



National Fish Habitat Partnership Science and Data Committee Update

Gary E. Whelan and Peter Ruhl
NFHP Science and Data Committee Co-Chairs
March 2017





SDC Workplan

- Project Tracking Database (Priority Q)
 - Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- NFHP Outreach (Priority R)
 - OMNR
 - NAWNRC and AFWA
 - USFS
- Assessment (Priority O)
 - Permanent waters
 - AK methodology
 - FHP requests
 - Reservoir FHP
 - LCC Blueprint with SARP
 - Trout Analysis



SDC Workplan

- Assessment (Priority O)
 - Migratory fishes
 - Metadata
 - Preparing to move to NHD+V2.1 and beyond
 - Improved data products
 - Assessment outreach and training
 - Data delivery
 - PMEP and SARP (water withdrawal)
 - USGS Ecosystem staff
 - Iowa State University
 - VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
 - University of Washington
 - State of Wisconsin
 - BOKU, Vienna, Austria.



SDC Workplan

- Improving NFHP Data System (Priority S)
 - USGS – CSAS&L, MSU and NOAA
- Assessment Planning (Priority P)
 - Board Assignment for Vision and Purpose Document
 - Implementation Options
 - Supported by multiple surveys and webinar(s) input



<http://assessment.fishhabitat.org/>

THROUGH A FISH'S EYE: THE STATUS OF THE FISH HABITATS IN THE UNITED STATES 2015

This report summarizes the results of an unprecedented nationwide assessment of human effects on fish habitat in the rivers and estuaries of the United States. The assessment assigns a risk of current habitat degradation scores for watersheds and estuaries across the nation and within 14 sub-regions. The results also identify some of the major sources of habitat degradation.

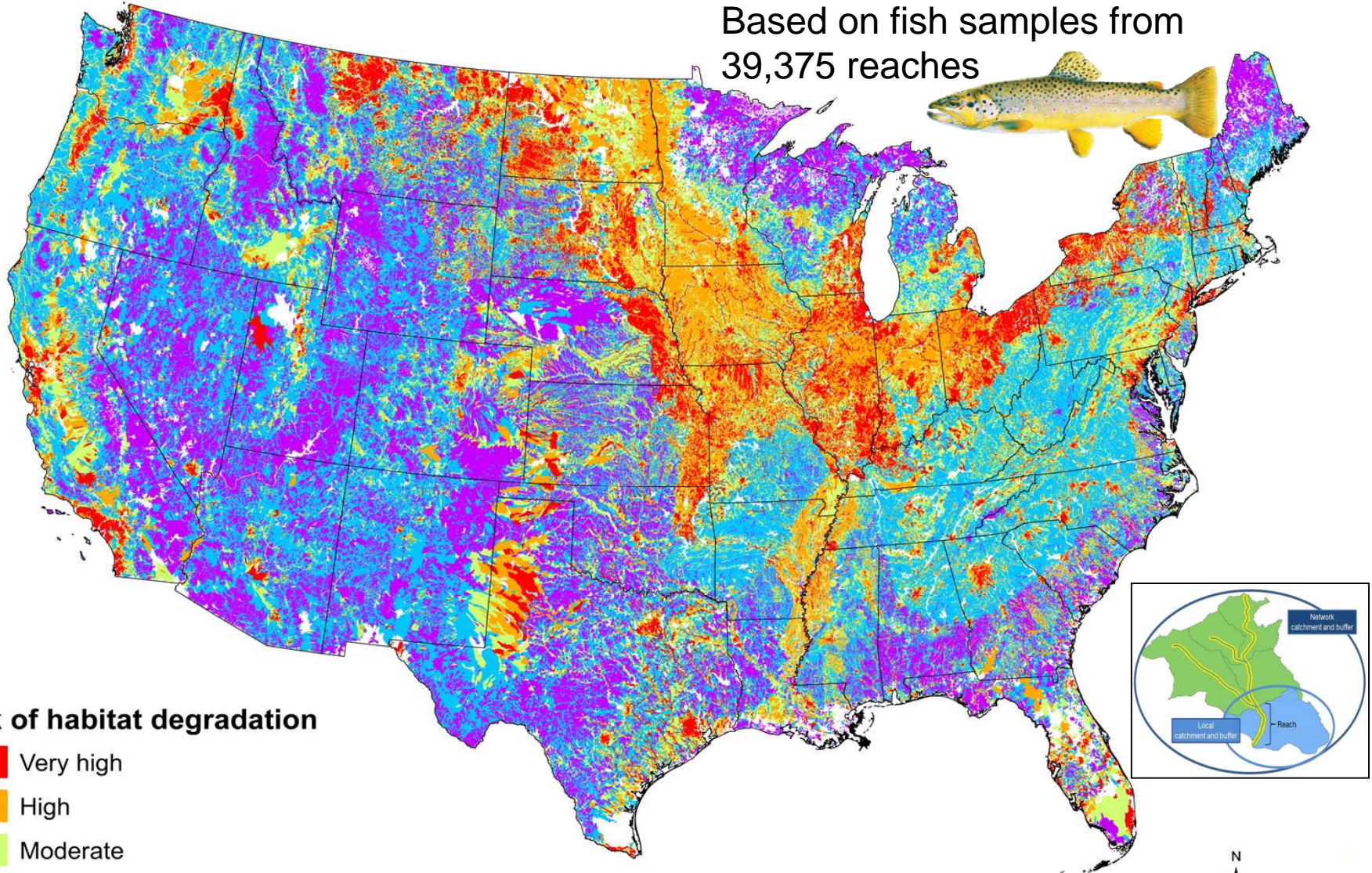
Navigate this report by:

