

SCUP STENOTOMUS CHRYSOPS



MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC) - ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) PROFILE

1. Management Unit

The management unit for scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*) is U.S. waters in the western Atlantic Ocean from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina northward to the U.S.-Canadian border

2. Stock Status

The stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring based on the most recent stock assessment (2021). For current stock status: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/status-stocks-reports>

3. Current Text Designations

Source: MAFMC. 1999. Amendment 12 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. Available at: www.mafmc.org.

Eggs: EFH is estuaries where scup eggs were identified as common, abundant, or highly abundant in the ELMR database for the "mixing" and "seawater" salinity zones. In general scup eggs are found from May through August in southern New England to coastal Virginia, in waters between 55 and 73°F and in salinities greater than 15 ppt.

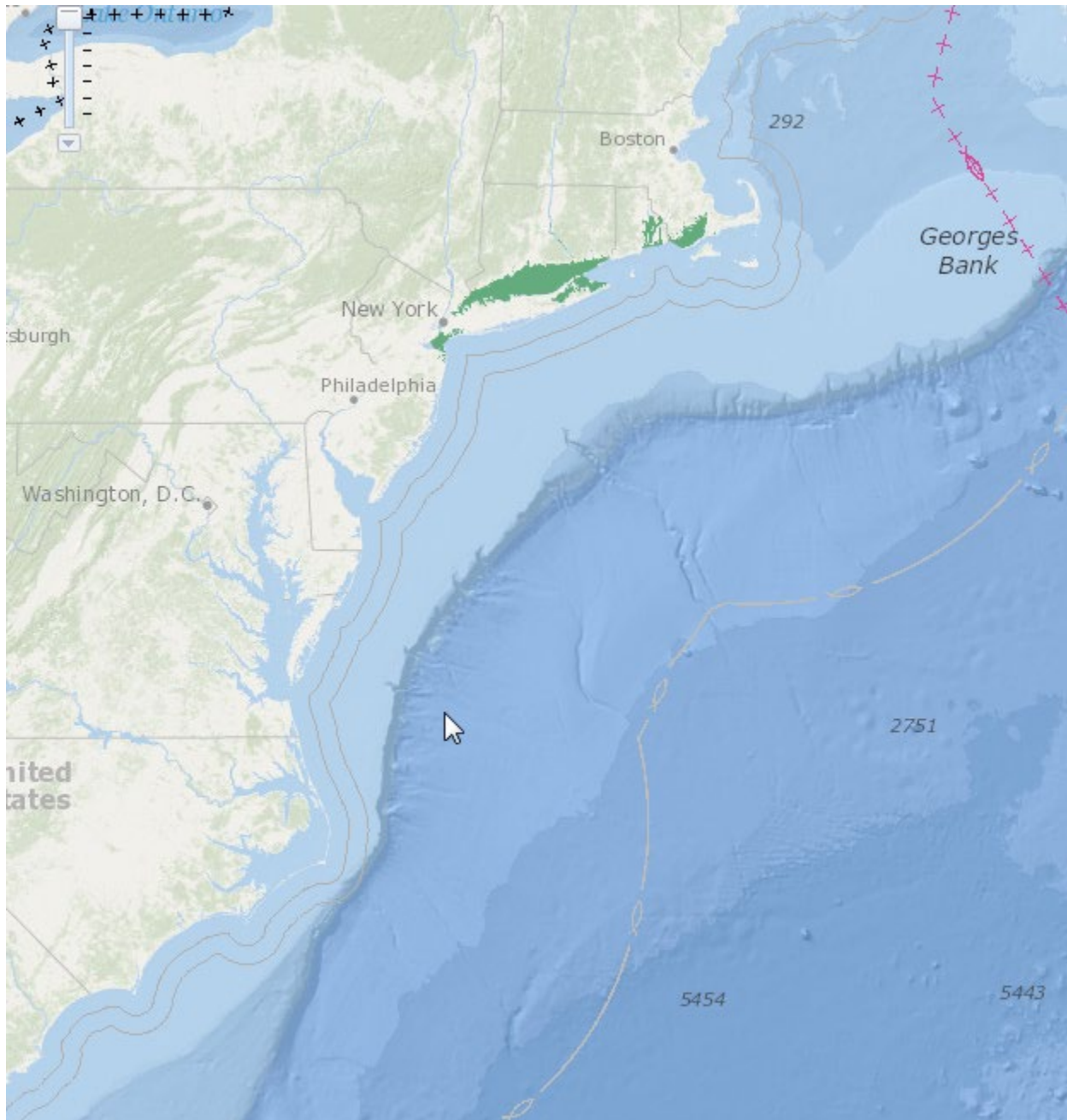
Larvae: EFH is estuaries where scup were identified as common, abundant, or highly abundant in the ELMR database for the "mixing" and "seawater" salinity zones. In general scup larvae are most abundant nearshore from May through September, in waters between 55 and 73°F and in salinities greater than 15 ppt.

