



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

ASMFC Commissioner Survey Results

February 2013



Background

- **Survey Included in Annual Action Plan**
- **Measures Progress Toward Commission's Goals**



Responses

- **24 Commissioners Responded**
- **43 Potential Responses**
- **Response Scale 1 - 10**



Survey Design

5 Topics, 20 Questions

Not Supportive

Very Supportive

Not Confident

Very Confident

Not Comfortable

Very Comfortable

Not Satisfied

Very Satisfied

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

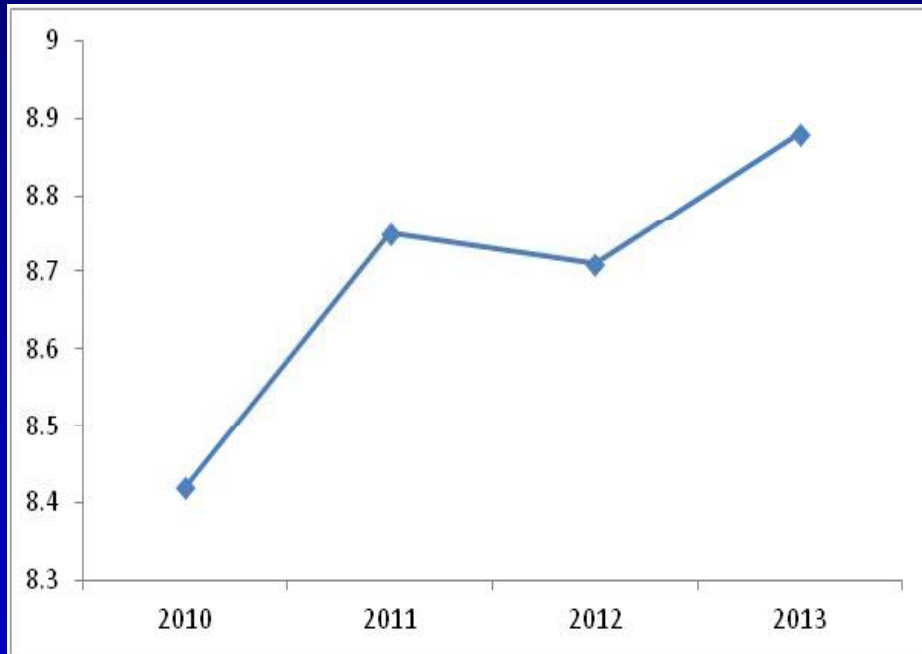
9

10

5 “Open Ended” Questions

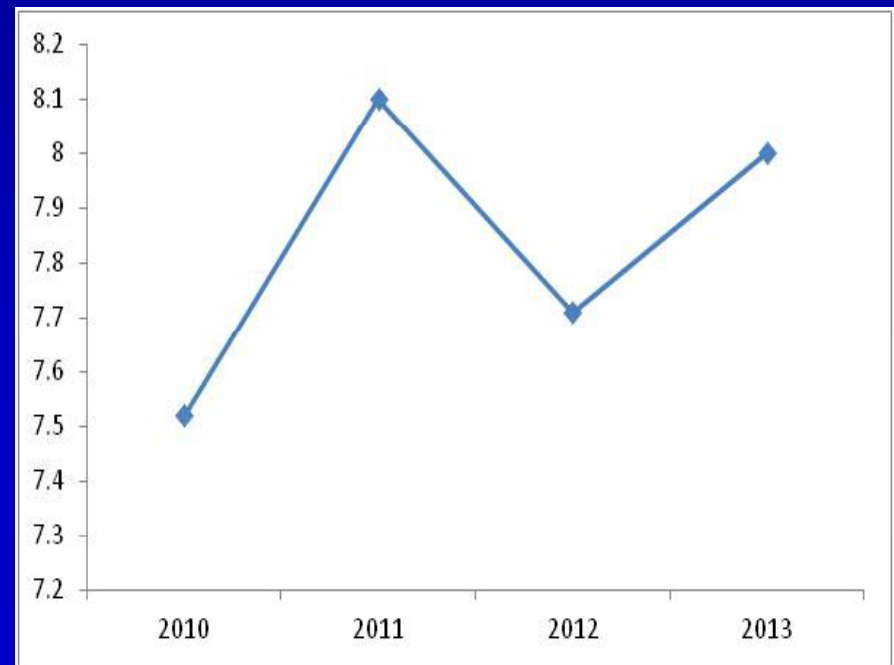


Support for Goals



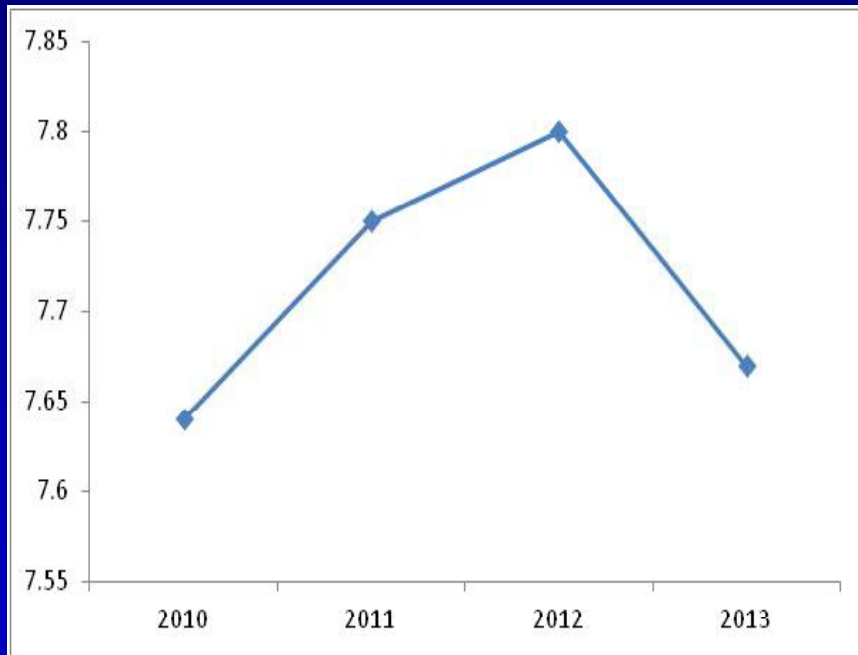
Commission has a clear set of goals

Commissioners Agreement with Goals



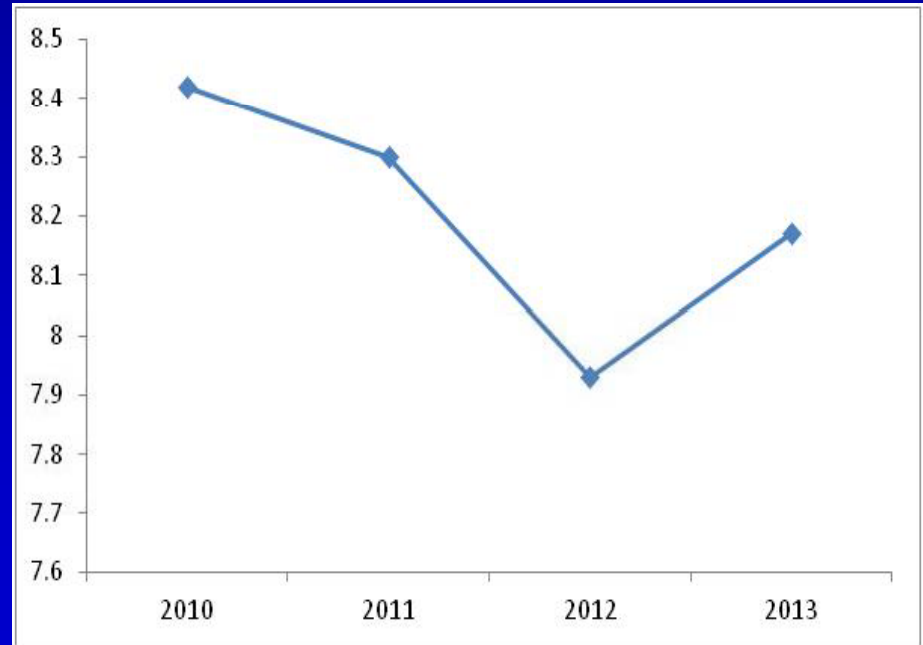


Caring out the Vision



