

APPENDIX B
GLOSSARY TERMS

Abiotic—non-living factor

Abundant—an indication of the plentifulness of a species at a particular place and time; an abundant species is more plentiful than an occasional or rare species

Adult—developmental stage characterized by sexual or physical (full size and strength) maturity

Adhesive—refers to being sticky

Aggregation—group of animals that forms when individuals are attracted to an environmental resource to which each responds independently; the term does not imply any social organization

Algae—a number of primarily aquatic, photosynthetic groups (taxa) of plants and plant-like protists ranging in size from single cells to large, multicellular forms that have no seeds, roots, stems, flowers or leaf system

Amphipods—a large group of crustacean with a shrimp-like appearance, usually with a laterally compressed body

Anchovy—is a small herring-like schooling saltwater plankton-feeding marine fish of the family Engraulidae

Anadromus—referring to the life cycle of fishes, such as Atlantic sturgeon, in which adults travel upriver from the sea to breed, usually returning to the area where they were born

Annelids—are invertebrate animals of the phylum Annelida in which the body is typically made up of a series of rings or segments covered by a soft cuticle and lacking jointed appendages (e.g., marine worms)

Anthropogenic—describing a phenomenon or condition created, directly or indirectly, as a result of human activity

Artificial habitat—a human-made, estuarine/marine habitat (sunken ships, artificial reefs: concrete igloos, rubble) created in the navigable waters of the U.S. to attract aquatic life

Artificial reefs—human-made structures (sunken ships, concrete igloos, rubble) purposefully placed into the navigable waters of the U.S. or into the marine waters overlying the continental shelf to attract aquatic life

Assemblage—the populations of various species from a larger taxon characteristically associated with a particular environment that can be used as an indicator of the environment

Bank—a submerged ridge, shoal, sandbar, or other unconsolidated material that rises from the seafloor to near the water's surface, sometimes creating a navigational hazard

Batch spawner—is a species that spawns repeatedly, releasing batches of eggs and sperm into the open-sea marine environment for external fertilization and development

Bay—a body of water partly enclosed by land but with a wide outlet to the sea

Beach groin—is a protective structure of stone or concrete extending into the shore to protect a beach against erosion or to trap shifting sands

Beach seine—a seine net operated from the shore; gear is composed of a bunt (bag or lose netting) and long wings often lengthened with long ropes for towing the seine to the beach; headrope with floats is on

the surface, the footrope is in permanent contact with the bottom and the seine is therefore a barrier which prevents the fish from escaping from the area enclosed by the net

Benthic—in, on, or near the ocean floor; the term is used irrespective of whether the sea is shallow or deep

Benthos—organisms that live in, on, near, or are attached to the ocean bottom substrate

Billfish—is a large warm-water fish usually associated with tropical and subtropical seas having a prolonged and rounded toothless upper jaw of the family Xiphidae

Biodiversity—refers to the diversity of living things; variety of life on earth and the ecosystems that support it

Biogenic—originating from living organisms

Biomass—the amount of living matter per unit of water surface or water volume

Biotic—pertaining to life or living organisms

Bivalve—a group of marine or freshwater mollusks that consists of a soft body protected by two hinging shells (e.g., scallops and oysters)

Boreal—comprising or found throughout far northern regions

Brachiopods—phylum of benthic invertebrates known as lamp shells; they differ from bivalves, and are characterized by a plane of bilateral symmetry through the shells and perpendicular to the hinge

Brittle stars—a starfish-like echinoderm belonging to the class Ophiuroidea that has five to eight elongate, slender, cylindrical arms distinctly radiating from a flat central disc

Broadcast spawner—a fish that releases its gametes into the water, where fertilization occurs; without parental care

Bryozoan—phylum of small, aquatic colonial animals that are commonly called moss animals; each zooid or animal in the colony has a crown of ciliated tentacles

