Regional Fishery Management Councils and Fisheries Commissions

National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting
October 17, 2012

Healthy Habitats Support Fisheries, Jobs, and the Economy

- Saltwater recreational fisheries generate more than $50 billion in sales and support more than 326,000 jobs a year.

- Commercial fishing supports $116.2 billion and over 1 million jobs

Fishery Management Councils

- Created in 1976 by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Eight Councils comprised of representatives from state, tribal, commercial and recreational industry
- Responsible for area adjacent to its constituent states (EEZ)
- Develop management plans and measures for fisheries within their EEZ
- NOAA Fisheries Service implements plans and measures

Fishery Management Councils

- New England Fishery Management Council - www.nefmc.org
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council www.mafmc.org
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council www.safmc.net
- Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council www.gulfcouncil.org
- Caribbean Fishery Management Council www.caribbeanfmc.com
- Pacific Fishery Management Council www.pcouncil.org
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc
- Western Pacific Fishery Management Council www.wpcouncil.org

Fisheries Commissions

- 3 Marine Fisheries Commissions formed by Congress in 1942 and 1947 (Interstate Compact)
  - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (15 states: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE,MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL)

    www.asmfc.org
  - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (5 states:TX, LA, MS, AL, FL)

    www.gsmfc.org
  - Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission(5 states :AK, WA, OR, CA, ID)

    www.psmfc.org

What Drives Our Habitat Work?

Councils:

- Essential Fish Habitat requirements
- Deep Sea Coral Authority
- Discretionary protection
- Marine Reserves and Protected Areas
- Fishing Communities

Commissions:

- Mission
- Commissioners/States
- Councils
- Grants, Contracts, Agreements
- When asked for help…

Council and Commission Habitat Work

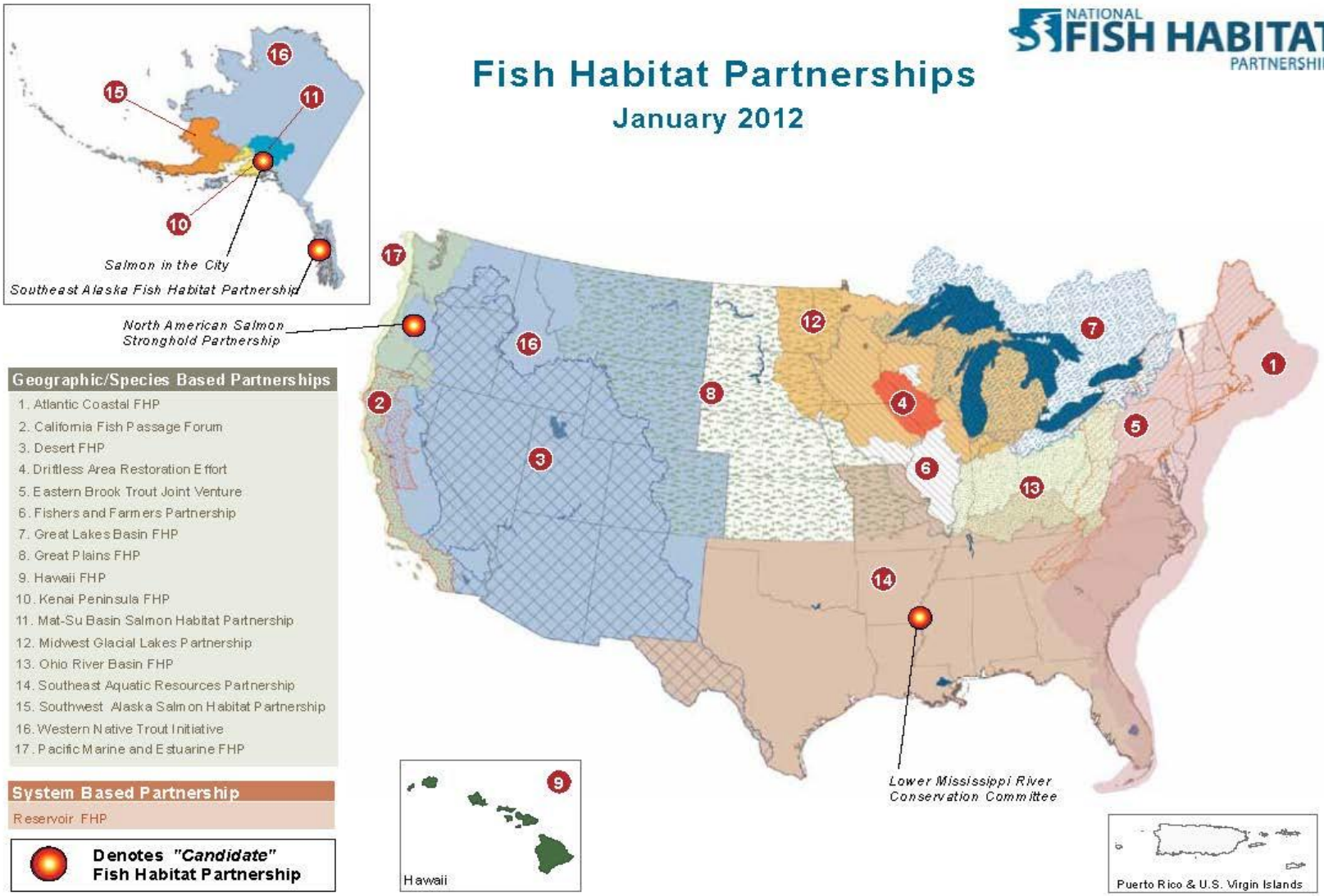
Council:

