



2017 Annual Review of Stock Rebuilding Performance

ASMFC

August 2017



Background

- 2014-2018 Strategic Planning
- Commissioners Requested more frequent reviews
- Initiated in 2009
- Task in the 2017 Action Plan



Objective

- Validate Status/Rate of Progress
- If not acceptable: Identify corrective action



Outcome

- Direction/feedback to species management boards
- Input into the 2018 action planning process



Categories

- Rebuilt/Sustainable
- Recovering/Rebuilding
- Concern
- Depleted
- Unknown



Rebuilt/Sustainable and Recovering/Rebuilding Stocks

Rebuilt/Sustainable

- GOM/GBK Lobster
- Atlantic Herring
- Menhaden
- Black Drum
- Black Sea Bass
- Bluefish
- Scup
- Spanish Mackerel
- Spiny Dogfish

Recovering/Rebuilding

- Striped Bass
- Red Drum
- Tautog (MARI)



Species of Concern

Horseshoe Crab



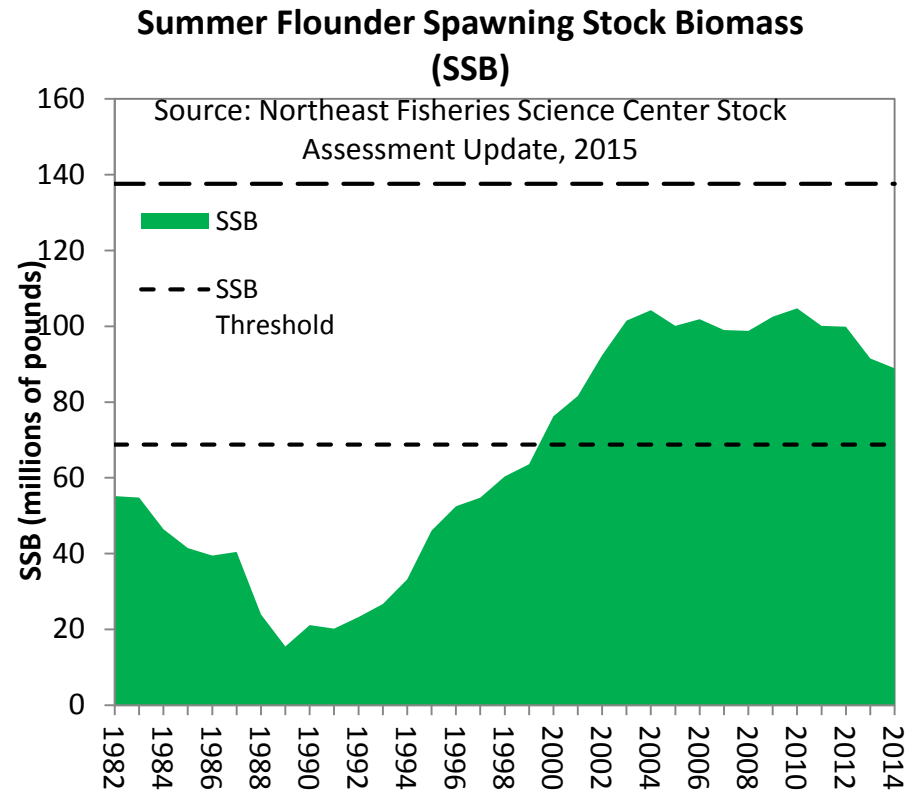
Needed Information/Data

- Dedicated funding for a coastwide survey or surveys by broader geographical region
- Biological reference points
- A mechanism to include biomedical data and mortality estimates in regional assessments without compromising data confidentiality

Summer Flounder



- Not over fished but overfishing is occurring
- Recruitment below average since 2010
- Retrospective pattern evident which impacts projections
- Probability of overfishing in 2017 is higher than the MAFMC risk policy





