

**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Draft Amendment 10 Essential Fish Habitat

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting  
September 12-16, 2016

# HMS EFH... What Is It?

Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) identifies EFH as “those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity”

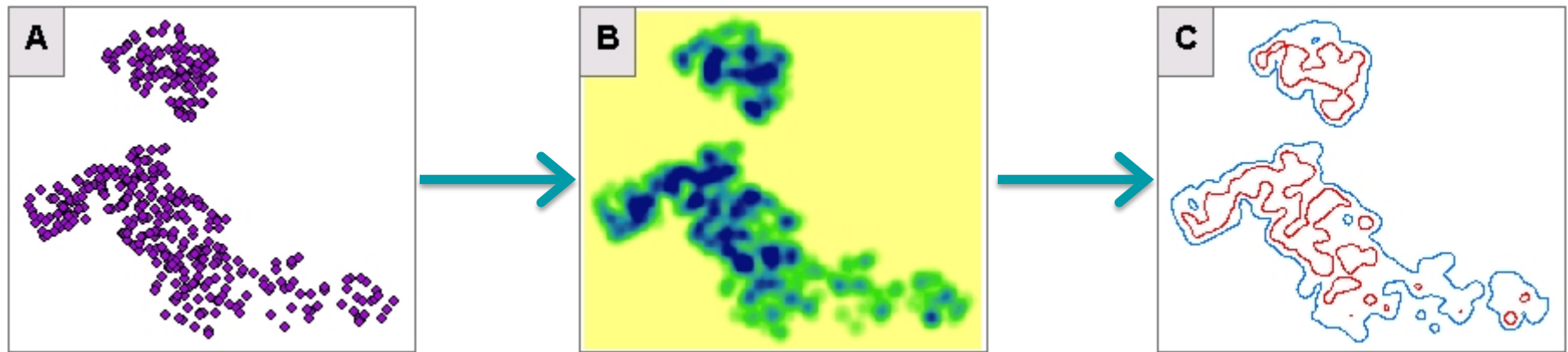
- Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996
- Federally managed species only
- May or may not include state waters
- Must be periodically reviewed and revised
- Cannot be designated in international waters

# Timeline of HMS EFH Actions

- 1999:** EFH is first designated for Atlantic HMS
- 2003:** EFH updated for some species
- 2009:** Amendment 1 – 5-year review and update of EFH
- 2010:** Amendment 3 – Designated smoothhound EFH  
Interpretive rule – Recognized roundscale spearfish, added it to the management unit, designated EFH
- 2014:** Atlantic HMS EFH 5-Year Review - Initiated
- 2015:** Atlantic HMS EFH 5-Year Review – Finalized; Notice Of Intent to prepare Amendment 10
- Fall 2016:** Draft Amendment 10 released (XX FR XXXXX)

# How Do We Identify Atlantic HMS EFH?

- 5-Year Review (2015): Updates to EFH are warranted.
- Kernel Density Estimation / 95% Volume Contour Method



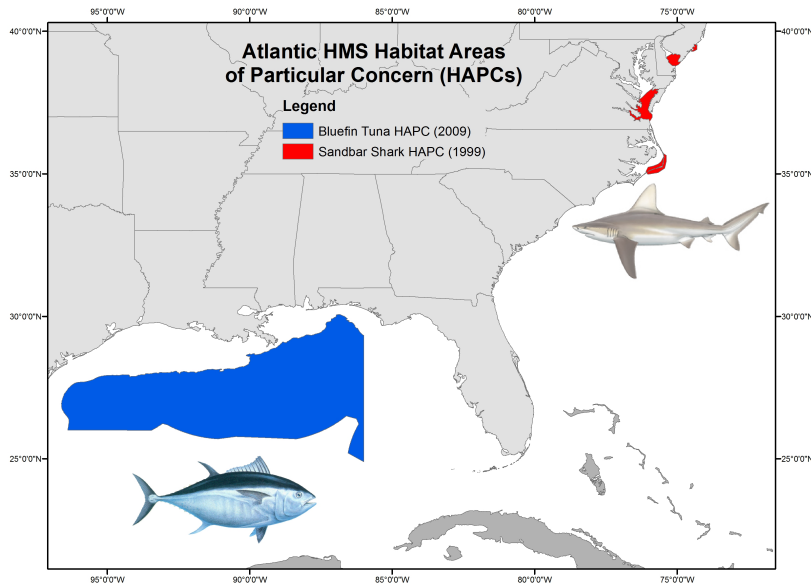
Images of an example depicted on  
the Hawth's Tools Homepage,  
[www.spatial ecology.com](http://www.spatial ecology.com)

# What is a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC)?

HAPCs are subsets of EFH that are one or more of the following:

- Rare
- Has particular ecological importance to a federally managed stock
- Is particularly susceptible to human-induced degradation
- Is located in an environmentally stressed area

# 5 Year Review: Modification and/or Creation of New HAPCs May Be Warranted Based on New Information



# Anticipated Timeline

- Draft Amendment will be released in early Fall 2016
- Opportunities for Public Input:
  - HMS AP (Sept 7-8, 2016)
  - Council and Commission meetings  
(September and October)
  - Webinar and Public Conference calls  
(September and October)
  - Regulations.gov