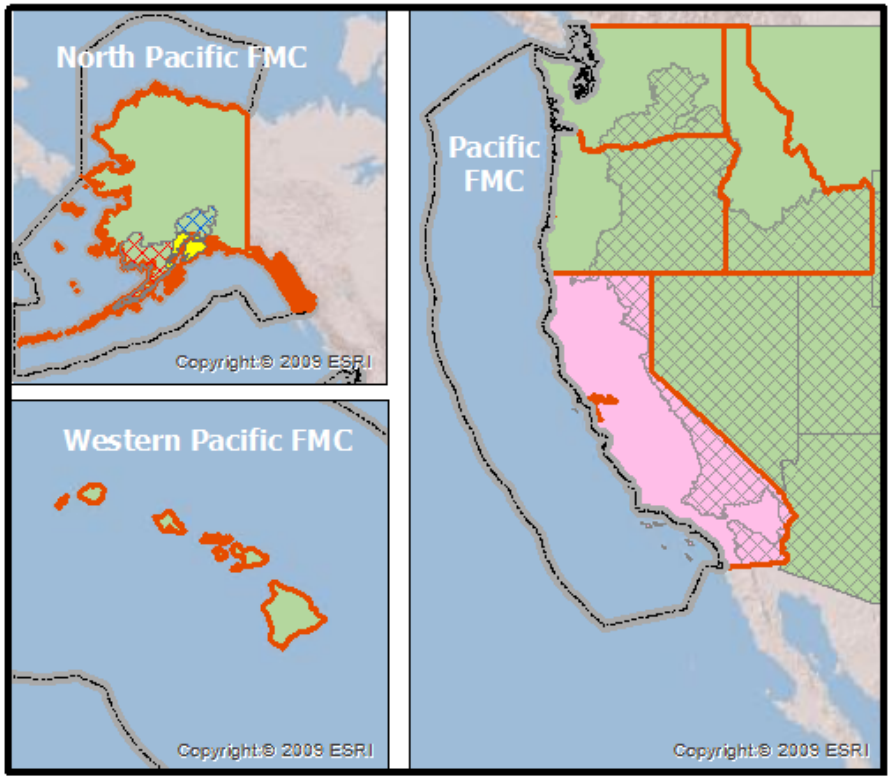
- Northwest and Northeast Groundfish closed areas
- Swept Area Seabed Model
- Wave, Tidal and Offshore Wind Energy
- Southeast Network of Marine Protected Areas
- Protected over 900 million acres of fish habitat from impacts of fishing gear since 2000

Commissions:

- Data coordination and assistance
- People coordination
- Direct participation in FHPs at national, regional, state/local levels
- Administration