Bycatch—are marine species incidentally caught in a fishery which intended to target another species, but which are not sold and usually not kept for personal use. Includes economic and regulatory discards; bycatch species can be either alive or dead

Candidate species—refers to species that are subject of petition to list and for which NMFS has determined that listing may be warranted in pursuant to ESA section 4(b)(3)(A), and species for which NMS has determined, following a status review, that listing is warranted

Cape—a point or head of land (e.g., a peninsula) projecting into a body of water (e.g., Cape Hatteras or Cape Lookout)

Carrion—dead and decaying flesh

Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE)—a term commonly used by fishery biologists as an index to fish population density. Calculated as measure of a species relative abundance; expressed as the ration of the number of animals by some level of effort (e.g., hooks, sets, trips, landings, weight)

Cephalopods—any marine mollusk of the class Cephalopoda, with the mouth and head surrounded by tentacles (squid, octopus, nautilus, and cuttlefish)

Chaetognaths—are known as arrow worms that are active elongated, transparent predators in marine plankton

Charter boat—a vessel typically less than 91 metric ton that carries six or fewer passengers for hire

Chondrichthyans—are jawed cartilaginous fishes with paired fins, paired nares, scales, two-chambered hearts, and skeletal systems made of cartilage rather than bone; are divided into two sub-classes: Elasmobranchii (sharks, rays, and skates) and Holocephali (chimaera)

Chumming—practice of luring animals, usually fish or sharks, by throwing chum into the water. Chum often consist of fish parts and blood, which attract fish, and particularly sharks due to their keen sense of smell

Ciliates—are a group of large protozoans (reach 2 mm in length) characterized by the presence of hair-like organelles called cilia, which are identical to flagella but typically shorter and present in much larger numbers with an undulating pattern than flagella

Circumglobal—distribution pattern displayed by organisms around the world, within a range of latitudes

Cladocerns—refers to an order of microscopic crustaceans with trunk limbs enclosed in a carapace used for feeding and antennae used for swimming; called water fleas

Clams—any of various hard-shell, usually edible, bivalve mollusks, some of which live in the shallows of the sea, others in freshwater

Closed season—a specified period during which the category of fish or marine plants may not be fished or harvested

Coastal beach—zone above the water line at a shore of a body of water, marked by an accumulation of sand, stone, or gravel that has been deposited by the tide or waves

Coastal water—water that is along, near, or relating to a coast

Coast—geographic term that refers to the zone of contact between land and water

Commercial fishing—fishing in which the fish is harvested, either in whole or part, are intended to enter commerce through sale, barter, or trade

Competitors—an organism that live in competition with another

Conch—common name which is applied to a number of different species of medium-sized to large sea snails or their shells

Continental shelf—refers to an area: the province of the continental margin with a gently seaward-sloping seabed (1:1000 gradient change) extending from the low-tide line of the shoreline to 10 to 200 m water depth where there is a rapid gradient change

Continental slope—refers to an area: the province of the continental margin with a relatively steeply sloping seabed (1:6 to 1:40 gradient change) that begins at the continental shelf break (about 100 to 200 m) and extends down to the continental rise: along many coasts of the world, the slope is furrowed by deep submarine canyons

Copepods—very small planktonic crustaceans present in a wide variety and great abundance in marine habitats, forming an important basis of ecosystems; they are a major food of many marine animals and are the main link between phytoplankton and higher trophic levels

Cosmopolitan—having a broad, wide-ranging distribution

Creel survey—an accurate and reliable technique used to obtain information on a fishery; involves interviewing anglers to collect details about their catch (species, length, weight), time spent fishing, type of fishing (boat or shore), and the distance they have traveled to go fishing

Croakers—is a member of the abundant and varied family Sciaenidae, carnivorous, spiny-finned fishes including weakfishes, drums, and whiting

Crustaceans—arthropods that have two pairs of antennae and a hard exoskeleton, such as lobster, shrimp, and crabs

