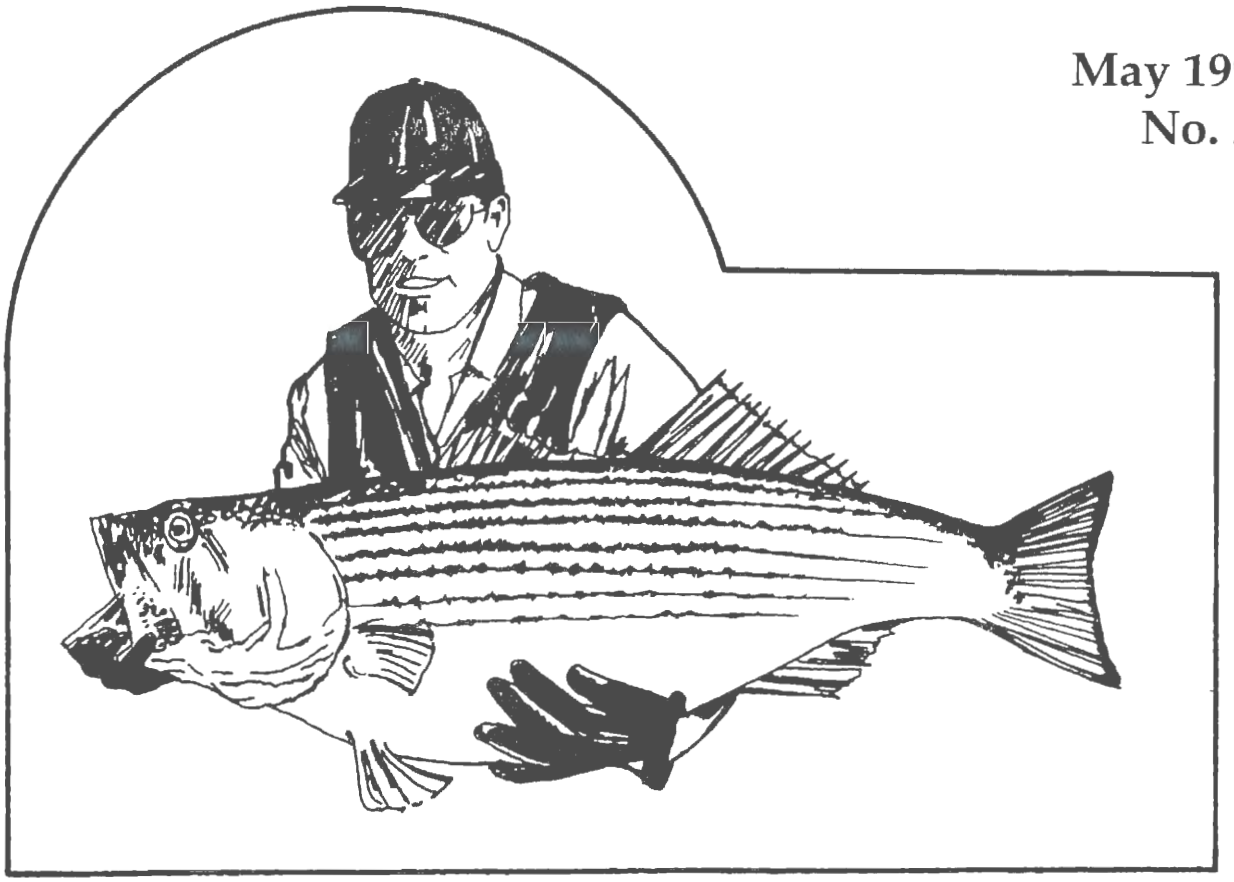
STRIPED BASS FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 1

May 1992
No. 26



GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 726
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS 39564

SPORT FISH RESTORATION

STRIPED BASS FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

AMENDMENT 1

published by

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564

This document was supported in part through funding provided by Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration administrative funds, Project No. 14-16-0009-90-1211, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

TCC Anadromous Fish Subcommittee

Richard Applegate
c/o San Marcos National Fish
Hatchery and Technology Center
Route 1, Box 159-D
San Marcos, TX 78666

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1612 June Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405

David Pritchard
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Region
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

J. Alan Huff
Florida Marine Research Institute
100 Eighth Avenue, SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5095

