

Council Coordination Committee Habitat Workgroup

Summary of 2020 activities
and
Proposed 2021 priorities

HWG 2020 Activities

- Habitat Partners Letters
- Science Center Forum: climate

Opportunity –

Climate & Habitat Vulnerability Analysis

Vermilion snapper – *Rhombopites aurorubens*

Overall Vulnerability Rank = Low

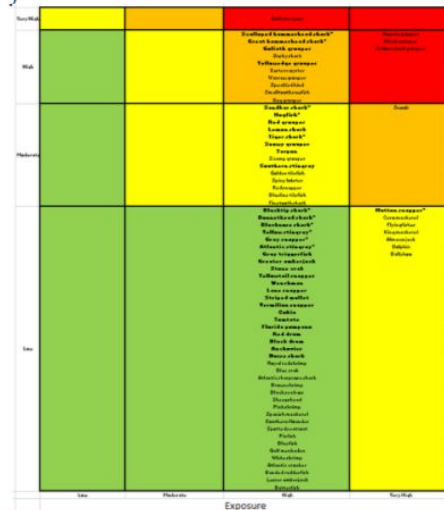
Biological Sensitivity = Low

Climate Exposure = High

Data Quality = 75% of scores ≥ 2



Rhombopites aurorubens			
	Expert Scores	Data Quality	Expert Scores Plot (Plotted by Category)
Habitat Specificity	1.4	3	
Prey Specificity	1.2	3	
Adult Mobility	1.7	2.4	
Dispenser of Early Life Stages	1.7	2.8	
Early Life History Survival and Settlement Requirements	2.1	1.8	
Complexity in Reproductive Strategy	1.4	2.3	
Spawning Cycle	1.8	3	
Sensitivity to Temperature	1.8	2.4	
Sensitivity to Ocean Acidification	1.4	2.2	
Population Growth Rate	1.7	2.4	
Stock Size/Status	1.6	2.8	
Other Stressors	1.8	1.4	
Sensitivity Score	Low		
Air Temperature	1	0	
Hypoxia	1.8	1.8	
Ocean Acidification	4	2	
Precipitation	1	0	
Primary Productivity	1.8	2	
Salinity	3.5	3	
Sea Level Rise	1.3	2.2	
Sea Surface Temperature	4	3	
Exposure Score	High		
Overall Vulnerability Rank	Low		



Climate Effects on Finfish Early Life-Stages

How might a changing environment (thermal, CO₂, DO) affect LMRs and ecosystems of the Mid Atlantic and NE USA?

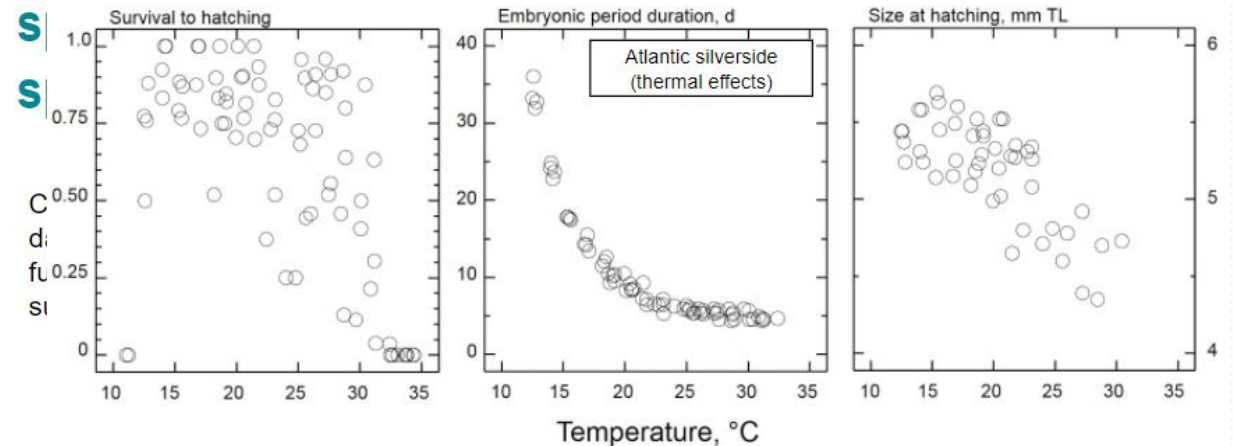
Species list (completed/underway)

Atlantic sturgeon
Atlantic silverside
shortnose sturgeon

Species list (in queue)

Atlantic cod
White perch

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HWG 2021 Priorities

Effective engagement in offshore development –
products:

- Best practices
- Written report
- Tailored road show



Credit: Eurofish Magazine

HWG 2021 Priorities

Effective engagement in offshore development – subtopics:

- Transmission cables
- EFH consultations
- Commercial/rec fishing in wind farms



Credit: Deepwater Wind

HWG 2021 Priorities

BOEM and the State of Oregon Host Virtual Informational Meetings on Offshore Wind Energy Planning

05/06/2021

Contact(s)
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The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) will share updates on current outreach and engagement activities to inform possible offshore wind energy leasing along the Oregon coast during virtual public information meetings on May 12 and 13, 2021. BOEM and the DLCD will update the public on data and information collected during a coordinated statewide outreach effort.

