

# Snapshot of Georgia Marine Life\*



\* Not all inclusive!

# Coastal Georgia:

- 100 miles of sand beaches
- 14 barrier islands
- 300 square miles of open Atlantic Ocean
- 9 major estuaries



An aerial photograph of a vast tidal marsh. The landscape is a complex network of winding waterways, likely creeks or channels, that meander through a flat, brownish-green terrain. The water is a light blue-grey color, contrasting with the surrounding marshland. The marsh appears to be a mix of open water and low-lying vegetation. In the far distance, a thin line of trees or a horizon line is visible under a pale sky.

# Vast Tidelands

**3,400 miles of tidal shoreline**

**368,000 acres of estuarine  
tidal marsh**

**150,000 acres of open water**

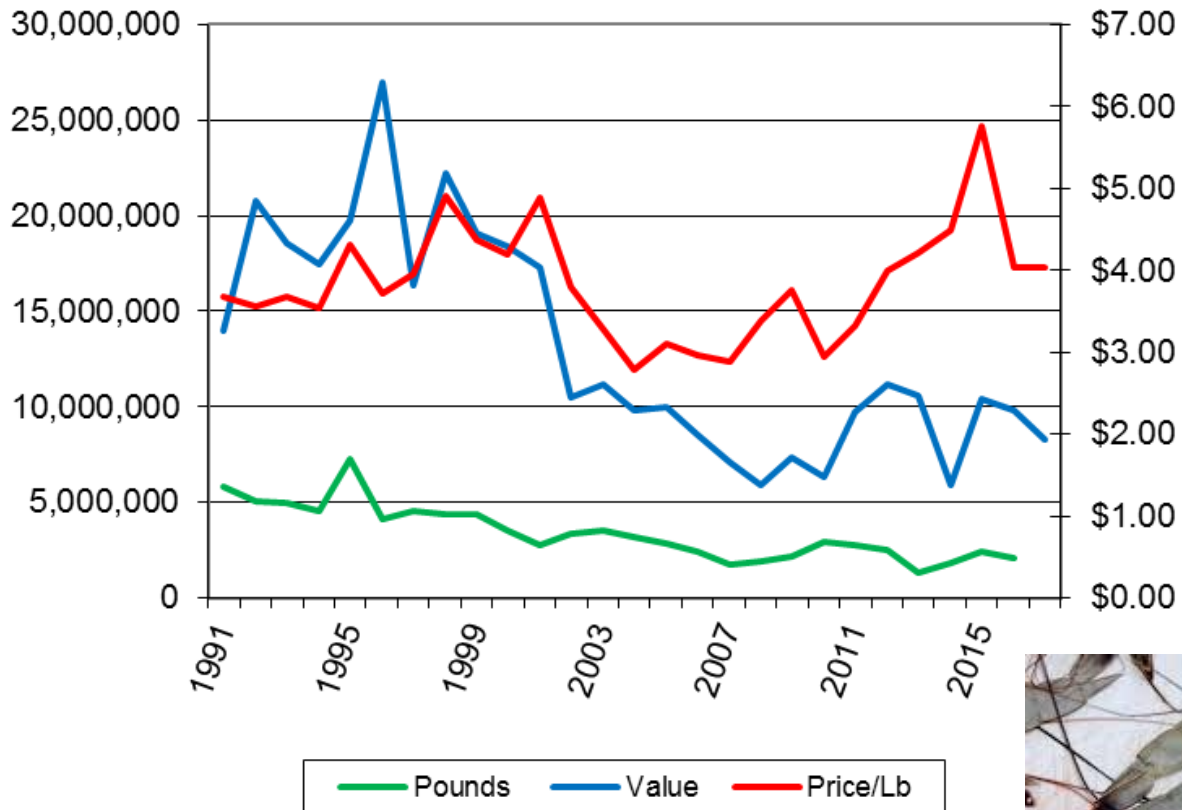
# Georgia's Commercial Fishery



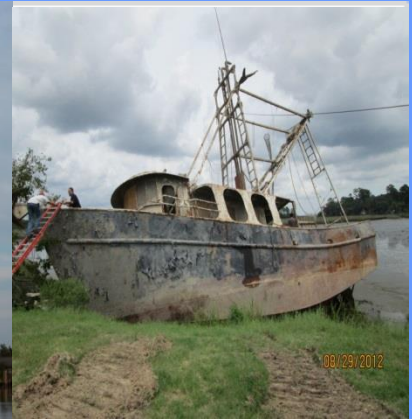
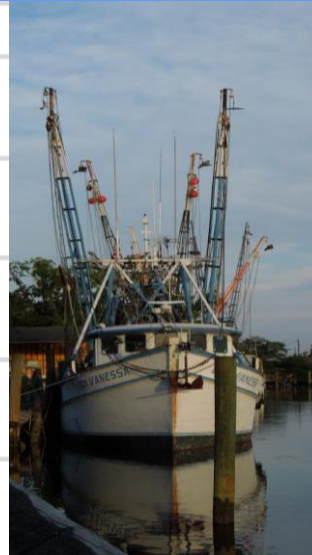
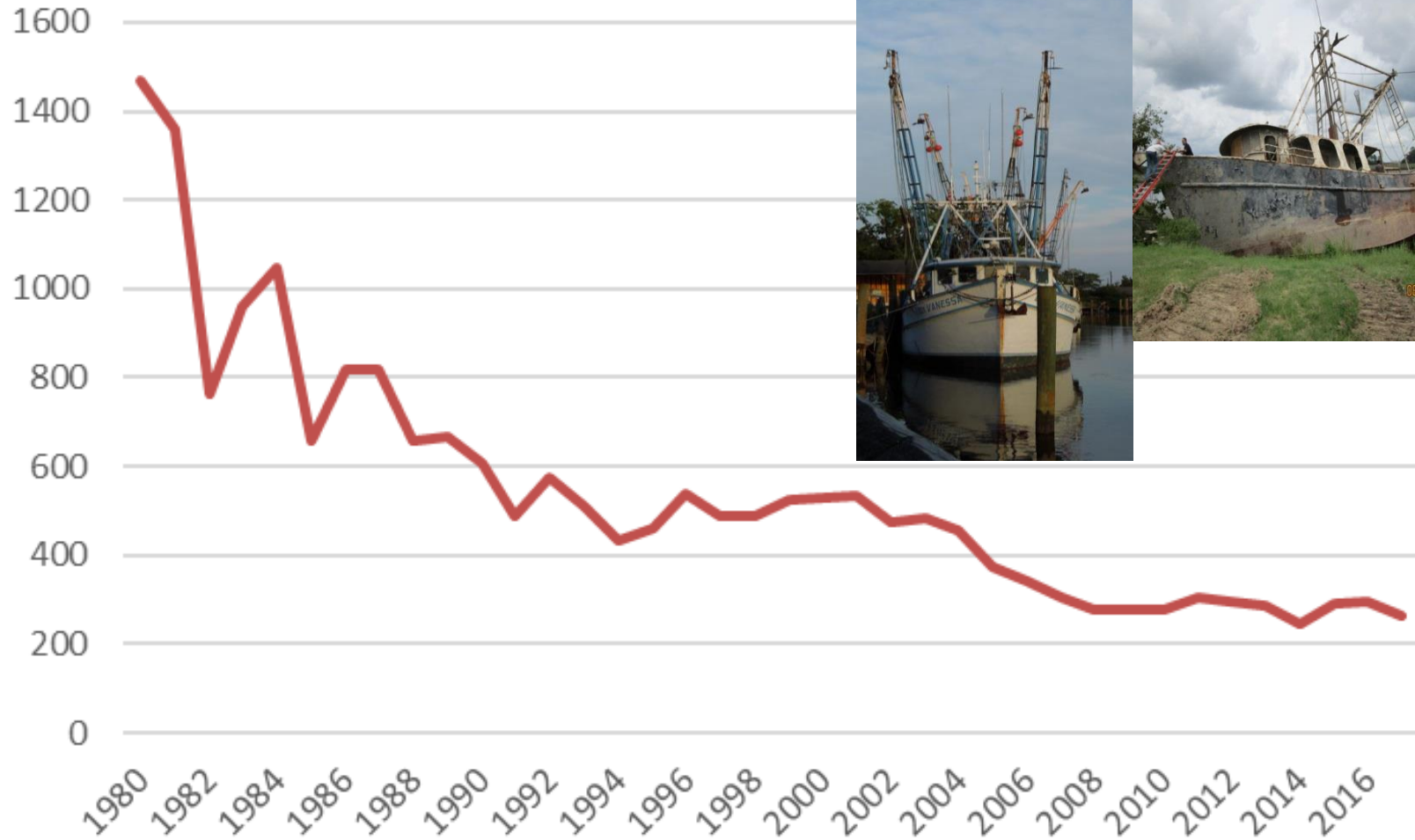
Ex-vessel value: \$15 million  
Economic impact: \$40 million