Vernon Minton
Alabama Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources
P.O. Drawer 458
Gulf Shores, AL 36547

Larry Nicholson
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
P.O. Box 7000
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Terry Stelly
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
100 Navigation Circle
Rockport, TX 77640

Gary Tilyou
Louisiana Department of Wildlife
and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Forrest Ware
Florida Game and Freshwater
Fish Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

PREFACE

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), through its TCC Anadromous Fish Subcommittee, developed and adopted an interstate fishery management plan (FMP) for striped bass in the Gulf of Mexico in 1986. Subsequently, cooperation among the states and the federal agencies has continued to grow, culminating in the development of a state-federal strategic plan for restoration of anadromous fish resources, primarily striped bass, in the Gulf of Mexico. Implementation of the strategic plan will significantly increase the quality and quantity of data and information regarding striped bass, thus improving restoration and management efforts.

Recognizing the need to assess the GSMFC interstate FMP for striped bass in relation to the current knowledge and understanding of the resource and the fishery, the GSMFC, through its TCC Anadromous Fish Subcommittee, has developed and adopted Amendment 1, contained in this document. Amendment 1 accomplishes three main goals:

1) Description and documentation of the administrative mechanism and the development and adoption process for GSMFC interstate FMPs

2) Establishment of uniform/compatible regulatory recommendations through which to manage the Gulf of Mexico striped bass fishery

3) Establishment of a detailed action plan for research and data collection for management of striped bass.

The numbering system for this document begins with 8.0. This was done to ensure that anyone using this document will recognize that Amendment 1 is intended to replace Section 8.0 in the original FMP document published in 1986. The GSMFC intends to readdress the entire FMP document at a later date.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

8.0 MANAGEMENT GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) was established by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Compact under Public Law 81-66 which was approved by Congress on May 19, 1949. Its charge is to promote the better management and utilization of anadromous and marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

The GSMFC is composed of three members from each of the five Gulf States. The head of the marine resource agency of each state, a member of the state legislature from each state, and a private citizen with knowledge of or an interest in marine fisheries who is appointed by the respective governor from each state constitute the fifteen commissioners who make up the primary administrative body of the GSMFC. The offices of chairman and first and second vice-chairman are rotated annually from state to state.

The GSMFC is empowered to recommend to the governor and legislature of the respective states action on programs which will positively impact the management of anadromous and marine fisheries. The states do not relinquish any of their rights or responsibilities to regulate their own fisheries by being active members of the GSMFC.

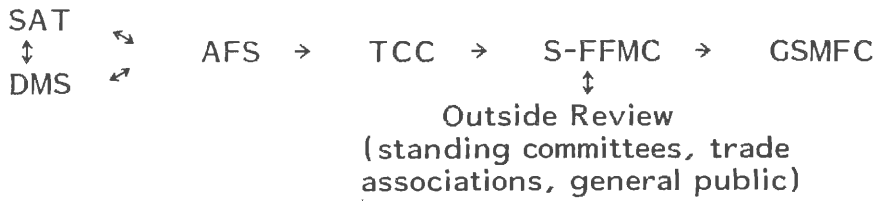
One of the most important functions of the GSMFC is to serve as a forum for the discussion of the various problems and needs of marine management authorities, the commercial and recreational fisheries industries, researchers and others. The GSMFC also plays a key role in the implementation of interstate fishery management plans (FMP).

The interstate FMPs are established to: (1) promote and encourage state activities in support of the management of interjurisdictional fishery resources and (2) promote and encourage management of interjurisdictional fishery resources throughout their range. Congress also authorized federal funding to support state research and management projects which are consistent with these purposes.

The GSMFC has initiated a process for the planning, development, and approval of an interstate FMP for striped bass. The interstate FMPs are patterned after those of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. This ensures compatibility in format and approach to management among states, federal agencies, and the Council.

