

# CONTENTS

<i>xiii</i>	FOREWORD
<i>xvii</i>	PREFACE

## PART 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3	Overview
5	Habitat Areas
6	National Habitat-Use Patterns
6	National Trends in Habitat-Use Information
7	Habitat Status, Trends, and Issues
8	Habitat Protection and Restoration
9	Habitat Research Needs
10	Solutions—The Way Forward
11	References Cited

## PART 2 INTRODUCTION

17	Overview
20	Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Management
21	NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Program
22	Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
22	Importance of Habitat for Living Marine Resources
26	Summary of NMFS' Responsibilities for Habitat
26	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
28	Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act
29	NOAA's Habitat Blueprint
29	Other Mandates Related to Habitat

30	How Much Habitat is Enough?
32	Current Status of the Science Underlying Habitat Assessment, and the Relationships Among Species, Habitats, and Ecosystems
32	How Do Species Use Habitat?
33	What is the Quantity of Usable Habitat?
35	What Factors Affect the Quantity and Quality of Available Habitat?
36	How are Species Abundances Affected by the Quantity and Quality of Habitat?
37	How Can the Structure and Function of Degraded Habitat be Restored?
38	Organization of This Report
42	References Cited and Sources of Additional Information

## PART 3 NATIONAL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

49	Overview
50	Habitat Use by Federally Managed Fishery and Protected Species
51	Status of Habitat Knowledge
52	Habitat Status and Trends
53	Freshwater Habitats
53	Estuarine Habitats
54	Shallow Marine and Oceanic Habitats
56	Coastal Wetlands
57	National Habitat Issues
57	Water Quality
64	Water Quantity
66	Infrastructure in Aquatic Habitats
69	Fisheries
71	Other Commercial Uses of Marine Habitats
75	Environmental Issues
81	Habitat Fragmentation and Loss
82	Steps Being Taken to Protect and Restore Habitat
89	Federal Agencies, Organizations, and Programs that Support Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Science
89	NOAA
98	Other Federal Agencies
101	Research Needs
105	References Cited and Sources of Additional Information

# PART 4 REGIONAL SUMMARIES

## NORTHEAST REGION

117	Habitat Areas
117	Gulf of Maine
120	Georges Bank
121	Mid-Atlantic Bight/Southern New England
123	Deep-Sea Coral Habitats
124	Habitat Use
125	Habitat Use by FMP Species
129	Habitat Use by Protected Species
131	Habitat Use by State-Managed and Non-FMP Species
133	Habitat Trends
133	Freshwater Trends
134	Estuarine and Coastal Habitat Loss and Fragmentation
136	Effects of Fishing Gear
137	Research Needs
137	Atlantic Salmon Ecology
138	Deep-Sea Corals
138	Effects of Fishing Gear on Benthic Ecosystems
138	Habitat Mapping
139	Invasive Species
139	Oyster Disease Control and Habitat Restoration
141	Protecting Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles from Ship Strikes and Fishing Gear
141	References Cited and Sources of Additional Information

## SOUTHEAST REGION

147	Habitat Areas
147	Freshwater Habitats
149	Estuarine Habitats
152	Shallow Marine Habitats
155	Oceanic Habitats
160	Habitat Use
162	Habitat Use by FMP Species
169	Habitat Use by Protected Species
171	Habitat Use by State-Managed and Non-FMP Species
173	Habitat Trends
173	Freshwater Quality and Quantity
173	Diversion of Freshwater Flow
173	Wetland Loss

175	Coastal Development
175	Flood Control
175	Coral Reefs
177	Eutrophication and Hypoxia
178	Research Needs
178	Estuarine Habitat Condition
179	Coral Reef Ecology
179	Habitat Mapping
179	Habitat Requirements of Adult and Early Life Stages of Commercially Important Fish and Invertebrates and Protected Species
181	Impacts of Severe Storms and Sea Level Rise on Fishery and Protected Species and Their Habitats
181	Habitat Restoration
183	Transboundary Biological and Oceanographic Linkages
183	Effects of Underwater Sound
183	Additional Research Needs
183	References Cited and Sources of Additional Information

## PACIFIC COAST REGION

189	Habitat Areas
190	Oregonian Province (Strait of Juan de Fuca, Washington, to Point Conception, California)
194	San Diego Province (Point Conception, California, to Baja California Sur, Mexico)
195	Habitat Use
196	Habitat Use by FMP Species
202	Habitat Use by Protected Species
206	Habitat Use by Non-FMP, State-, and Internationally Managed Species
210	Habitat Trends
213	Research Needs
214	Pacific Salmon
214	Coastal Pelagic Fishes
215	Highly Migratory Species
215	Groundfish
216	Pinnipeds
216	Cetaceans
216	Sea Turtles
217	Protected Marine Invertebrates
217	Additional Research Needs
217	References Cited and Sources of Additional Information

## ALASKA REGION

223	Habitat Areas
225	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
226	North Pacific Ocean (Gulf of Alaska)
227	Arctic Ocean
228	Habitat Use
229	Habitat Use by FMP Species
234	Habitat Use by Protected Species
237	Habitat Use by State-Managed, Non-FMP, and Internationally Managed Species
238	Habitat Trends
238	Research Needs
240	Essential Fish Habitat
241	Loss of Sea Ice
241	Oil and Gas Development
242	Ocean Acidification
242	Ecosystem-Based Approach to Management
243	References Cited and Sources of Additional Information

## PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

249	Habitat Areas
252	Freshwater Habitat
253	Estuarine Habitat
253	Shallow Marine Habitat
254	Oceanic Habitat
255	Habitat Use
256	Habitat Use by MUS Groups Within the FEPs
257	Habitat Use by Protected Species
258	Habitat Use by State-Managed and Non-FMP Species
258	Habitat Trends
259	Invasive Species
260	Trends in MUS Species Habitat
262	Trends in Protected Species Habitat
262	Research Needs
263	Fishery Species
265	Protected Species
266	Invasive Species
267	References Cited and Sources of Additional Information

# PART 5 APPENDICES

273	Appendix 1	Acknowledgments
275	Appendix 2	Legislative Mandates for Habitat
279	Appendix 3	Current Fishery Management Plans and Fishery Ecosystem Plans
281	Appendix 4	Habitat-Use Table Methodology
285	Appendix 5	Common and Scientific Names of Species
325	Appendix 6	Abbreviations