Juveniles: 1) Offshore, EFH is the demersal waters over the Continental Shelf (from the coast out to the limits of the EEZ [Exclusive Economic Zone]), from the Gulf of Maine to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, in the highest 90% of all the ranked ten-minute squares of the area where juvenile scup are collected in the NEFSC trawl survey. 2) Inshore, EFH is the estuaries where scup are identified as being common, abundant, or highly abundant in the ELMR database for the "mixing" and "seawater" salinity zones. Juvenile scup, in general during the summer and spring are found in estuaries and bays between Virginia and Massachusetts, in association with various sands, mud, mussel and eelgrass bed type substrates and in water temperatures greater than 45°F and salinities greater than 15 ppt.

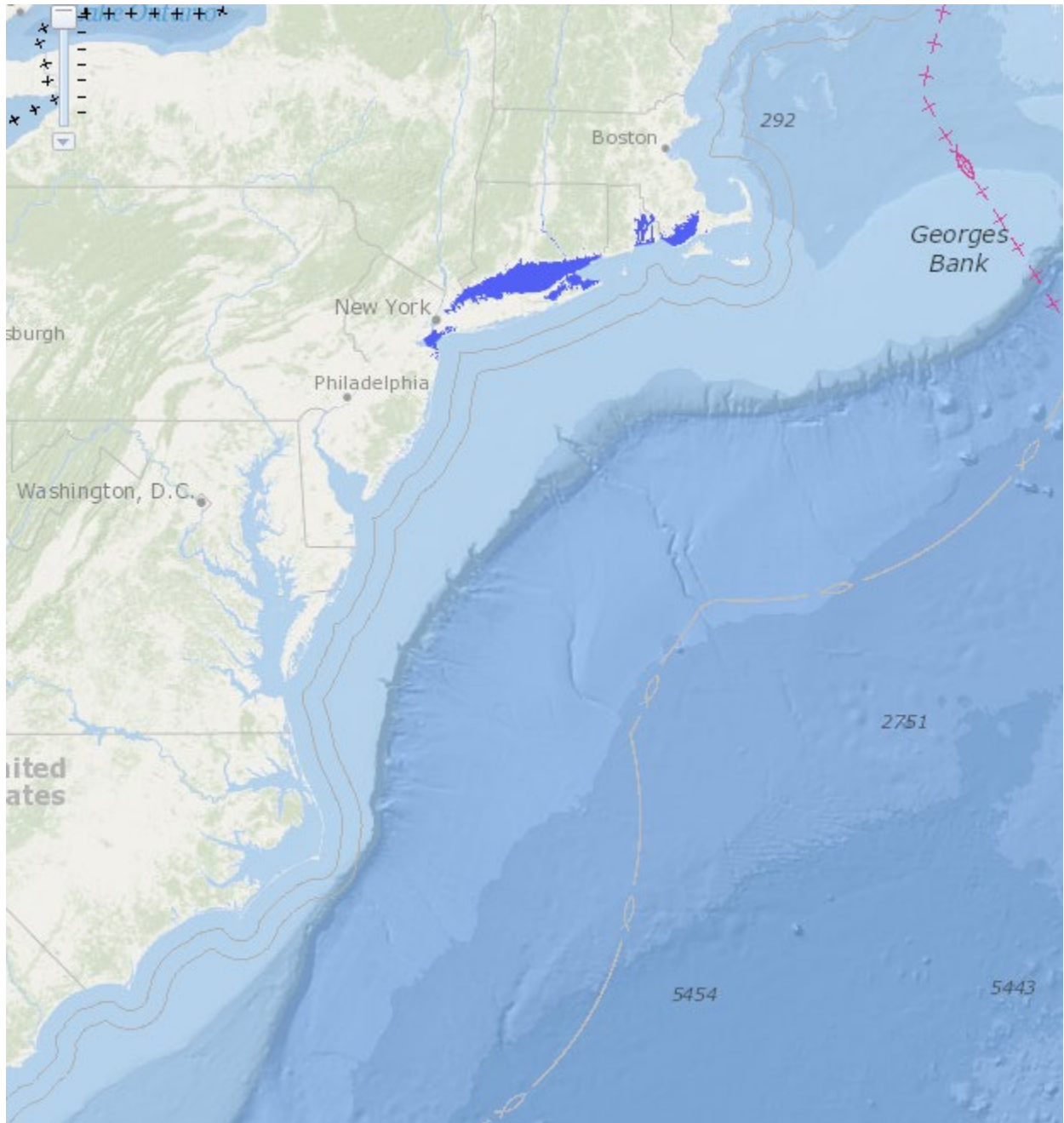
Adults: 1) Offshore, EFH is the demersal waters over the Continental Shelf (from the coast out to the limits of the EEZ), from the Gulf of Maine to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, in the highest 90% of all the ranked ten-minute squares of the area where adult scup are collected in the NEFSC trawl survey. 2) Inshore, EFH is the estuaries where scup were identified as being common, abundant, or highly abundant in the ELMR database for the "mixing" and "seawater" salinity zones. Generally, wintering adults (November through April) are usually offshore, south of New York to North Carolina, in waters above 45°F.

