

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

## **Environmental Considerations**

- **NOAA Fisheries**
- **NOAA Ocean Service**



# **NOAA Fisheries**

- **Marine and anadromous fish and habitats**
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**
- **Magnuson Act (MSFCMA)**
  - **Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)**

# **NOAA Ocean Service**

- **Coastal Zone Management (CZMA)**
- **National Estuarine Research Reserve System  
(NERRS)**

# Endangered Species Act

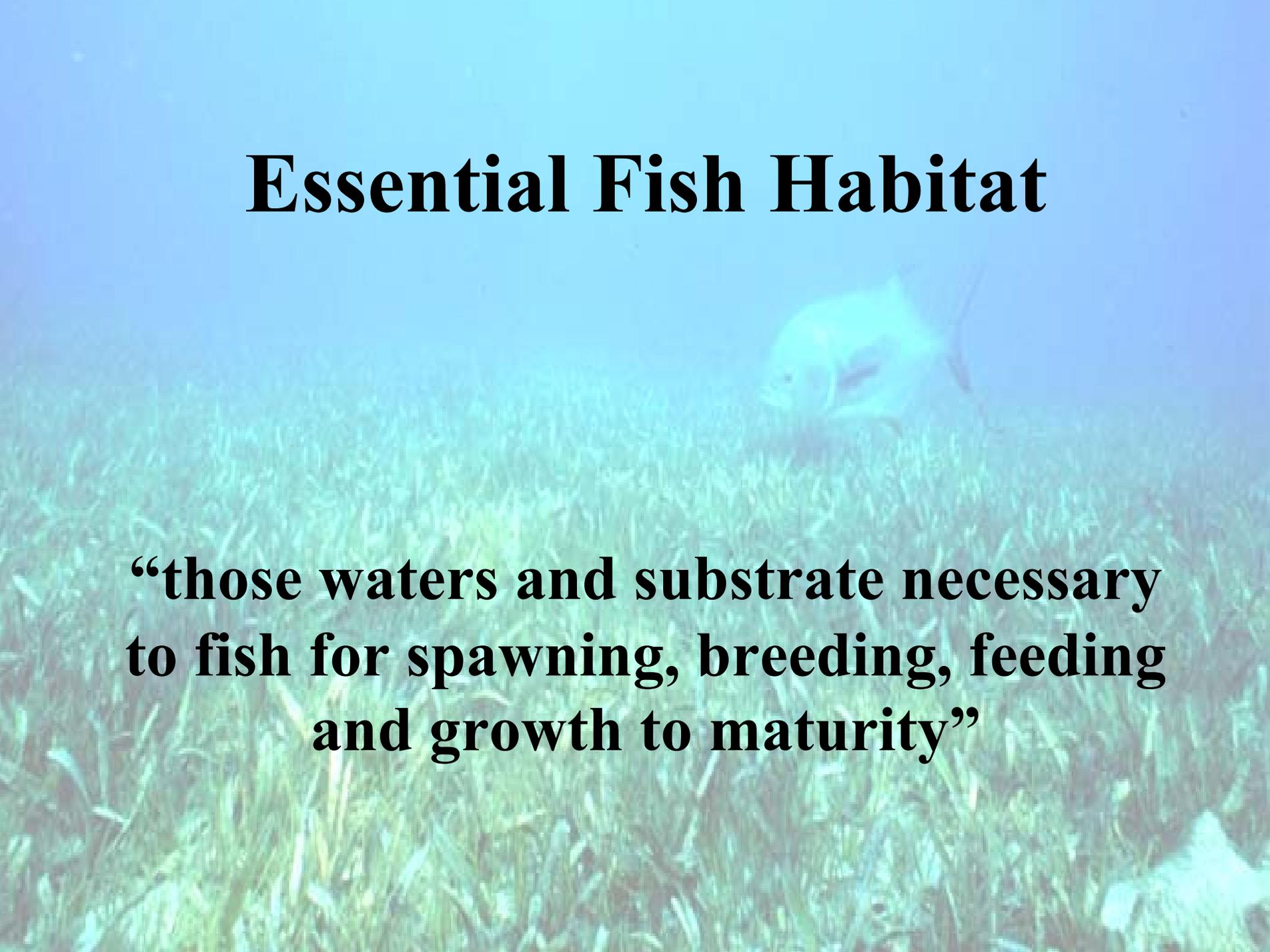
- **Gulf sturgeon - shared with USFWS**



# **Essential Fish Habitat**

- **1996 MSFCMA amendment requires fishery management councils required to**
  - **describe and identify EFH**
  - **identify adverse impacts to EFH**
  - **minimize adverse impacts from fishing**
  - **develop recommended measures to conserve and enhance EFH**

# **Essential Fish Habitat**

A photograph of a fish swimming in a field of green seagrass underwater. The fish is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image, facing left. The seagrass is dense and fills the lower two-thirds of the frame. The water is clear and blue.

