedule Less Flexible



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**Assessment Science Committee
report to ISFMP Policy Board**

May 2, 2012

Alexandria, Virginia



Atlantic states stock assessment capacity

Previous recommendations to the Board to address capacity issue included:

Modify assessment frequencies to reflect each species' stock status and life history

ASC recommends working with TCs to define assessment frequencies for each species; ASC to provide assessment frequency recommendations for Board consideration at the Summer Meeting






New MRIP Estimates

New MRIP estimates were released for the period 2004-2011, possibly back to late 1990s

ASC seeks Board approval to develop guidance for TCs and SASCs toward consistent use of MRIP data across all Commission stock assessments and technical analyses

ASC guidance would consider MRIP Calibration Working Group findings





Guidance on Characterizing Uncertainty

Provide direction to ASC on 2012 Action Plan tasks regarding uncertainty

Task 1.5.1 – Establish best practices for technical committees to provide risk and uncertainty estimates when presenting scientific advice. Scientific oversight committees develop guidelines for characterizing uncertainty for each type of assessment.

Task 1.5.2 – Develop Commission policy regarding risk and uncertainty in consideration of and in coordination with Council approaches. Policy/Mgmt Boards develop management strategies based on levels of uncertainty in assessments.



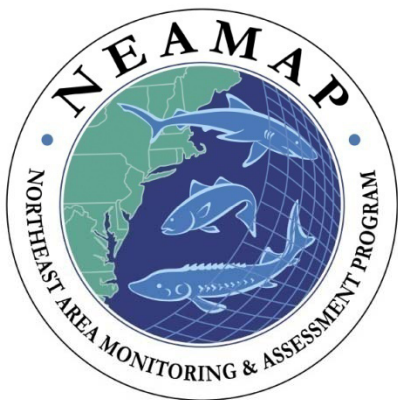


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NEAMAP Board Report

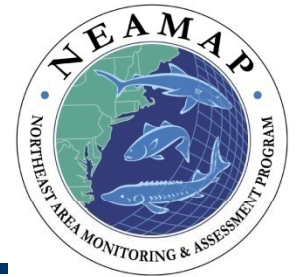
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ISFMP Policy Board

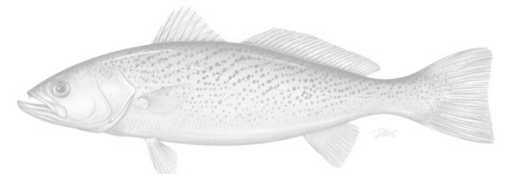




NEAMAP

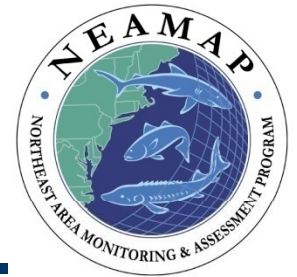


- Cooperative state/federal fishery-independent research and data collection program
 - From the Gulf of Maine to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina
- Coordinate fishery-independent data collection and data management activities
 - Among the states and federal partners in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions



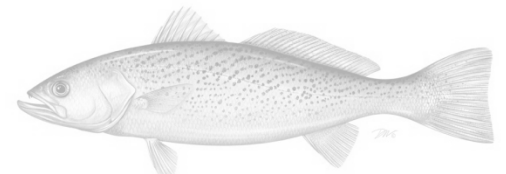


NEAMAP Fishery-Independent Surveys: Objectives



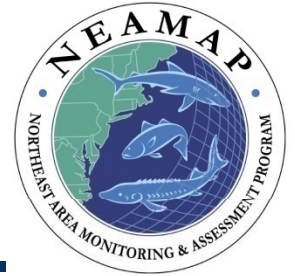
- To provide long-term estimates of
 - abundance
 - biomass
 - length- and age-structure
 - diet composition
 - other critical stock assessment parameters for the various fishes of management interest in the northeast

- Conduct surveys from commercial fishing vessels

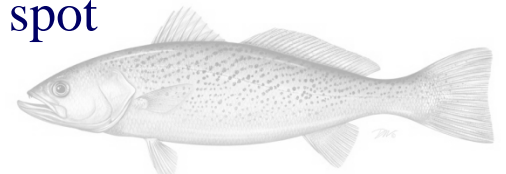




NEAMAP SNE/M-A Survey



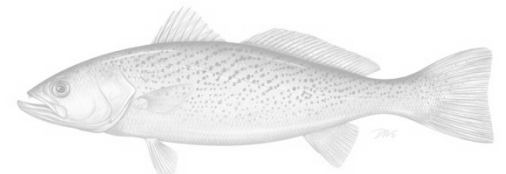
- NEAMAP Mid-Atlantic/Southern New England Nearshore Trawl Survey (MA-NC)
 - Nearly 6 million individual fish and invertebrates, >175 different species, 9 full-scale surveys completed.
 - Individual length measurements -- 620,000 specimens
 - Laboratory processing -- 36,000 stomach samples; 49,000 ageing structures (ear bones, vertebrae, spines)
 - Web portals -- GIS based survey results and food habits database available online
 - Data provided for use in stock assessments:
 - scup, summer flounder, black sea bass, river herring, croaker, weakfish, winter flounder, spiny dogfish, bluefish, spot