Additional Species of Concern

- Coastal Sharks
- Winter flounder-GOM

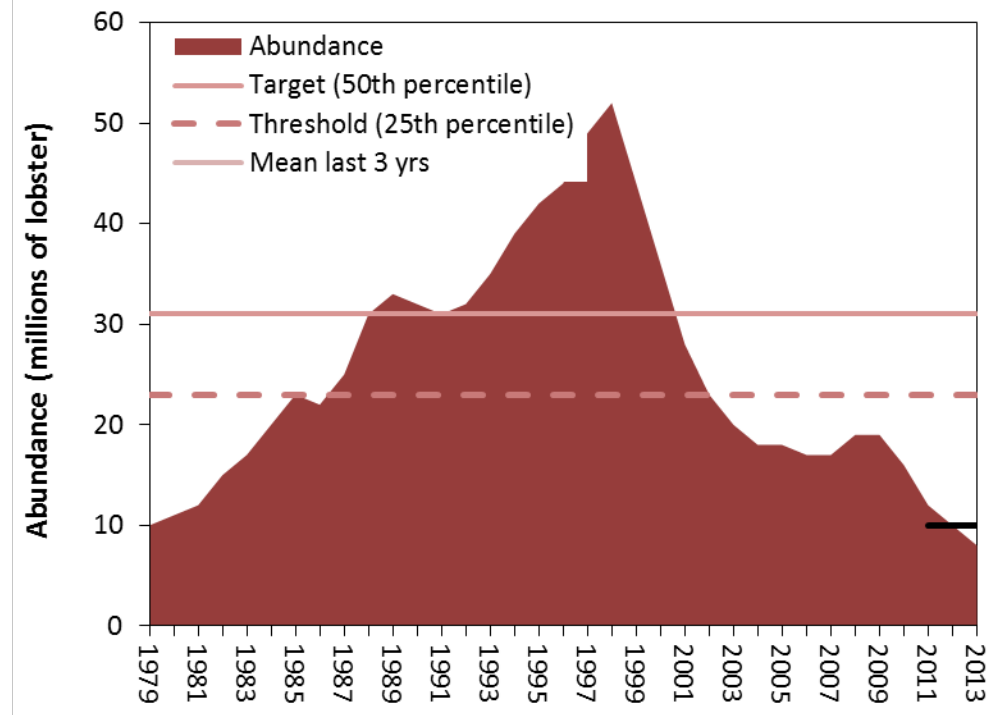


Depleted Species

SNE Lobster



- The inshore portion of the stock shows a dramatic decline in spawning stock abundance
- The stock has not rebuilt and is in recruitment failure
- TC advised to use output controls, Board continues to use input measures
- TC advised 50-75% reductions in SNE LCMAs; Board approved 10% reduction
- Board is did not take action to increase in egg production

