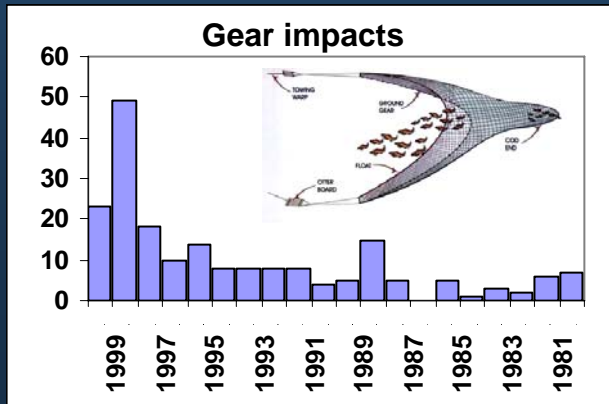
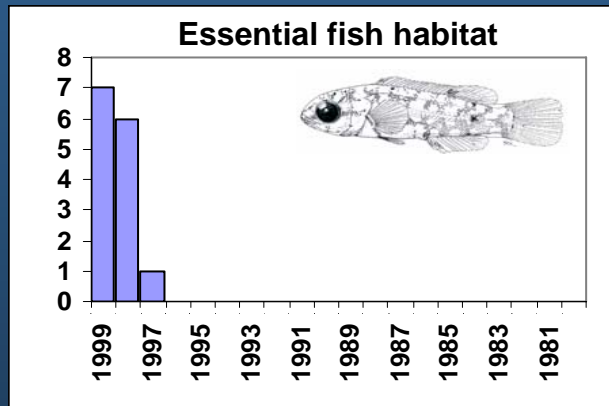
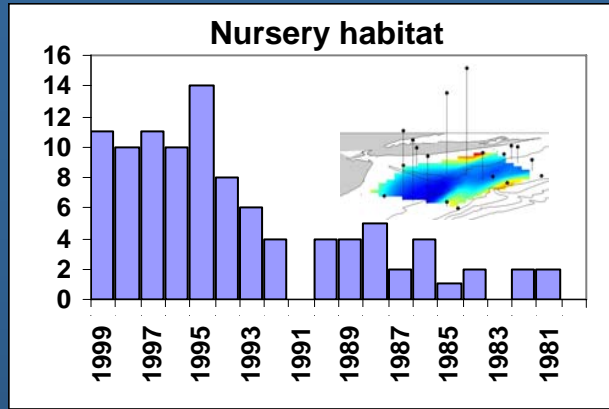


# Essential Fish Habitat and the first year of life

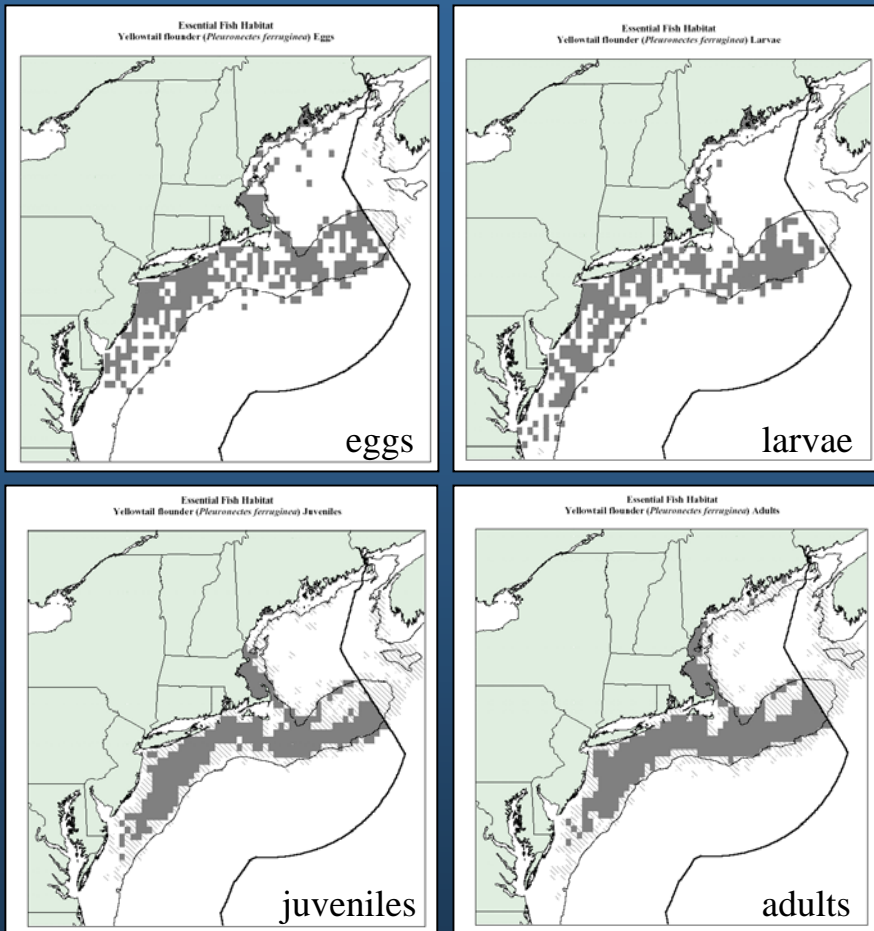
# of articles (ASFA)