Cusk eels—are elongate compressed somewhat eel-shaped fishes

Cuttlefish—is a marine mollusk of the class Cephalopoda that has 10 arms including two long tentacles it can draw back into its body

Decapod—is an order of freshwater, marine, and terrestrial crustaceans having five pairs of legs on the thorax and a carapace completely covering the throat (e.g., shrimps, crabs, lobsters)

Demersal—applied to fishes that live close to the seafloor, such as cod and hake

Diatoms—are microscopic algae (Bacillariophyceae) in which the cell wall (frustule) is composed of silica and consists of two major valves and girdle bands; unicellular, colonial, or filamentous; important components of freshwater and marine habitats as members of both planktonic and benthic communities; comprised of two major types based on symmetry: pinnate – bilareal, centric – radial; forms the primary food base for marine ecosystems; may produce harmful algal blooms in marine habitats (domoic acid producing *pseudo-nitzschia*)

Diel—refers to 24-hour activity cycle based on daily periods of light and dark

Distinct Population Segment—distinct population segment, as defined by NMFS, is a vertebrate population or group of populations that is discrete from other populations of the species and significant in relation to the entire species

Diurnal—active or occurring during daylight hours; having a daily cycle

Dominant species—species most prevalent in a particular community or at a given period

Downwelling—a circulation pattern in which surface water moves vertically downward; occurs when surface water converge or when winds force water to pile up along the coast

Dredge—an implement consisting of a net on a frame, used for gathering shellfish

Drift gillnet—gillnet attached to the stem of a fishing boat and allowed to drift below the surface

Drift net—a monofilament gillnet set at or near the surface that stretches up to 60 km or more in length; used passively (drifts) to entangle fish or invertebrates, which also catches a large number of non-target species, including marine mammals and sea turtles

Echinoderms—marine invertebrates of the phylum Echinodermata, characterized by radial symmetry, a calcareous endoskeleton, and a water vascular system; sea stars and sea urchins are common examples

Ecosystem—a system of ecological relationships in a local environment comprising both organisms and their nonliving environment, intimately linked by a variety of biological, chemical, and physical processes

Elgrass—is a vascular flowering plant of the genus *Zostera* that are adapted to living under water while rooted in shallow sediments of marine bays and estuaries

Eggs—those individuals that have spawned but have not hatched and are completely dependent on yolk for nutrition

Elasmobranch—fishes of the class Chondrichthyes that are characterized by having a cartilaginous skeleton; includes sharks, skates, and rays

Embayment—is an indentation in the shoreline that forms a bay

Endangered species—any animal or plant species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range; the authority to list a species is shared by the USFWS (terrestrial species, sea turtles on land, manatees) and NMFS (most marine species) under provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA); endangered species and their habitats are protected by ESA

Endothermic—refers to organisms which are capable of maintaining their bodily temperature above the temperature of the external environment

Epibenthic—refers to organisms living on the ocean floor

Epifauna—animals living on the surface of the ocean floor; any encrusting fauna

Epipelagic—the oceanic zone from the surface to 200 m

Essential fish habitat (EFH)—those waters and substrate necessary to fish or invertebrates for spawning, breeding, feeding, and growth to maturity (16 U.S.C. 1802[10])

Estuarine—refers to, relating to, or found in an estuary

Estuary—a semi-enclosed body of water where freshwater mixes with saltwater; often an area of high biological productivity and important as nursery areas for many marine species

Euphausiids—is known as krill, these are pelagic shrimp-like crustaceans

Euryhaline—an organism that can tolerate waters with a wide range of salinity

Eurythermal—an organism that can tolerate a wide range of temperatures

Fauna—animal life of a region

Fish—as defined by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animals and plant life other than marine mammals and birds

Fish haven—an off-shore artificial reef preservation site

Fishery—one or more stocks of fish that can be treated as a unit for the purposes of conservation and management and that are identified on the basis of geographical, scientific, technical, recreational, and economic characteristics, and any fishing for such stocks