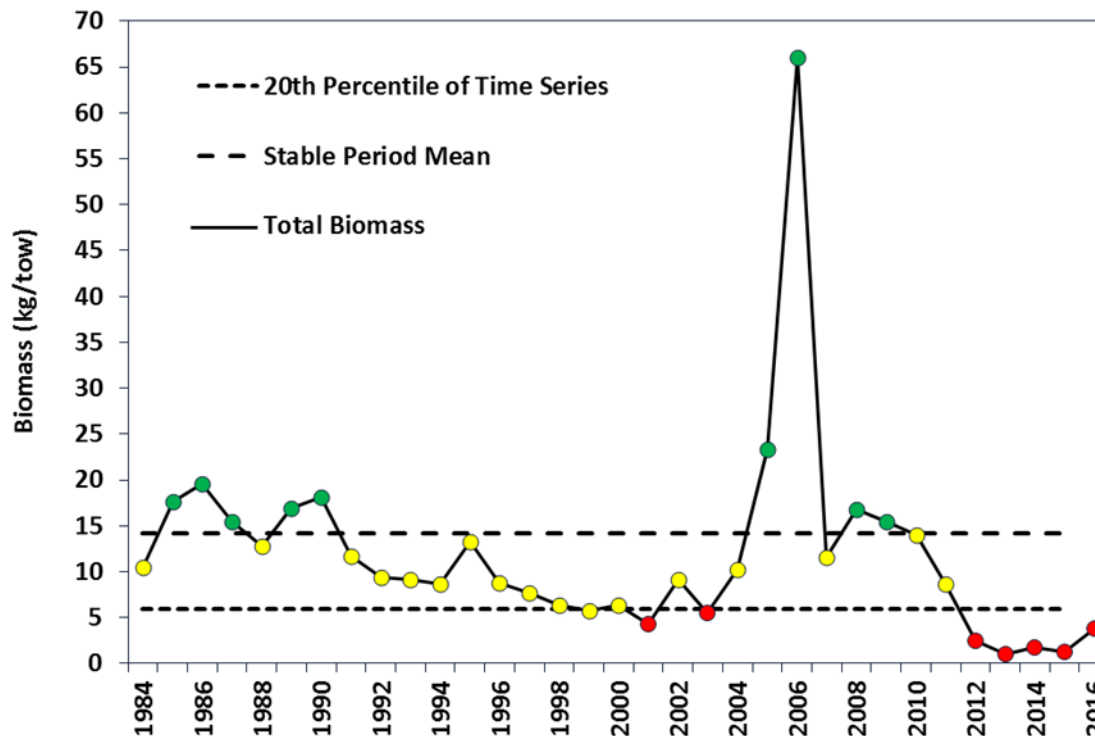


Northern Shrimp



- Due to failed recruitment, stock is not expected to recover until at least 2017
- Section implemented a moratorium in 2014 and initiated an amendment to look at limited entry

Total Biomass of Northern Shrimp from the Gulf of Maine Summer Shrimp Survey



