

# UPDATE ON ATLANTIC SALMON **RECOVERY PLAN** REVISIONS

AND WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

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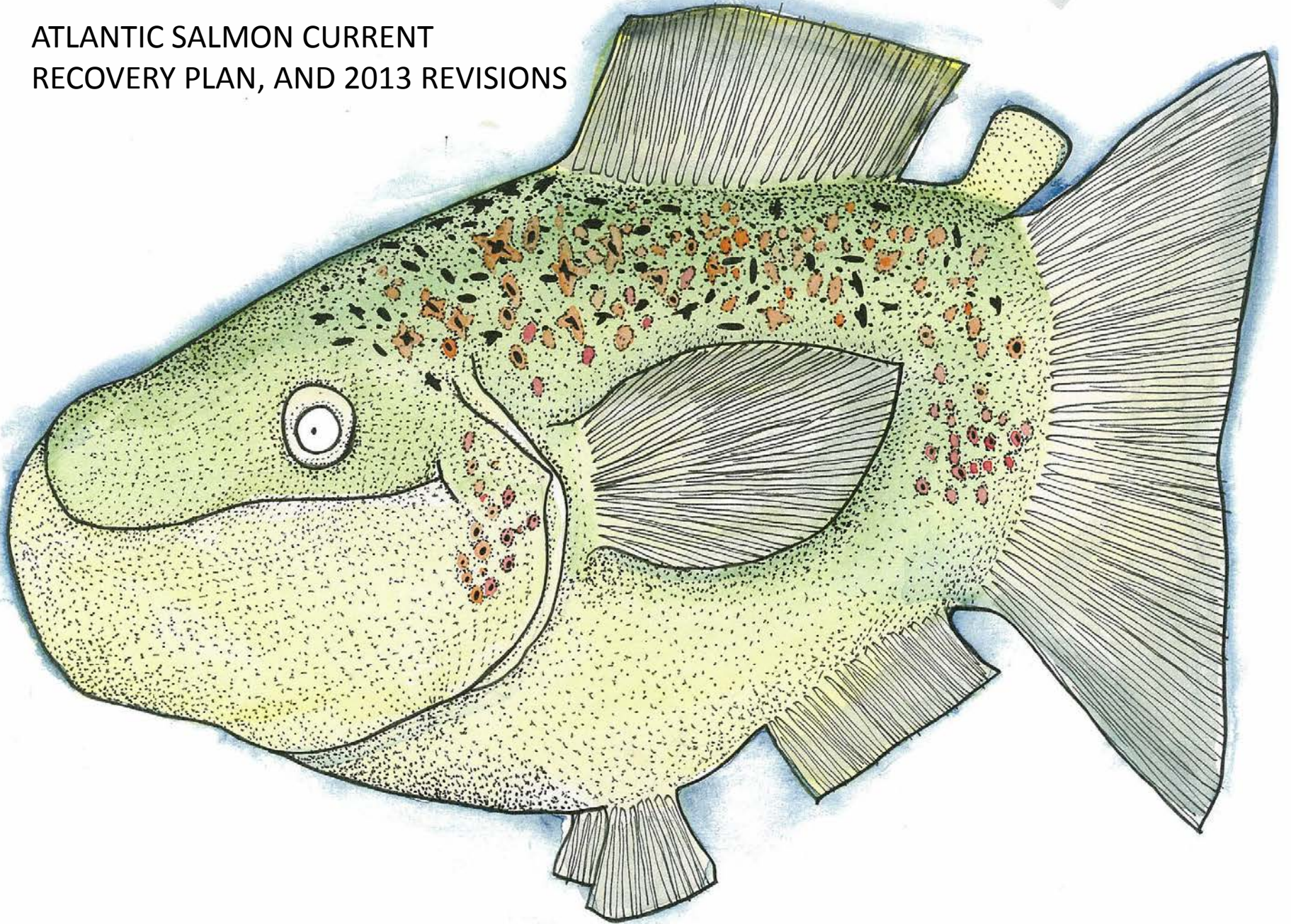
# WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