4. Current Map Designations

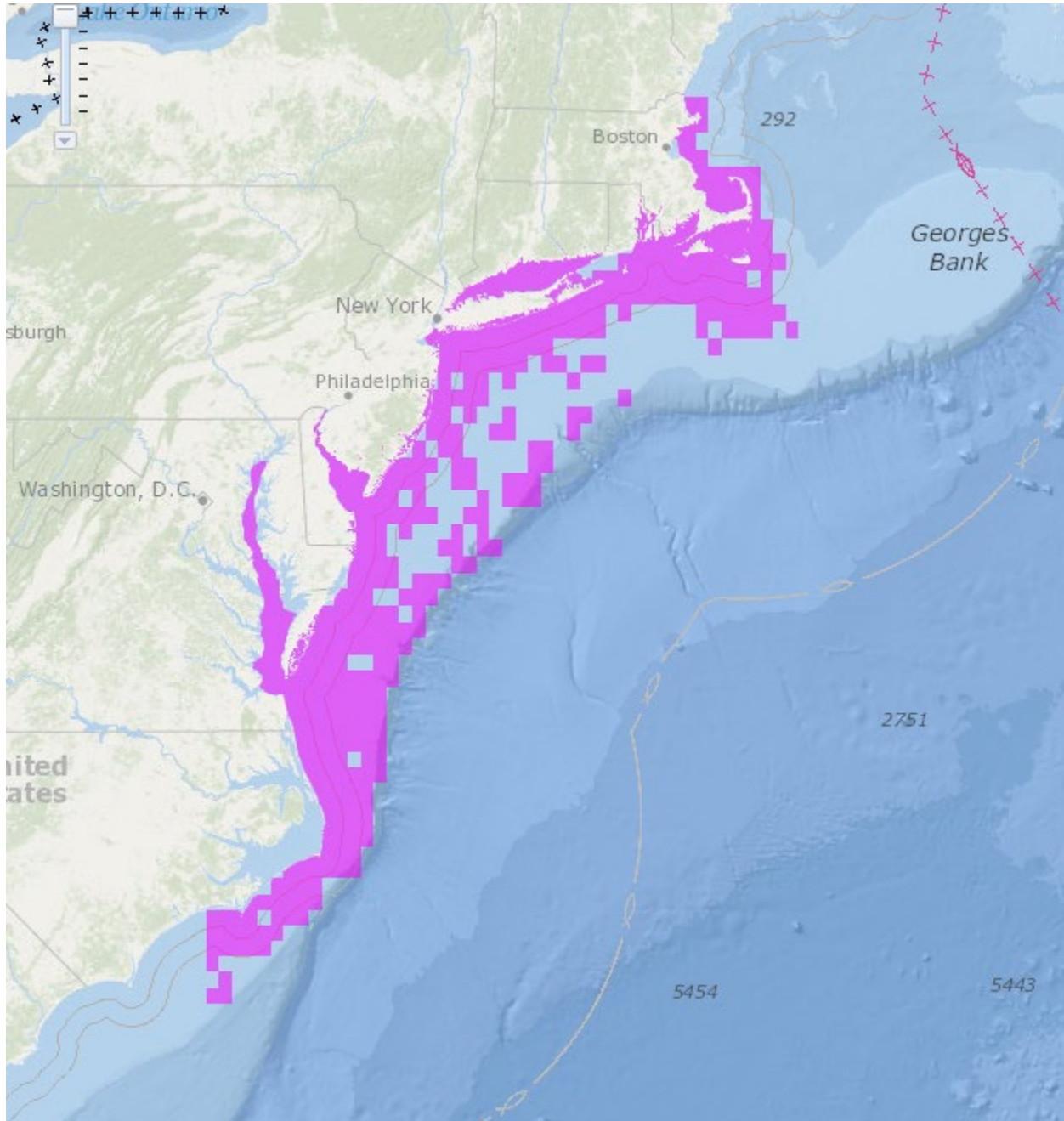
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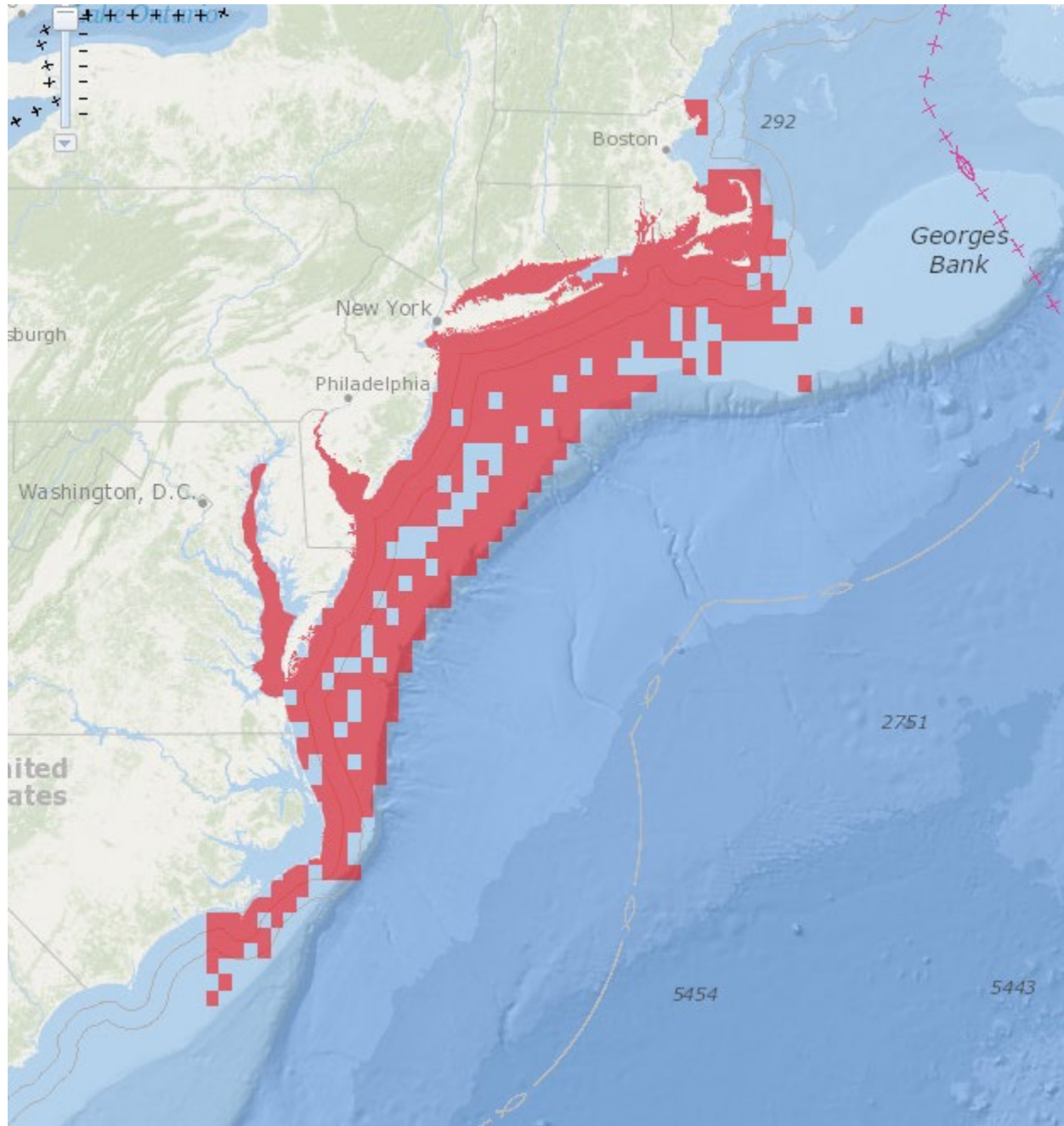
Larvae: EFH is estuaries where scup were identified as common, abundant, or highly abundant in the ELMR database for the "mixing" and "seawater" salinity zones.