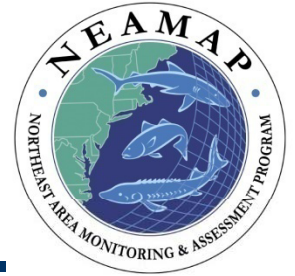
ME/NH Trawl Survey

- **Maine-New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey**
 - Coastal waters off Maine
 - Spring, Fall surveys conducted annually since the Fall of 2000 aboard the F/V Robert Michael
 - Provides seasonal abundance indices for approximately 25 species of finfish and invertebrates
 - Data provided for use in stock assessments:
 - lobster, shad; management decisions for monkfish, winter flounder, herring

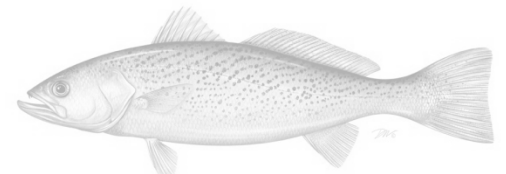




MA DMR Trawl Survey

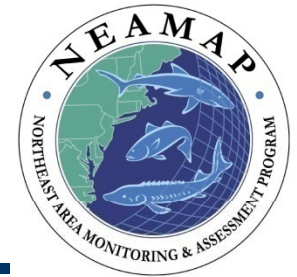


- Massachusetts Resource Assessment Inshore Trawl Survey
 - Conducted spring and fall surveys over the last 34 years, aboard the R/V Gloria Michelle
 - 6,482 successful stations in MA territorial waters between the borders of NH and RI
 - Biological data from over 169 species of finfish and invertebrates, including over 69,000 age samples
 - Data used in stock assessments:
 - GOM lobster, NE horseshoe crab, black sea bass, summer flounder, tautog, SNE and GOM winter flounder

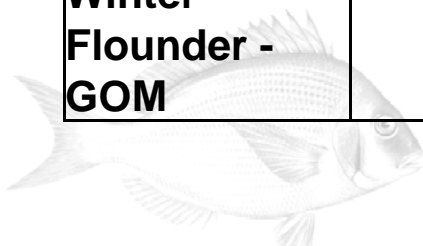




NEAMAP Data Usage

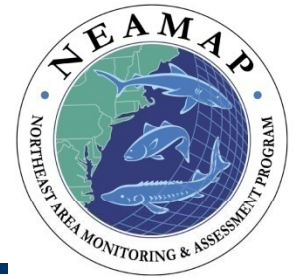


	SNE/MA	ME/NH	MASS
American Lobster		Data for stock assessment 2009 GOM	2009 Abundance indices by sex and size groupings, sex ratio, mean size for GOM
Black Sea Bass	Provided data to NMFS/ASMFC		Aged indices
Sea Scallop	Provided data to NMFS/Councils	Provided data for designing species-specific survey	
Scup	Biomass indices used in update 2011		Biomass indices used in update 2011
Summer Flounder	Provided data to NMFS/ASMFC		Aged indices
Winter Flounder - SNE	Provided data to NMFS/ASMFC		Aged indices
Winter Flounder - GOM		Used in the direct biomass area swept estimate	Aged indices



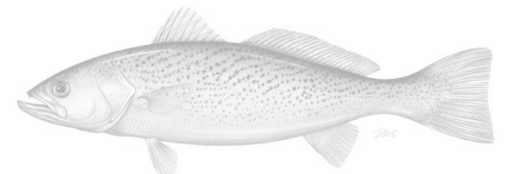


2012-2016 NEAMAP Management Plan



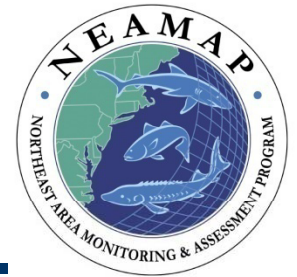
➤ 5-Year Management Plan completed

- Highlights the regional nature of NEAMAP
- Lays out tasks and goals for next five years of NEAMAP
 - Form NEAMAP Analytical Committee (ASMFC TC Chairs)
 - Inventory data utility and specific questions data should answer for use in stock assessments.
 - Develop approaches for research to better understand catchability processes among the various NEAMAP surveys. Recommend approaches for intentional changes in survey operations (research vessels, gear, protocols) that have the potential to change catchability within surveys.

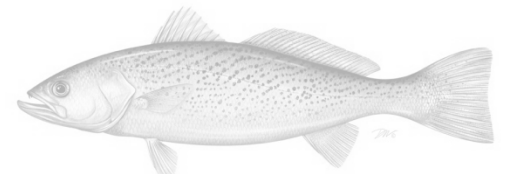


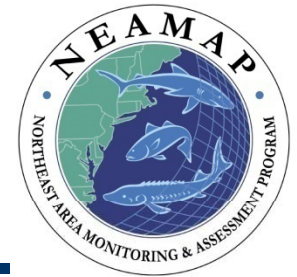


Cooperation in NEAMAP



- Developed a personnel pool of survey participants
 - Surveys in need of personnel can reach out to contacts in the pool to assist on survey legs





Overall funding

➤ NEAMAP SNE/M-A 2012

RSA VIMS

\$812,028

CFRF VIMS

\$191,249

Total

\$1,003,277

➤ ME/NH

- Need \$375,000, Receive less than that from NOAA

➤ MA DMF

- Supported by USFWS, Wallop-Breaux \$416,600
→ 75% fed/ 25% state match