Tautog



2016 Stock Assessment Update

- The assessment includes data through 2015
- The LIS and NJ/NY Bight regions indicate overfishing
- LIS, NJ/NY Bight and DelMarVa regions are overfished

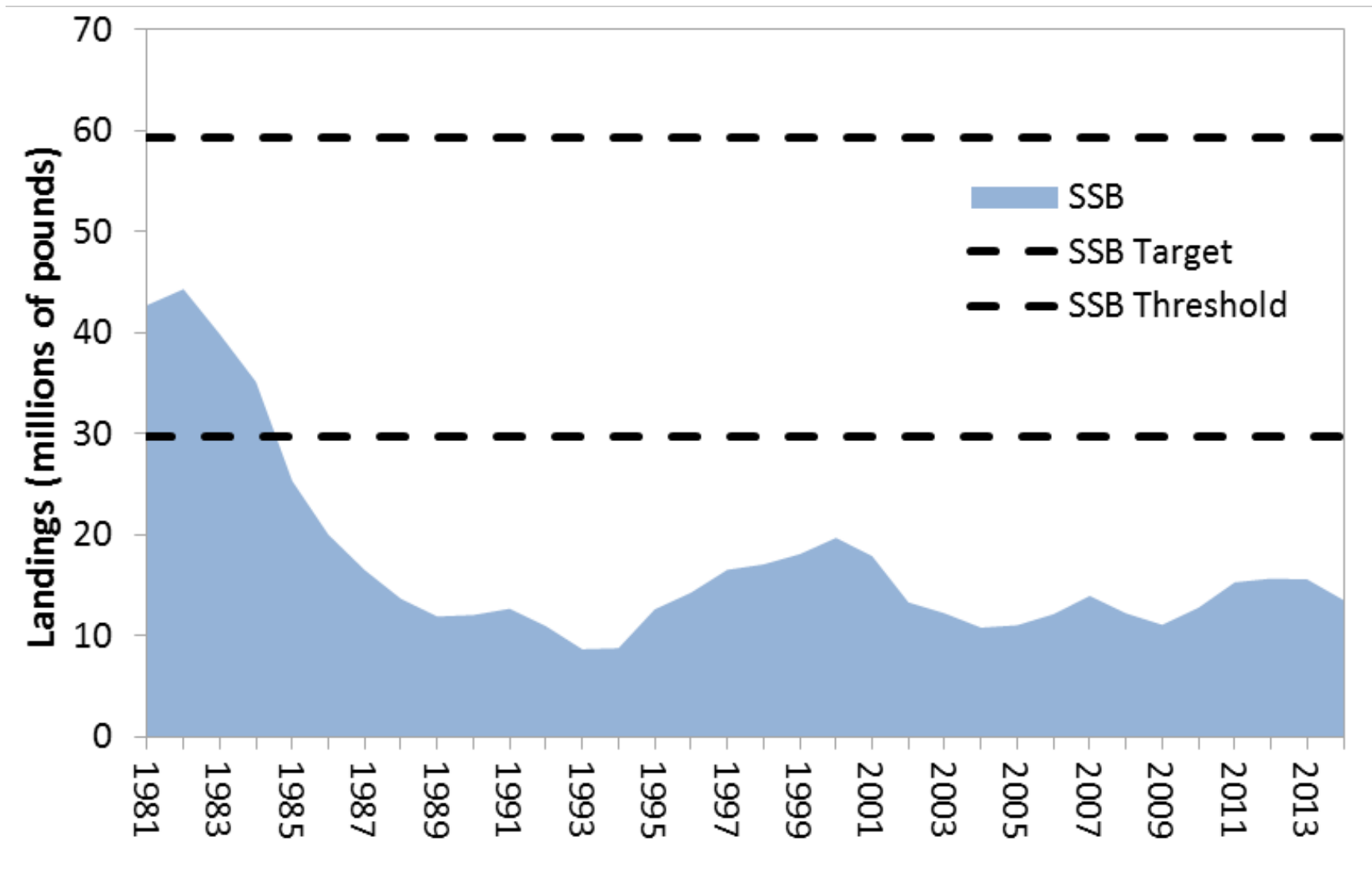
Scientific Advice Based on Assessment Findings