The GSMFC established that the interstate FMP for striped bass would be developed by its TCC Anadromous Fish Subcommittee (AFS), a panel of experts from each state along with representation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The review and approval process established by the GSMFC is as follows:



AFS = Anadromous Fish Subcommittee
DMS = Data Management Subcommittee
GSMFC = Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
TCC = Technical Coordinating Committee
SAT = Stock Assessment Team
S-FFMC = State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee

Upon approval and adoption by the GSMFC, the interstate FMP is recommended to the individual states for their adoption and implementation. Regulatory recommendations are intended to have regional application; however, states may elect to implement regulations which are more restrictive if situations within the fishery warrant such action. Regulations which are less restrictive than regional recommendations are discouraged. Any updates or amendments to the interstate FMP for striped bass are accomplished through the same mechanism.

8.1 GOAL

The goal of this interstate FMP is to restore and maintain striped bass throughout the Gulf of Mexico region, and to establish self-sustaining populations of striped bass in at least ten coastal river systems.

8.2 MANAGEMENT UNIT

The management unit under this interstate FMP is striped bass (*Morone saxatilis* Walbaum).

8.3 MANAGEMENT AREA

The management area for this interstate FMP is the state jurisdictional waters of the Gulf of Mexico region, including the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida (west coast only).

8.4 MANAGEMENT MEASURES

8.4.1 Sale and/or Purchase

It is generally accepted that striped bass populations in the Gulf of Mexico region are in a state of severe decline, and that stocking efforts by the states and federal agencies are primarily responsible for those striped bass that occur. It is also thought that the abundance of striped bass in Gulf of Mexico waters is too low to support viable commercial harvest. Market recognition of striped bass in

the Gulf of Mexico region is low to non-existent, and commercial harvest of the species has not occurred since the 1930s in Texas and Florida and the 1960s in Alabama. Since current state laws for the Gulf of Mexico territorial sea prohibit the sale and/or purchase of striped bass harvested from public waters, it appears to be counter-productive to restoration goals to encourage the development of a commercial fishery for the species.

It is recommended that the sale and/or purchase of striped bass harvested from public waters be prohibited.

8.4.2 Bag Limits and Size Limits

While striped bass populations in the Gulf of Mexico are in a severe state of depletion and population recovery efforts are underway, historically anglers have not been severely restricted Gulf-wide from harvesting striped bass. There is a significant lack of data with which to justify appropriate bag and size limits; however, most fisheries managers acknowledge that some harvest restrictions are necessary. Age-length data are not available for striped bass in the Gulf of Mexico region, and conclusive age-at-maturity data are lacking as well; however it is thought that females do not reach spawning maturity until about four years of age, and males at two years of age. The recommended measure will increase the probability of more fish reaching a larger size, thus increasing the probability of a larger spawning stock, while still allowing some recreational harvest. Though data are not available to specifically support this conclusion, striped bass appear to occur in large aggregations, particularly in the early year classes. This, coupled with the aggressive nature of the species, indicates a high probability that a six (6) fish bag limit would be exceeded once an aggregation of fish were located by an angler. Anecdotal information indicates that individual daily catches of twenty (20) fish are not unusual once an aggregation of fish is located, especially in the warmer months when they aggregate in known thermal refuges. This led the State of Georgia to close the recreational fishery for striped bass during several months in the summer. It is believed that stress related mortality may increase with size thus indicating that fish above eighteen (18) inches may not survive hook and release activity. It is anticipated that study in this area will provide better data with which to address this issue. This size and bag limit recommendation is intended to serve as a general rule for the Gulf of Mexico region. States are encouraged to enact regulations which are more restrictive as appropriate based on the specific needs of the fishery within their jurisdiction. Implementation of the GSMFC strategic plan for restoration of striped bass will increase the quality and quantity of data available to make informed, data-based decisions.

A bag limit of six (6) fish per person per day with a minimum size limit of eighteen (18) inches total length is recommended.

8.4.3 Stocking

Stocking of striped bass in the Gulf of Mexico has been ongoing for many years. It is thought that occurrence of striped bass in most areas of the Gulf of Mexico region is attributable to stocking efforts. In an effort to enhance the probability of achieving restoration goals, stocking must continue. The GSMFC publication entitled "Habitat Criteria for Striped Bass Stocked in Rivers in the Northern Gulf of Mexico" will provide guidance for those habitat parameters necessary to enhance survival potential of stocked fish. Other factors affecting

rearing, handling, transport, and stocking of striped bass will be addressed as a part of the GSMFC strategic plan for restoration of striped bass. A document setting forth guidelines and standard practices for handling, transport, and stocking of striped bass will be developed and implemented in separate action by the GSMFC.

