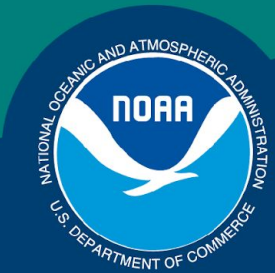


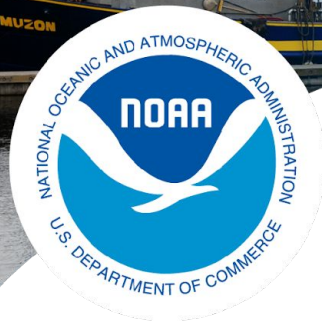
Science, Service, Stewardship



Habitat Conservation Division

Virginia Fay, Assistant Regional Administrator
David Dale, Essential Fish Habitat

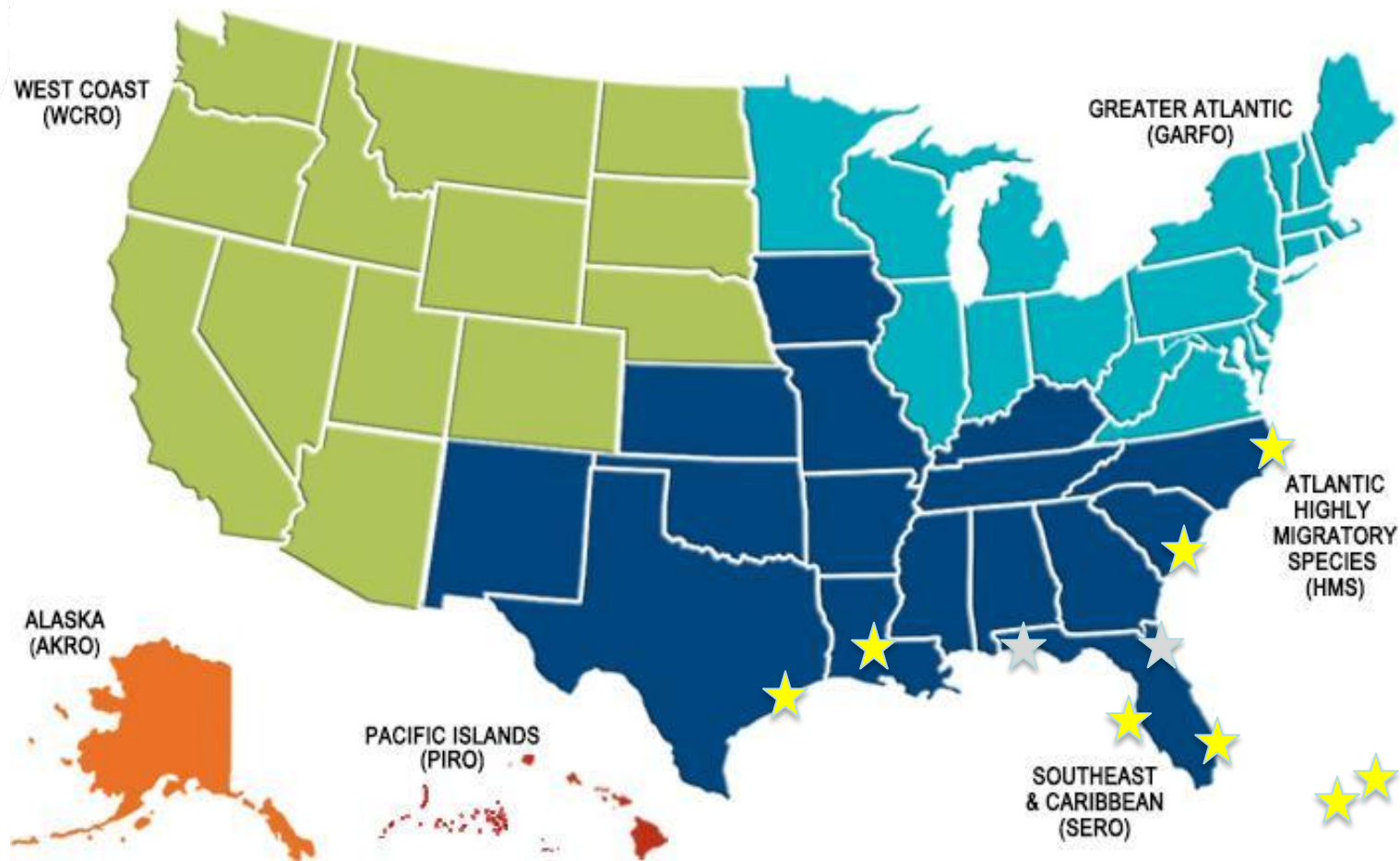
**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Rev: 202005