# Food Shrimp Production



# Trawler License Sales



# FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS EAT IMPORTED SHRIMP

Counter Card



Window Cling



Packaging Sticker

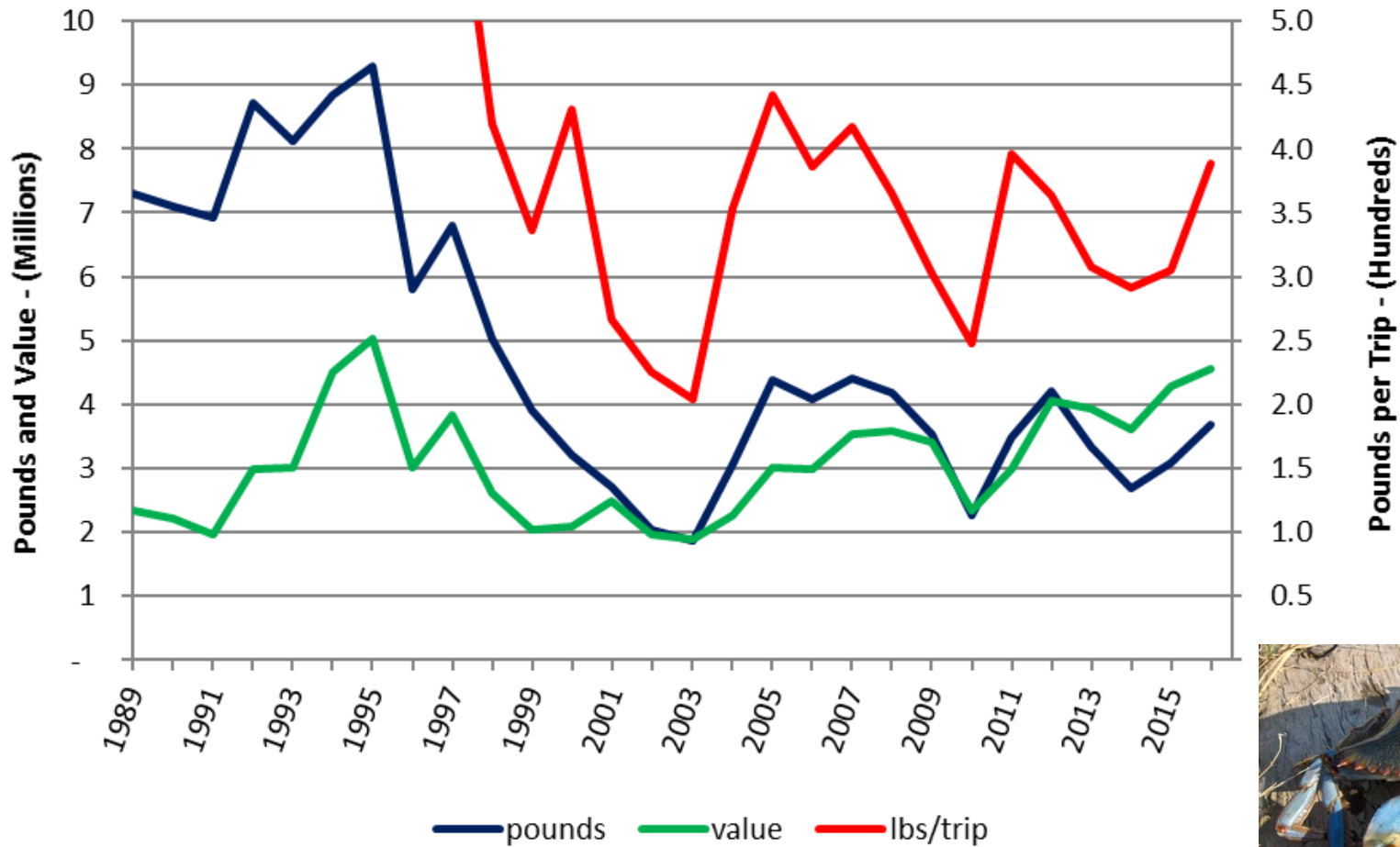




# Blue Crab Fishery



# Blue Crab Landings and Effort



# Shellfish Fishery



# Shellfish Fishery

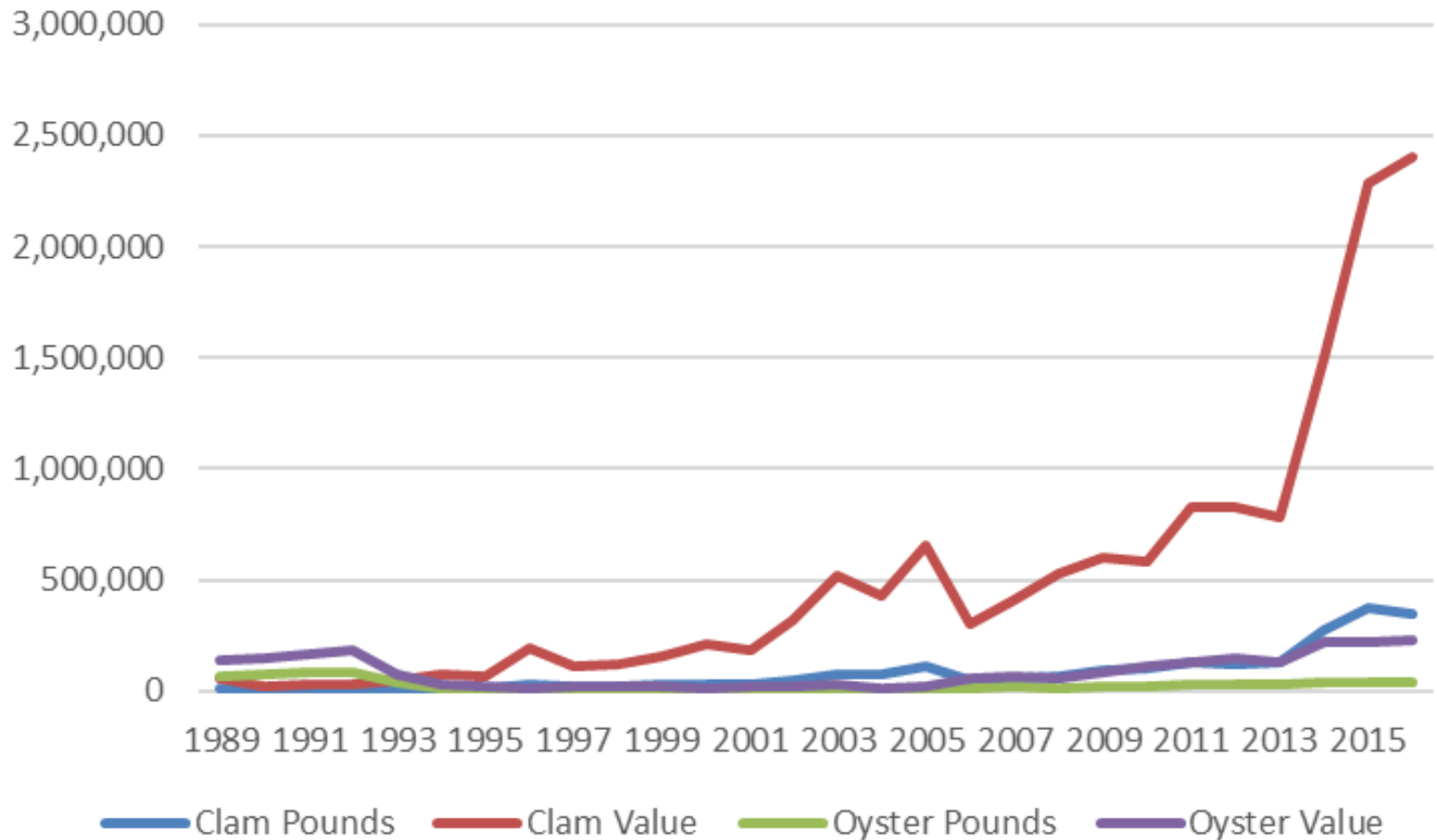


- Developing “Georgia Cup Oyster” (single oyster)
- Pilot project use GA oyster brood stock in hatchery/nursery