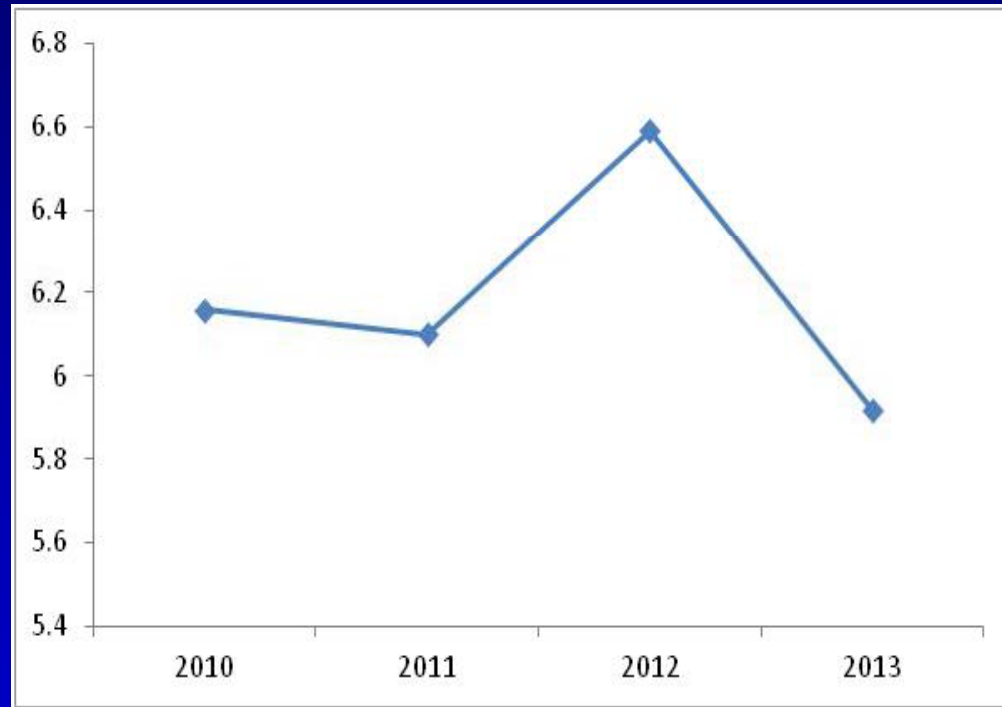
**Clear Plan to Carry
Out the Vision**

**Support for the
Commission plan to
achieve the vision**





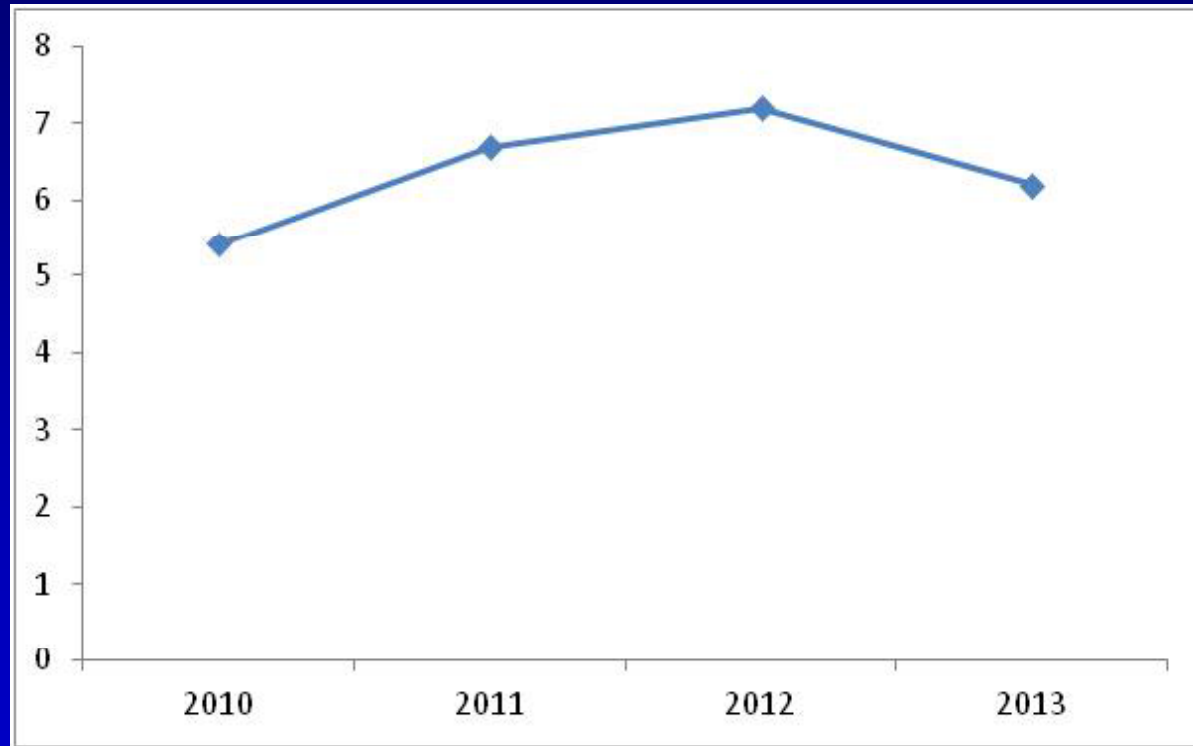
Commission's Execution and Results



Confidence the Commission will achieve the vision



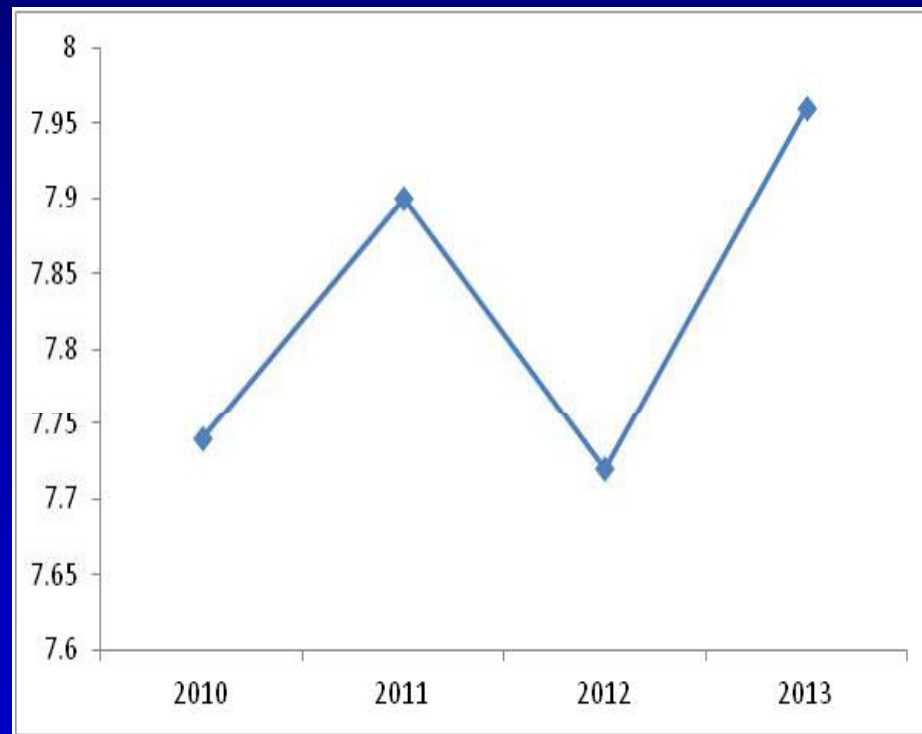
Execution and Results



Commission has an appropriate level of cooperation with federal partners



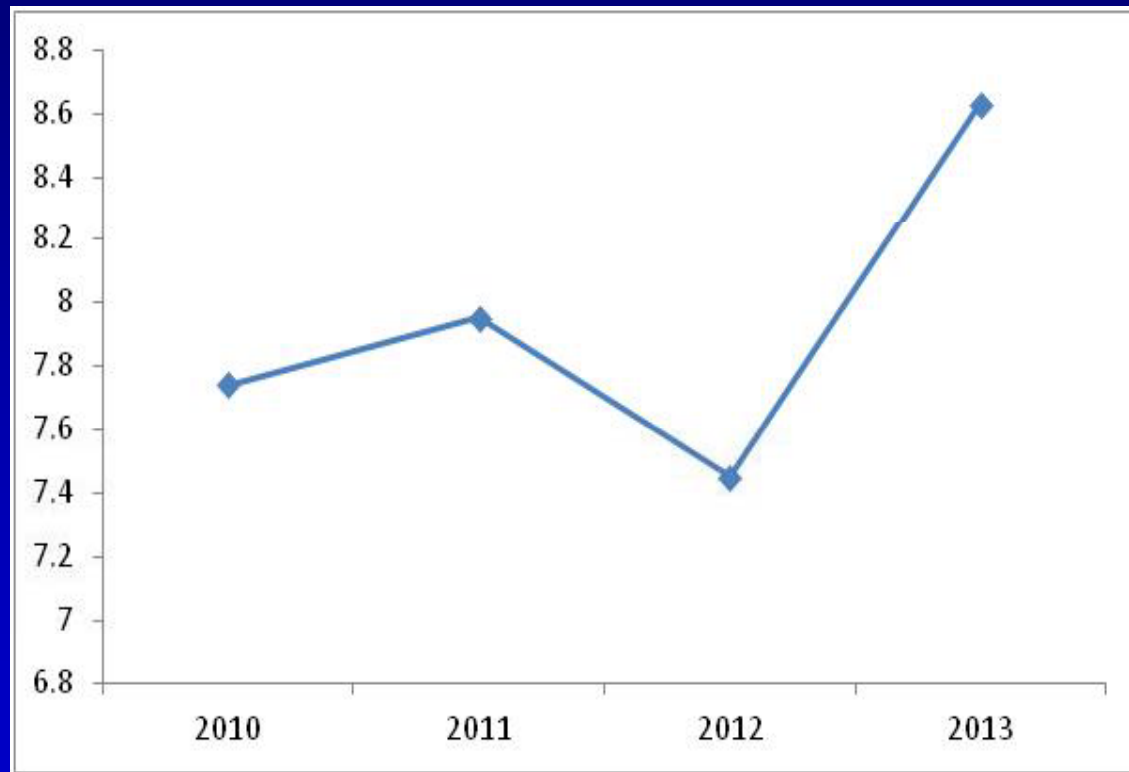
Measuring Progress and Results



**Support for metrics used by the
Commission**



Measuring the Availability and Utilization of Commission Resources



Commission's performance in reacting to new information and adapting accordingly to achieve Commission Goals



Most Significant Problem To Solve

- **Coordination between Federal and ASMFC FMPs**
- **Funding – State and ASMFC**
- **Multispecies management**
- **Climate change**



Most Important Change to Improve Results

- **Expand relationship with Congress**
- **Increased focus on the vision**
- **Decision standards based on science**
- **Focusing on long term benefits than just short term impacts**



Biggest Obstacle to Success

- **Financial constraints**
- **Political pressure**
- **Data quality**



Appropriate Metrics

- **Yes – Generally**
- **Partly, need to provide more information on outside forces/factors impacting our success/failure**
- **Need to update the vision**



Additional Comments

- **ASMFC needs to continue working toward goal**
- **Continued transparency: making sure discussions are fully engaged by all**
- **Fragmented management between state and federal plans**
- **Great leadership and staff**



Next Steps

- **How does the Commission want to react to survey findings?**
- **Is the survey an effective tool?**