To support restoration needs, it is recommended that the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico region participate in the stocking of striped bass fry and/or fingerling in coastal areas on an annual basis, with the goal of ten million fish per year stocked with at least 500,000 being phase two fingerling.

8.5 RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT:

8.5.1 Fishery Dependent Data

Creel census data for striped bass along Gulf of Mexico river basins are limited, inconsistent, and not species directed. As striped bass restoration efforts increase across the region, a quantitative and standardized creel census program will be critical to the realization of goals/objectives and to measure progress.

8.5.1.1 Objective

Develop and implement a standardized creel census program for striped bass in selected Gulf of Mexico river basins.

8.5.1.2 Tasks

1. Select Creel Census Design
   Each state should identify and prioritize river basins for creel census surveys with ongoing striped bass restoration projects. Survey design should include annual/peak season estimates for harvest, effort, success, species composition, age structure, growth, recapture data for tagging projects and socio-economics of fishermen.
   - Product: Sampling Design

2. Implement Standardized Creel Census Programs
   Creel surveys will provide fisheries data for a region-wide database which will be utilized to measure striped bass restoration and management efforts in selected river basins throughout the Gulf of Mexico.
   - Product: Regional Data Base for Monitoring Restoration Efforts and Future Management Programs

3. Data Analysis and Reporting
   Data will be summarized and statistically analyzed to provide annual/peak season estimates for striped bass harvest, effort, and success in selected river basins.
   - Product: Annual and Completion Reports

8.5.2 Fishery Independent Data

There is a lack of a standardized fishery independent sampling program for striped bass along the coastal Gulf of Mexico. Such a sampling program should address age structure, condition, size of stock, and genetic composition of striped bass stocks. Additional information to evaluate survival, growth, and harvest of both stocked and naturally produced striped bass will be obtained. Present striped bass sampling by states across the Gulf is being conducted at various levels of effort. This Gulf-wide independent sampling program will allow states to both increase sampling effort and to use standardized procedures in documenting striped bass populations and recovery actions.

8.5.2.1 Objective

Evaluate striped bass age structure, condition, size of stock, and genetic composition in selected river and bay systems along the Gulf of Mexico.

8.5.2.2 Tasks

1. Select Sampling Design
   A standardized sampling program will provide information on age structure, condition, stock size, and genetic composition of striped bass in selected river basins.
   - Product: Sampling Design

2. Implement Standardize Fishery Independent Sampling Program
   Data resulting from the standardized fishery independent survey will provide fishery managers with the necessary information from which to make decisions regarding the restoration and maintenance of striped bass populations.
   - Product: Data Base

3. Analyze Data and Compile Report
   Data will be summarized and statistically analyzed to provide fishery independent information annually.
   - Product: Annual and Completion Reports

8.5.3 Tagging

A Gulf-wide, coordinated tagging program is presently lacking for both juvenile and adult striped bass. Such a program would provide critical information on distribution and movement patterns, as well as growth and other information necessary for proper management of the species.

8.5.3.1 Objective

Develop and coordinate a system of tagging and rewards for all Gulf States which would be ongoing and would provide information vital to a plan for management.

8.5.3.2 Tasks

1. Summarize Status and Coordination of Existing Tagging Programs
   Most Gulf States are tagging juvenile striped bass, but specifics of these programs are not well known from state to state. Description and coordination of these programs as well as dissemination of gained information will be summarized.
   - Product: Summary Report

2. Develop and Coordinate a Gulf-wide Tagging Program for Juvenile and Adult Striped Bass
   Use success and failure rate information from past and current tagging studies as criteria in establishing a Gulf-wide program.
   - Product: Data Base

3. Summarize Tag-Return Data and Publish in Annual and Summary Reports
   Analysis of tagging results should produce insights on strategy options especially concerning species management by geographic units.
   - Product: Annual Report, Summary Report

8.5.4 Thermal Habitat

Striped bass adults seek out cool water areas (thermal refuges) during warmer months and remain in them until water temperatures moderate. The size and location of thermal refuges in selected river basins are not known. This information would assist resource managers to: (1) determine if sufficient thermal refuges are present to sustain populations and (2) help prevent the loss of this critical habitat through changes caused by water control projects.