- Seed clams are planted at ~4-5mm
- Harvested 16-20 months later

# Clams and Oysters



# Offshore Commercial Finfishery



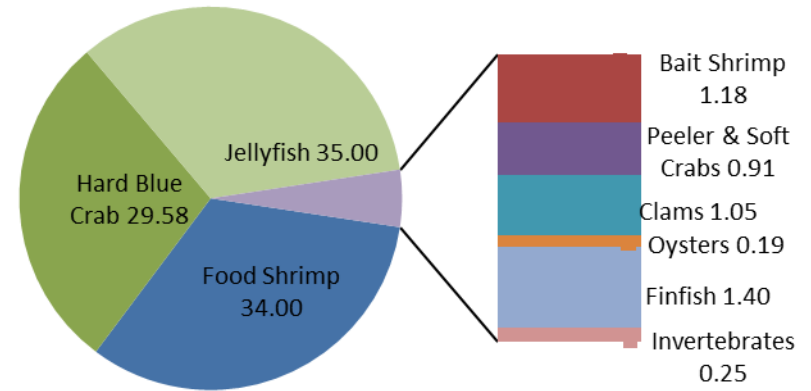
\*Only one commercial finfishing dock remains in GA



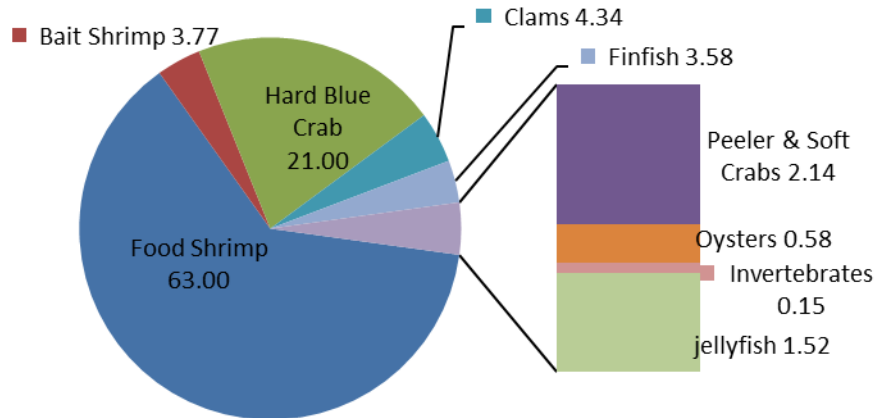


# Average percentage of catch 2006 - 2016

## Pounds



## Value





# Georgia's Recreational Fishery



250,000 participants

>800,000 trips

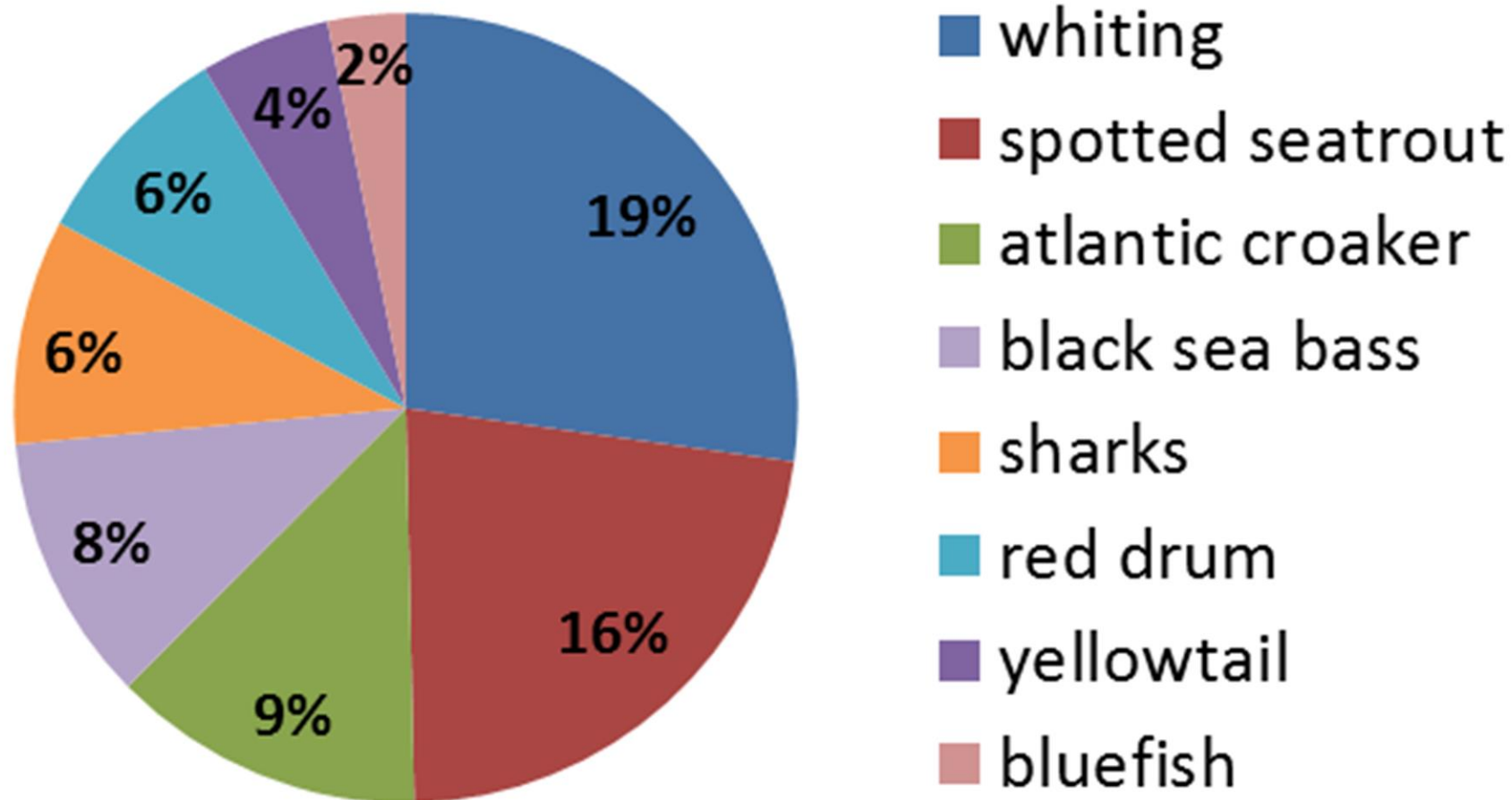
\$200-400 million impact





# Top Species Caught in 2015

(based on number of fish)