- THE **RECOVERY PLAN** IS THE OVERALL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR GETTING A SPECIES TO RECOVERY;
- **RECOVERY PLANS** SET THE MILEPOSTS FOR DOWNLISTING AND DELISTING;
- **RECOVERY PLANS** REITERATE THREATS AND ACTIONS NEEDED TO LESSEN OR ELIMINATE THE THREATS;
- **RECOVERY PLANS** SET PRIORITIES;
- **RECOVERY PLANS** GIVE OUR PARTNERS IN **RECOVERY** A MAP ABOUT WHAT THE FEDERAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION ARE DOING, WILL BE DOING, NEED TO DO, AND WHAT OUR PRIORITIES ARE.

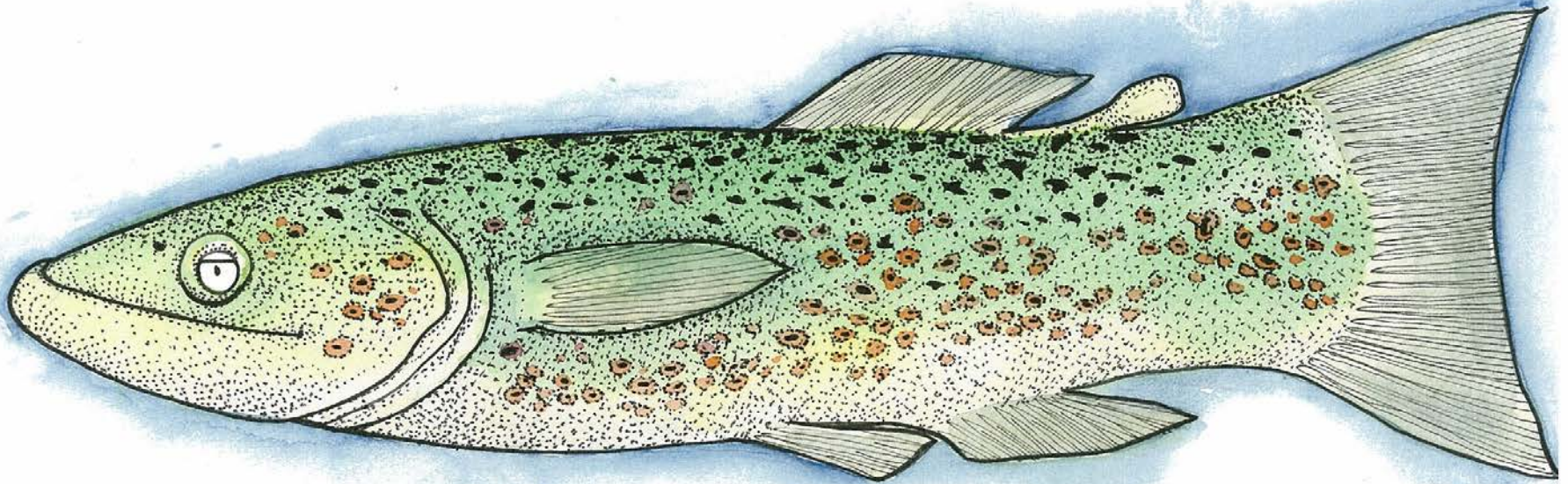
# HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

- If you need a Federal permit, get Federal funding, otherwise involve the Feds so that your action is a Federal action (like a Corps permit, FERC license) and we engage in section 7 consultation, the Services look to the **recovery plan** for guidance about what stressors/threats might be involved, how to address them and the plan helps us do required adverse modification and jeopardy determinations. Both jeopardy and adverse modification evaluations/determinations address both survival and **recovery**.
- If you need a **recovery**/research or individual section 10 take permit (HCP) (no Federal agency involved) for something you are planning to do which causes take, you need to be sure that what you propose is consistent with the **recovery plan**; we cannot authorize an exemption from section 9 via a section 10 permit for something that is not consistent with survival or **recovery**...
- If you are looking for projects that are most likely to get Federal funding, Federal agency support, Federal agency staff assistance, funding from Services' conservation partners.....