Fishery management council—a regional fisheries management body established by the Magnuson-Stevens Act to manage fishery resources in eight designated regions of the United States

Fishery management plan—a plan created by a regional Fishery Management Council to achieve specified management goals for a fishery; it includes data, analyses, and management measures (including guidelines for harvest) for a fishery

Flatfish—are members of the fish order Heterosomata. Flatfish swim or lie on one side of its body; sides are greatly flattened and compressed; mainly marine animals (e.g., flounders)

Flotsam—refers to marine debris; can also refer to the wreckage or cargo left floating on the sea surface after a shipwreck

Forage—search for food

Fork length—length of a fish measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail

Gastropods—class of symmetrical, univalve mollusks that have a true head, an unsegmented body, and a broad, flat foot

Gestation—period of development in the uterus from conception until birth (pregnancy)

Gillnet—a type of fishing gear made of rectangular mesh panels that are set more or less vertically in the water so that fish swimming into it are entangled by their gills; they can be set to fish at the surface, midwater, or on the bottom of the water column

Groundfish—group of fishes that spends most of its life on or near the ocean floors (e.g., cod, haddock, hakes, and flounders); also known as demersal species

Habitat—the living place of an organism or community of organisms that is characterized by its physical or living properties

Habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC)—legally these areas are defined as subsets of EFH identified based on one or more of the following considerations: (1) the importance of the ecological function, (2) extent to which the habitat is sensitive to human-induced degradation, (3) whether, and to what extent, development activities are stressing the habitat type, or (4) rarity of habitat type (50 CFR 600.815[a][8])

Hake—are any of various marine food fishes of the genus *Merluccius* or *Urophycis*, related to or resembling the cod

Handgear—term used for types of fishing gear that are mainly operated by hand including harpoons, handlines, rods, and reels

Handline—fishing gear that is set and pulled by hand and consists of one vertical line to which may be attached leader lines with hooks

Hard bottom—area of the sea floor, usually on the continental shelf, associated with hard substrate such as outcroppings of limestone or sandstone that may serve as attachment locations for organisms such as corals, sponges, and other invertebrates or algae

Harvest—fish killed as a result of encounters with fishing gear

Herring—are various marine fishes of the family Clupeidae; these fish are important prey item for other species of the Atlantic

Hook and line gear—refers to fishing gear where hooks are placed at the end of a line (monofilament, cable, nylon) includes pelagic longlines used to target tuna and swordfish

Hydrography—the science of measuring and describing the surface waters of the Earth

Hydroids—class of solitary or colonial coelenterates that have a hollow cylindrical body closed at one end and a mouth surrounded by tentacles at the other end

Ichthyofauna—all fish that live in a particular area

Ichthyoplankton—fish eggs and larvae drifting in the water column

Incidental fisheries bycatch—the catch of additional species, such as fishes, turtles, or marine mammals, that are not targeted by a fishery but are harvested in addition to the target or sought after species

Inlet—a bay, cove, or other recess along a coast; a narrow passage of water, as between two islands

Inshore—lying close to the shore or coast

Insular—pertaining to or situated on an island

Intertidal—the area of shore exposed between high and low tide

Invertebrate—is an organism which lacks a backbone (e.g., crustaceans, mollusks); not a vertebrate

Isopods—large group of small crustaceans lacking a carapace, having a set of seven pairs of legs, and usually having a depressed body

Isotherm—contour of equal temperature; usually shown as a line linking points of the same temperature

IUCN Red List—is a list of animal species and subspecies established by the international Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources which are thought to be threatened or endangered for extinction and those which are known to have already become extinct in the wild

Jetties—structure used at inlets to stabilize the position of the navigation channel, to shield vessels from wave forces, and to control the movement of sand along the adjacent beaches so as to minimize the movement of sand into the channel