Report Content ▾

Region of Interest ▾

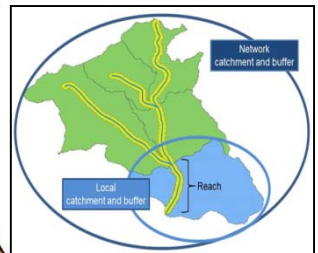
2015 ASSESSMENT OF STREAM FISH HABITATS FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES – All Streams (NHD+V1)

Based on fish samples from
39,375 reaches

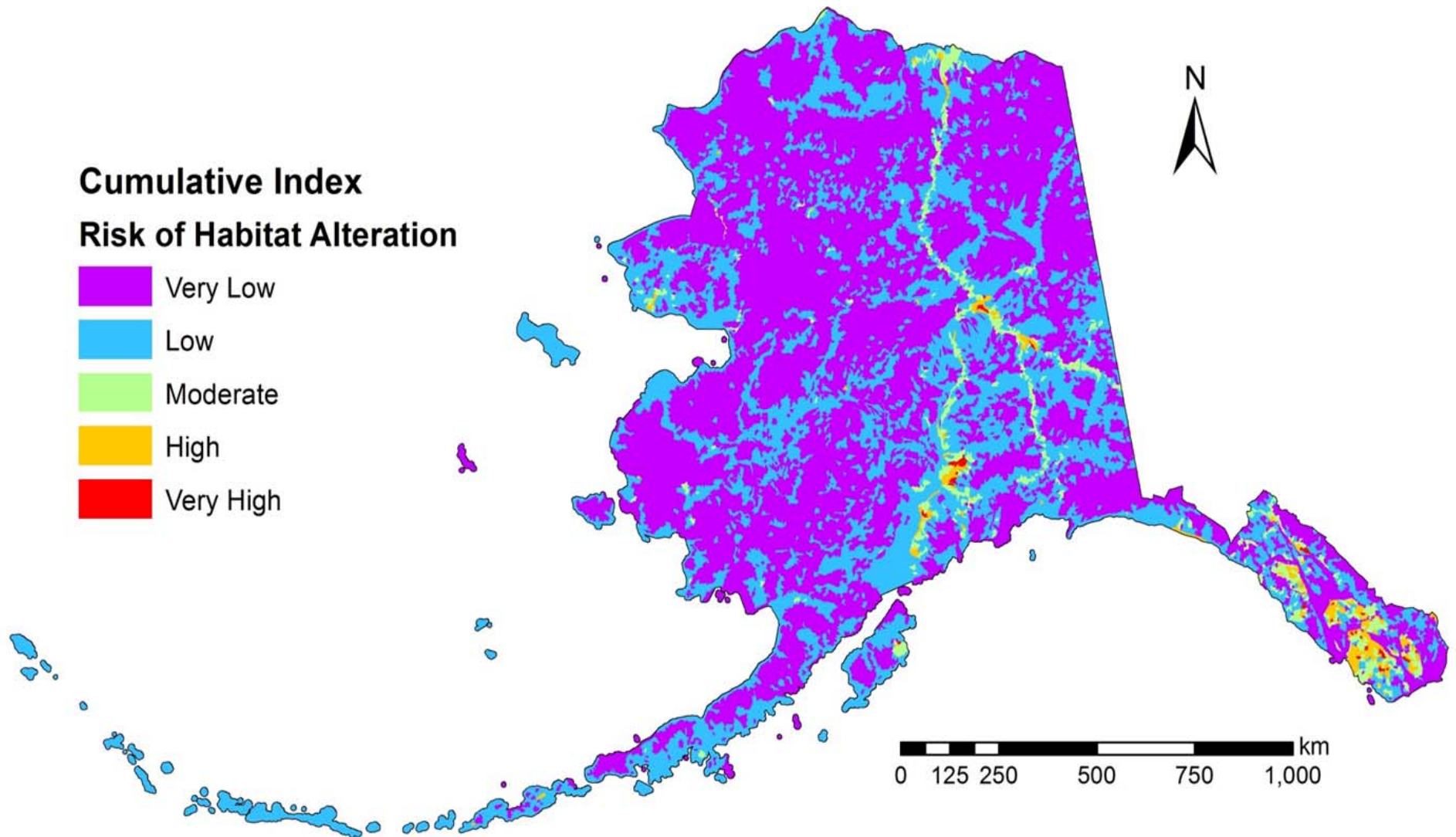


Risk of habitat degradation

-  Very high
-  High
-  Moderate
-  Low
-  Very Low



2015 ASSESSMENT OF STREAM FISH HABITATS FOR ALASKA



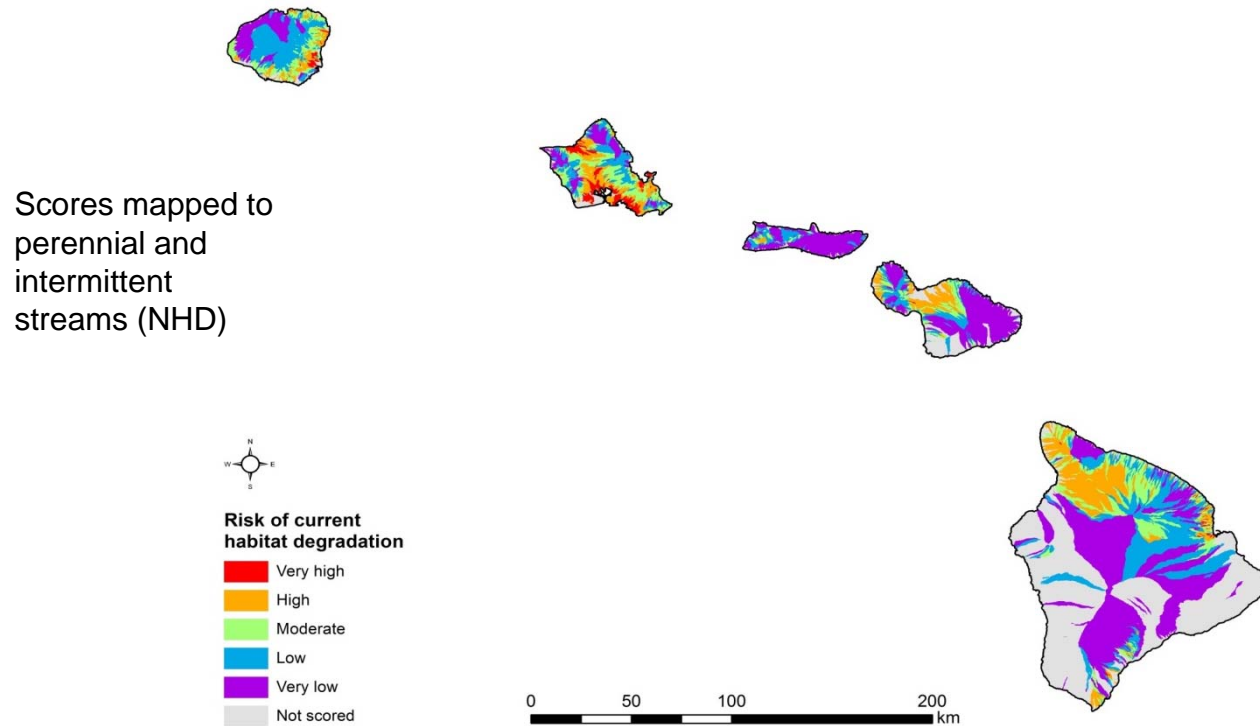