8.5.4.1 Objective

Identify and describe thermal refuges on selected river basins in the Gulf of Mexico region.

8.5.4.2 Tasks

1. Determine the Best Methods to Identify and Describe Thermal Refuges
   A review of previous studies and investigation of additional methods will be accomplished. Investigative techniques for selected river basins will be developed.
   - Product: Summary Report and Recommendations

2. Data Collection
   The recommendations in Task 1 will be carried out on selected river basins by the appropriate government agencies.
   - Product: Data Base

3. Data Analysis and Reporting
   Data will be analyzed to accomplish activity objectives. Summary and annual reports will detail the results of the activities and provide recommendations for enhancing and protecting thermal habitat.
   - Product: Annual Reports and a Summary Report

8.5.5 Spawning Habitat

All Gulf of Mexico states have either proof or strong indications of natural striped bass spawning. However, the identification and protection of spawning habitat is lacking. These actions are critical toward the restoration of striped bass.

8.5.5.1 Objective

Identify and quantify the spawning habitat in selected river basins in the Gulf of Mexico region.

8.5.5.2 Tasks

1. Determine the Best Methods to Identify and Quantify Spawning Habitat
   A review of the literature will be conducted which will assist in the formulation of appropriate investigative techniques to identify and quantify the spawning habitat for selected river basins.
   - Product: Summary Report and Recommended Study Design

2. Data Collection
   The recommendations made in Task 1 will be carried out on selected river basins by the appropriate government agencies.
   - Product: Data Base

3. Data Analysis and Reporting
   Data will be analyzed to accomplish activity objectives. Summary and annual reports will detail the results of activities and provide recommendations for enhancing and protecting spawning habitat.
   - Product: Annual Report and a Summary Report

8.5.6 Nursery Habitat

If striped bass are successful in spawning, nursery habitats become critical. Identifying, protecting, and enhancing these areas is a critical step in restoring striped bass.

8.5.6.1 Objective

Identify and quantify nursery habitats in selected river basins in the Gulf of Mexico region.

8.5.6.2 Tasks

1. Determine the Best Methods to Identify and Quantify Nursery Habitat
   A review of the literature will be conducted which will assist in the formulation of appropriate investigative techniques to identify and quantify the nursery habitat for selected river basins.
   - Product: Summary Report and Recommendations

2. Data Collection Phase of Research Project
   The recommendations made in Task 1 will be carried out on selected river basins by the appropriate government agencies.
   - Product: Data Base

3. Data Analysis and Reporting
Data will be analyzed to accomplish activity objectives. Summary and annual reports will detail the results of activities and provide recommendations for enhancing and protecting nursery habitat.
- Product: Annual Reports and a Summary Report

8.5.7 Habitat Assessment

Activities under 8.5.4, 8.5.5, and 8.5.6 will identify and quantify three habitats that may potentially limit the population of striped bass in individual river basins. Activities under Section 8.5.7 will compare these habitats and determine the limiting habitat in selected river basins. With this information, managers can identify existing and potential habitat degradation and loss threats to striped bass populations.

8.5.7.1 Objective

Identify limiting habitats for selected river basins and identify existing and potential habitat degradation and loss threats.

8.5.7.2 Tasks

1. Identify Limiting Habitats For Selected River Basins
Information on thermal refuges and spawning and nursery habitats on selected river basins, gained through Tasks 8.5.4, 8.5.5, and 8.5.6 will be compared. The results of that effort will indicate which of the identified habitats (if any) is limiting to the success of striped bass populations.
- Product: Report Identifying Limiting Habitat Areas

2. Notify Appropriate Agencies as to the Importance of Limiting Habitats
Each state has several agencies, both state and federal, which review projects that may adversely affect striped bass habitat. When it is determined that a particular habitat area along selected rivers is critical to striped bass populations, the information should be relayed to the appropriate agencies. Projects in river basins should be reviewed to determine if they will adversely impact critical striped bass habitats.
- Product: Letters of Notification and Distribution of Report

8.5.8 Fish Stocking Strategies

Optimum stocking strategies are needed to economically facilitate the successful reestablishment of striped bass in various aquatic habitats along the Gulf of Mexico. Standardized stocking strategies must be developed for selected river basins and other management units throughout the historical range of striped bass in the Gulf of Mexico.