- The assessment proposed new reference points for each region (see table for stock condition and regional stock definition)

Board Adherence to Scientific Advice

- Board initiated Draft Amendment 1 to consider regional stock definitions, reference points and management measures, including a commercial tagging program

Winter Flounder SNE/MA





Additional Depleted Species

- American Eel
- Shad
- River herring
- Weakfish
- Winter flounder SNE/MA



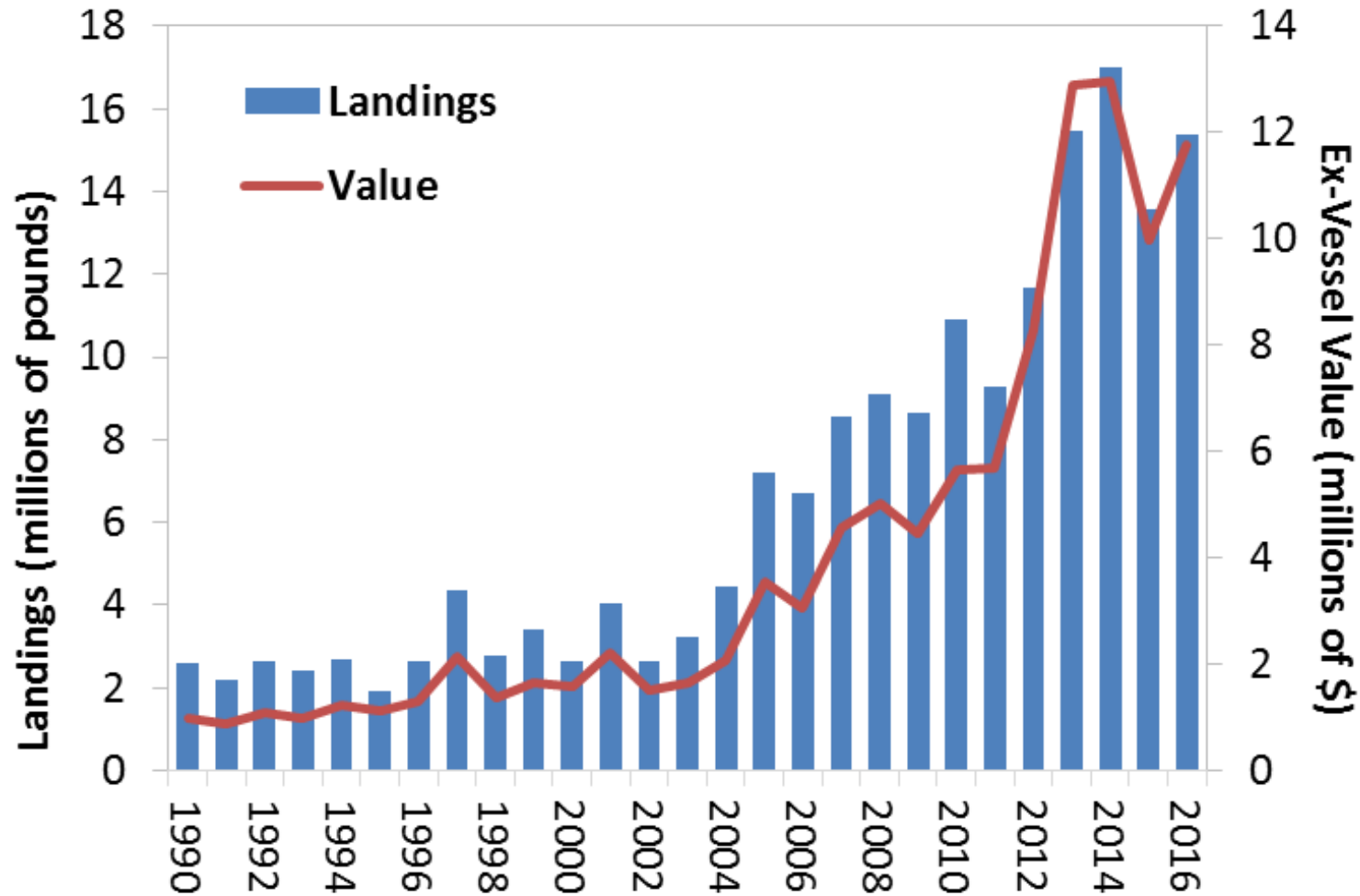
Unknown Species

Jonah Crab



Jonah Crab Landings and Ex-Vessel Value

Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse





Additional Unknown Species

- Atlantic Croaker
- Sturgeon
- Spot
- Spotted Seatrout



Council Participation In Sections

Policy Board

August 2017



- NEFMC Expressed Interest in Joining the Atl. Herring Section
- Provisions within the ISFMP Charter only allow for Council participation on Management Board

- Amendment 1 in the Compact specifies States may come together for form Sections



- In order for the Council to have a voting seat for Atl. Herring decisions the Atl. Herring Section would need to become a Management Board
- The Policy Board can make this change



Questions?



ASMFC SMPs for Board Meetings

Policy Board

August 2017

SMPs



- Developed to make meeting more effective and efficient
- Provides info on quorum and voting procedures as defined in the Commission guiding documents
 - These elements are required

Discretionary Elements



- Allow everyone to speak once before giving a second opportunity
- Only speak up to 2 times per motion
- “no objection” clause
- Limiting time per speakers
- “1 in favor/1 against”



Questions?



Assessment Science Committee Update

August 2017



Species	2016		2017	2018	2019	2020
American Eel			Update			
American Shad				Update		
American Lobster						x
Atlantic Croaker			ASMFC			
Atlantic Menhaden			Update		SEDAR	
Atlantic Sea Herring				SARC-Spring		
Atlantic Striped Bass	Update			SARC-Fall		
Atlantic Sturgeon			ASMFC			
Black Drum					x	
Black Sea Bass	SARC- Fall		Update	Update	Update	Update
Bluefish	Update		Update	Update	Update	x
Cobia					SEDAR	
Horseshoe Crab				ASMFC		
Menhaden ERPs					SEDAR	
Northern Shrimp	Update		Update	ASMFC	Update	Update
Red Drum						x
River Herring			Update			
Scup	Update		Update	Update	Update	x
Spanish Mackerel						
Spiny Dogfish	Update		Update	Update	Update	Update
Large Coastal Sharks	SEDAR					
Small Coastal Sharks						
Spot			ASMFC			
Spotted Seatrout	FL					
Summer Flounder	Update		Update	Update	SARC	Update
Tautog	Update				x	
Weakfish	ASMFC			Update		
Winter Flounder			Update			