Jigging—method of fishing using lures on a vertical line that snag fish when they pass near. The line is moved up and down (jigged) by hand or mechanically; extremely efficient for fishing oceanic squids at night

Juvenile—mostly similar in form to an adult but not yet sexually mature; a smaller replica of the adult

Killifish—any of various oviparous (egg-laying) cyprinodontiform fish

Krill—see euphausiids

Lagoon—a shallow body of water, especially one separated from the sea by dunes, sandbars, or coral reefs

Lanternfish—refers to small, usually deep sea fish with many luminescent spots on their bodies of the family Myctophidae

Larvae—individuals that have hatched and have the ability to capture food items

Life history—a history of the changes through which an organism passes in its development from the primary stage to its natural death

Littoral—the zone or division of the ocean bottom that lies between the high and low tide lines; intertidal

Longline—a type of fishing gear using a buoyed line onto which are attached numerous branch lines each terminating in a baited hook; longlines may extend for tens of kilometers and are usually left to drift in surface waters or near the seafloor

Macroalgae—true oceanic plants, large in size, including bubble algae, large varieties of kelp, and *Sargassum*

Macroinvertebrate—animal without a backbone that can be seen by the naked eye (e.g., clams, mussels, crabs, oysters, etc.)

Macrophyte—refers to the macroscopic plant in an aquatic environment

Marine Protected Area (MPA)—any area of the marine environment reserved by federal, state, territorial, tribal, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources within the area

Mesohaline—water with salinity of 5 to 18 practical salinity units (psu)

Mesopelagic—is ocean zone of intermediate depths from about 200 to 2,000 m below the surface, where light penetration does not typically occur

Metamorphosis—is a process of transforming from one body to another form during development (e.g., tadpole changing to a frog)

Microhabitat—is a smaller part of a habitat that has some internal interactions allowing it to function self-sufficiently within a generally larger habitat

Mid-Atlantic Bight (MAB)—that part of the ocean coastal region extending from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina

Migration—the periodic movement between one habitat and one or more other habitats involving either the entire or significant component of an animal population; this adaptation allows an animal to monopolize areas where favorable environmental conditions exist for feeding, breeding, and/ or other phases of the animal's life history

Migratory—is the classification of organism or group of organisms that undertake a migration as an essential of their life history

Mollusk—members of the Phylum Mollusca; a group of marine and terrestrial invertebrates consisting of snails, slugs, squids, octopus, clams, and others

Mudflat—is muddy or sandy coastal strip usually submerged by high tide; provides habitat for various marine life

Mysids—are small shrimp-like crustaceans

Nautical mile (NM)—a distance unit used in the marine environment that is equal to one minute of latitude or 1.85 km

Nearshore—an indefinite zone that extends seaward from the shoreline; generally refers to waters from the coast to the continental shelf

Neddfish—piscivorous fish of the family Belontiidae that are primarily associated with very shallow marine habitats or the surface of the open sea

Nekton—refers to actively swimming pelagic organisms that are able to move independently of water currents; typically within the size range of 20 nm to 20 m

Neonate—a newborn

Neritic zone—the shallow portion of pelagic ocean waters; ocean waters that lie over the continental shelf, usually no deeper than 200 m

Nocturnal—applied to events that occur during nighttime hours

North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO)—the climatic phenomenon, one phase of which leads to warmer winter ocean and atmospheric temperatures from the east coast of the U.S. to Siberia and from the Arctic Ocean to the subtropical Atlantic Ocean; this phenomenon is caused by a north-south atmospheric pressure shift and this oscillation can lead to mild, rainy weather in Europe while causing cold, dry weather in the northeastern U.S. and Canada

Nursery habitat—an environment crucial for the development of early-stage animals; for some species, this environment is often an open-ocean area characterized by the presence of *Sargassum* rafts and/or ocean current convergence fronts

Ocean front—a boundary between two water or air masses that have different densities; water density differences are caused by differences in temperature or salinity