8.5.8.1 Objective

Prepare striped bass stocking protocols and standards for implementation by state fishery agencies and federal cooperators to restore and/or maintain striped bass populations in selected river basins throughout their historical range along the Gulf of Mexico.

1. Biological Standards for Stocked Striped Bass
   - Genetic composition
   - Body condition
   - Length at stocking
   - Stocking frequency
   - Stocking density
   - Time of year stocked
   - Expected mortality rates by size of stocked fish

2. Standards for Stocking Striped Bass
   - Harvest from aquaculture facilities
     - Timeliness
     - Scheduling
   - Transportation/stocking
     - Time of day stocked
     - Characteristics of hauling/receiving waters (salinity, hauling time, conductivity, treatment, oxygen, temperature, pH)
     - Location of stocking (open water, vegetated water; lentic, lotic environments)
     - Techniques for physically handling fish as they are stocked

3. Habitat Standards and Characteristics of Receiving Waters
   - Physical and chemical characteristics
   - Contaminants
   - Water flow
   - Thermal requirements
   - Food availability

4. Methods of Measuring Stocking Success or Failure
   - Growth/reproduction
   - Catch (hours, pounds, numbers)
   - Impact on existing aquatic community

8.5.8.2 Tasks

1. Review of Scientific Literature
   Conduct a review of scientific literature and a survey of the Gulf of Mexico state fishery agencies and cooperating federal agencies to determine desired and limiting standards and practices used to insure that healthy striped bass are stocked into suitable habitats.
   - Product: Data Base/Preliminary Report

2. Develop Stocking Guidelines
   Analyze data and prepare draft guidelines that provide the desired and limiting practices and standards necessary to insure that healthy striped bass are stocked into suitable habitats.
   - Product: Draft Guidelines

3. Develop Stocking Principles and Standards
   Publish a technical report on striped bass stocking principles and standards to assist state fishery agencies and federal cooperators in achieving conservation and management goals for restoring and maintaining striped bass populations. The publication will include stocking strategies and guidelines.

- Product: Published "Guidelines for Stocking Striped Bass in Selected Areas of the Gulf of Mexico"

4. Annual Review of Stocking Guidelines
   Annually revise the striped bass stocking guidelines by conducting surveys of new scientific literature and by analyzing stocking results. Modifications necessary to facilitate the cooperative striped bass restoration program will be documented.
   - Product: Technical Report

5. Survey of Hatchery and Brood Fish Production Capabilities
   Develop and implement a survey to determine current and potential hatchery and brood fish production capabilities of state and federal facilities.
   - Product: Summary Report

8.5.9 Habitat Restoration

The Water Resources Act of 1986 authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to pursue environmental enhancement projects in conjunction with existing federal water projects. In addition, the Corps has recently issued a policy directive to provide for coordination with appropriate state and other federal agencies to develop environmental projects which would mitigate, enhance, or replace fish and wildlife habitats that have been altered or destroyed by existing federal water development projects.

8.5.9.1 Objective

Design and pursue implementation of habitat improvement/creation projects on selected rivers along the Gulf. The projects would mitigate and/or enhance anadromous fish habitats altered by federal water development projects.

8.5.9.2 Tasks

1. Identify Ongoing Corps Projects
   A request will be made of each Corps District Office in the Gulf of Mexico region to provide information on ongoing initiatives relative to new environmental policies within the Corps.
   - Product: Report

2. Select and Prioritize Potential Sites for Habitat Improvement/Creation Projects
   The states and federal cooperators will be asked to identify potential habitat improvement/creation projects which will be prioritized and recommended to the Corps for implementation.
   - Product: Report and Recommendations to the Corps

3. Implement the Highest Priority Projects
   The states and federal cooperators will assist the Corps in implementing and monitoring the highest priority projects for which funding can be secured.
   - Product: Report on Habitat Improvement/Creation Projects

8.5.10 Species Competition

Species competition of striped bass and associated finfish species is not well understood. As the density of striped bass increases in any given river basin, the potential for competition with other fish species increases.

