

*Please provide the following information, and submit to the NOAA DM Plan Repository.*

### **Reference to Master DM Plan (if applicable)**

*As stated in Section IV, Requirement 1.3, DM Plans may be hierarchical. If this DM Plan inherits provisions from a higher-level DM Plan already submitted to the Repository, then this more-specific Plan only needs to provide information that differs from what was provided in the Master DM Plan.*

URL of higher-level DM Plan (if any) as submitted to DM Plan Repository:

## **1. General Description of Data to be Managed**

### **1.1. Name of the Data, data collection Project, or data-producing Program:**

Atlantic sturgeon South Atlantic DPS critical habitat for use in ESA/FIFRA consultations

### **1.2. Summary description of the data:**

Beginning in 2010 and in response to mounting requests for digital depictions of NMFS Regulated Areas in Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Waters, the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) and Southeast Regional Office Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Committee launched a project to standardize the development, publication and regular updating of GIS files depicting Regulated Area boundaries. This dataset is a product of that initiative. This dataset was created to depict the boundaries of NMFS Regulated Areas in Southeast Atlantic Waters only. For information on the proper use of the dataset refer to the Use Constraints metadata section. This dataset depicts the river lengths along which Critical Habitat has been designated (82 FR 39160, August 17, 2017) for the South Atlantic DPS of Atlantic Sturgeon.

Critical habitat includes all of the river along the specified segment, from the ordinary high water mark of one riverbank to the ordinary high water mark of the opposing riverbank of the mainstem of the river, to the downstream limit at the bank-to-bank transect of the specified segment. For clarification of the critical habitat definition, please refer to the maps and narrative descriptions in the CFR. It is a product of the NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional Office (SERO). This dataset includes boundaries for the following Regulated Areas: Critical Habitat South Atlantic Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Sturgeon: Edisto River, Combahee River, Salkehatchie River, Savannah River, Ogeechee River, Altamaha River, Satilla River and St. Marys River. Because GIS projection and topology functions can change or generalize coordinates, these GIS files are considered to be approximate representations and are NOT an OFFICIAL record for the exact Area boundaries. For information on the official legal definition refer to the Use Constraints metadata section.

### **1.3. Is this a one-time data collection, or an ongoing series of measurements?**

### **1.4. Actual or planned temporal coverage of the data:**

**1.5. Actual or planned geographic coverage of the data:**

W: -83.79517, E: -80.179037, N: 33.821174, S: 30.355763  
W: -83.79517, E: -80.179037, N: 33.821174, S: 30.355763  
W: -83.79517, E: -80.179037, N: 33.821174, S: 30.355763  
W: -83.965113, E: -80.034208, N: 33.931014, S: 30.224651

**1.6. Type(s) of data:**

*(e.g., digital numeric data, imagery, photographs, video, audio, database, tabular data, etc.)*  
Map (digital)

**1.7. Data collection method(s):**

*(e.g., satellite, airplane, unmanned aerial system, radar, weather station, moored buoy, research vessel, autonomous underwater vehicle, animal tagging, manual surveys, enforcement activities, numerical model, etc.)*

**1.8. If data are from a NOAA Observing System of Record, indicate name of system:****1.8.1. If data are from another observing system, please specify:****2. Point of Contact for this Data Management Plan (author or maintainer)****2.1. Name:**

Karrin Goodman

**2.2. Title:**

Metadata Contact

**2.3. Affiliation or facility:****2.4. E-mail address:**

karrin.goodman@noaa.gov

**2.5. Phone number:****3. Responsible Party for Data Management**

*Program Managers, or their designee, shall be responsible for assuring the proper management of the data produced by their Program. Please indicate the responsible party below.*

**3.1. Name:**

Karrin Goodman

**3.2. Title:**

Data Steward

#### 4. Resources

*Programs must identify resources within their own budget for managing the data they produce.*

##### 4.1. Have resources for management of these data been identified?

##### 4.2. Approximate percentage of the budget for these data devoted to data management (specify percentage or "unknown"):

#### 5. Data Lineage and Quality

*NOAA has issued Information Quality Guidelines for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information which it disseminates.*

##### 5.1. Processing workflow of the data from collection or acquisition to making it publicly accessible

*(describe or provide URL of description):*

Process Steps:

- 2017-01-02 00:00:00 - [Check Geometry] The ESRI ArcGIS Check Geometry tool was run on the feature class to identify any geometry problems. If problems were encountered, they were reviewed and corrected.
- 2017-01-02 00:00:00 - [Policy Review] The Critical Habitat spatial definition text, shapefile geometry and attribute values were reviewed with policy staff to verify that the feature class accurately depicted and described the intended boundaries.
- 2017-01-02 00:00:00 - [Downstream Limits] Some downstream limits to Critical Habitat are located where river mouths are ambiguous, or where rivers flow into other water bodies not included in the Critical Habitat designation. To clarify the downstream limits of Critical Habitat we delineated bank-to-bank transects at the end of each river length feature, in consultation with NOAA biologists.
- 2017-01-02 00:00:00 - [Extract features] To generate the Critical Habitat river lengths, we extracted relevant river lines segments from the NHDFlowline feature class. Flowlines through relevant major tributaries or bays/estuaries were also included. We merged flowlines into a single feature for each Critical Habitat unit. We used the location of NID dams and Major Highways to clip the features at the appropriate upstream limits. We clipped flowline features at their downstream limit based on consultation with NOAA biologists. The lines represent the length of the river along which bank-to-bank Critical Habitat was designated.
- 2017-01-02 00:00:00 - [Metadata] SERO utilized a GARFO Regulated Area shapefile metadata template was developed using the EPA Metadata Editor v3.2. This template was applied and customized to reflect the specific characteristics of the given shapefile. The metadata was validated for FGDC CSDGM compliance.
- 2017-01-02 00:00:00 - [Get Definition Text] The spatial definition (text and map) for Critical Habitat was copied from the Federal Register.
- 2017-01-02 00:00:00 - [Final Review] The shapefile was reviewed by members of the GARFO and SERO GIS Committee, policy experts from the GARFO and SERO Division responsible for the Regulated Area, and General Counsel, according to the

GARFO and SERO GIS Data Distribution Policy.