ATLANTIC SALMON CURRENT  
RECOVERY PLAN, AND 2013 REVISIONS



2014-15 NEW REVISED STREAMLINED VERSION ATLANTIC SALMON RECOVERY PLAN



# TRADITIONAL U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RECOVERY PLAN OUTLINE *E.G.* THE LAST VERSION OF THE ATLANTIC SALMON RECOVERY PLAN

- **INTRODUCTION**

- GOM-DPS, RECOVERY UNITS,
- PLANNING PROCESS
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS
- GUIDE TO RECOVERY PLAN

- **BACKGROUND**

- SPECIES BIOLOGY INCLUDING taxonomy, and species description, life history and ecology, abundance and distribution, habitat requirements, critical habitat
- REASONS FOR LISTING AND CURRENT THREATS
- CURRENT CONSERVATION EFFORTS
- RECOVERY EFFORTS
- PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS
- NEED FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

- **RECOVERY STRATEGY**

- AN ADAPTIVE STRATEGY
- GEOGRAPHIC FRAMEWORK
- A PHASE APPROACH
- POPULATION VIABILITY
- THREATS ABATEMENT
- COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY FOR PRIORITIZING AND IMPLEMENTATION

- **RECOVERY ACTIONS**

- RECOVERY FRAMEWORK
- PARTNERSHIPS, AGENCIES, STAKEHOLDERS, LOCAL INITIATIVES, PUBLIC SUPPORT

- **RECOVERY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA**

- RECOVERY GOAL
- RECOVERY OBJECTIVES
- RECOVERY CRITERIA
  - BIOLOGICAL CRITERIA
  - THREATS ABATEMENT CRITERIA
- EVALUATING RECOVERY PROGRESS