Cumulative Index

Risk of Habitat Alteration

- Very Low
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High

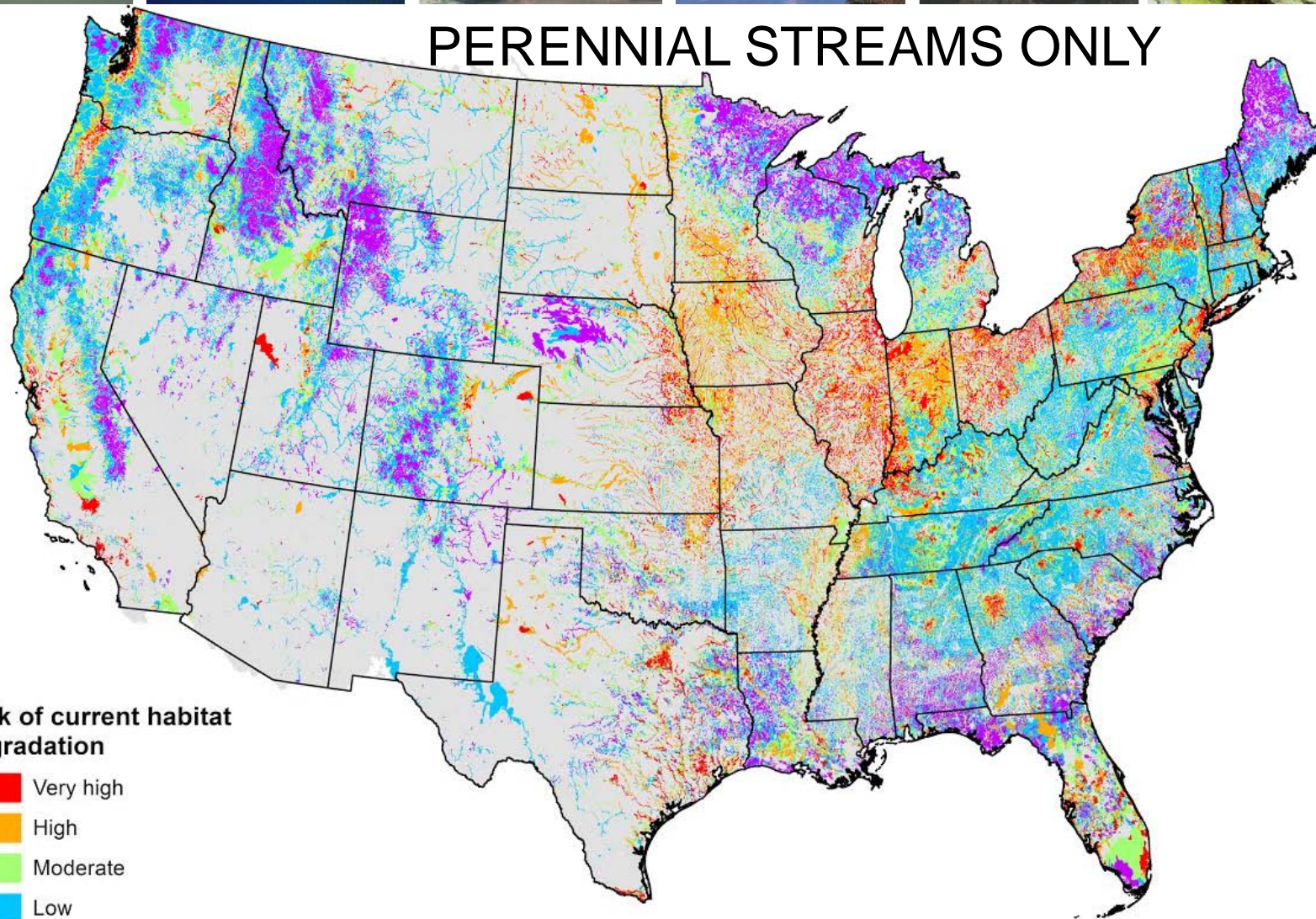


2015 ASSESSMENT OF STREAM FISH HABITATS FOR HAWAII





