



NOAA FISHERIES

Center Divisions and Research Programs

- Aquaculture and Enhancement
- Ecosystems Processes
- Fisheries and Ecosystems Monitoring and Analysis
- Resource Evaluation and Assessment
- National Systematics Laboratory
- Northeast Cooperative Research Program
- Ecosystem Assessment Program

Councils and Commissions

- New England Fishery Management Council
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

International Organizations

- North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
- International Council for Exploration of the Sea
- International Whaling Commission

Focal Ecosystems

- Northeast Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem
- Georges Bank
- Mid-Atlantic Bight
- Gulf of Maine
- Mid-Atlantic Ridge

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center conducts interdisciplinary ecosystem-based research and assessments of living marine resources. We focus on the Northeast Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem. Our goals are to promote the recovery and long-term sustainability of these resources, to generate social and economic opportunities and benefits from their use, and to understand how climate variability and change affect this ecosystem.

Our Strengths

- Long-term monitoring and assessment of ocean conditions, habitats, and sea life
- Fishery and protected species population dynamics
- Evaluation of how environmental change affects marine ecosystems
- Marine biodiversity research
- Sustainable aquaculture
- Long-term research partnerships with academia, state governments, and the fishing industry



What Makes Us Unique

- History - NOAA Fisheries was born in the Northeast when Spencer Baird, the first U.S. Fish Commissioner, established a field station at Woods Hole, MA, in 1871. The region's commercial fisheries date to the Colonial period.
- Data - the Northeast is rich in ecosystem data, collected in long-running core marine monitoring activities focused on oceanographic conditions, habitat, and marine life.
- Complexity - we conduct scientific work and stock assessments for a variety of fishery and marine mammal stocks and for about a dozen endangered or threatened species in an ecosystem increasingly affected by human activities and climate change.





New Directions

- Ecosystem-based approach: develop tools for integrated science and marine resource management
- Climate: evaluate impacts of climate variability and climate change on marine ecosystems and living marine resources
- Socioeconomics: recognize and evaluate the impacts of climate change and climate variability on people, businesses, and communities
- Technology: improve fishery data collection and reporting, and ecosystem surveys
- Sustainable aquaculture: conduct research, development, and application
- Ocean acidification: demonstrate and predict effects in regional waters
- Fishery engineering: reduce bycatch and habitat disturbance through gear design

Key Species Groups

- Atlantic sea scallop, surfclam, ocean quahog, American lobster, Northern shrimp, red crab
- Northeast groundfish and monkfish
- Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, butterfish
- Black sea bass, striped bass, bluefish, scup, tautog
- Summer flounder
- Coastal sharks and spiny dogfish
- River herring, shad, Atlantic salmon, sturgeons
- Skates
- Squids
- Marine mammals
- Sea turtles



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Technologies Employed

- Advanced research vessel capacity
- Remote observation
- Side-scan and multibeam sonar
- Towed sampling systems
- Remotely operated and autonomous underwater vehicles
- Remote tracking of marine animals

Center Snapshot

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