

# Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership



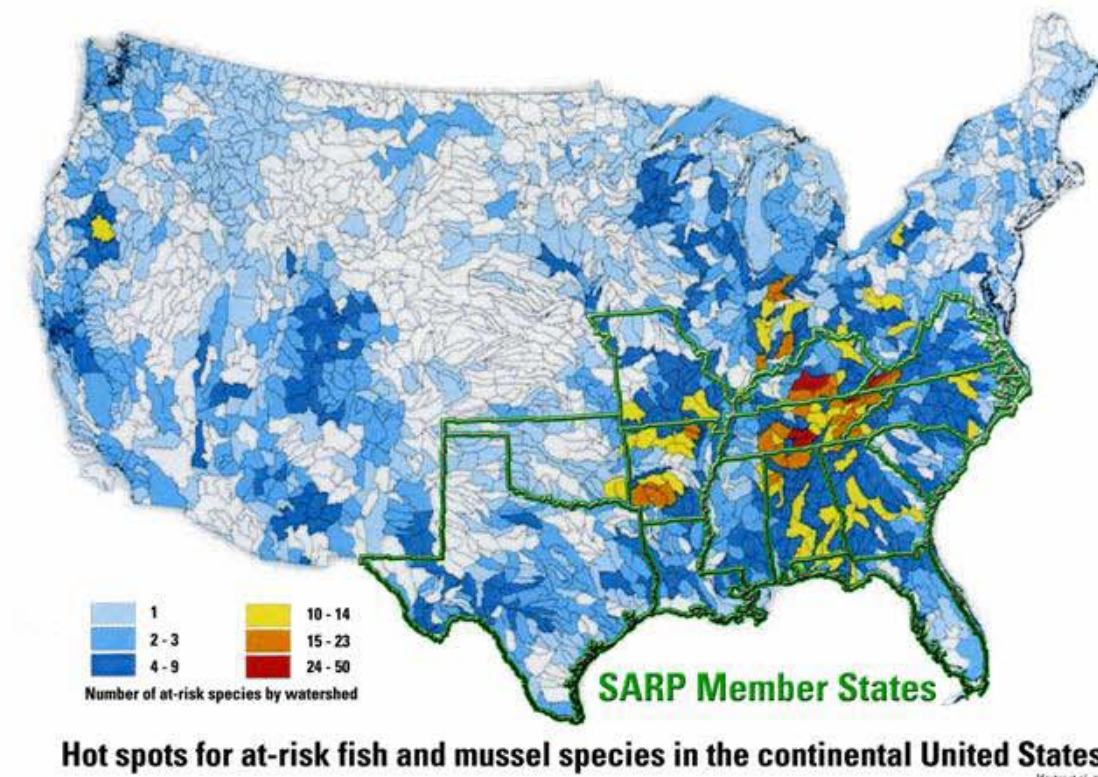
## IN PARTNERSHIP SINCE 2001

Recognizing the Southeast's unique biological diversity, looming threats to its aquatic species and their habitats, and the limited availability of resources to effectively address these challenges, State and Federal agencies and organizations with management authority for fisheries and aquatic resources in the Southeast joined forces to form the ground-breaking Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership.

## RESOURCES OF GLOBAL IMPORTANCE

The Southeastern U.S. is home to aquatic resources that are unmatched in the world:

- The greatest aquatic diversity in the country
- More than 70 major river basins
- The most miles of coastal shoreline
- The bulk of the country's wetlands
- Freshwater and marine systems that are critical to the national infrastructure and national economy
- The highest economic return on recreational fishing — \$17 billion in total economic output
- More licensed anglers than any other region



## FACING MANY CHALLENGES

- More than 5% of the 1,800+ species of fish, mussels, snails, turtles and crayfish living in southeastern watersheds have become extinct in the last century
- At least 75 watersheds in the Southeast contain 10 or more "at risk" species of fish and mussels
- Changing weather patterns and climate conditions are intensifying stressors on habitats and species
- 5 of the top 10 most sprawling U.S. cities are in the Southeast, altering natural flow and drainage
- Population in the Southeast is expected to grow by 25% in the next 15 years, increasing demand for water and pressure on aquatic habitats

## A PARTNERSHIP WITH A PLAN

SARP is the primary delivery mechanism for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in the Southeast region. The Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan identifies the highest priority aquatic habitat needs and effective strategies to better address the conservation and management of these resources across the region.

## CONSERVATION IN ACTION

**In the Nation:** SARP works to implement the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan on some of the nation's most economically and socially significant watersheds.

**In the Region:** SARP works with partners to conduct science-based watershed and habitat assessments that collectively identify regional conservation priorities.

**In communities:** SARP facilitates local, on-the-ground conservation projects that bring together partners and funding to help meet regional priorities.

**With individuals:** SARP promotes citizen action and provides opportunities for individuals to participate and make a real difference.

### SARP Members



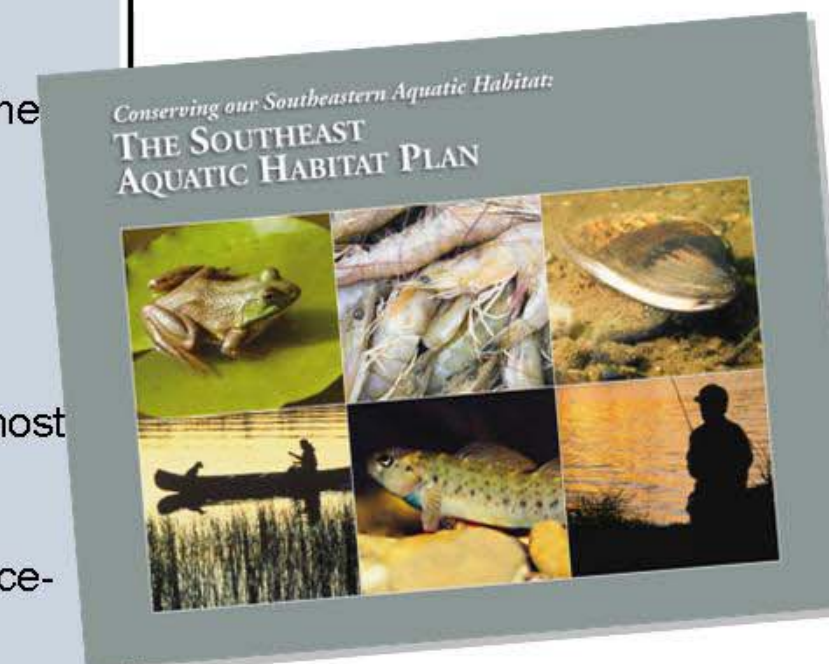
## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Development and implementation of Pilot Rivers Aquatic Habitat Planning Project for 4 priority watersheds - Roanoke River (NC), Altamaha River (GA), Pascagoula River (MS), and Duck River (TN)
- Integrating State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies into the Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan
- Coordinating the development of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) management plans for each SARP State
- Development of GIS-referenced databases and habitat condition tools for assessment and tracking
- Development of a regional instream flow network to facilitate comprehensive water management, supporting people, wildlife, and ecosystems



Clockwise from top left: Among its many on-the-ground projects, SARP works to restore vital oyster reefs in Florida and Texas. SARP works with partners to restore tidal marsh devastated by hurricanes in Mississippi. SARP works to protect the robust redhorse sucker, a fish once thought to be extinct, by augmenting gravel bar spawning habitat in Georgia.

*“SARP will, with partners, protect, conserve, and restore aquatic resources including habitats throughout the Southeast, for the continuing benefit, use, and enjoyment of the American people.”*