**“those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding and growth to maturity”**

# **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) EFH Amendment**

## **EFH**

**Tidal wetlands**

**Mangroves**

**Coral & live bottoms**

**Seagrass**

**Shell reefs**

**Algal flats**

**Non-vegetated bottoms**

**Estuarine & marine water  
column**

## **HAPC**

**FL Middle Grounds**

**FL Keys NMS**

**Dry Tortugas**

**Apalachicola NERR**

**Rookery Bay NERR**

**Weeks Bay NERR (AL)**

**Grand Bay (MS)**

**Flower Gardens NMS**

# EFH Consultations

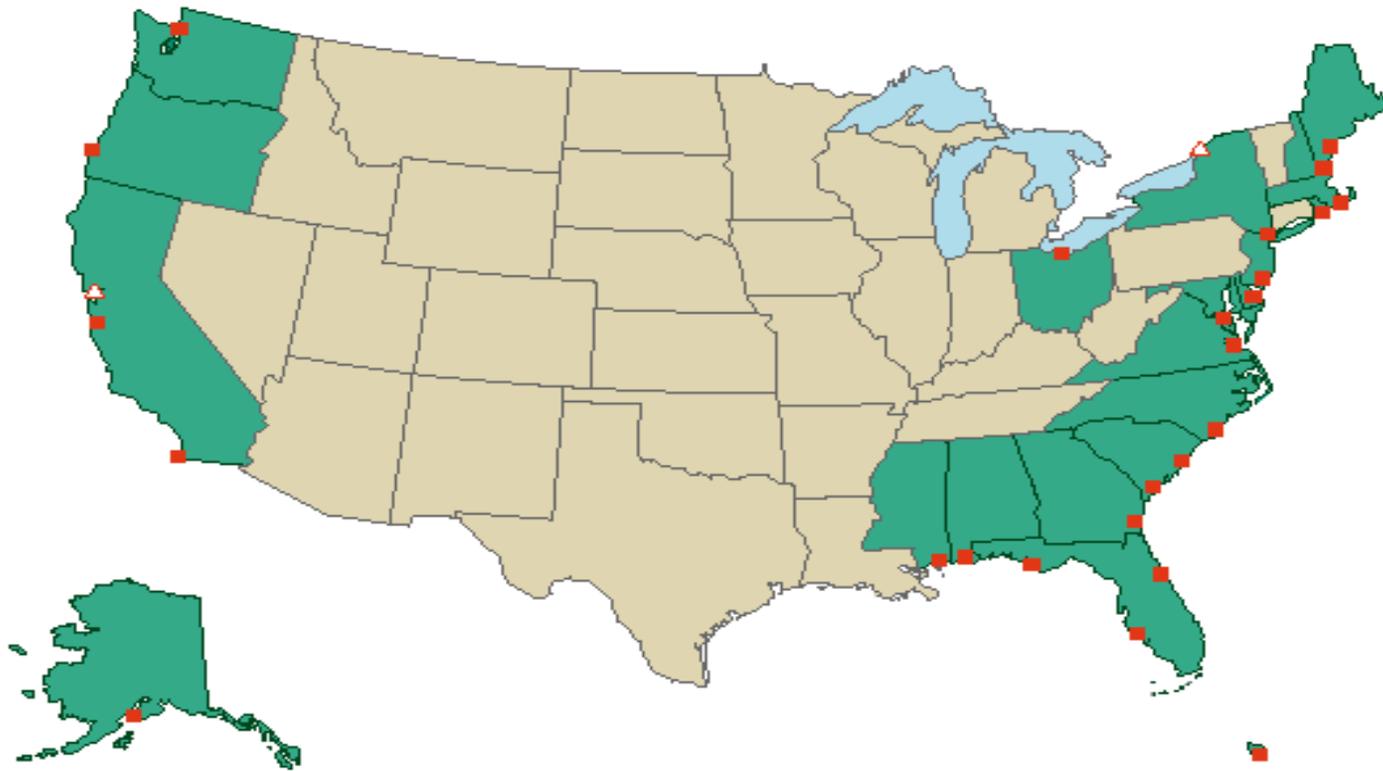
- **Federal agencies (or designee) must consult with NMFS on activities which may adversely affect EFH**
- **Consultation required for any activity proposed to be authorized, funded or undertaken**
- **NMFS will review proposals and, as appropriate, recommend measures to conserve EFH**
- **Agencies must respond within 30 days of receiving NMFS' comments**
- **Higher level review**



# National Estuarine Research Reserve System

Applying Science and Education  
to Improve the  
Management of Estuaries





A network of 25 reserves  
in 21 states and territories . . .





# Protected For:

- Long-term research and monitoring
- Education
- Resource stewardship



# Apalachicola NERR

- Location: Franklin County, 90 miles southwest of Tallahassee
- Acreage: 246,000
- Designation: 1979



# Apalachicola NERR Features:

- 1,162 subspecies of vascular plants
- 308 species of birds
- 186 species of fish
- 57 species of mammals
- ANERR protects this high biological diversity, as well as the economic value of the natural resources and pristine conditions

