



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

NOAA Habitat Blueprint & Habitat Focus Areas

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/habitatblueprint/>

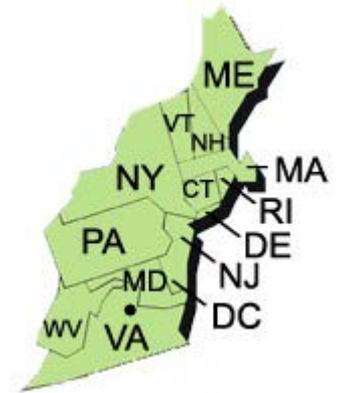
September 3, 2014



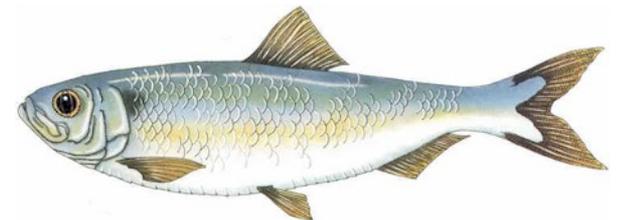
Habitat Blueprint Background

- What is the **Habitat Blueprint**?
 - A framework for NOAA to work strategically across programs and with partners to protect and restore habitat
- What is a **Habitat Focus Area**?
 - A priority geographic area where the Habitat Blueprint is implemented – a place where NOAA's various programs cooperatively work together to leverage each other's resources and expertise to achieve regional goals

North Atlantic Habitat Focus Area Selection Process



- Nominations solicited throughout NOAA
- Series of meetings to review and score candidates
- Solicited and incorporated stakeholder feedback
- Final ranking and selection



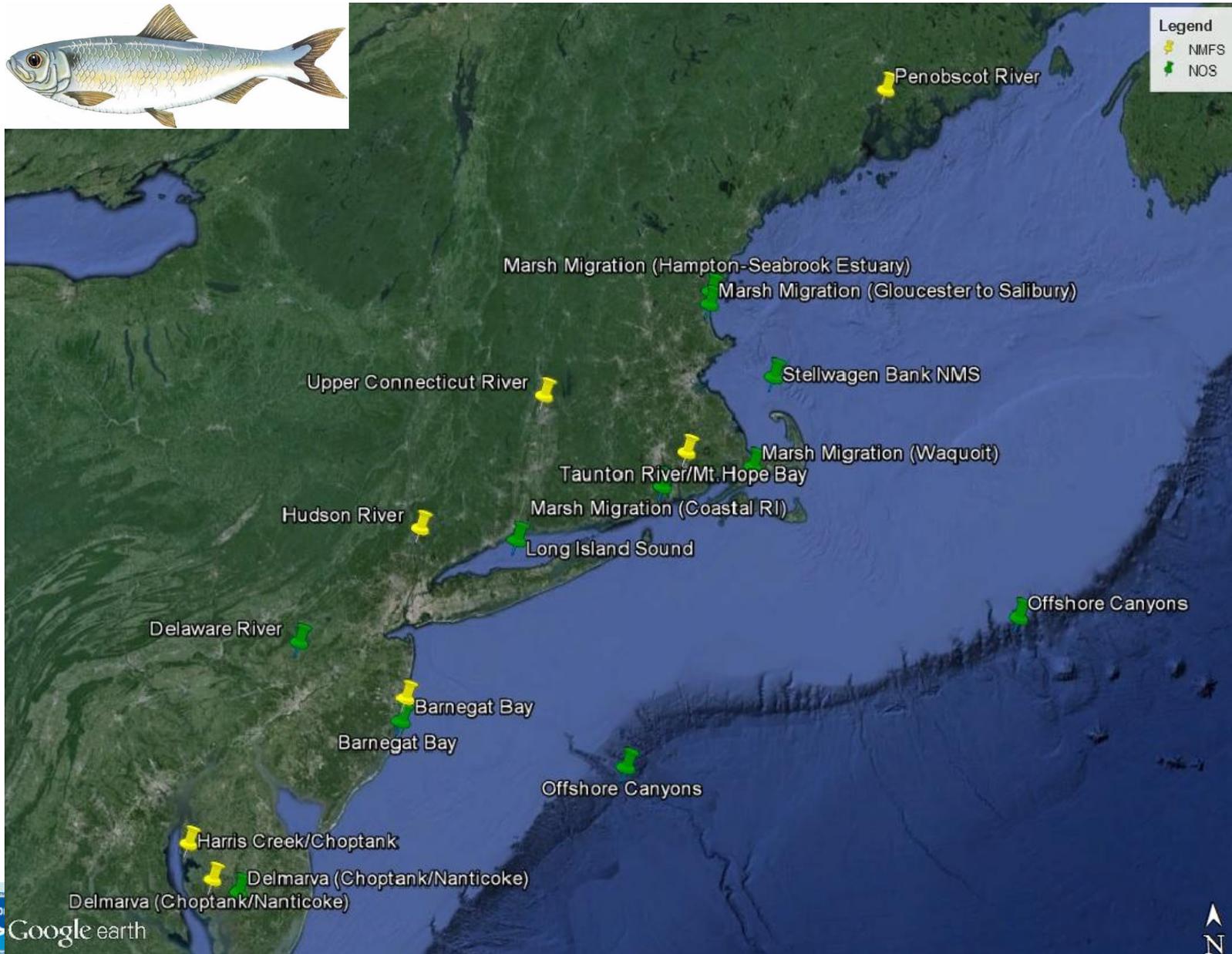
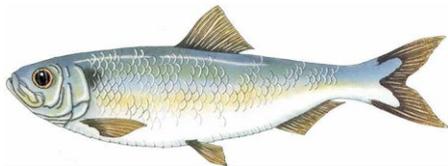


Habitat Blueprint Outcomes

Selected **Habitat Focus Area** should support:

- Sustainable and abundant fish populations
- Recovery of threatened and endangered species
- Protected coastal and marine areas and habitats at risk
- Resilient coastal communities
- Increased coastal/marine tourism, access, and recreation

19 candidate Focus Areas Recommended



Habitat Focus Areas – Greater Atlantic Region

- Penobscot River (Maine)

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/habitatblueprint/penobscot.html>

- Choptank River (Maryland, Delaware)

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/habitatblueprint/choptank.html>