Habitat Committee Report

Presented to ASMFC Policy Board

August 3rd, 2017

Spring In-Person Meeting



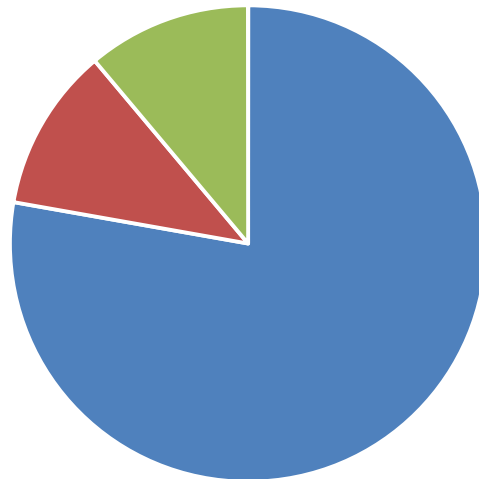
- Habitat Committee met May 2-3 at ASMFC offices in Arlington, VA
- Presentation from Dr. Bob Orth (VIMS)
- Checked in on Goal 4 progress in 2017 Action Plan
 - SAV Policy Update
 - Aquaculture document
 - Habitat Hotline
 - Species Habitat Factsheets

ASMFC SAV Policy Update



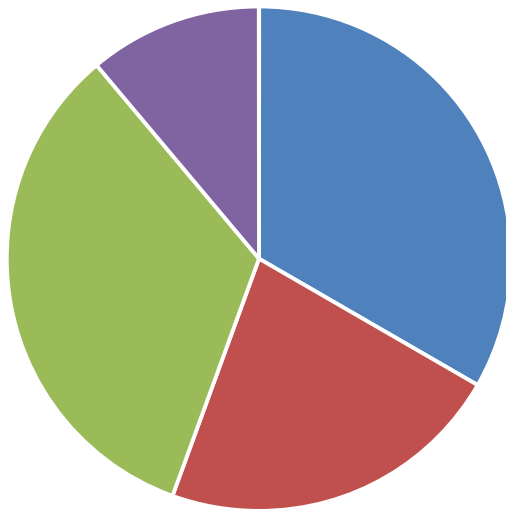
- This year marks 20th anniversary of SAV Policy
- Subcommittee created questionnaire to identify how ASMFC SAV Policy has been implemented over the past 20 years, based on recommendations in original policy.
- Results summary from 9 states (those who responded to the survey and have marine seagrass within their borders):

ASMFC SAV Policy Update



■ Yes ■ In Progress ■ No

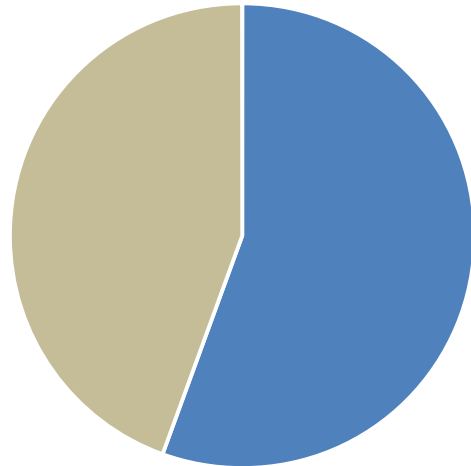
7/9 states have implemented a resource assessment and monitoring strategy