Fish Habitat Partnerships

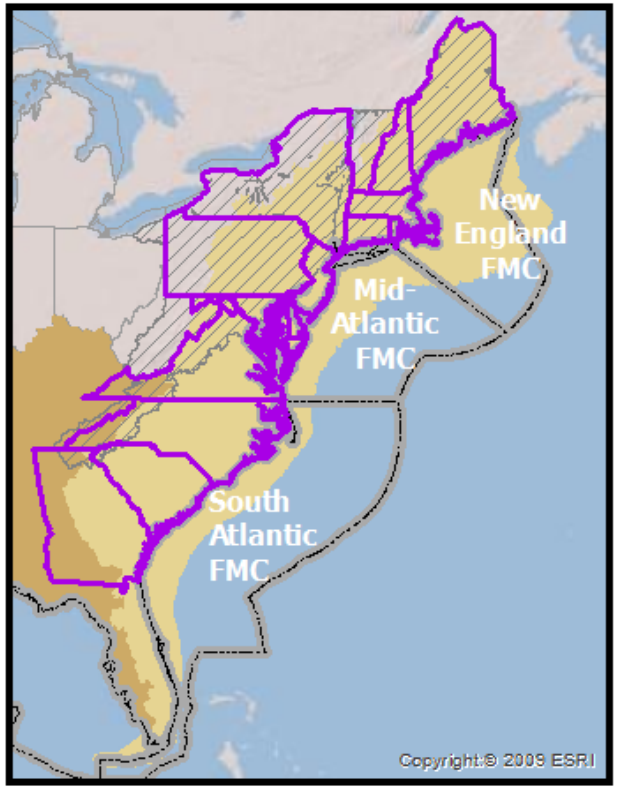




Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

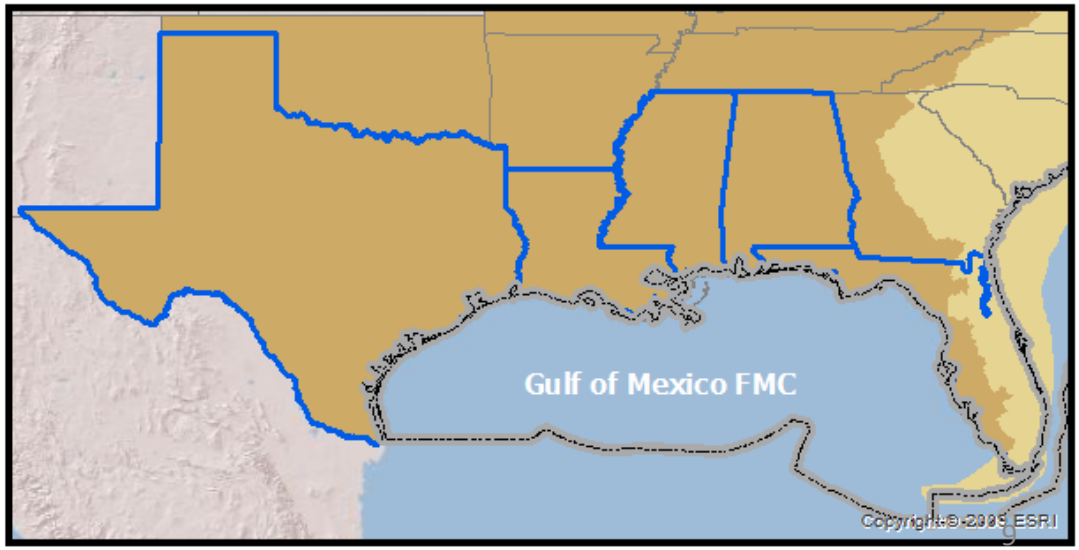
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission



Legend

- Atlantic Coastal FHP
- California Fish Passage Forum
- Desert FHP
- Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
- Kenai Peninsula FHP
- Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership
- Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
- Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership
- Western Native Trout Initiative



Gaps

- In many cases, a weak understanding between Councils/Commissions and FHPs of shared habitat conservation objectives
- Integrating Council and Commission priorities with NFHP priorities
- Council emphasis is offshore and FHPs needs often tend to be more coastal/inland
- Better use of assessments and data in support of conservation priorities and objectives

Benefits of Collaboration

- Integrate partnership efforts into Council and Commission habitat conservation objectives

- Position Councils and Commissions through information sharing to more effectively influence non-fishing impacts to habitats for priority fish stocks and partnership priorities.

- Position Councils and Commissions to deploy and target their habitat conservation authorities and resources in support of partnership objectives. These include non-regulatory work in habitat assessments and science, and regulatory work under the essential fish habitat authorities.

Opportunities for Bridging Gaps

- Attend Council and Commission meetings
- Engage Commissions on legislation
- Board or Legislative Committee contact Commissions and Councils letting them how to help
- Invitations to steering committee meetings
- Board engagement strategy?
- Connect habitat work to fishery management actions and activities taken by Councils and Commissions