- 2017-09-28 00:00:00 - [Publication] The shapefile, with accompanying metadata, was uploaded for public download on the NOAA NMFS GARFO and SERO GIS website.

- 2023-12-15 00:00:00 - As described above, this species' HUC-based critical habitat dataset was modified from the line-based species "agency-official" NMFS critical habitat data. This HUC-based critical habitat file represents the HUC-12 watersheds (USGS Watershed Boundary Dataset; <https://www.usgs.gov/national-hydrography/watershed-boundary-dataset>) that intersect with the "agency-official" critical habitat line-based data. The data were reviewed and revised to add any additional HUC-12 watersheds that were determined to have hydrologic connectivity to the critical habitat.

**5.1.1. If data at different stages of the workflow, or products derived from these data, are subject to a separate data management plan, provide reference to other plan:**

**5.2. Quality control procedures employed (describe or provide URL of description):**

## 6. Data Documentation

*The EDMC Data Documentation Procedural Directive requires that NOAA data be well documented, specifies the use of ISO 19115 and related standards for documentation of new data, and provides links to resources and tools for metadata creation and validation.*

**6.1. Does metadata comply with EDMC Data Documentation directive?**

No

**6.1.1. If metadata are non-existent or non-compliant, please explain:**

Missing/invalid information:

- 1.3. Is this a one-time data collection, or an ongoing series of measurements?
- 1.4. Actual or planned temporal coverage of the data
- 1.7. Data collection method(s)
- 4.1. Have resources for management of these data been identified?
- 4.2. Approximate percentage of the budget for these data devoted to data management
- 5.2. Quality control procedures employed
- 7.1. Do these data comply with the Data Access directive?
- 7.1.1. If data are not available or has limitations, has a Waiver been filed?
- 7.1.2. If there are limitations to data access, describe how data are protected
- 7.2. Name of organization of facility providing data access
- 7.2.1. If data hosting service is needed, please indicate
- 7.3. Data access methods or services offered
- 7.4. Approximate delay between data collection and dissemination
- 8.1. Actual or planned long-term data archive location

- 8.2. Data storage facility prior to being sent to an archive facility
- 8.3. Approximate delay between data collection and submission to an archive facility
- 8.4. How will the data be protected from accidental or malicious modification or deletion prior to receipt by the archive?

**6.2. Name of organization or facility providing metadata hosting:**

NMFS Office of Science and Technology

**6.2.1. If service is needed for metadata hosting, please indicate:****6.3. URL of metadata folder or data catalog, if known:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/72866>

**6.4. Process for producing and maintaining metadata**

*(describe or provide URL of description):*

Metadata produced and maintained in accordance with the NOAA Data Documentation Procedural Directive: [https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/DAARWG/docs/EDMC\\_PD-Data\\_Documentation\\_v1.pdf](https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/DAARWG/docs/EDMC_PD-Data_Documentation_v1.pdf)

**7. Data Access**

*NAO 212-15 states that access to environmental data may only be restricted when distribution is explicitly limited by law, regulation, policy (such as those applicable to personally identifiable information or protected critical infrastructure information or proprietary trade information) or by security requirements. The EDMC Data Access Procedural Directive contains specific guidance, recommends the use of open-standard, interoperable, non-proprietary web services, provides information about resources and tools to enable data access, and includes a Waiver to be submitted to justify any approach other than full, unrestricted public access.*

**7.1. Do these data comply with the Data Access directive?**

**7.1.1. If the data are not to be made available to the public at all, or with limitations, has a Waiver (Appendix A of Data Access directive) been filed?**

**7.1.2. If there are limitations to public data access, describe how data are protected from unauthorized access or disclosure:**

**7.2. Name of organization of facility providing data access:**

**7.2.1. If data hosting service is needed, please indicate:**

**7.2.2. URL of data access service, if known:**

**7.3. Data access methods or services offered:**

**7.4. Approximate delay between data collection and dissemination:**

**7.4.1. If delay is longer than latency of automated processing, indicate under what authority data access is delayed:**

**8. Data Preservation and Protection**

*The NOAA Procedure for Scientific Records Appraisal and Archive Approval describes how to identify, appraise and decide what scientific records are to be preserved in a NOAA archive.*

**8.1. Actual or planned long-term data archive location:**

*(Specify NCEI-MD, NCEI-CO, NCEI-NC, NCEI-MS, World Data Center (WDC) facility, Other, To Be Determined, Unable to Archive, or No Archiving Intended)*

**8.1.1. If World Data Center or Other, specify:**

**8.1.2. If To Be Determined, Unable to Archive or No Archiving Intended, explain:**

**8.2. Data storage facility prior to being sent to an archive facility (if any):**

St Petersburg, FL

**8.3. Approximate delay between data collection and submission to an archive facility:**

**8.4. How will the data be protected from accidental or malicious modification or deletion prior to receipt by the archive?**

*Discuss data back-up, disaster recovery/contingency planning, and off-site data storage relevant to the data collection*

**9. Additional Line Office or Staff Office Questions**

*Line and Staff Offices may extend this template by inserting additional questions in this section.*