# Offshore Recreational Fisheries



# Increase Fish Habitat



# Fisheries Habitat Restoration & Enhancement



# Coastal Fishery Management Challenges

- *Altered freshwater inflow to estuaries*
- *Climate change and Sea level rise*
- *Urbanization of coastal uplands*
- *Loss of working waterfront and public access*
- *Threatened and endangered species interactions*
- *Sustainability of fish and invertebrate populations*
- *Invasive species*
- *New people with new ideas, beliefs, and values*



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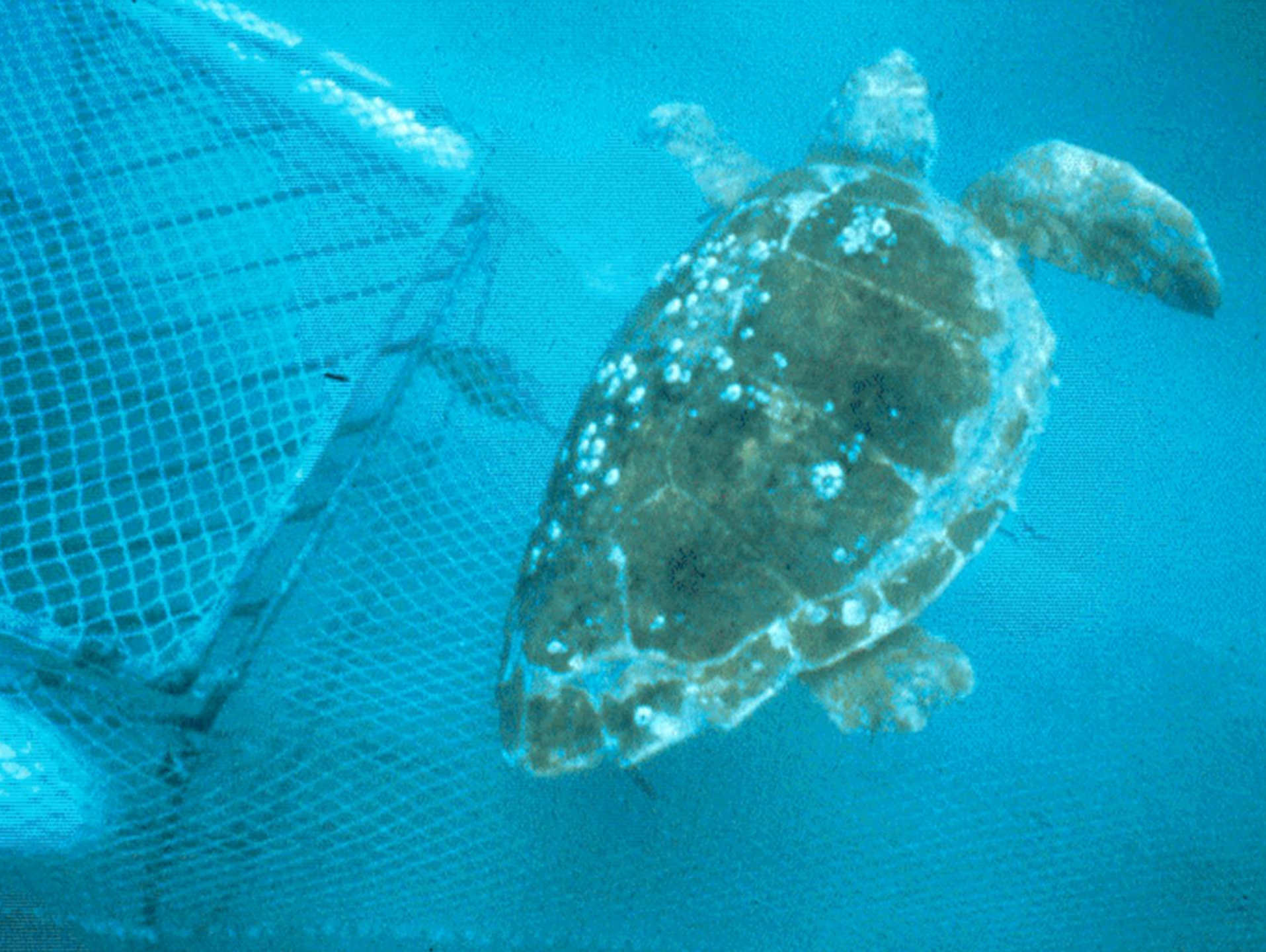