Draft Technical Support Group Guidance and Benchmark Stock Assessment Process

February 2013



Purpose

- **Improve the function of the Commission**
- **Provide guidance to technical support groups on :**
 - **Structure**
 - **Function**
 - **Roles and responsibility**
- **Provide guidance on stock assessment process**



Sections

- **Board and Committee**
 - **Responsibility, tasking, expectations**
- **Meeting Policies and Procedures**
- **Communication policies and guidelines**
- **Stock Assessments Guidelines**



4.0 Committee Tasking

- **Tasking to Committee can be through action or direction from the chair**
 - **Tasks will be in writing from the chair or ISFMP staff**
 - **Tasking will clearly state deliverables expected**



5.0 Committee Expectations

- **Full participation by committee members**
 - **3 technical meeting weeks**
- **Proxy should be provided in writing (email or letter) prior to the meeting**
 - **Must be from the same state, jurisdiction or agency**
- **New members should consult the SA training program, manuals and ASC working papers before assessment process**



5.1 Staff Roles and Responsibilities

- **Habitat Coordinator or ISFMP Director will provide support to the Habitat Committee**



6.0 Meeting Policies

- **Non- committee members can request notification of meeting via-email**
- **Documents for public review will be on the web**
- **Draft materials with preliminary content or confidential data will not be distributed outside the committee**



6.4 Meeting Records

- **A committee report or meeting minutes can serve as a meeting summary**
- **If vice chair can not take minutes a member of the committee will be appointed**
- **Draft summaries will only be distributed to committee members prior to approval**
 - **Approve within 60 days of the meeting**



6.5 Public Participation

- **Comment is at designated time on the agenda or at chair's discretion**
- **May limit time for comment to ensure completion of agenda**
- **Public are expected to following guideline under meeting etiquette**
- **Board/Section can task a committee to review a stakeholder presentation**
 - **Public presentations are not permitted without invitation from board/section chair**



6.5.1 Submission of Materials

- **Public submission of materials for committee review must be done through the Board/Section chair (outside of the assessment process)**
 - **Must be submitted a month prior to the meeting**
 - **Staff will distribute the materials**



6.5.2 Benchmark Assessment Material Submission

- **Public submission of data is welcomed**
 - **Submitted in the requested format and timeframe (at least one month prior to workshop)**
 - **Commission will issue a press release with deadlines and requirements**



6.6 Meeting Etiquette

- **Chair should stop a meeting if a participant is not following guidelines**
 - **Come prepared**
 - **Be respectful**
 - **Mute electronics**
 - **Attend the entire meeting**
- **Commission staff should note when guidelines are not being followed if the chair does not**



7.0 Communications and Policies and Guidelines

- **Recording a meeting can be done with notification to the chair and staff prior to the start of the meeting (can not be disruptive)**
- **Committee will be notified they are being recorded**
- **Staff can record a meeting but recordings will not be distributed**



7.3 Webinars

- **Webinars can be requested when a member can not attend**
- **Cannot guarantee sufficient quality to allow complete participation for remote members**
 - **Must have 24 hour notice**
- **Meeting held via webinar (no in-person meeting) are open to the public**
 - **Request space 24 hours prior to the meeting**



7.4 Reports

- **Reports will include: (1) charge, (2) process to develop advice, (3) summary of discussion, and (4) recommendations**
- **Non-Committee reports submitted through the board/section chair**
- **Member comments will be addressed prior to approval and distribution**
- **Corrections can be made when mistakes are made**



8.0 Stock Assessments

- **Alternative assessments developed by external groups must be brought to the board/sections during the assessment process to be considered for management**
- **Notify the Commission 1 month prior of a workshop regarding interest in presenting**
- **Any analysis outside the benchmark may not be considered until the next benchmark**



8.3 Assessment Frequency

- **Update will need to be converted to a benchmark if a trigger occurs**
 - **Subject to board/section approval**
- **Rejected assessments at peer-review should not undergo projections, updates or benchmarks until deficiencies identified by the review are addressed or a new model used**
- **Assessment errors**
 - **Simple**
 - **Model structure or primary input**



8.6 Benchmark Assessments

- **Integrated peer review**
 - **Species that did not pass review**
 - **Passed with major recommendations for improvement**

- **Public participation**
 - **Notice to public**
 - **Follow guidelines to submit data**
 - **Final deliberations will be by SAC members only**

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Activity Update to the ASMFC ISFMP Policy Board

Brian Hooker
Biologist, BOEM

February 20, 2013



Overview

- Re-Cap of Stages of Development
- Wind Energy Area Status
- BOEM Environmental Studies Program Update

Stages of Development

Identifying Wind Energy Areas

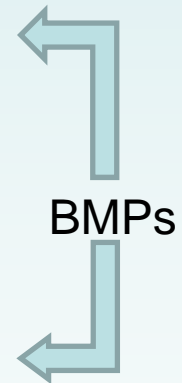
Task Force Consultation → Public Notice & Comment

Leasing:

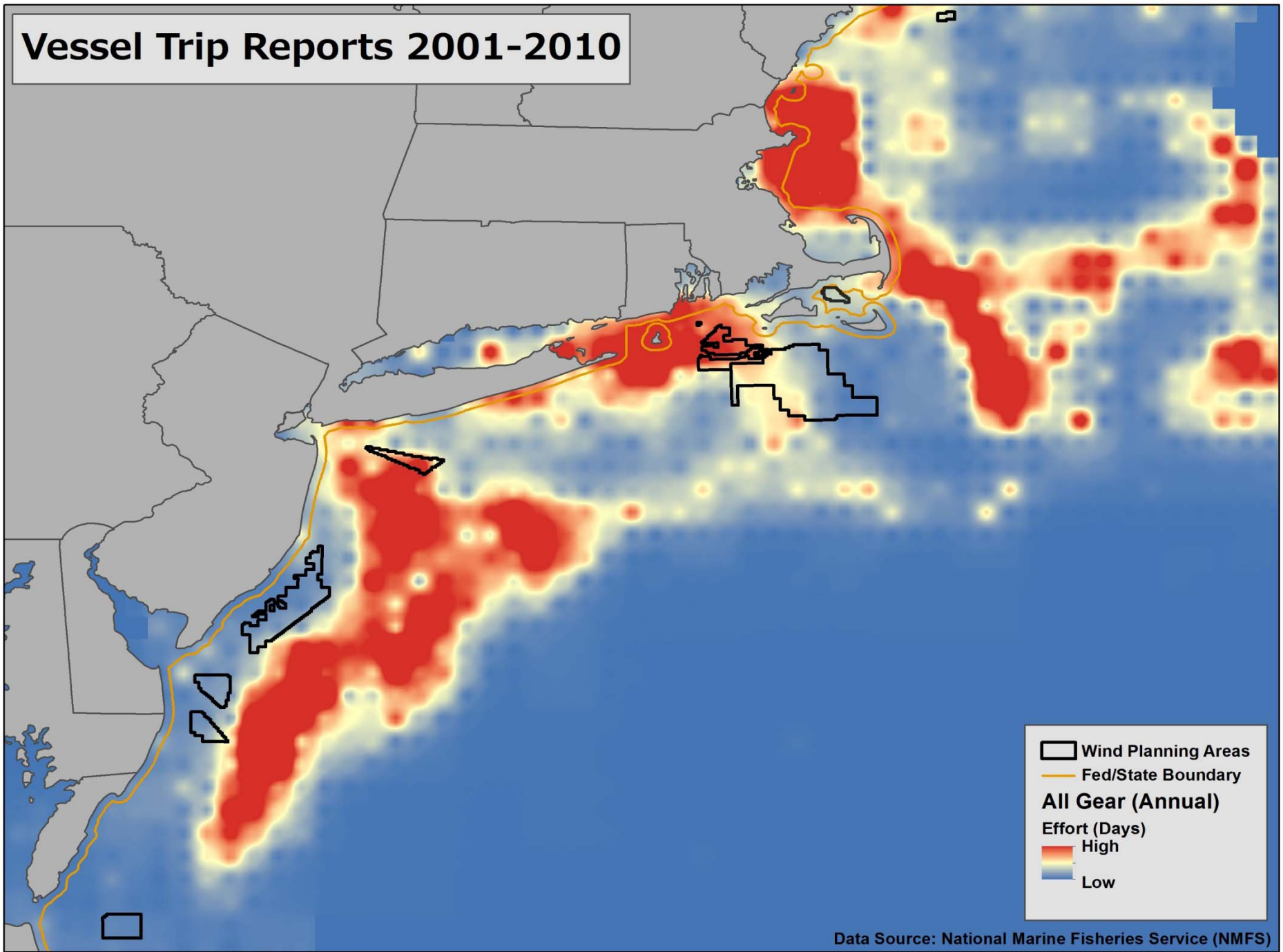
Notice → Environmental Assessment → Issuance

Site Assessment Plan
(Surveys)

Construction &
Operations Plan
EIS



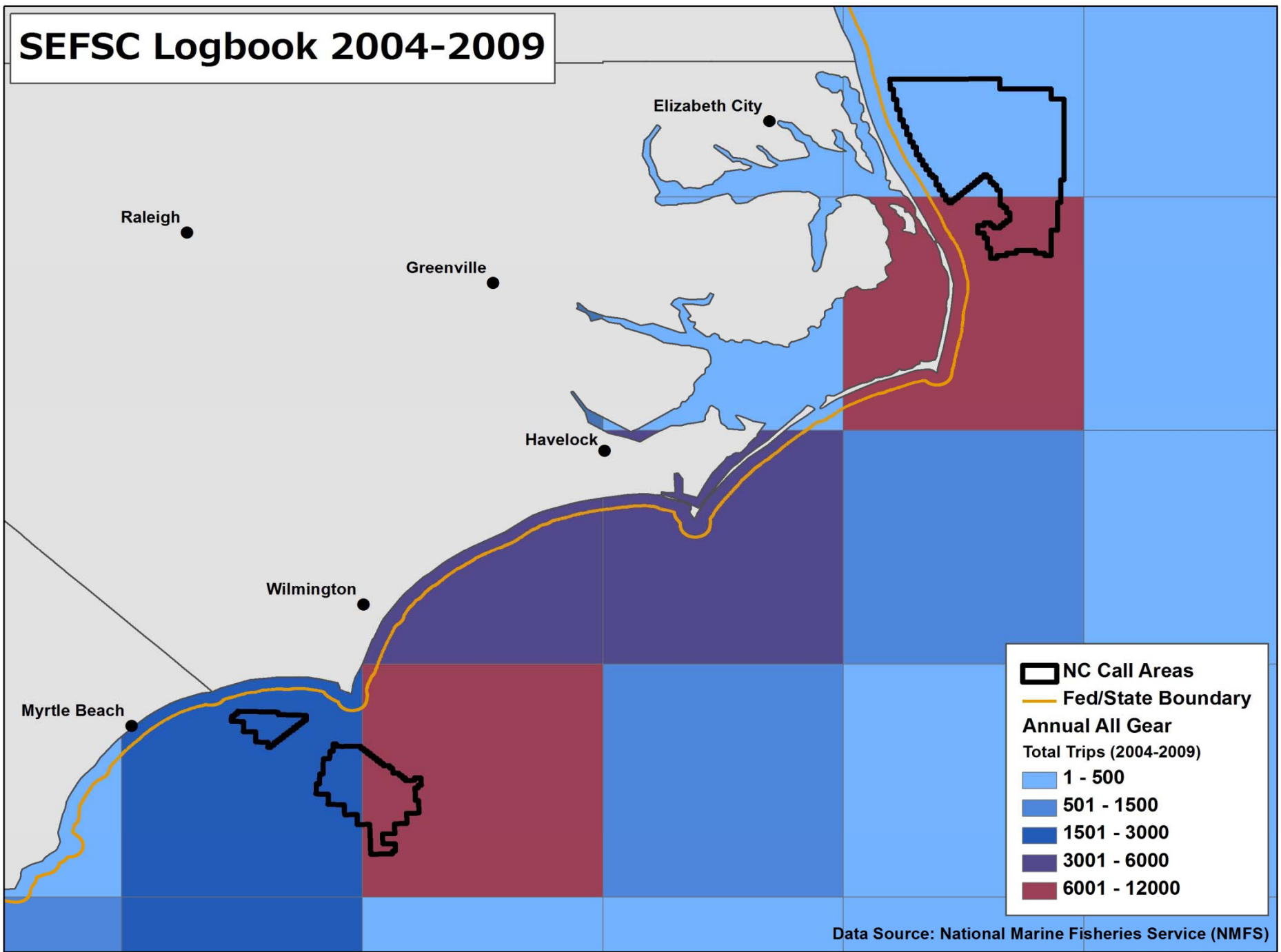
Vessel Trip Reports 2001-2010



Data Source: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Map ID: ERB-2012-1082

