Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Sustainable Fisheries Act, SFA) in October 1996 brought unprecedented attention to essential fish habitat (EFH) in marine and estuarine systems of the United States. The SFA required Fishery Management Councils to define those waters and substrate necessary for fish for spawning, feeding or growth to maturity for more than 600 fish stocks and to amend their management plans accordingly by October 1998. Threats to EFH from fishing and nonfishing activities, as well as steps to ameliorate those threats, also had to be identified by October 1998. These requirements unleashed intense habitat-related activity within the Councils, agencies of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and interested conservation groups. With the October 1998 deadline in mind, leaders of the American Fisheries Society, Sea Grant, and other agencies decided to sponsor a major symposium of fish habitat research in general and EFH policy in particular. The symposium was held during August 1998 in Hartford, Connecticut. In 27 chapters, this symposium proceedings presents the findings and conclusions of scientists and policy makers who have been working on EFH policy, and Sea Grant-funded researchers who have been studying fish habitat. The book presents a wide variety of studies by leading fish habitat researchers. Fisheries biologists from the National Marine Fisheries Service describe the process of EFH identification for mid-Atlantic summer flounder and Pacific Northwest salmon. Remote sensing of fish habitat in Oregon and Florida is covered, as are several studies of fishing gear impacts on fish habitat in the United States and United Kingdom. Threats to habitat and habitat rehabilitation projects are described for estuarine fishes of the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf of Maine and for a variety of species including American lobster, spiny lobster, and oysters. A section on Great Lakes habitat includes studies of artificial reefs and pike habitat. The book also presents thought-provoking perspectives on EFH from representatives of leading governmental and nongovernmental organizations concerned with fisheries management.

Many coastal and offshore fish species are highly dependent on specific habitat types for population maintenance. In the Baltic Sea, shallow productive habitats in the coastal zone such as wetlands, vegetated flads/lagoons and sheltered more. Many coastal and offshore fish species are highly dependent on specific habitat types for population maintenance. Although there is general consensus about the critical importance of these essential fish habitats (EFH) for fish production along the coast, direct quantitative evidence for their specific roles in population growth and maintenance is still scarce. Nevertheless, for some coastal species, indirect evidence exists, and in many cases, sufficient data are also available to carry out further quantitative analyses. Contains papers from an August 1998 symposium, highlighting aspects of the essential fish habitat (EFH) provisions of the Sustainable Fisheries Act. Offers perspectives on EFH policy from federal, environmental, fishing industry, and fishery management council perspectives, then deals with EFH identification, fishing and nonfishing impacts, and Great Lakes fish habitat rehabilitation, and reports on recent research in marine fish habitat. Specific topics include habitat-based assessment of lobster abundance, and the role of oyster reefs. Lacks a subject index. (source: Nielsen Book Data). Subj NOAA Fisheries works to identify and protect essential fish habitat. National. Table of Contents. Protecting and restoring Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) has helped to maintain productive fisheries and rebuild depleted fish stocks in the United States. NOAA Fisheries has used EFH authorities to support the $200 billion U.S. fishing industry while protecting more than 800 million acres of habitat. Our economy and fishing industry benefit from sustainable fisheries supported by productive habitats that provide high-quality seafood. Share. Video Player is loading.