PERENNIAL STREAMS ONLY



Risk of current habitat degradation

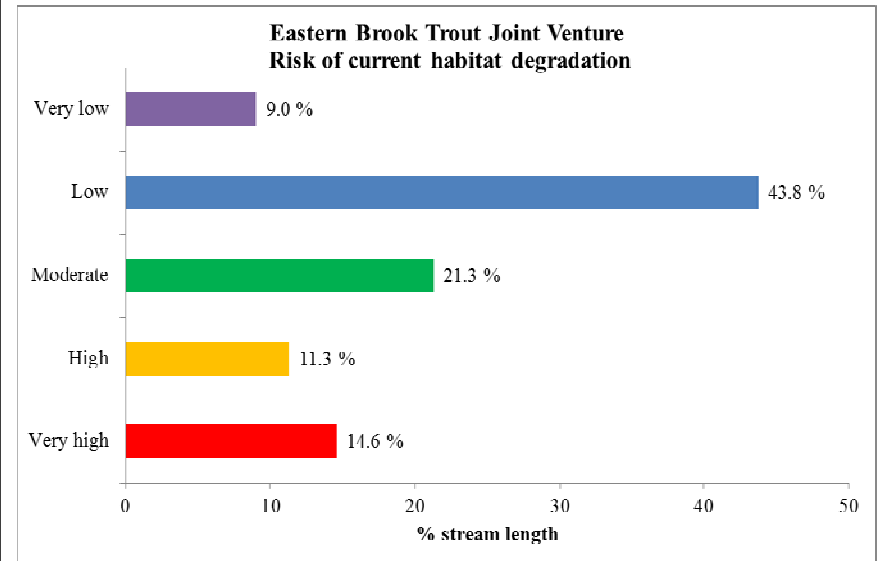
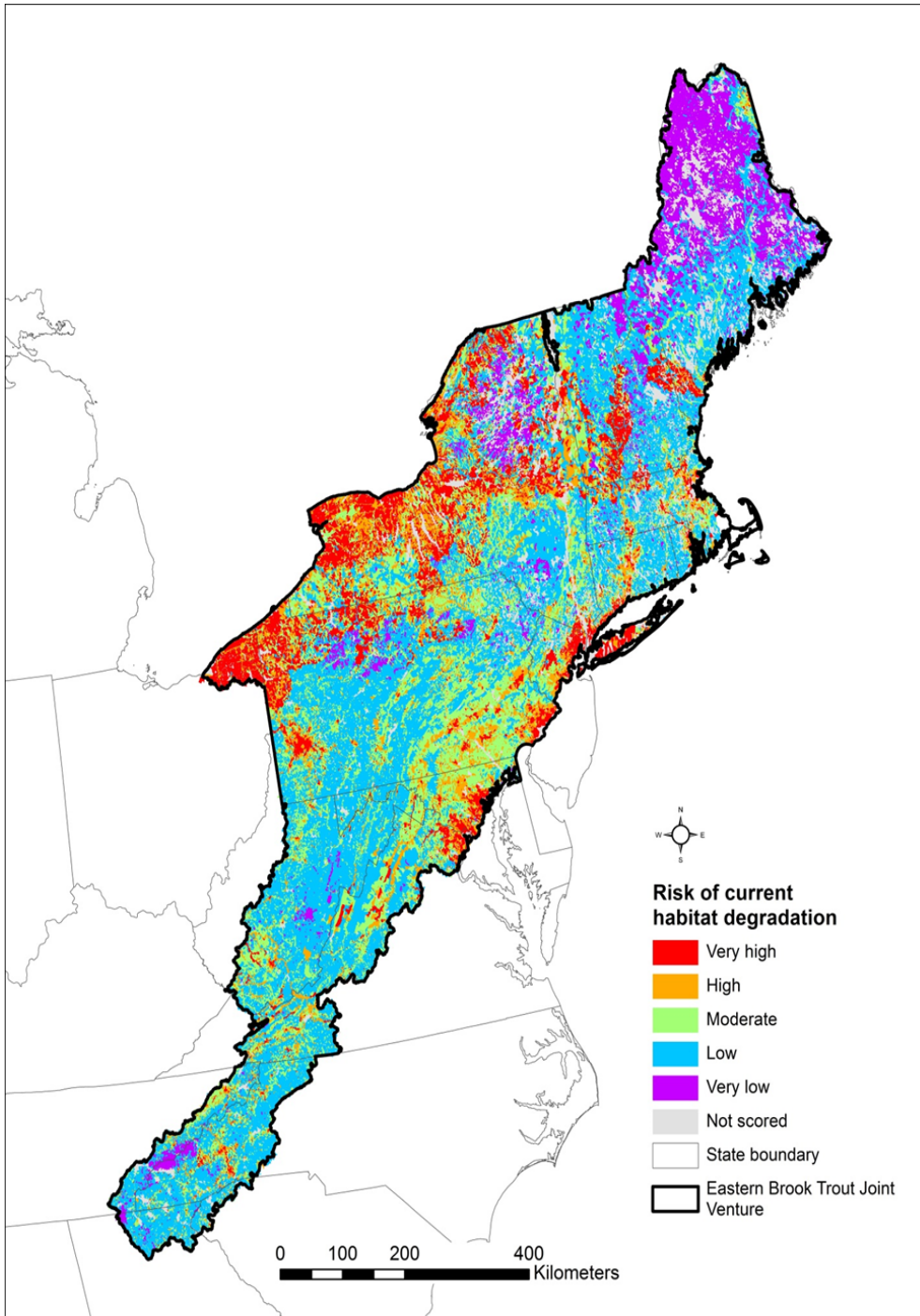
-  Very high
-  High
-  Moderate
-  Low
-  Very low
-  Not scored



