Developing USGS Support For Fish Habitat Partnerships through the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Rachel Muir
USGS Northeast Area

Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee Meeting
May 24-25, 2010
St. Petersburg, FL
Habitat is for everyone -- Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle (threatened status under ESA) -- Beach habitat – good for fish too!
Status and Update

- USGS Support to the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs)
  - North Atlantic LCC (initiated 2010 – lead -- USFWS)
  - South Atlantic LCC (initiated 2010 – lead – USFWS)
  - Appalachian LCC (initiated 2011 – lead – USFWS planning stage)
- DOI Regional Climate Change Science Centers – (RCCSC) -- Status
- USGS Re-Organization & Fish Habitat Partnerships
USGS Support to LCCs

- 2010 Budget has $5 million to support LCCs;
- For the 8 LCCs to be put in place in 2010, USGS is providing 2 RGE level scientists to support each;
- Funds have been allocated to Leetown Science Center for North Atlantic LCC; to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center for South Atlantic;
- Remaining funds to an internal USGS competitive grant process; pre-proposals accepted in 2/10.
How will USGS Support LCCs?

- **USGS Commitments to LCCs:**
  - Respond to Partner Needs
    - Research & Modeling
    - Adaptive Response Forecasts
    - Develop Monitoring Protocols
    - Multi-Disciplinary

- **USGS Benefits from LCC Partnership**
  - Direct and Strengthen science capacity
  - Builds traditional strengths
  - Partners with other Expertise
  - Leverages Resources
DOI Climate Science Centers

- University Based
- Competitive Process
- 3+ RCCRC Funded in FY 2010
- Program Announcement in May 2010 --

- Staffing – Director/Coordinator, Ecologists,
  - Modelers, Climate Scientists, Population Biologists (?),
  - Hydrologists (?), Sociologists (?)
NCCWSC APPROACH

Use GCM's Downscaling & Develop Derivatives

Ecosystem Response & Forecasting

Regional Habitat & Population Response

DOI CSC’s

Forecasting Habitat & Species Response
- Food
- Habitat
- Recruitment

LCC’s

Adaptive Management & Monitoring
Site Specific Species or Populations Response
USGS Regional Organization
Conservation Challenge

- Forecasting potential effects of climate change on fish, wildlife, and their habitat to inform management and conservation actions
- For most species of fish and wildlife, little is known about effects of climate change:
  - Physiological ranges
  - Impacts on character and distribution of habitats
  - Changes in distribution, abundance and survival
Organization and Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Liaison primarily with Region and Regional Science Officers
  - ACFHP – Rachel Muir (Northeast)
  - SARP – Sonya Jones, (SE) and Allison Shipp (South Central)
  - Brook Trout – Rachel Muir, (Northeast)

- Objectives:
  - Connect with full range of USGS capabilities
  - Increase direct involvement of agency scientists
  - Initiate direct and coordinated research for Partnerships through direct involvement and LCCs.
Fisheries: Aquatic & Endangered Resources
Acting Program Coordinator: Robin Schrock – priorities for Program

Provide scientific information on fishes, fisheries, aquatic organisms, aquatic communities, and aquatic habitats

- National Assessments – NFHAP & WaterSMART
- Fish Passage Research & Technology – USGS, USACE, BOR
- Vulnerability Assessments – Fisheries and Aquatic Communities
PARDON OUR DUST!
Under Construction!

- Rapid changes in our organization
- Building LCCs and Climate Centers and new institutional frameworks
- Assure that Fish Habitat Partnerships are full partners in this process.
Thank You – Questions? – Don’t Clam Up!