Oceanic zone—refers to the deepwater portion of the pelagic ocean waters; ocean waters beyond the continental shelf or that are deeper than the depth of the water overlying the continental shelf break (typically 100 to 200 m deep)

Offshore—open ocean waters over the continental slope and beyond that are deeper than 200 m; water seaward of the continental shelf break

Oophagous—refers to an animal that feeds on eggs

Opportunistic—used to describe organisms that take advantage of all feeding opportunities and do not prey on a few specific items

Otter trawl—a type of bottom trawl gear that utilizes two wooden doors (otter doors) to keep the mouth of the trawl net open while being dragged along the seafloor

Overfish—a rate or level of fishing mortality that jeopardizes the capacity of a fishery to produce the maximum sustainable yield on a continuing basis

Overfished—a stock size that is below a prescribed biomass threshold

Overfishing—harvesting at a rate above a prescribed fishing mortality threshold

Ovoviviparous—giving birth to live young which have developed from eggs that hatched within the mother's body

Overwinter—Staying the winter in one area

Parturition—is the act of giving birth

Pathogens—are a biological agent that causes disease or illness to its host

Pelagic—the water or ocean environment, excluding the ocean bottom; the major environmental division or zone in the ocean that included the entire water column and can be subdivided into the neritic (waters over the continental shelf) and oceanic (deeper waters seaward of the continental shelf) zones

Pelagic longline—a longline suspended by floats in the water column (i.e., not fixed or in contact with the ocean bottom)

Pelecypod—marine or freshwater mollusks having a soft body with plate-like gills enclosed within two hinged shells; may be burrowing, mobile, or sedentary types

Penaeid—a group of shrimp, chiefly found in warm water

Phytoplankton—microscopic, photosynthetic plankton, which are the base of the food chain on which ultimately most shellfish, fishes, birds, and marine mammals depend

Pier—a platform built out from the shore into the water and supported by piles; provides access to ships and boats

Pinnipeds—refers to seals, sea lions, fur seals, and walruses

Pipefish—fish with long tubular snout and slim body covered with bony plates

Piscivorous—is a carnivorous animal that consumes and preys upon fish

Plankton—organisms that drift in the water column or on the water's surface by either passively floating or weakly swimming

Polychaete—is a class of soft-bodied, metamerically segmented coelomate worms that bear bristles and fleshy appendages on most segments; marine, may be free-swimming, errant, burrowing or tube dwelling

Polyhaline—water with salinity of 18 to 30 practical salinity units (psu)

Population—a group of individuals of the same species occupying the same area

Portunid—crab of the family Portunidae, which includes the swimming crabs (i.e., blue crab)

Pots—traps, designed to catch fish or crustaceans, in the form of cages or baskets of various materials (wood, wicker, metal rods, wire netting, etc.) and having one or more openings or entrances. Usually set on the bottom, with or without bait, singly or in rows, connected by ropes (buoy-lines) to buoys on the surface to show their position

Practical salinity unit (psu)—the currently used dimensionless unit of salinity, replacing parts per thousand (ppt)

Predators—an organism that lives by preying on other organisms

Prey—animal hunted or caught for food

Protozoans—any large group of single-celled, usually microscopic, eukaryotic organisms, such as amoebas, ciliates, flagellates, and sporozoans

Purse seine—a large commercial fishing net pulled by two boats, with ends that are pulled together around a shoal of fish so that the net forms a pouch or "purse"

Range—refers to the maximum extent of geographic area occupied or used by a species

Recreational fishing—fishing for sport or pleasure

Salinity—the concentration of salts in water, measured in practical salinity units (psu)

Salps—are a barrel-shaped tunicate without an exoskeleton that forms asexual polymorphic colonies that are found in the upper levels of the ocean

Salt marsh—low areas covered by salt-tolerant vegetation (bushes and grasses) near the sea that are periodically flooded by seawater but not exposed to daily tides; plants in this ecosystem have special adaptations to survive in the presence of high salinities