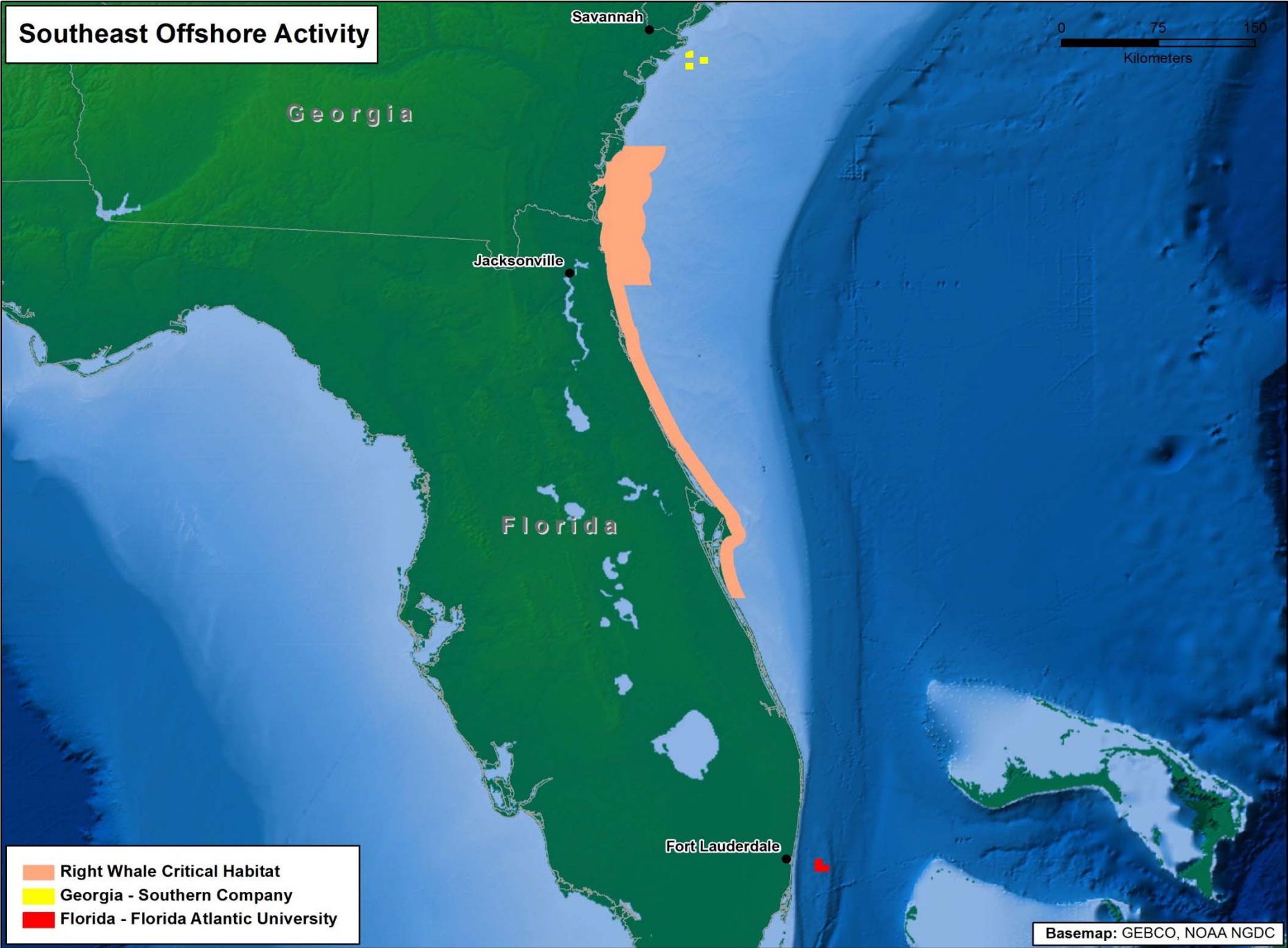
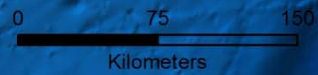
SEFSC Logbook 2004-2009



Data Source: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Map ID: ERB-2013-1006

Southeast Offshore Activity



- Right Whale Critical Habitat
- Georgia - Southern Company
- Florida - Florida Atlantic University

Basemap: GEBCO, NOAA NGDC

Studies: Biological

- EMF impact studies are continuing:
 - EMF model-based assessment and literature review is completed.
 - EMF *in situ* study ongoing in the Pacific.
 - Dept. of Energy funded EMF laboratory-based study is continuing.
- Fish acoustic impacts:
 - Workshop held in March 2012.
 - Effects of Pile Driving Sounds on Auditory and Non-Auditory Tissues of Fish has now been posted.

Studies: Socioeconomic

- “Development of Mitigation Measures to Address Potential Use Conflicts Between the Wind and Commercial Fishing Industries.”
- Inter-Agency Agreement with NMFS to evaluate the socio-economic impact to fishing from offshore wind energy development was signed in September.
- Identification of Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy Space-Use Conflicts and Analysis of Potential Mitigation Measures.
- Present and historical fishing usage data continuing to be processed.

BMP Workshops

- Opportunity to provide comments on the construction and operational phases.
- Near term product- updated list of fishing-related best management practices (BMPs).
- Long term product – application of new fishing-related BMPs to the review of site assessment plans (SAPs), construction and operation plans (COPs), and general activity plans (GAPs).