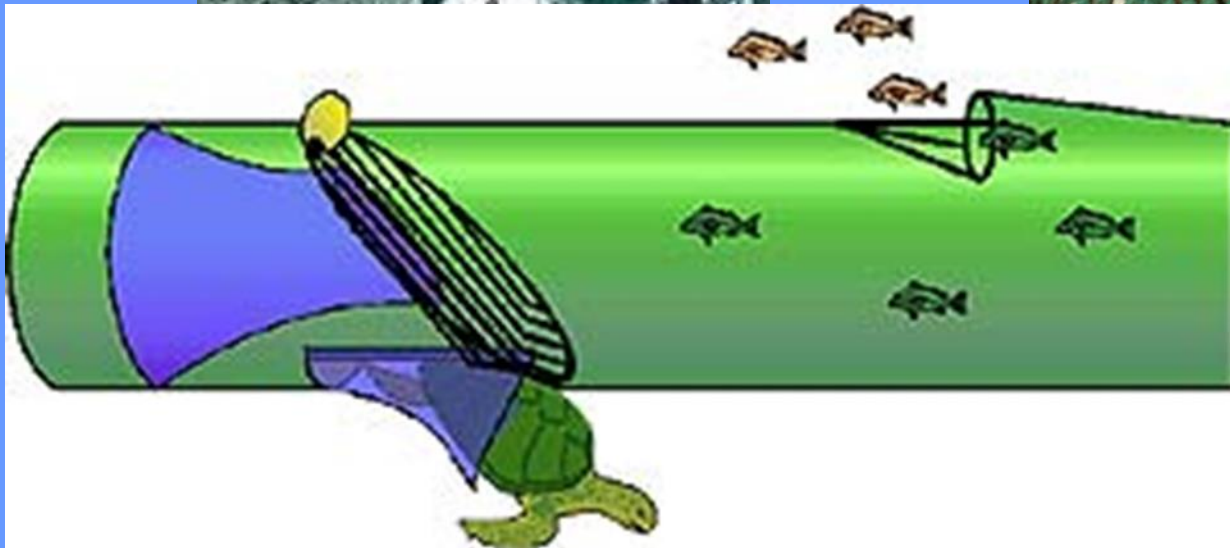
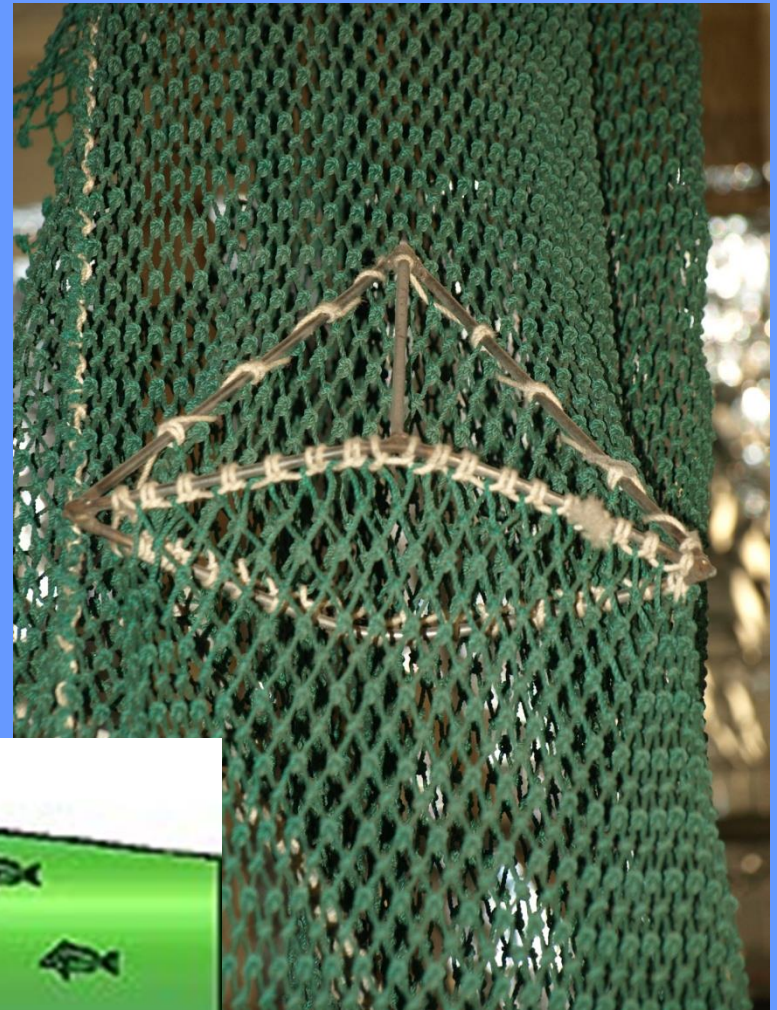
**FOR SALE**  
DEEP WATER  
3.73 ACRES  
Commonwealth  
REALTY, INC.  
912-638-5526

LEWIS  
WHOLESALE  
Seafood

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# Recreational Impacts: Fishing Gear Entanglements



