

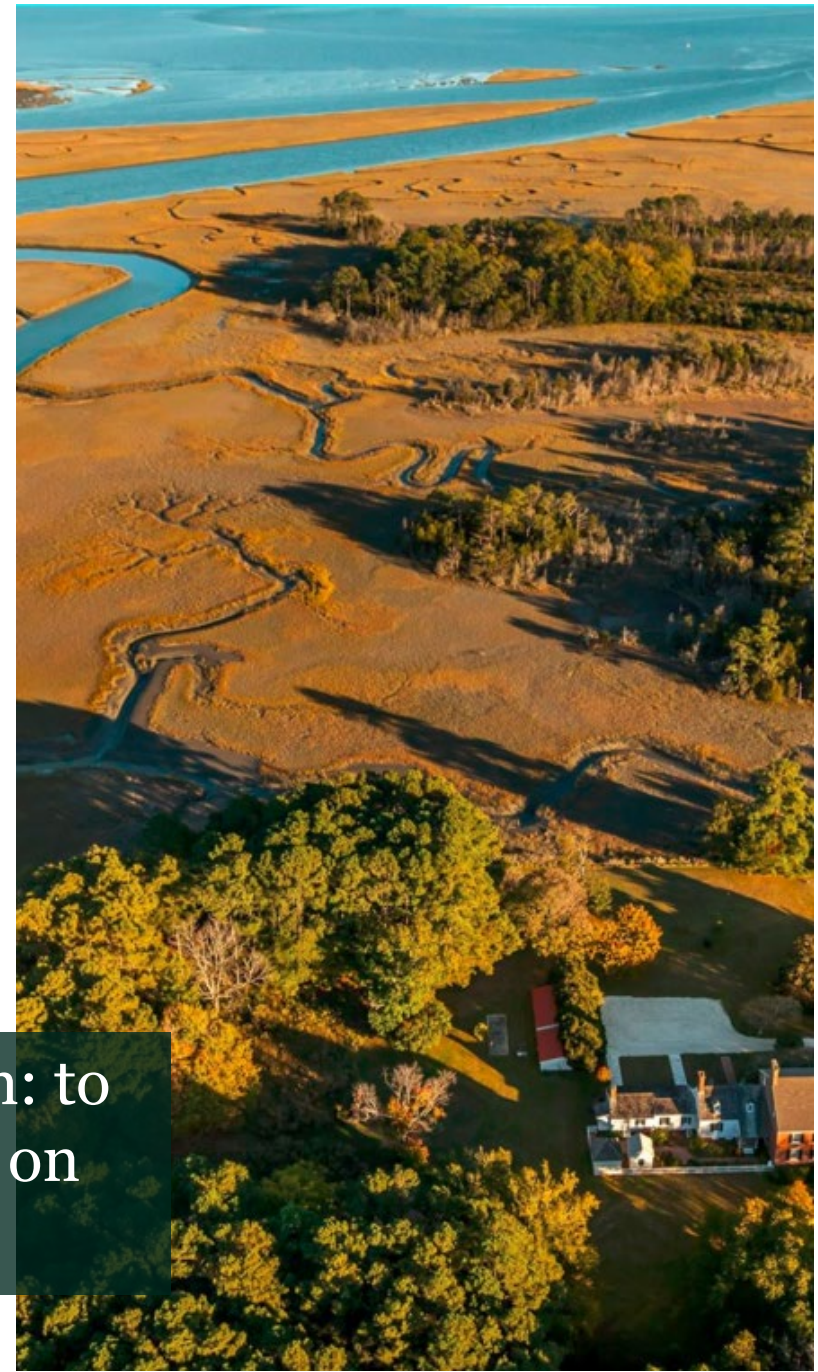