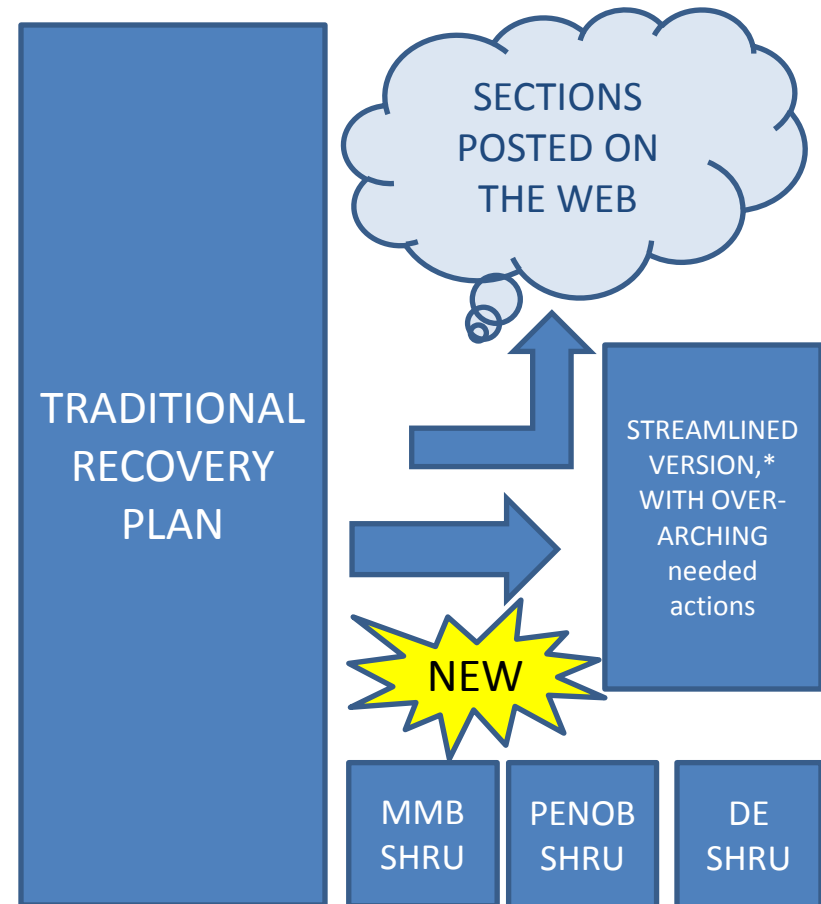
- **RECOVERY ACTIONS (NARRATIVE)**

- **RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION**

- DEFINITION OF ACTION PRIORITIES
- LISTING, RECLASSIFICATION, DELISTING FACTORS
- ACTION DURATION AND RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
- ESTIMATE COST OF RECOVERY ACTIONS
- IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

# STREAMLINED VERSION, NEW PROTOTYPE FOR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE\*

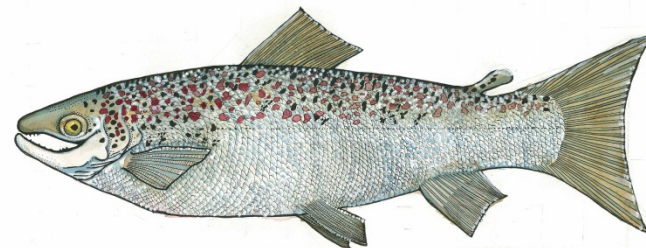
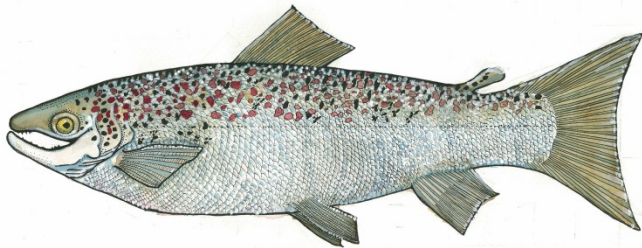
- **INTRODUCTION**
  - LISTED ENTITY AND RECOVERY UNITS
    - GULF OF MAINE DPS
    - SALMON RECOVERY UNITS
  - OVERVIEW OF RECOVERY GOVERNANCE
  - STRUCTURE AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT
  - THREATS TO SPECIES VIABILITY
  - THREATS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES IDENTIFIED AT THE TIME OF LISTING
  - NEW AND EMERGING THREATS
  - CURRENT CONSERVATION EFFORTS
  - RECOVERY STRATEGY
    - AN ADAPTIVE STRATEGY
    - A PHASED APPROACH
    - GEOGRAPHIC FRAMEWORK
    - RATIONALE FOR RECOVERY CRITERIA
    - IMPLEMENTING RECOVERY ACTIONS
- **RECOVERY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA**
  - RECOVERY GOAL
  - RECOVERY OBJECTIVES
  - RECOVERY CRITERIA
    - BIOLOGICAL CRITERIA
    - THREATS ABATEMENT CRITERIA
  - EVALUATING RECOVERY PROGRESS
- **RECOVERY ACTIONS**
  - RECOVERY ACTION OVERVIEW
  - RECOVERY ACTION NARRATIVE
  - IMPLEMENTATION TABLE



**PHASE 1:** identify the threats to the species and characterize the habitat needs of the species necessary for their recovery (1990 – 2005)

**Phase Objectives:**

- Conduct Habitat surveys and refine habitat suitability metrics for recovery purposes to assess quantity, quality and availability of freshwater habitats;
- Identify threats to survival and recovery (SWAP, status review, NAS report);
- Assess and characterize populations and their genetics;
- Establish river specific broodstock lines; and
- Establish and implement a stock management strategy.





**PHASE 2:** Ensure the persistence of the GOM DPS through the use of the conservation hatcheries while removing and abating imminent threats to prevent extinction of Atlantic salmon (2005 – Current).