EASTERN BROOK TROUT JOINT VENTURE

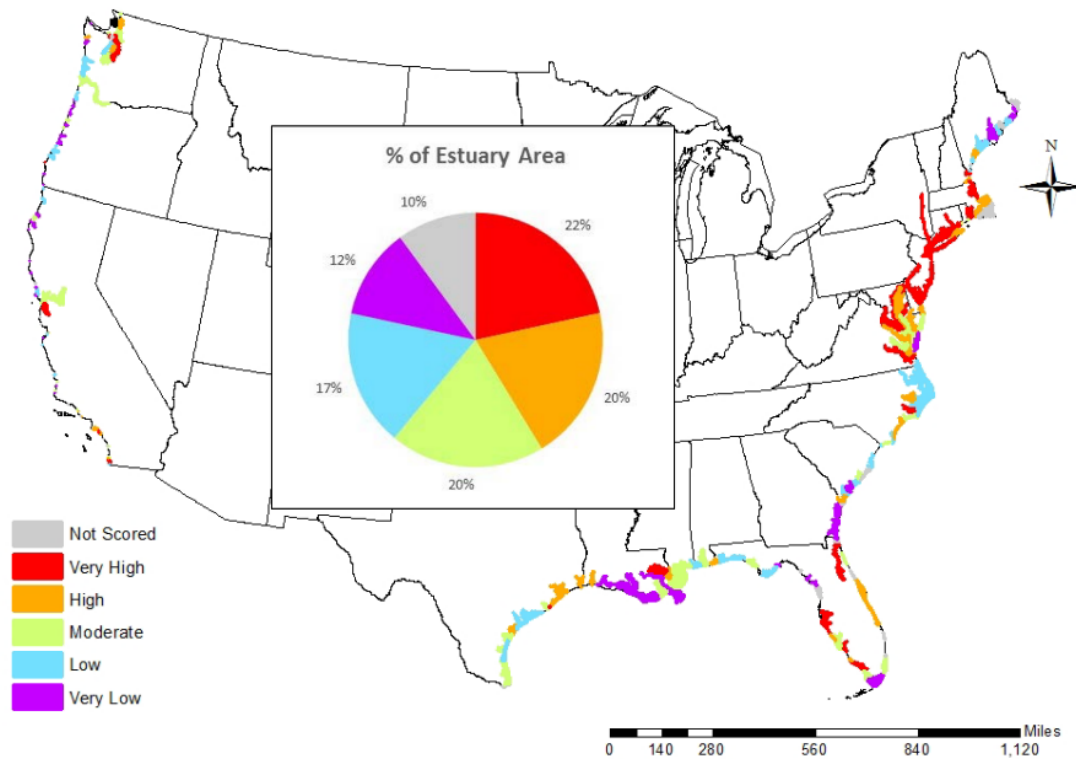


Eastern Brook Trout
JOINT VENTURE
A Fish Habitat Partnership





Estuary Assessment



NOAA FISHERIES

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | NOAA Fisheries | Page 16

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP



Assessment Vision and Purpose

- Board Assignment for Vision and Purpose Document
 - Strategic Vision and Plan
 - The Board is requested to approve the Draft Vision and Purpose Document for the National Fish Habitat Assessment by a Board motion.



Assessment Implementation

- Four Options
 - Similar Assessment to 2015
 - National Assessment with key national variables, regional coastal and FHP focus
 - National Assessment with FHP focus
 - Data Warehouse



Option 1 – Similar Approach to 2015

- National Fish Habitat Assessment Report by 2021
- FHP Training and Workshops
- Inland – MSU with USFWS Support
 - Refined analytical approach
 - Updated existing and additional new data layers
 - Improved mapping data for US and AK
 - Fish based analysis for AK and HI
 - Hydrology and connectivity incorporated
 - Lakes and reservoirs fully integrated
 - Linked inland and estuary scores
 - Chapters with selected FHP analyses
 - Habitat condition changes



Option 1 – Similar Approach to 2015

- Coastal – NOAA
 - All lower 48 coasts with fish based analysis
 - HI and AK coasts included if resources available
 - Great Lakes habitat fully assessed



Option 2 – National Assessment with Regional Components

- National Fish Habitat Assessment Report by 2021
- FHP Training and Workshops
- Inland – MSU with USFWS Support
 - No changes in analytical approach
 - Updated existing and additional new data layers for FHPs
 - Improved mapping data for US and AK
 - Fish based analysis for AK and HI if resources available
 - Hydrology and connectivity incorporated
 - Lakes and reservoirs integrated if resources available
 - Focused assessments for FHPs
 - Habitat condition changes



