

## Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

### Developing an Inventory and Mapping Strategy for Submerged Natural Resources in Northeast Region Coastal National Parks



- **The Challenge:** The National Park Service has placed a high priority on enhancing the conservation and management of submerged resources in coastal parks. Information to characterize the extent and condition of marine and estuarine resources in northeastern coastal parks is lacking. Park managers need this information to determine resource protection strategies, assess ecosystem condition, identify restoration and research needs, and provide for recreational use.



- **The Science:** Priority needs for data on marine and estuarine natural resources have been identified by the NPS - Northeast Region Ocean Stewardship Task Force. The objectives of this project are to prepare an inventory of existing data on these priority resources, identify information gaps in the inventory, and determine appropriate technological and logistical approaches to data acquisition and mapping.



- **The Future:** A conceptual framework is proposed for organizing existing and new data within a consistent and unified approach to seabed and habitat classification. We will describe the data required to fill gaps in the marine resource inventory, methodologies for collection of fundamental data, and the scale and resolution of products required for each data type. This information will provide a strategy for developing maps and inventories of critical submerged resources in northeastern coastal parks.