Phase Objectives:

- **Increase capacity of freshwater habitats and ensure access to most abundant and most suitable habitats for spawning and juvenile rearing through barrier removal and fish passage improvements;**
- Address, through an adaptive management process, identified threats to Atlantic salmon and their habitats in freshwater, estuary and marine areas;
- Maintain and enhance DPS family groups through conservation hatcheries and adaptive stock management to preserve genetic diversity;
- Prevent entry of deleterious traits;
- Continue to identify new and emerging threats (e.g. climate change);
- Identify threats to survival within the marine environment and mechanisms to address them; and
- Test and implement new and innovative means to improve hatchery product.

**PHASE 3:** Increase the abundance, distribution and productivity of naturally reared Atlantic salmon transitioning from dependence on the conservation hatcheries to wild smolt production; mechanisms are in place that address continuing threats to the species and their habitats.

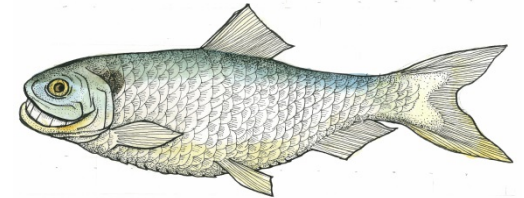
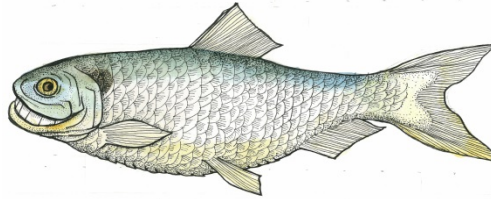
**Phase 3 Objectives:**

- Maximize presence of naturally reared adult spawners in suitable and accessible habitats;
- Continue stock assessments to gauge progress towards recovery;
- Implement stocking strategies that focus on filling vacant or depleted habitats;
- Ensure new projects don't result in loss of salmon or habitat (i.e., ensure access to suitable unoccupied and occupied habitat);
- Maintain river-specific broodstocks in conservation hatcheries to complement naturally reared populations with understanding that hatchery inputs will be progressively reduced as we approach delisting recovery goals; and
- Continue to address threats needed to reach habitat/population goals needed for delisting.

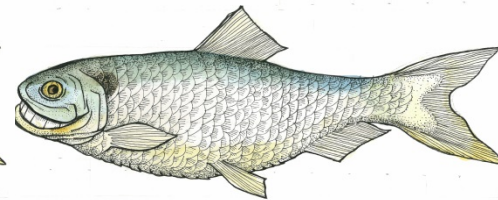
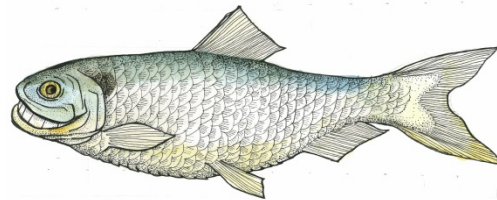
**PHASE 4** of recovery is the final phase and is characterized by a self-sustaining wild population geographically distributed across connected habitats throughout the GOM DPS area, with minimal dependence on human intervention to complete its natural life cycle; mechanisms are in place that prevent or abate all foreseeable threats to the long term survival of the species

**Phase 4 Objectives:**

- Post-delisting monitoring



# WHERE ARE WE NOW?



**Phase 1:** (complete)

**Phase 2:** Upon completion, down listing should be possible. Down listing = 7500 HUs/SHRU, with 1500 fish across the DPS, with 2 of 3 SHRUs having at least 500 fish each

**Phase 3:** Upon Completion, delisting should be possible. Delisting = Recovery (30,000 HUs/SHRU; 2000 fish/SHRU, threats sufficiently abated

# Much work to do

- Polish the phases of recovery and why they are important...
- Evaluate & modify or maintain a governance structure; action teams; recovery team? management board continues...
- Getting those SHRU based action strategies moving...
- Adapting Framework implementation plans, earlier recovery plans' actions into this format.
- Scheduled for FR notice no later than 31 March, 2015
- Stakeholder outreach begins.