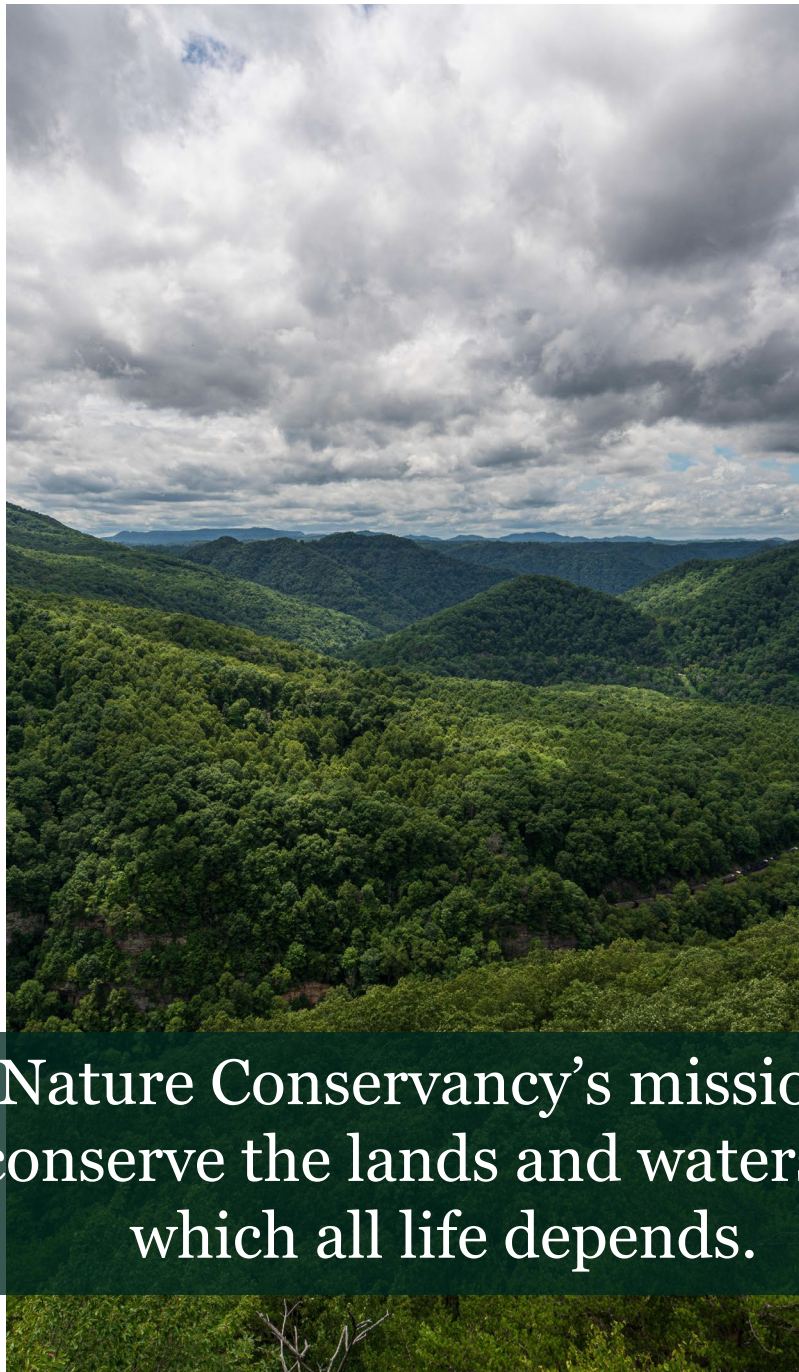
Marine Conservation in the Mid-Atlantic