Juveniles: Offshore, EFH is the area which encompasses the top 90% of the area of scup in the NEFSC trawl surveys. Inshore, EFH is the estuaries where scup are identified as being common, abundant, or highly abundant in the ELMR database for the "mixing" and "seawater" salinity zones.



Adults: Offshore, EFH is the area which encompasses the top 90% of the area of scup in the NEFSC trawl surveys. Inshore, EFH is the estuaries where scup were identified as being common, abundant, or highly abundant in the ELMR database for the "mixing and "seawater" salinity zones.



5. Designation and Mapping Methods

The Council has generally identified EFH using level 1 and/or level 2 data (see EFH regulations; section 7) primarily from distribution and relative abundance data from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) bottom trawl surveys (spring and fall, 1963+), ichthyoplankton surveys (monthly, 1977+), information from species EFH source documents (technical memos) developed by NEFSC staff, and - for some inshore areas - a resource inventory conducted by NOAA's Estuarine Living Marine Resources Program (ELMR; 1994). The designations were comprised of a detailed text description and a series of maps by ten-minute square areas (TMSQ). The Mid-Atlantic EFH Technical Team, NEFSC scientists, and other experts developed alternatives for the Council to consider. Four alternatives were proposed and, for mapping purposes, the Council selected the alternative that used a distributional percentage (50%, 75%, 90%, or 100% of observations) of the catches by area based on which level of information was available and stock status. EFH maps were developed for each life stage and displayed the distribution and abundance data by TMSQ.

The Council identified EFH for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass through Amendment 12 (1999) using NEFSC trawl surveys (spring and fall) and the ELMR program. The Council considered using 100% of the TMSQ as EFH since, scup have specific associations with benthic habitats types, and were also significantly overfished at the time. However, they chose the 90% of the TMSQ for all life stages and species since it was risk-averse and level 2 information was available.

6. EFH Source Documents

Information on scup habitat requirements can be found in:

Steimle FW, Zetlin CA, Berrien PL, Johnson DL, Chang S. 1999. Essential Fish Habitat Source Document: Scup, *Stenotomus chrysops*, Life History and Habitat Characteristics. NOAA Technical Memorandum, NMFS-NE-149. Available at: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/habitat/efh/>.

7. Other Information

EFH Legal Authorities

EFH from Magnuson Stevens Act:

<http://www.fisheriesforum.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=014976d6-5bc1-f0c4-be6b-ade7c99fc932&forceDialog=0>

EFH Contents of Fishery Management Plans under CFR §600.815:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2013-title50-vol12/pdf/CFR-2013-title50-vol12-sec600-815.pdf>

Federal agency consultation with the Secretary under CFR §600.920:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title50-vol12/pdf/CFR-2014-title50-vol12-sec600-920.pdf>

NMFS 2006 EFH Guidance:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/documents/03/201/03-201-15.pdf>

Management and Stock Assessments

MAFMC: <http://www.mafmc.org>

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission: <http://www.asmfmc.org>

NEFSC Stock Assessments: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/saw/>