■ Yes ■ In Progress ■ No ■ Not Recently

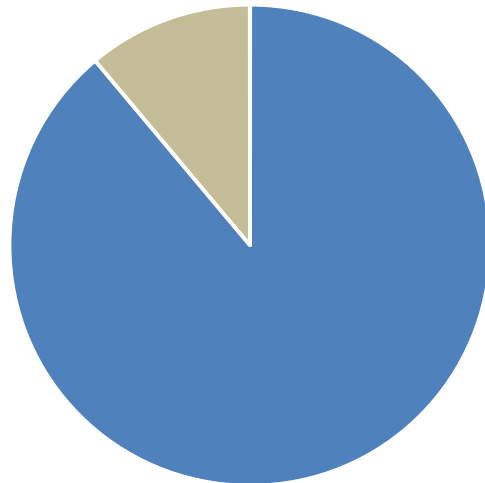
3/9 have evaluated the effectiveness of the measures they've put in place to limit SAV damage

ASMFC SAV Policy Update



■ Yes ■ No

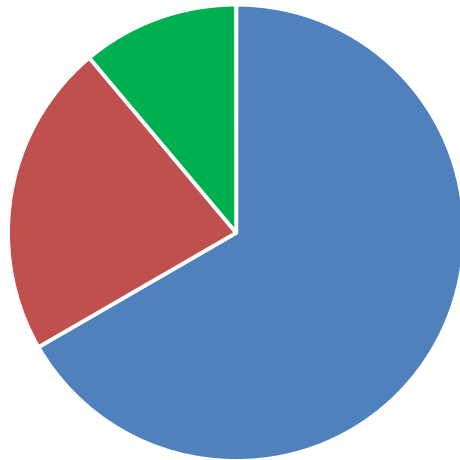
5/9 states have set restoration goals



■ Yes ■ No

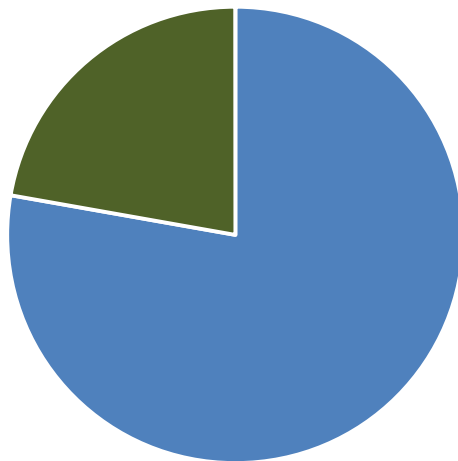
8/9 states have identified the key reasons for SAV loss in their state

ASMFC SAV Policy Update



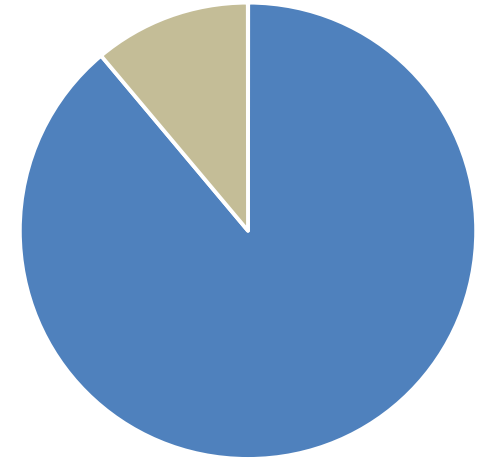
■ Yes ■ In Progress ■ As Needed

6/9 states have identified suitable areas for protection and restoration



■ Yes ■ No but Another Entity Does

7/9 states have included SAV info in aquatic education programs



■ Yes ■ No

8/9 states have supported SAV research

ASMFC SAV Policy Update



- Goals are still relevant
- Arguably the Policy is more important now
- Want to update with new science and management issues
 - Add new references
 - Add some emerging issues (e.g. aquaculture)
- Feedback on what you'd like included would be helpful

Letters to DOI



- Sent letter to Secretary Zinke reiterating ASMFC's position on seismic testing last week
- Comment period open for 2019-2024 outer continental shelf (OCS) leasing
 - Closes August 17
 - Habitat Committee wrote draft letter (supplemental materials) for Policy Board comments/edits

Letters to DOI



- Draft letter:
 - Lists potential negative impacts to fish habitat incl. noise, toxins, spills, blowouts, shoreline development
 - Asks not to lease on:
 - Current and proposed HAPCs
 - » NA, MA, SAFMC
 - National Marine Sanctuaries, Parks, and Monuments
 - » MA, MD, NC, GA, FL
- Broad (e.g. not include seasonal closings)
- Any other suggestions?