Ann  
Weaver

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BOAT MARINA



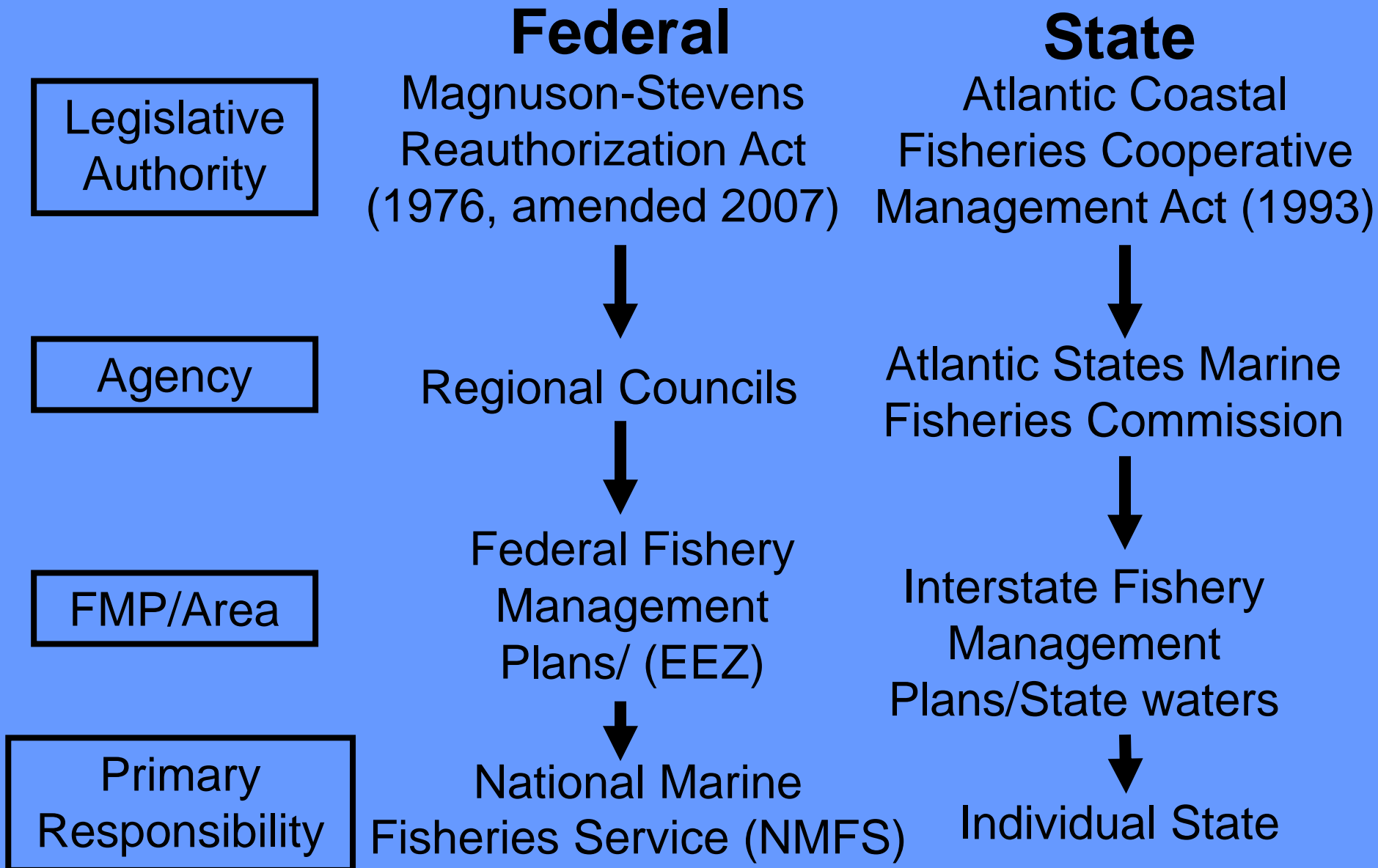


# Why does government manage?

**Government regulates the use of common property resources to ensure their sustainability and benefits for current and future generations.**