2,640 ft. turbine spacing

541 ft. maximum rotor diameter

75-93 ft. average water depth

75 ft. minimum height above water

60 ft. jacket base

Enlarged Area

300 ft. door spread

Block Island Wind Farm

October 9, 2012



Prepared by



Prepared for





Block Island Wind Farm

October 9, 2012

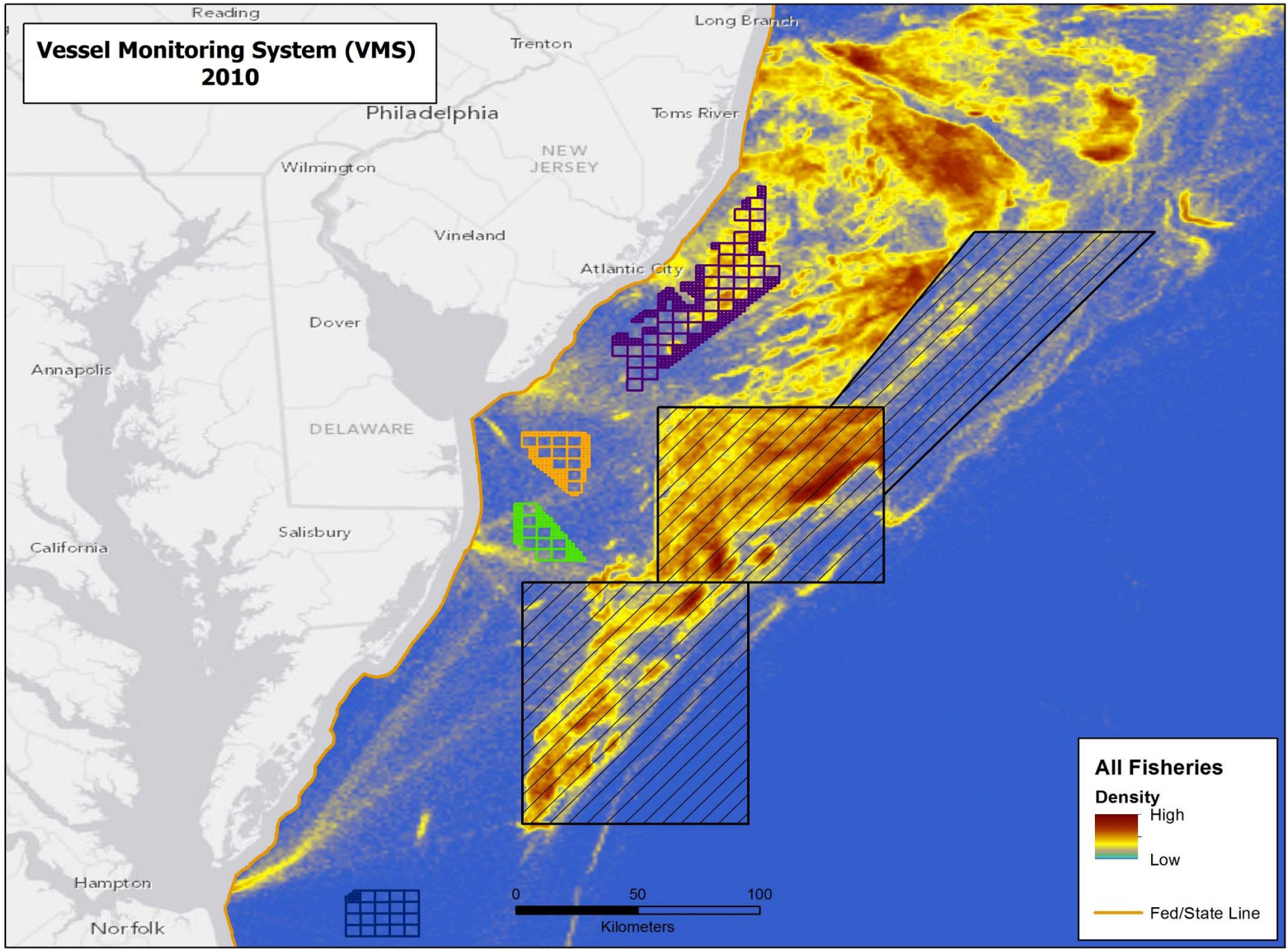
Prepared by



Prepared for



Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) 2010



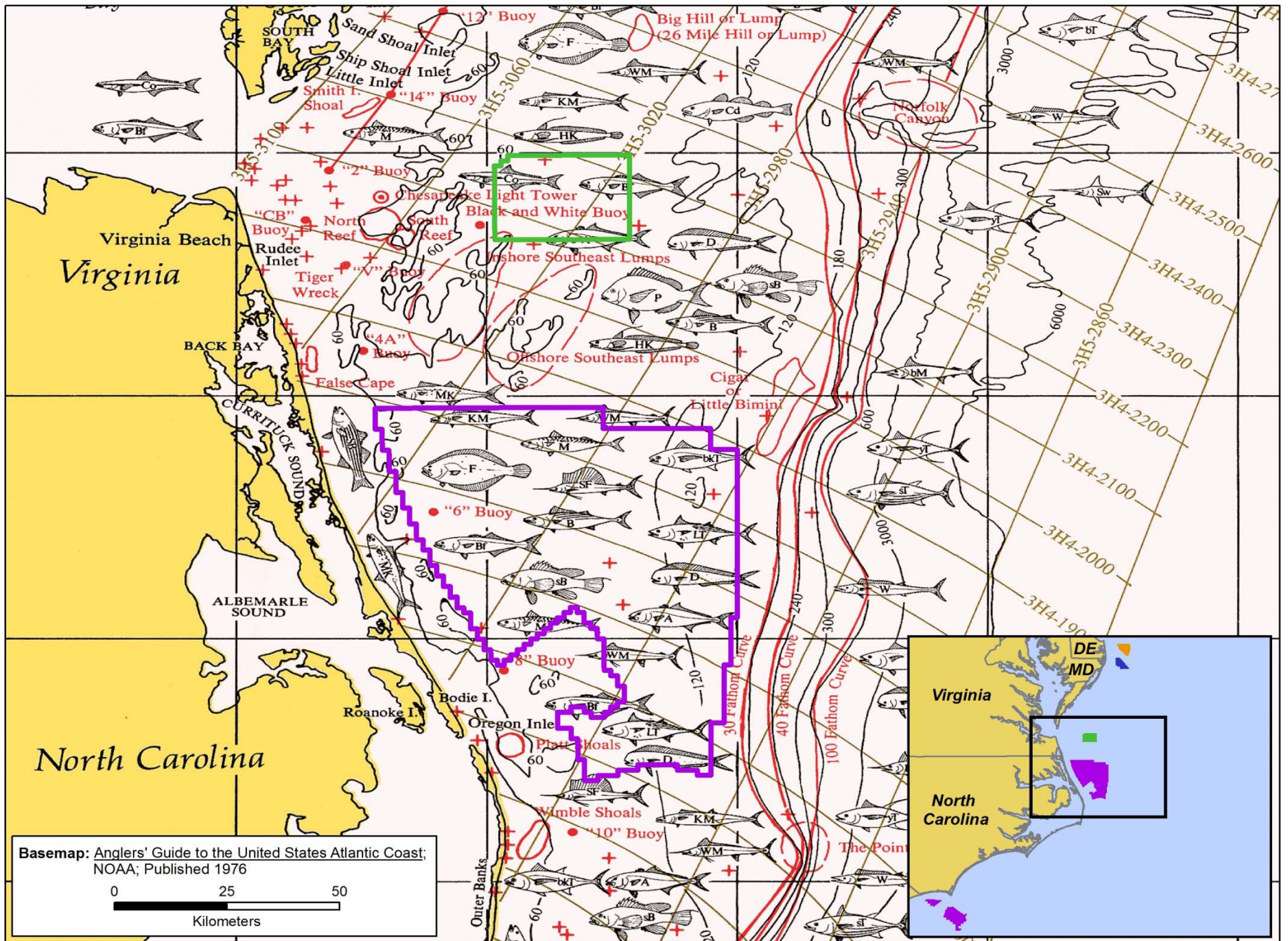
All Fisheries

Density

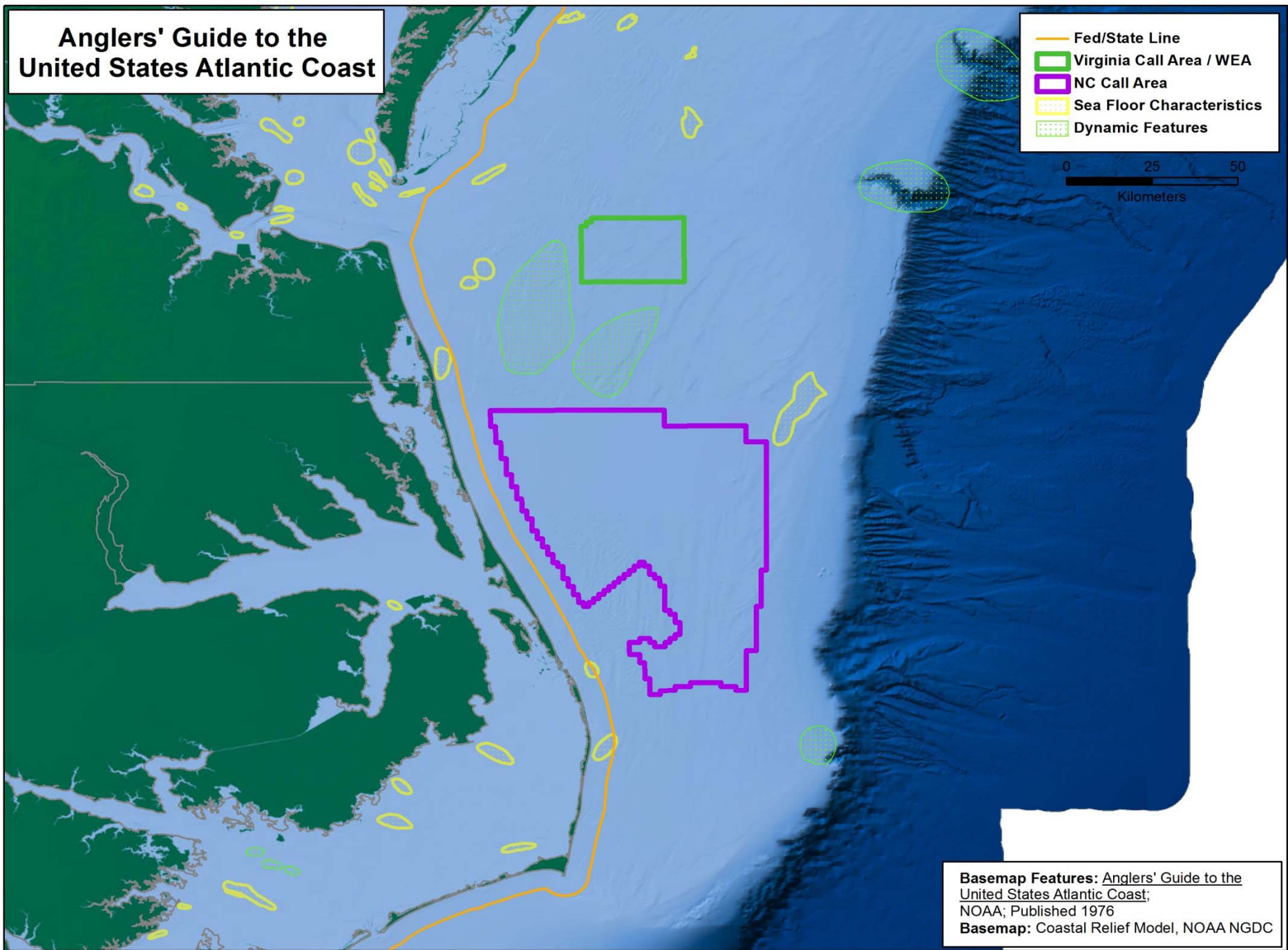
High

Low

Fed/State Line



Anglers' Guide to the United States Atlantic Coast



Basemap Features: Anglers' Guide to the United States Atlantic Coast;
NOAA; Published 1976
Basemap: Coastal Relief Model, NOAA NGDC

Questions?
Comments?



Habitat Program Guidance and Implementation

February 2013



Purpose

- **White paper developed by contractor**
- **HC chair and coordinator presented the Policy Board with recommended changes for the future direction of the habitat program**
- **Policy Board tasked staff to develop a white paper that would identify the how the recommendations for the Habitat Program would be implemented and associated cost**



Revise the Operational Procedures Manual

- **Streamline the Habitat Program's governing documents**
- **Integrate into the Commission strategic plan**
- **Operational Procedures Manual will define the role and responsibilities of the Committee meetings.**
- ***Cost:* No additional cost**



Habitat Committee Coordinator

- **Hired (via contract) part-time Habitat Coordinator; Integral to Program's effectiveness and completion of tasks**
- ***Cost: 2012: \$20,000 for 7 ½ months; 2013: \$14,250 for 6 months***



Develop an Annual Work Plan

- **Develop annual work plan based on the Annual Action Plan**
