

## **A SPATIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY TO ASSESS EXISTING INFORMATION ON ATLANTIC COASTAL FISH HABITAT**

The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) has developed a spatial bibliography to assess relevant existing information and assist conservation planning. The spatial bibliography was created by linking a bibliographic database developed in Microsoft Access, with a spatial framework developed in ArcGIS. The bibliography is a comprehensive, searchable database of selected documents, data sets, and analyses, pertaining to Atlantic coastal habitats. Key information captured for each entry include basic bibliographic data, spatial footprint (e.g. waterbody), species and habitats covered, assessment criteria and other policy-relevant information, contacts and partners, and electronic availability. The spatial framework is a functional ArcGIS digital map based on polygon layers derived from NOAA's Coastal Assessment Framework, Marine Cadastre, and other sources, providing spatial reference for all of the documents cited in the bibliography. Together, the bibliography and its spatial framework provide a powerful tool to query and assess available information. It is being used by ACFHP to develop a strategy to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fish from Maine to Florida. ACFHP is recognized as a 'candidate' Fish Habitat Partnership under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP), with participation from federal and state agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and local entities.

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