Sand dollars—are any species of flattened, burrowing sea urchin belonging to the order Clypeasteriida

Sand lances—refers to sand eels, a common forage fish of the family Ammodytidae that has a narrow, elongate, subcylindrical body with a pointed snout and long dorsal and anal fins

Sand ridges—any low ridge of sand formed at some distance from the shore, and either submerged or emergent, such as a longshore bar or a barrier beach

Sardines—are any of various small or half-grown edible herrings or related fishes of the family Clupeidae

Sargassum—a genus of brown algae commonly found in temperate and tropical waters both as pelagic and benthic forms

Sauries—is a slender long beaked fish of the family Scombersocidae

School—a social group of fish, drawn together by social attraction, whose members are usually of the same species, size, and age; the members of a school move in unison along parallel paths in the same direction

Sculpin—refers to any of numerous spiny large-headed broad-mouthed usually scaleless scorpaenoid fishes

Sea anemones—large, heavy, complex polyps that belong to the cnidarian class Anthozoa

Sea angels—also known as clones; and previously known as one kind of pteropods, are a group of small swimming sea slugs

Sea squirts—any of various sedentary tunicates of the class Ascidiaceae, having a transparent sac-shaped body with two siphons

Sea surface temperatures (SST)—refers to the temperature of the uppermost layer of seawater (approximately 0.5 m deep). Measured over large spatial scales by remote sensing satellite-based detectors and at point locations by moored buoys or ships

Sea urchins—are one of the class (Echinoidea) of echinoderms in which the body is covered by hard shell (test) composed of fitted immovable plates with often large and sharp spines that are articulated at base; may be of various sizes – spherical, discoid, or round

Seagrasses—rooted, grass-like flowering plants, such as eelgrass, that are adapted to live at sea, submersed, and can tolerate a saline environment

Seahorse—a small marine fish of the genus *Hippocampus*, characteristically swimming in an upright position and having a prehensile tail, a horse-like head, and a body covered with bony plates

Seamounts—refers to an undersea mountain rising more than 914 m from the sea floor, but having a summit at least 305 m meters below sea level (in contrast to an island)

Sediment—solid fragmented material, either mineral or organic, that is deposited by ice, water, or air

Seine—nets that are usually set from a boat, and can be operated either from the shore (beach seines) or from the boat itself. The manner of capture is to surround an area of water with a very long net, with or without a bag at the center. The net is usually operated by two ropes fixed to its ends, used both for hauling it in and for herding the fish

Serial spawner—a fish that spawns in bursts or pulses more than once in a spawning season in response to an environment stimulus

Shallow water—water that is between the shore and the continental shelf break or shallower than 200 m

Shellfish—an aquatic animal, as a mollusk, having a shell of shell-like exoskeleton

Shoals—a submerged ridge, bank, or bar consisting of, or covered by, unconsolidated sediments (mud, sand, gravel) which is at or near enough to the water surface to constitute a danger to navigation

Silversides—small fishes having a silver stripe along each side; abundant along the Atlantic coast of the U.S.

South Atlantic Bight (SAB)—that part of the ocean coastal region extending from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina south to Cape Canaveral, Florida

Spawn—the release of eggs and sperm during mating

Species—a population or series of populations of organisms that can interbreed freely with each other but not with members of the other species

Species diversity—the number of different species in a given area

Species of concern—identifies species about which NMFS has some concerns regarding status and threats, but for which insufficient information is available to indicate a need to list the species under the ESA

Species richness—number of species in a given area

Sponges—any of numerous aquatic, chiefly marine invertebrate animals of phylum Porifera, characteristically having a porous skeleton composed of fibrous material or siliceous or calcareous spicules and often forming irregularly shaped colonies attached to an underwater surface

Standard deviation—a statistical measure of the amount by which a set of values differs from the arithmetical means; simply, a measure of how widely values are dispersed from the mean