Fisheries and a changing climate

Kate Wilke
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Image credit: Kate Wilke





The Nature Conservancy's mission: to
conserve the lands and waters on
which all life depends.



Healthy Appalachian Forests

Clean Water

Thriving Bay and Marine Habitats

Sustainably Managed Fisheries

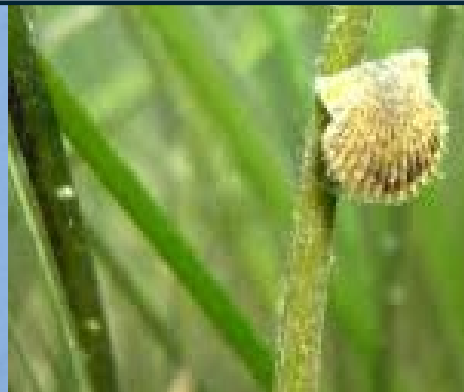
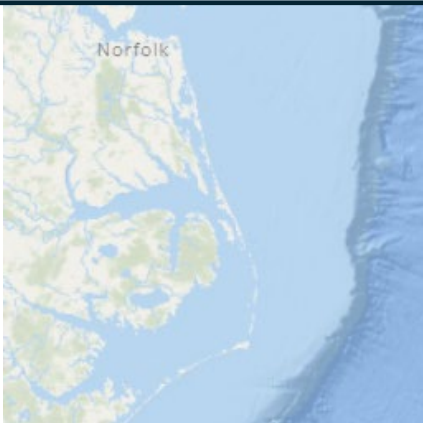


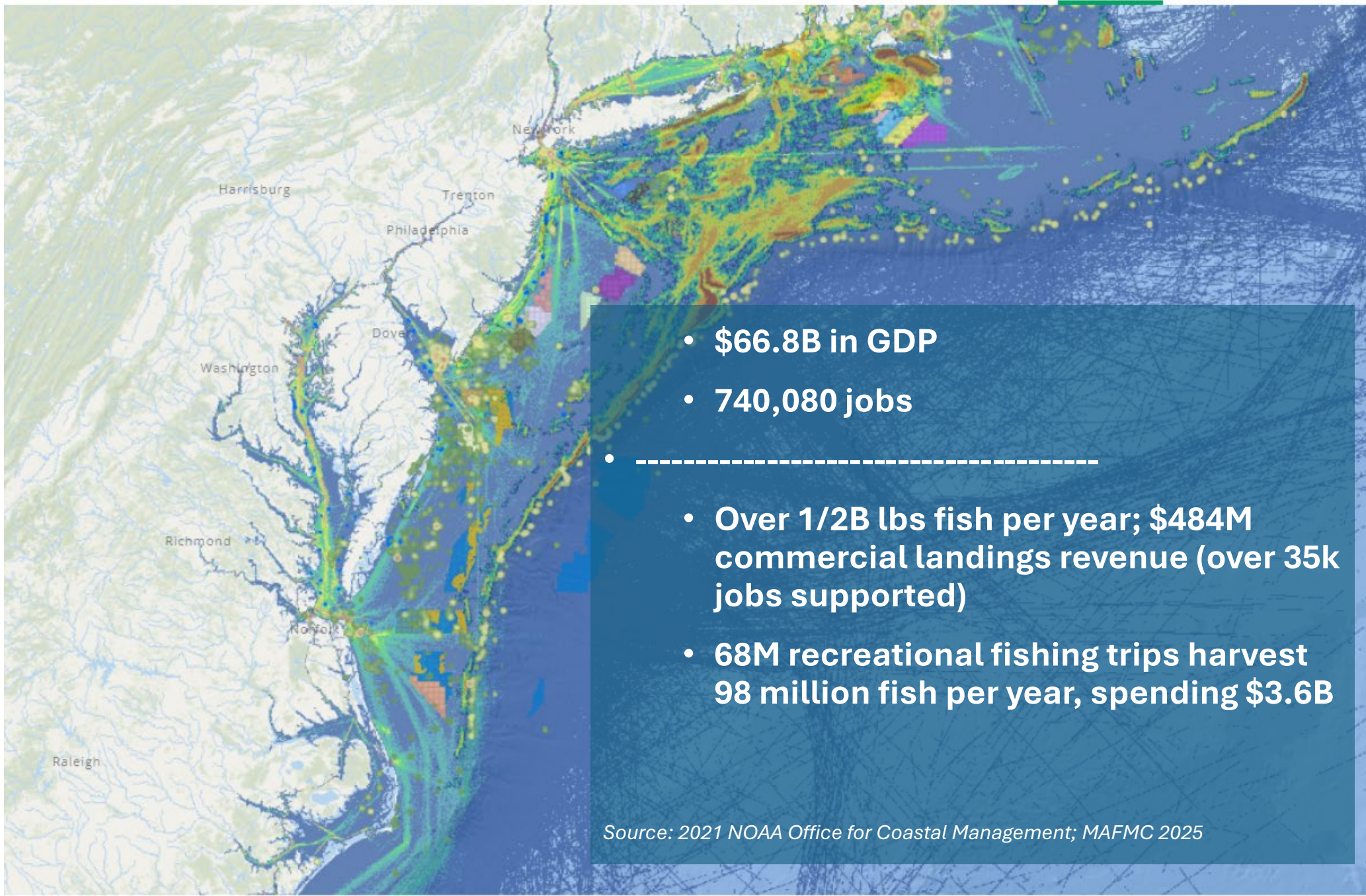
Changing ocean conditions affect marine life and fishing