NMFS Regions SERO HCD Branches & Offices



Gulf of Mexico Branch
Galveston (TX)
Baton Rouge (LA, MS, AL)
St. Petersburg (FL)

Atlantic & Caribbean
Beaufort (NC)
Charleston (SC & GA)
West Palm Beach (FL)
San Juan (PR)
St. Croix (USVI)

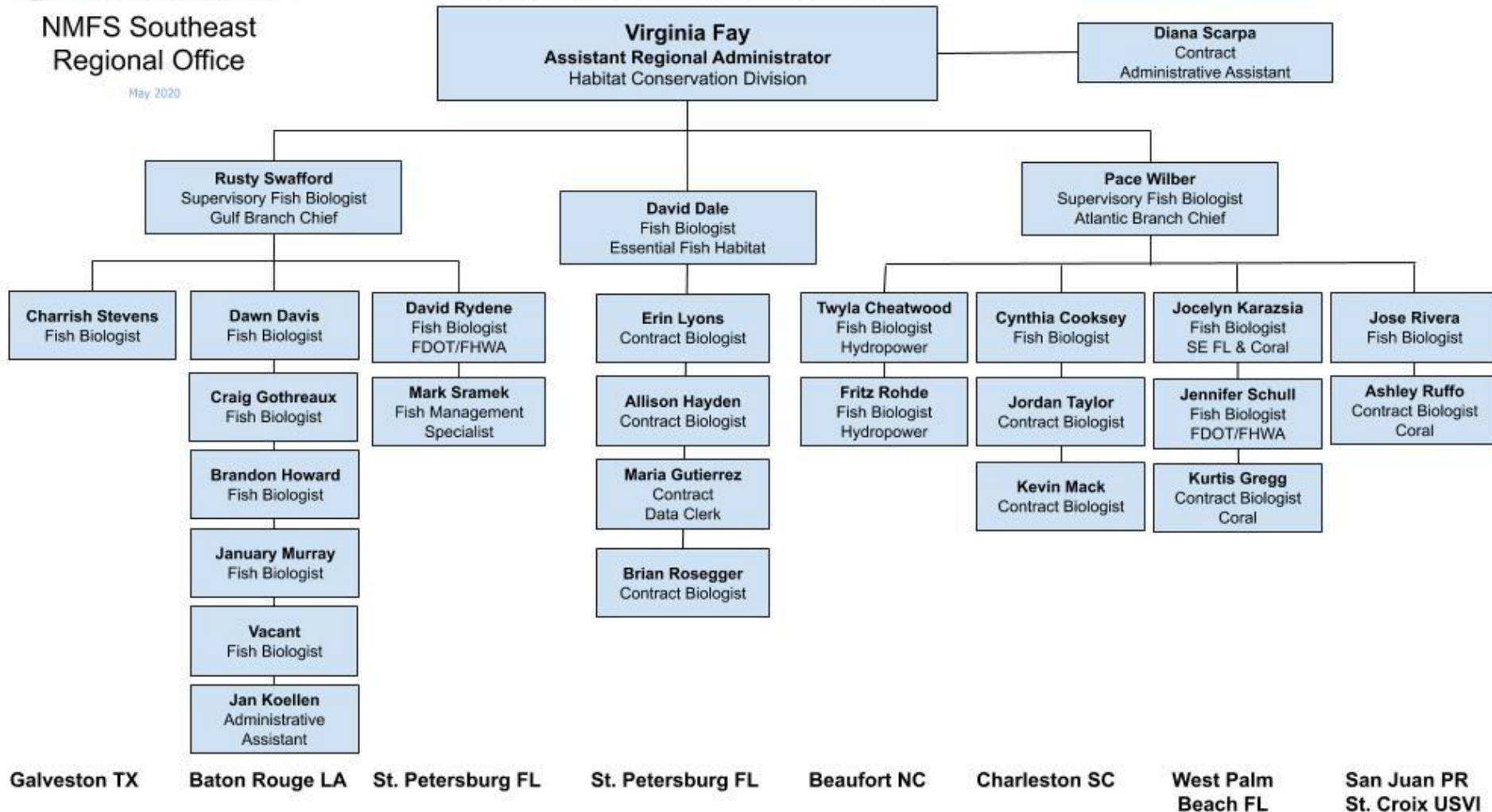
HCD Staff (2020) 18 FTEs 6+2 Contractors