HAPC Discussion



- At spring meeting, Habitat Committee debated the merits of completing a document summarizing ASMFC's HAPCs for 2018 Action Plan and designate HAPCs where we haven't yet done so
- Debate on whether the Commission should use the term 'HAPC' since it does not carry the same regulatory weight as a federal HAPC designation
 - Pros: consistency, it has been discussed twice in the past and approved by Policy Board, try to initiate the use of HAPC as a broader term (similar to MSY), we are currently using it in documents
 - Cons: creates confusion, more work for Commission explaining the difference in regulations and how HAPC is designated
- Consensus but not unanimous: continue using 'HAPC'

HAPC Discussion



- Consensus but not unanimous: continue using 'HAPC'
- Feedback on whether a summary HAPC document would be useful, whether we need to 'fill in the gaps' for certain species, and whether we should continue using the term 'HAPC'?

Chair Updates



- New Chair: January Murray (GA)
- New Vice Chair: Marek Topolski (MD)



Questions?



Artificial Reef Committee Report

Presented to ASMFC Policy Board

August 3rd, 2017



Joint ASMFC/GSMFC Meeting

- Met February 7-8 in Jacksonville, FL with GSMFC Artificial Reef Committee
- Discussion on HAPCs, permitting, and reef deployment complications; and historical resource survey requirements
- Solicited feedback on the 2016 National Artificial Reef Workshop
- Guest presentations about FADs in Japan and Northeast FL's offshore reef fisheries-independent monitoring program
- State updates
- Next meeting: hosted by GSMFC in early 2018



American Fisheries Society Meeting

- FL FWC hosting symposium at AFS 2017
 - Lisa serving as ASMFC rep on steering committee



SAFMC Artificial Reef EFH Policy

- Dr. Lisa Havel led development of SAFMC Artificial Reef EFH Policy document
- Subcommittee of NC, SC, GA, FL, BOEM
- Created draft policy currently in review with Habitat Advisory Panel
- After modifications, will be shared with SAFMC Policy Board for approval and adoption



Questions?



Report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

ISFMP Policy Board

August 3rd, 2017



Strategic Planning



5-year Conservation Strategic Plan & 2-year Action Plan

- Finalized and released July 21, 2017
- Includes goals, objectives, strategies, and actions to accelerate the conservation of ACFHP's priority fish habitats

- Available on ACFHP website and on table

Business Plan

- On fourth internal draft
- On track to be finalized by end of year





SE Fish Habitat Mapping Project

- Funding from NOAA: NC to FL
- Spatially prioritize fish habitat protection and restoration sites
- GIS mapping and analysis
 - Habitat threats
 - Fish presence/absence
 - Habitat maps
- Webinar June 12th
- 2-day meeting end of September



USFWS-NFHAP Funding FY17



- ACFHP operations
- Website development and Species-Habitat Matrix online tool
- Two conservation projects: Maine and North Carolina



Sheepscot River Barrier Removal, ME



- Cooper Mill Dam Removal and Head Tide Partial Removal
- Opens 71 river miles for Atlantic salmon, river herring, shad, and other diadromous species
- Extensive outreach to community
- Southernmost Atlantic salmon river designated as critical habitat
- Atlantic Salmon Federation



Bogue Sound Restoration, NC



- Recycled oyster shells placed along 300 ft. of shoreline to promote saltmarsh growth
- Nursery habitat for black sea bass, red drum
- Feeding ground for summer flounder
- North Carolina Coastal Federation





**ACFHP would like to
thank ASMFC for your
continued operational
support**

Questions?