



NOAA
FISHERIES

Habitat Conservation in Support of Coastal and Community Resiliency

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Purpose

- I To provide an overview of how **habitat conservation** supports coastal resilience.
 - Ecologically
 - Socially
 - Economically
- II To describe how **NOAA Fisheries' Habitat work** is contributing to habitat conservation and coastal resilience.

I. Habitat Conservation Supports Coastal Resilience

- Healthy ecosystems are the foundation of America's Seafood and Fisheries.
- Habitat conservation supports healthy ecosystems.



I. Habitat Conservation Supports Coastal Resilience

- Coastal habitats provide **societal** benefits like
 - Natural infrastructure
 - Buffers to climate change
 - Flood protections during storms
 - Carbon sequestration and storage

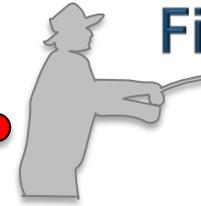


I. Habitat Conservation Supports Coastal Resilience



Biodiversity

25% of all marine life
≈ 1 -3 million species



Fisheries & food security

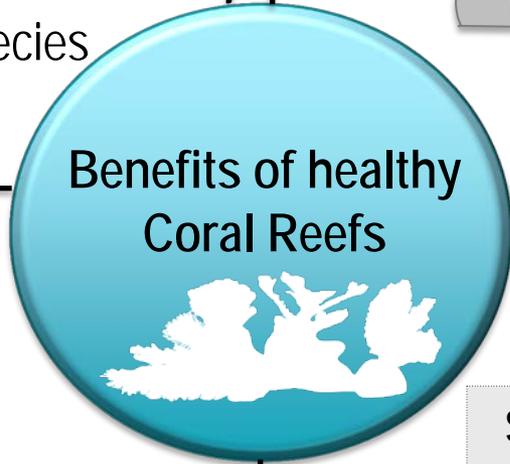
50% of all federally managed species depend upon coral reefs

Income

\$483 million
in U.S. tourism and recreation



Benefits of healthy Coral Reefs



Coastal Protection

97% reduction in wave impacts



\$19,791/m breakwater construction vs.
\$1,290/m coral reef restoration

Economic Resilience

\$1.1 billion net economic value to U.S. economy

Medicine

Chemical compounds with applications for human diseases



II. NOAA Fisheries Habitat Initiatives and Coastal Resilience

- NOAA Fisheries Habitat Policy Perspective
- NOAA Fisheries Habitat Initiatives
- Resilience Spotlights
 - Drought Resilience: Russian River, CA
 - Flood Resilience: Snohomish River, WA
 - Fisheries Resilience: Cape Fear River, NC



NOAA Fisheries Habitat Policy Perspective

- **NOAA National Habitat Policy**
 - Prioritizes resilience, stewardship, partnership and climate adaptation
 - Institutionalizes Habitat Blueprint principles
- **NOAA Habitat Blueprint**
 - A framework to improve habitat for fisheries, marine life, and coastal communities
- **NOAA Fisheries Habitat Strategic Plan**
 - NOAA plan for achieving conservation as laid out in the Policy and Blueprint principles.



NOAA Fisheries Habitat Initiatives

- Landscape Scale Conservation
 - Blueprint Habitat Focus Areas
 - Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs)
- Fishery Management
 - Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
 - Fisheries Resilience Studies



NOAA Fisheries Habitat Initiatives

- **Habitat level conservation:**
(*e.g. Wetland Conservation*)
 - Coastal wetlands conservation
 - Coastal Blue Carbon valuation
- **Targeted restoration**
 - Community Based Restoration Program
 - Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants



Example: Targeted Restoration

\$4 Million Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants

- In FY15, NOAA Fisheries solicited proposals for on-the-ground habitat restoration projects that strengthen coastal resiliency, and benefit managed fisheries and protected resources.
- We received 60 project applications requesting over \$45 million.
- We completed technical review and are in selection process to fund in FY16.

Example: Landscape Scale Conservation

NOAA's 10 Habitat Focus Areas



Resilience Spotlight

Drought Resilience: Russian River, CA

- Rebuilding salmon and steelhead stocks through habitat protection and restoration
- Improving frost, rainfall, and river forecasts through improved data collection/modeling
- Increasing community and ecosystem resiliency to flooding and drought through improved planning and water management strategies



Resilience Spotlight

Flood Resilience: Snohomish River, WA

- Rebuilding Chinook stocks through habitat restoration
- Increasing community resilience to flooding by assessing stakeholder needs for floodplain management to protect vital farmland.
- Assessing wetland carbon sequestration and storage values to demonstrate real added value of wetlands to achieving estuary specific flood protection goals.



Resilience Spotlight

Fisheries Resilience: Cape Fear River, NC

- Linking improvements in water quality and migratory fish passage to economic benefits of fisheries.
- Partnering across sectors to prioritize habitat conservation that benefits migratory fish.
- Funding \$1 million National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Study to identify resilience hubs in the watershed.



Take Home Messages

- Habitat conservation benefits fishing communities by
 - Supporting commercial and recreational anglers
 - Providing flood control to reduce impact from storms
 - Supporting the U.S. economy
- NOAA Fisheries provides technical, regulatory, science, and funding resources to support habitat conservation needs
- Our work supports NOAA Fisheries priorities for rebuilding fisheries and recovering protected species and the co-benefits listed above
- We are seeing measurable results through implementation of place-based habitat conservation
- Partners and leveraging resources are crucial to achieve our mission

Conserving Habitat for Future Generations

www.habitat.noaa.gov