NMFS Southeast
Regional Office

May 2020

Habitat Conservation Division



NOAA FISHERIES



NOAA FISHERIES

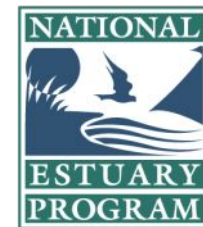
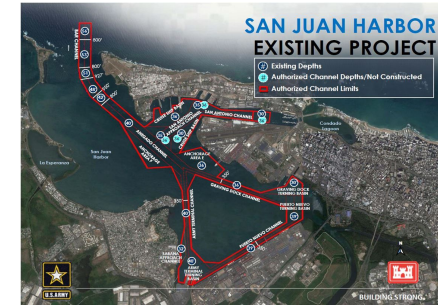
Habitat Conservation Division Priorities

Habitat Conservation

- docks/piers/wharfs
- bulkheads/seawalls
- port/navigation
- infrastructure/energy

Habitat Restoration

- wetland loss
- fish passage
- GOM restoration



Partnerships

Essential Fish Habitat

Magnuson-Stevens Act & Implementing Regulations

1996 Amendments to Magnuson-Stevens Act

§3(10) The term “essential fish habitat” means those means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.

§303(a)(7): FMP’s shall...describe and identify essential fish habitat...minimize adverse effects caused by fishing...identify actions to encourage conservation and enhancement

§305(b): NMFS & Councils identify EFH and Federal agencies consult on projects affecting EFH

1998 Interim Final Rule & 2002 Final Rule

50 CFR Part 600

- **Subpart J: Guidelines for identifying and describing EFH**
- Subpart K: Consultation Procedures and Requirements



Essential Fish Habitat

Magnuson-Stevens Act & Implementing Regulations

50 CFR Part 600 Subpart J

§600.815(a) Mandatory Contents of Fishery Management Plans

- (1) Description and identification of EFH
 - i. Overview
 - ii. Habitat Information by Life Stage
 - iii. Analysis of Habitat Information
 - iv. EFH Determination
 - v. Mapping Requirements
- (2) Fishing activities that may adversely impact EFH
- (3) Non-Magnuson-Stevens Act fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH
- (4) Non-Fishing related activities that may adversely affect EFH
- (5) Cumulative impacts analysis
- (6) Conservation and Enhancement
- (7) Prey Species
- (8) Identification of habitat areas of particular concern
- (9) Research information needs
- (10) Review and revision of EFH components of FMPs



Essential Fish Habitat

Caribbean FMC & HMS

Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

- Original Designations in 1998
- **Revised in 2004/2005**
- Reviewed in 2011/12 & **2018-20**

Highly Migratory Species (HMS): Billfish, Tuna, Sharks

- Original Designations 1999
- Reviewed & Revised in 2009 & 2017