



# Draft Strategic Plan

**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

Greater Atlantic Regional  
Fisheries Office

FY 2015 – FY2019

10/20/14



# Draft GARFO Strategic Plan

## Sources of Input

1. DOC/NOAA/NMFS Strategic Direction
2. Internal assessment (including input from HQ and Northeast Fisheries Science Center)
3. Partners and Stakeholders

# GARFO:

- Science-based stewardship of living marine resources: Maine – North Carolina; Great Lakes
- Directed from Regional Office in Gloucester, MA
- 170 people, with average annual budget of approx. \$51 million



# The Draft Plan:

1. Is a working document
2. Covers core responsibilities under legislative mandates
3. Includes special emphasis activities under 7 strategic goals over a 5-year period
4. Emphasizes partner / stakeholder collaboration
5. Highlights importance of mutual state/federal communications in strategic and out-year budget planning

# *Seven Strategic Goals*

1. Sustainable Fisheries
2. Protected Resources
3. Habitat Conservation
4. Community Resiliency
5. Aquaculture
6. Organizational Excellence
7. Customer Service / External Communications

# Sustainable Fisheries

Goal:

*Promote and ensure sustainable fisheries and fishing communities throughout New England and the Mid-Atlantic*

## Highlights

1. Fishery sustainability / job creation / affordable seafood
2. New fishing opportunities
3. Recreational fishing action plan
4. Modernize fishery-dependent data collection



# Protected Resources

Goal:

*Recover and protect living marine resources in the Greater Atlantic through science, conservation and collaboration*

## Highlights

1. Proactive efforts for species at risk (e.g., river herring)
2. Recovery of Atlantic salmon and other ESA listed species
3. Habitat focus areas (e.g., Penobscot watershed)



# Habitat Conservation

Goal:

*Protect and restore marine, estuarine and riverine habitats to support sustainable fisheries and protected resources*

## Highlights

1. Improving EFH consultation through programmatic agreements
2. Collaboration with Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership
3. NOAA Habitat Blueprint (e.g., North Atlantic, and Choptank/Penobscot focus areas)



# Community Resiliency

Goal:

*Work toward integrated approach to ensure resiliency through sustainable fisheries, protected resources, and habitat conservation*

## Highlights

1. Economic and ecological perspectives
2. Emphasis on climate change and ecosystem-based management
3. Integration into more traditional single species management approaches
4. Resource disaster recovery strategies



# Aquaculture

Goal:

*Provide support for a thriving industry, providing jobs & increasing seafood supply*

## Highlights

1. Streamline finfish, shellfish, and algal aquaculture permitting processes
2. Identify research approaches to address management needs
3. Collaborative state/federal approach – e.g., accuracy of reported production



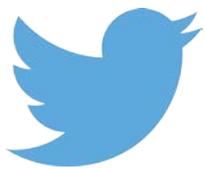
# Organizational Excellence

Goal:

*Support our workforce with training opportunities for growth; and implement enhanced internal controls and communications, and strategic planning*

## Highlights

1. Enhance working relationships and communications (NMFS, Councils, ASMFC, states)
2. Effective use of information technology
3. Effective budget planning – strategic linkages



# Customer Service / External Communications

Goal:

*Engage the public so that they understand our mission and we understand their needs and concerns*

## Highlights

1. Enhanced public understanding of fishery regulations
2. Improvement of customer service through improved communications
3. Improve accessibility of federal funding opportunities



# Thank you for your input!

## QUESTIONS?