- **Clearly define habitat-related responsibilities, assign tasks to individuals or subcommittees, and provide timelines**
- ***Cost:* No additional cost**



New Committee Direction

- **Identify bottlenecks creating habitat limitations**
 - **Incorporating a discussion, when appropriate, in updated FMP habitat sections**
 - ***Cost*: Possible cost associated with updating the habitat section of the FMP: red drum-no cost; lobster-contracting the section ~\$3,000**
- **Broader look at habitat limitations that may influence several Commission managed species with poor stock status.**
- ***Cost*: Uncertain: discussing a path forward.**



Habitat Committee Concerns

- **Improve Communication between HC & Policy Board**
 - **Increase feedback/direction from Policy Board**
 - **Prior to meeting week, HC will “check in” with Board on any relevant habitat issues**
 - **Provide Commissioners with an abbreviated HC meeting summary to solicit feedback and facilitate communication.**
- **Cost: No additional cost**



Staying Informed of other Committee Activities

- **Challenging to keep appraised of other committees activities and habitat-related needs.**
- **Habitat Coordinator should facilitate communication between committees; and keep HC appraised on habitat-related issues.**
- **Cost: No additional cost, but integral to Rec #3 (Habitat Coordinator)**



Harbor Deepening

Potential Habitat and Natural Resource Issues

- **Describes potential impacts to inform decision-making on future harbor deepening projects**
- **Describes alterations to be considered when evaluating effects on habitats and biological resources**



Harbor Deepening

- **Potential changes to consider:**
 - **Water Quality Effects**
 - **Physical Effects**
 - **Biological Effects**
- **Mitigation**
- **Lists sources of information and documents related to ongoing or planned deepening projects**