

Mapping and Characterizing Atlantic Sturgeon Habitat in the Chesapeake Bay Using Sidescan and Multibeam Sonar

Vogt, B.¹, D. Bruce¹, J. Lazar¹, A. McGowan²

¹NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

²NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, ERT

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office has developed methodology using sidescan, multibeam and single beam sonar sensors to produce spatial products that characterize and map sturgeon habitat in the Chesapeake Bay. Surveys and associated habitat products have been developed for the James River, Virginia and segments of the Nanticoke River in Maryland and Delaware. These mapping products are being used to site restoration projects, identify spawning areas, and target research. The NOAA Chesapeake Bay office is also planning future surveys to support researchers in Virginia tributaries (potentially Appomattox and York river). An overview of the technology, methodology, and product examples will be presented. In addition, the presentation will provide an introduction to the data management and coordination services that will be provided by the Mid Atlantic Telemetry Observing System (MATOS). The purpose of MATOS is to help scientists and the public learn more about Mid Atlantic acoustic telemetry projects and their contribution to research.