# Who is responsible?



# Diamondback Terrapin



# Sea Turtles in Georgia



Leatherback



Green



Hawksbill



Kemp's ridley



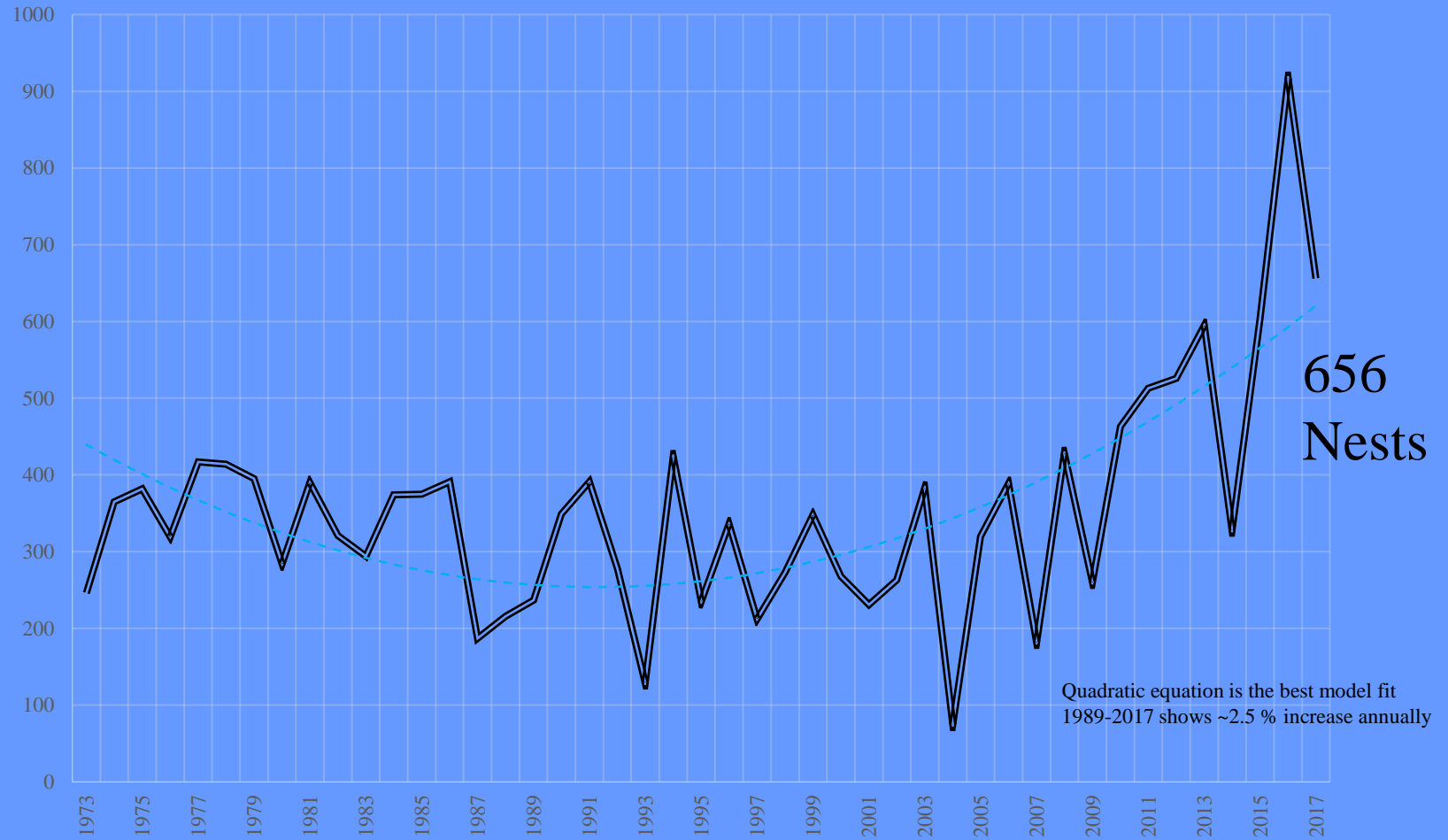
Loggerhead





# Loggerhead Long-term Nesting Trend, 1973-2017

Wassaw, Blackbeard, Little Cumberland (n=45, 30% nesting)



# Bottlenose Dolphin

*Tursiops truncatus*



**West Indian Manatee**

*Trichechus manatus*

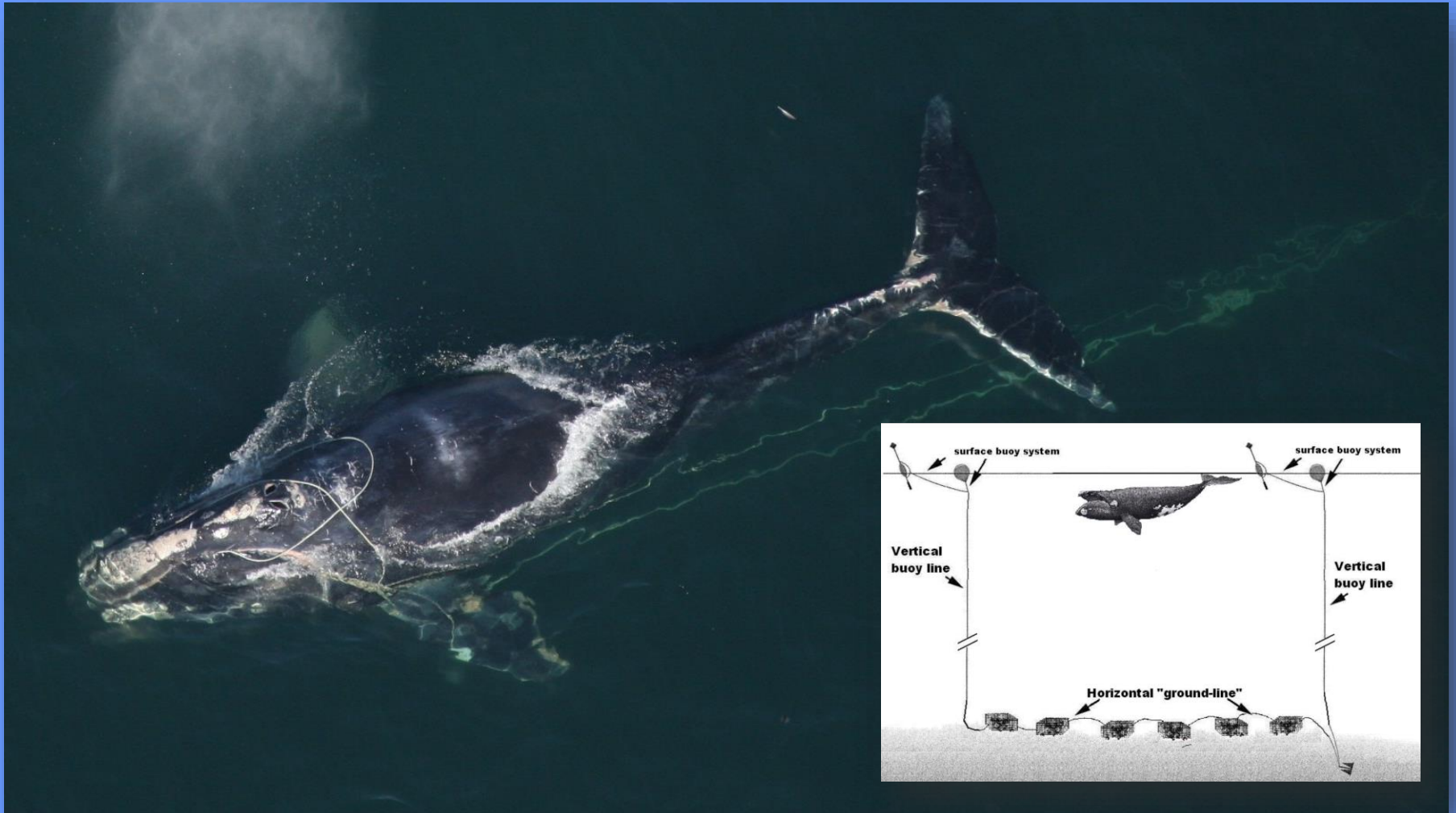


# North Atlantic Right Whale

*Eubalaena glacialis*



# Reducing Human Impacts: Fishing Gear Entanglements



Atlantic spotted dolphin



Humpback whale




Pygmy sperm whale



Beaked whale



A photograph of a dolphin swimming in the ocean. The dolphin is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with its head and dorsal fin visible above the water. A white speech bubble is superimposed over the upper part of the dolphin's head, containing the text "Thank-you for being good stewards of our coast!". The background is a calm, blue-grey sea under a clear sky.

Thank-you for  
being good  
stewards of our  
coast!