"The Essential Fish Habitat mandate represents a new recognition by Congress, the fishing industry, conservation groups, and the general public that habitat quantity and quality are critical to the health and productivity of fish populations"

- NOAA

# Identification and conservation of EFH



Johnson et al. 1999 – NMFS-NE-140

“Essential fish habitat means those waters<sup>1</sup> and substrate<sup>2</sup> necessary<sup>3</sup> to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity<sup>4</sup>”

- Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801

<sup>1</sup>physics, biology, chemistry

<sup>2</sup>associated communities

<sup>3</sup>sustainable fishery

<sup>4</sup>covers a full life cycle

- EFH Interim Final Rule, 62 FR 66531

# Levels of essential fish habitat classification

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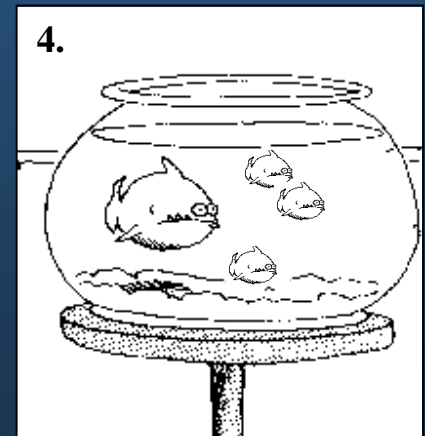
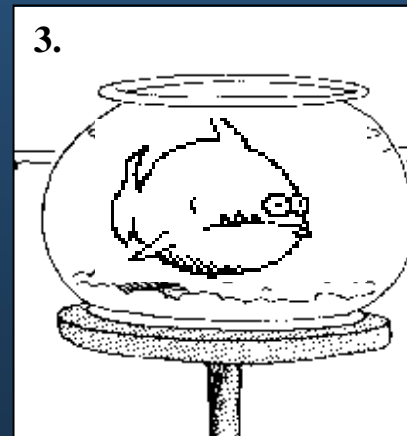
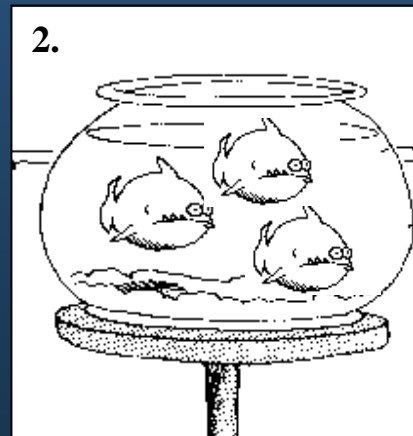
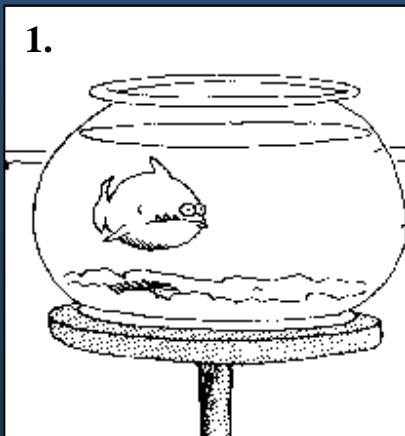
Level 1: Presence / absence distribution data

Level 2: Habitat-related densities

Level 3: Growth, reproduction, or survival rates

Level 4: Biological production rates by habitat type

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(modified from Larson 2000)