businesses

Opportunities for Governance and Funding to promote adaptation





- \$66.8B in GDP
- 740,080 jobs
- -----
- Over 1/2B lbs fish per year; \$484M commercial landings revenue (over 35k jobs supported)
- 68M recreational fishing trips harvest 98 million fish per year, spending \$3.6B

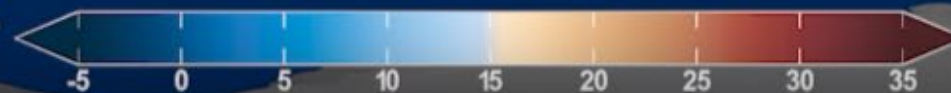
Source: 2021 NOAA Office for Coastal Management; MAFMC 2025

2024 warmest global ocean on record

Oceans absorb CO₂ and 90% of earth's extra heat.

Environmental cost = warming, acidification, deoxygenation, stratification, sea level rise.

Sea Surface Temperature



Degrees Celsius

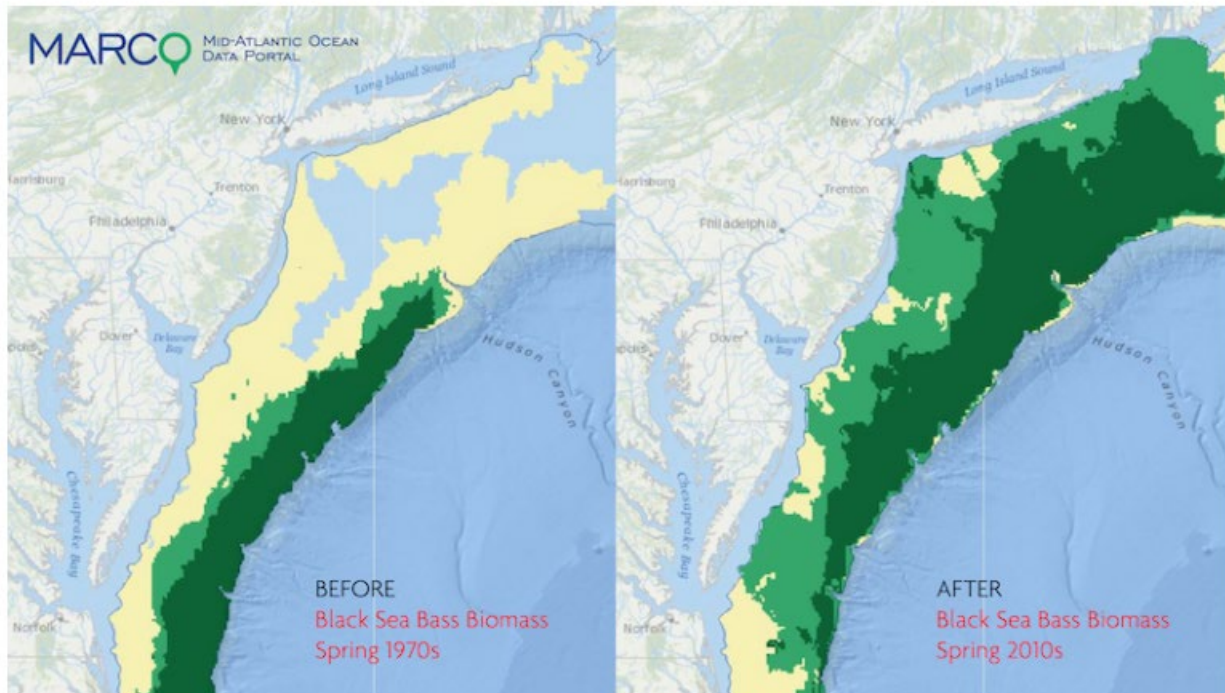
March 31, 2020

New online maps show East Coast fish species shifts



by Kirk Moore in Mid-Atlantic, News

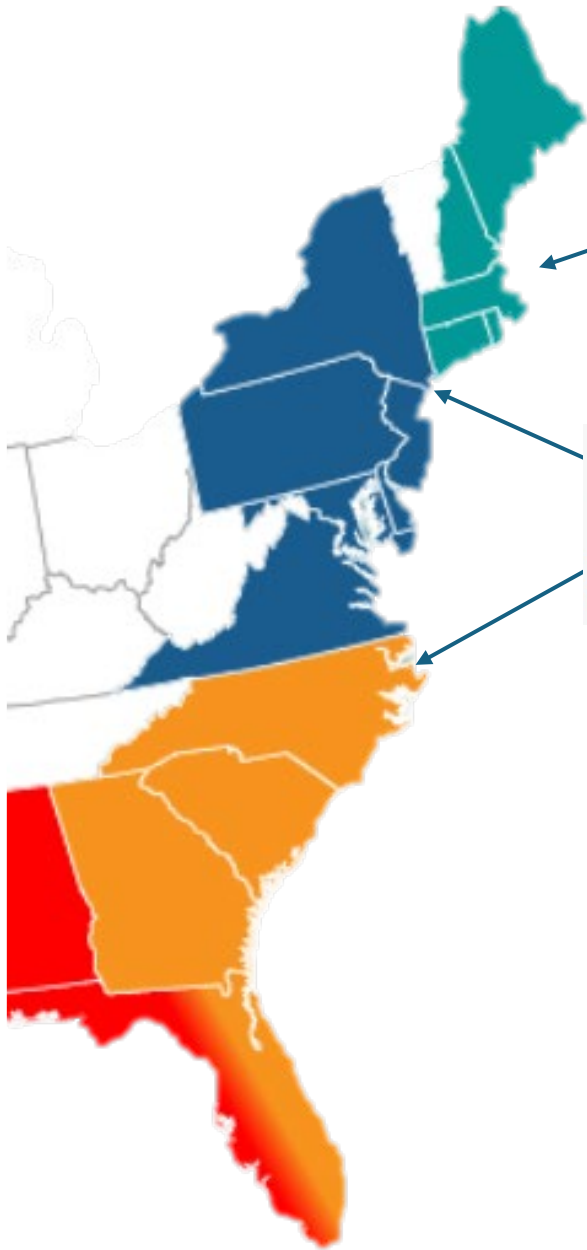
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A new mapping effort documents the long-term shift in distribution of important fish species, in this example black sea bass, along the East Coast. MARCO Data Portal image.

- New fishing opportunities:
 - Shrimp
 - Red drum
- States need resources to manage through change
- States need to make sure their fishermen have access to quota