- Effective engagement in offshore development – Information clearinghouse:

- Council/region websites
- Updated leasing/call area info
- Public comment notices

BMPs for engaging with offshore industries

- Offshore development is complex and fast-moving
- Councils have expertise to share and concerns to express
- Regions all have different levels of experience with offshore development issues
- CCC-HWG believes it would be helpful to work collaboratively to share our expertise with each other

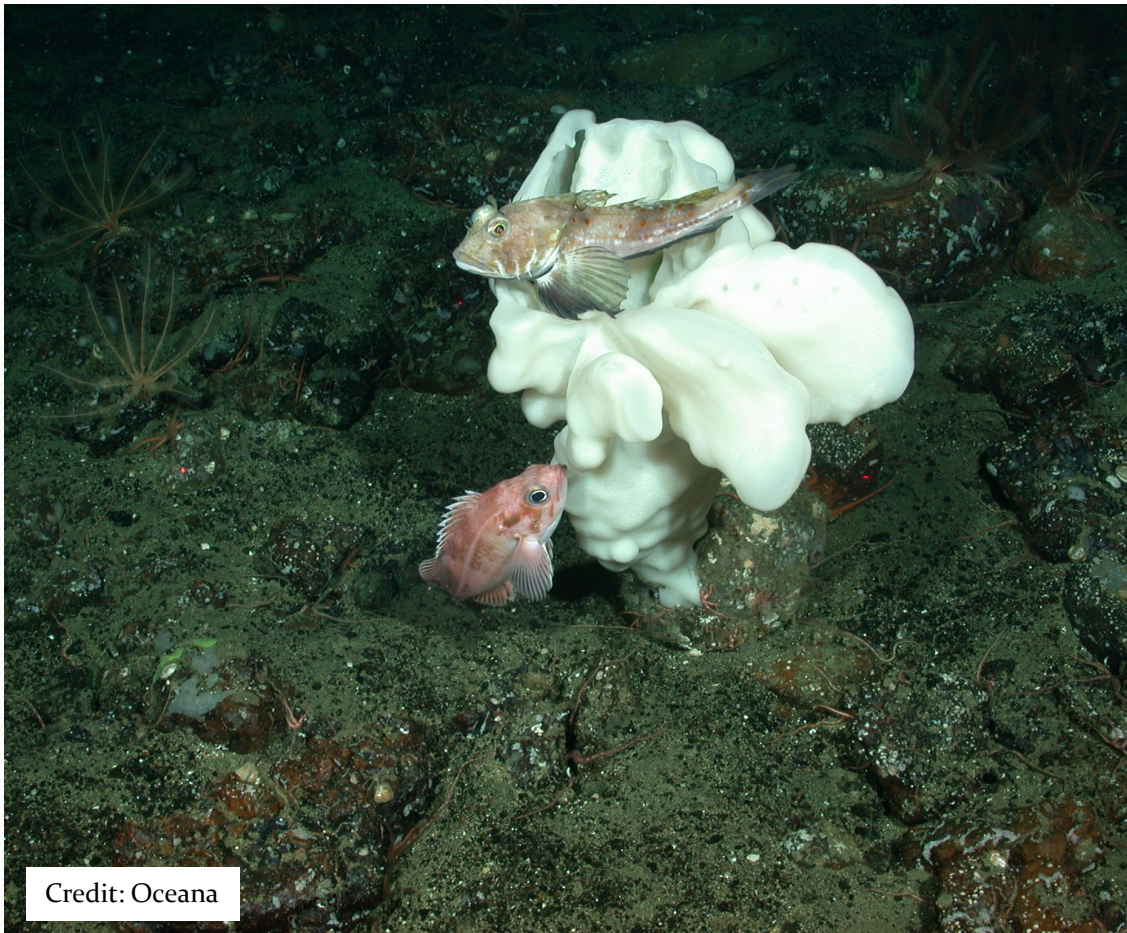
Siting and Planning

Early phases of project development are important opportunities for the Councils

- Process timing
- Information sharing
- Convene discussion/meeting opportunities
- Identify national/regional resources
- Benefits/focus on Council-managed species



Environmental Effects



Credit: Oceana

- How can Councils learn about and stay up to date on habitat and other impacts?
- How best can Councils contribute to planning for research programs?
- How can Councils most effectively communicate to agencies and stakeholders?

Compatibility with Fishing

- What mitigation measures can lessen impact to current or future fishing?
- What can Councils contribute to discussions of fishery use and fishing effort distributions?
- Can we use tools such as HAPCs?



Science and Monitoring

- Impacts of development to fishery-independent surveys?
- Impacts to fishery monitoring data streams?
- Can structures be used to collect oceanographic and/or fisheries data?

Information Links & Resources

- BOEM's BMP CATEGORIES ([2014 offshore wind report, Appendix D](#))
- NMFS recommended [habitat mapping approach](#) for EFH consultation
- Phased Approaches to Offshore Wind Developments and Use of Project Design Envelope
- Large-Scale Offshore Wind Power in the United States
- Cape Wind EIS & Council comments
- AWEA Offshore Wind Public Participation Guide
- NOAA Fisheries NEFSC Presentation: Fisheries in a New Era of Offshore Wind Development
- BOEM: Commercial Fishing Frequently Asked Questions
- Etc, etc.

Science Center Engagement

- Work with FSCs to organize webinar ala October 2020
- Coordinate with NMFS Office of Science and Technology
- Consider specific topics/issues



**Southeast Fisheries Science
Center's Habitat Science
Presentation**

Matthew W. Johnson
**Branch Chief, Fisheries
Ecology Branch**

Summary

- The HWG proposes to develop one or more of these:
 - Written report on BMPs
 - Road show and/or pre-recorded presentation(s)
 - Fishery science center science forums
- Can focus on OSW, aquaculture, telecom, etc
- Maintain focus on habitat responsibilities and the science related to engagement in offshore development

The HWG says
thank you!