8.5.10.1 Objective

Evaluate species competition on selected river basins in the Gulf of Mexico region.

8.5.10.2 Tasks

1. Evaluate Existing Data and Identify Potential Problems
   Existing information will be used to establish potential problems regarding species competition.
   - Product: Accomplished under 8.5.1

2. Develop Special Studies as Needed
   Information from existing programs and 8.5.1 will be monitored by the GSMFC TCC Anadromous Fish Subcommittee to determine if problems related to competition may exist. Special studies will then be designed and implemented to address such problems.
   - Product: Special Report

8.5.11 Bycatch

Incidental harvest (bycatch) of striped bass associated with other directed fisheries is not documented or well understood.

8.5.11.1 Objective

Design and implement a study to assess the magnitude and impact of the incidental harvest of striped bass on selected river basins in the Gulf of Mexico.

8.5.11.2 Tasks

1. Assess the Magnitude of Bycatch
   Through activities related to Sections 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.5.3, and other sources, assess the frequency and magnitude of the incidental catch (bycatch) of striped bass in other directed fisheries.
   - Product: Special Report

8.5.12 Information and Education Program

Information and education programs are not coordinated across the Gulf of Mexico. Moreover, those that do exist are not aimed at anadromous fisheries. Anadromous fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico have severely declined in past years, therefore, general public awareness of those foregone fishing opportunities and problems which exist is lacking.

8.5.12.1 Objective

Develop and implement a Gulf-wide coordinated information and education program element for striped bass and other anadromous fish species in cooperation with existing programs.

8.5.12.2 Tasks

1. Inventory and Profile All Existing Information and Education Programs, Both on the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts
   Each state and most federal agencies have existing information and education programs. An inventory and profile of these programs would identify the most efficient mechanism by which to introduce anadromous fish program information into the current system.
   - Product: Report

2. Improve Communication and Coordination Through Periodic Newsletter Production and Distribution
   Of vital importance to the success of any multidisciplinary/ multiagency program is an effective mechanism for communication and coordination. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission will serve to coordinate activities and will maintain effective communication through the development and distribution of a newsletter specific to the program.
   - Product: Periodic Newsletter

3. Development and Production of Educational and Promotional Materials
   The success of any fishery restoration effort is dependent upon public awareness of not only the fish populations themselves but also the importance of state and federal involvement through development and implementation of management actions. Compliance with catch restrictions must be high in order to produce positive results.
   - Product: Brochures, Posters, Radio Spots, and Videos

8.5.13 Coordinated Management Strategies

The five Gulf States have used stocking and regulations for striped bass management since the late 1960s. These states also periodically have conducted various population and habitat studies to evaluate management practices and find additional ways to enhance striped bass restoration. Despite mutual concerns, management strategies differ and coordinated approaches are limited.

8.5.13.1 Objective

Identify, prioritize, and coordinate management strategies for striped bass in the Gulf coast region.

8.5.13.2 Tasks

1. Hold Annual Workshop to Document Progress and Identify Future Needs and Amend Annual Work Plan
   All Gulf States have ongoing management and field research projects. An annual workshop will permit key workers to meet, exchange information, collate interim results, and make adjustments in activities as needed.

- Product: Progress Reports

2. Develop Recommendations for Management Actions
All identified activities will, in addition to providing new information, provide a means of continued evaluation of ongoing management by the states. All information will be used to develop management recommendations for specific coastal river systems. Because it usually takes a number of years before the effects of a management action can be detected and measured, management recommendations will include plans for evaluation in ensuing years.
- Product: Report - Management Plan

8.5.14 Program Coordination

Any multistate/multiagency program must have formal provisions for coordination of the various activities which will be ongoing.

8.5.14.1 Objective

Provide the vehicle through which coordination of the Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan will be accomplished.

8.5.14.2 Tasks

1. Meeting Logistics, Travel, and Information Coordination
The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission will coordinate meeting logistics and planning, travel, and information production and distribution related to implementation of the Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan.
- Product: Meeting Minutes, Proceedings, and Reports

2. Coordination With Other Agencies
The state-federal cooperative program funds will be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Southeast Regional Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service will also cooperate regarding planning and implementation of tasks.
- Product: Annual Report on Coordination Activities within NMFS