Standard length—the length of a fish measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the backbone and does not include the tail

Stock structure—the genetic diversity of a stock

Stock—a group of individuals of a species that can be regarded as an entity for management or assessment purposes; a separate breeding population of a species

Subadult—maturing individuals that are not yet sexually mature

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)—rooted plants and algae that live in submerged saline water during their entire life cycle (including reproduction); occur in fresh, brackish, and marine waters; in marine waters they are found in the low intertidal and subtidal zones

Substrate—the material to which an organism is attached or in which it grows and lives; also, the underlying layer or substance

Subtidal—estuarine or marine environment that lies below mean low-water; always submerged in a tidally-influenced area

Subtropical—the regions lying between the tropical and temperate latitudes

Subtropical fishes—species that tolerate a minimum water temperature between 10° to 20°C

Surf zone—refers to area of water from the surf line to the beach

Target species—species of fish or invertebrate specifically sought by a fishery

Taxa (taxon)—a defined unit (e.g., species, genus, or family) in the classification of living organisms

Teleost—of or belonging to the Teleostei or Teleostomi, a large group of fish with bony skeletons, including most common fishes

Temperate—the region of the Earth at the mid-latitudes that is characterized by a mild, seasonally changing climate

Temperate fishes—species that prefer water temperatures of 10° C or below, with a maximum temperature tolerance of 15°C

Thermocline—the depth in the ocean (water column) in which there is an abrupt temperature change

Thermoregulatory—an organism's ability to maintain a specific body temperature regardless of the environmental temperature

Threatened species—any plant or animal species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a part of its range; the authority to designate a species as threatened is shared by the USFWS (terrestrial species, sea turtles on land, manatees) and National Marine Fisheries Service (most marine species) under provisions of the ESA

Tidal creek—portion of a stream that is affected by the ebb and flow of the ocean tides, in the case that that the subject stream discharges to an ocean, sea or strait

Tidal flat—a nearly flat coastal area, alternately covered and exposed by the tides, and consisting of unconsolidated sediments

Total length—the longest measurable distance from the outermost portion of a fish's or marine mammal's snout lengthwise to the outermost portion of the tail fin, or the notch between the flukes for cetaceans

Trans-oceanic—refers to on or from the other side of the ocean

Trap—a portable, enclosed type of baited fishing gear used to capture fishes or crustaceans (lobsters and crabs) that possesses one or more entrances but no exits and one or more lines attached to surface floats; can be made of many types of materials (wood, reeds, or wire) and in many shapes or configurations; "trap" and "pot" are fairly synonymous

Trawl—refers to a towed commercial fishing gear or net that consists of a cod-end or bag used for collecting the fish or other target species; trawls can be towed at any depth of the water column

Trolling—angling by drawing a baited line through the water

Trophic level—a step in the transfer of food or energy within a chain

Tropical—the geographic region found in the low latitudes (30° north of the equator to 30° south of the equator) characterized by a warm climate

Tropical fishes—species that prefer a water temperature of 20°C or above

Trotline—a method of fishing that involves a horizontal set mainline that has small floats attached to suspend it off the seabed to avoid snagging. Short, weighted lines, sometimes called snoods or trots, are attached at intervals along the length of the mainline. These are set vertically in the water and act like a series of short droplines

Tunicates—primitive marine animals having a sac-like, unsegmented body enclosed in a tough outer covering (e.g., sea squirts, salps)

Upwelling—refers to the movement of dense, cold, nutrient-rich water up from ocean depths to the surface

Wetland—an area inundated by water (either freshwater or saltwater) frequently enough to support vegetation that requires saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction; generally includes swamps, marshes, springs, seeps, or wet meadows

Young-of-the-year (YOY)—a juvenile fish less than one year old

Zooplankton—diverse group of non-photosynthesizing organisms that drift freely in the water or its surface; zooplankton are composed of a wide range of invertebrates, including larval forms of fish and shellfish