Option 2 – National Assessment with Regional Components

- Coastal – Regional Fishery Management Councils with NOAA support
 - Collaborative approach with Councils and affected Commissions and FHPs
 - Regional based analyses using nationally comparable fish-based approaches for lower 48 states
 - Essential Fish Habitat emphasis
 - HI and AK coasts included if resources available
 - Great Lakes habitat analysis if available



Option 3 – Limited National Assessment with Regional Components

- National Fish Habitat Assessment Report by 2021
- FHP Training and Workshops
- Inland – MSU with USFWS Support
 - No changes in analytical approach
 - Updated existing data layers and data provided for FHPs
 - Improved mapping data for US and AK
 - Fish based analysis for AK and HI if resources available
 - FHP data included and focused assessments for selected FHP variables
 - Habitat condition changes



Option 3 – Limited National Assessment with Regional Components

- Coastal – Regional Fishery Management Councils or NOAA
 - More limited national analysis with same analytical approach across lower 48 states
 - Existing updated data used and more fish data added
 - Updated existing data layers and data provided for FHPs
 - FHP data included and focused assessments for selected FHP variables
 - Other analyses if resources available
 - HI and AK coasts
 - Great Lakes habitat analysis



Option 4 – Data Warehouse

- No 2021 report or additional training on National Fish Habitat Assessment
- Updated existing data layers
- Maintain and provide needed national information for FHPs.



Board Decision on Assessment Implement

- The Board is requested to approve preferred Implementation Option 2 for the 2021 Assessment by a Board motion to include a request to USFWS and NOAA to continue their present level of support for this key science work.



Thank You!

Gary E. Whelan

Michigan DNR

whelang@michigan.gov

517-284-5840



Visit www.fishhabitat.org
for more information