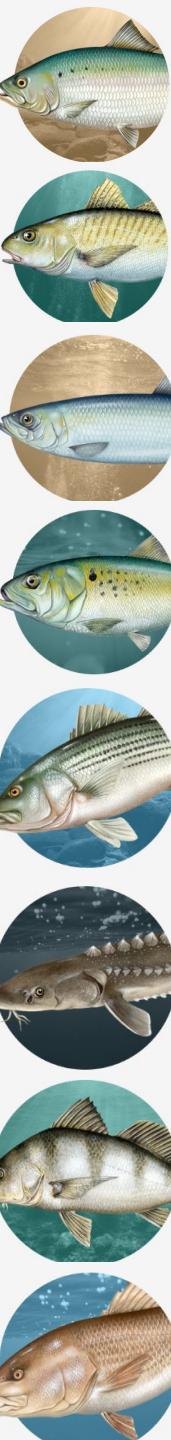
States manage fisheries together



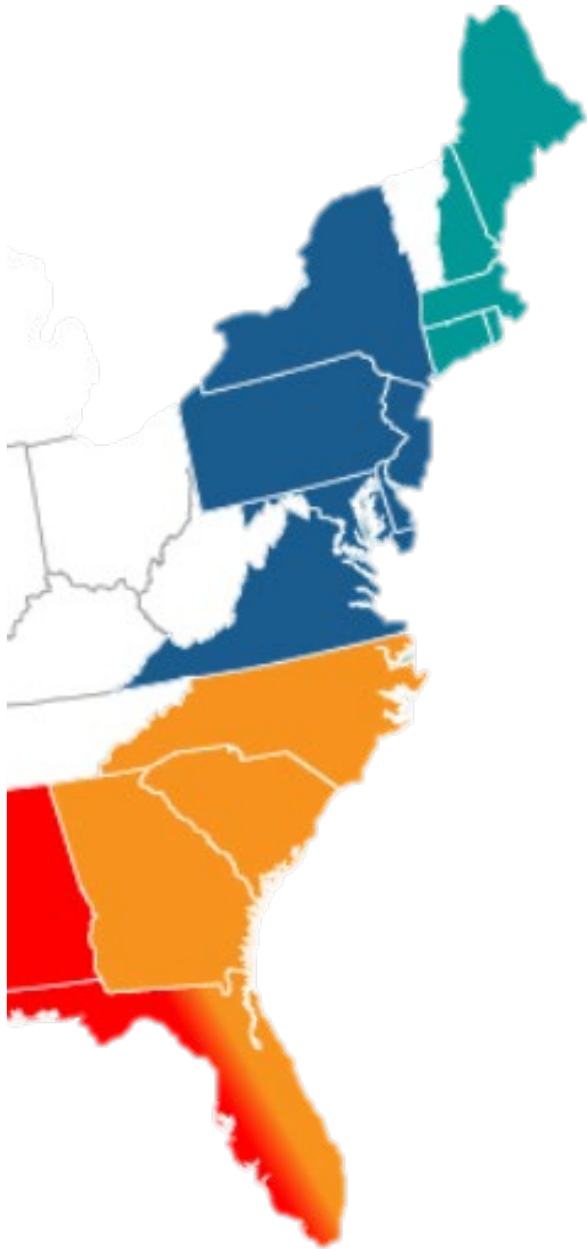
0-3 nm offshore
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)
ME - FL
States must implement regulations



3-200 nm offshore
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)
NY - NC
NOAA fisheries approves & implements regulations



A vertical strip of eight circular illustrations of different fish species. From top to bottom: 1. A bluegill with a blue and green patterned body. 2. A striped bass with prominent dark vertical stripes on a silver body. 3. A white perch with a long, slender body and a pointed snout. 4. A yellow perch with a yellow and black patterned body. 5. A largemouth bass with a dark, mottled pattern and a large mouth. 6. A northern pike with a long, slender body and a pointed snout. 7. A rock bass with a deep, compressed body and a pointed snout. 8. A smallmouth bass with a brown and black patterned body.



MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL



- ✓ governance
- ✓ management
- ✓ science

Need funding support and governance mechanisms that allow for:

- Images: ASMFC

A close-up photograph of a blue crab resting on a dark, textured wooden surface. The crab's carapace is a mottled greenish-blue, and its legs are a vibrant blue. Its large claws are prominent, showing a mix of blue and white. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the crab.

Sneak Peek: Chesapeake Bay fisheries interviews to-date

- Rapid ecological change and species shifts
- Data & monitoring gaps
- Species specific concerns
- Governance, funding & coordination shortfalls
- Habitat & practical opportunities

The Nature

Questions?

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