









# Research Update for Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

Georgia Coastal Research Colloquium 22 September 2011

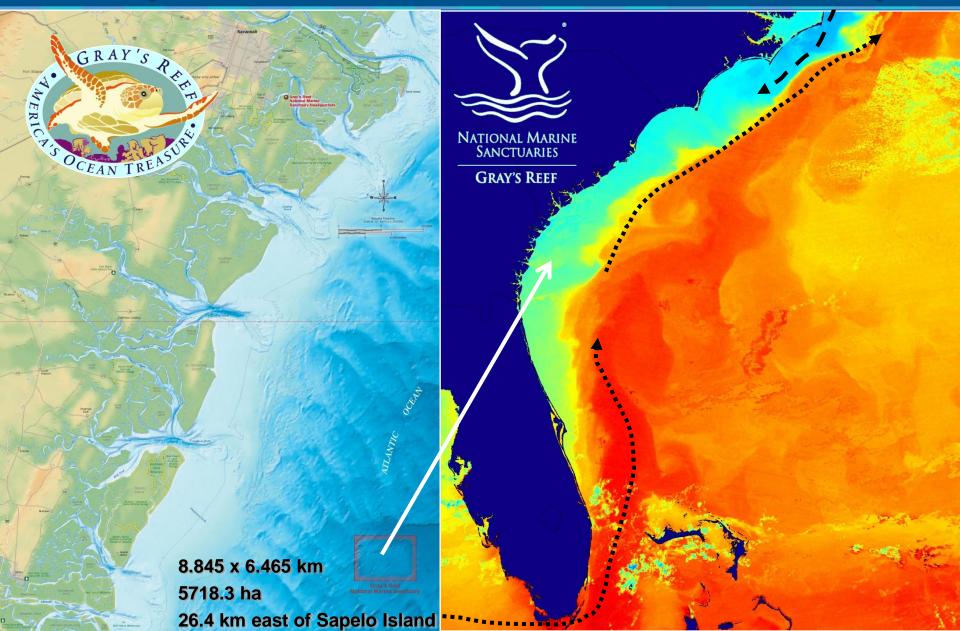
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#### Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary



### "Live-Bottom Habitat"

OM Habitat

GRAY'S

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

GRAY'S REEF

- Rocky substrate with "carpet" of attached organisms
- Foundation for sessile benthic invertebrates
- Habitat and prey for mobile invertebrates and a variety (201 spp.) of fishes; also turtles and Atlantic right whales







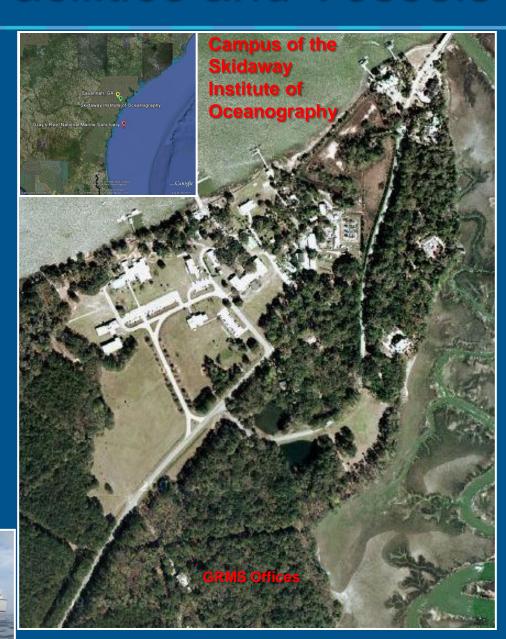


#### GRNMS Assets: Facilities and Vessels



SRVx





## GRNMS is an Important Research Site





### Over 70 publications on GRNMS



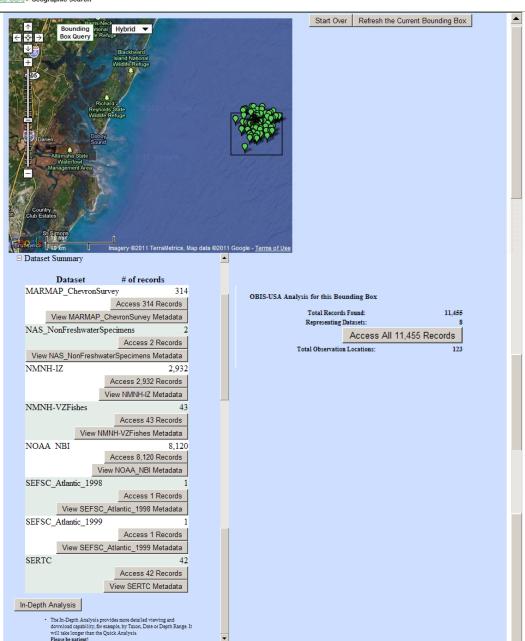


Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) - USA

NBII Home > Habitats > Marine > Marine Data (OBIS-USA) > Geographic Search

Marine	
Marine Data (OBIS-USA)	
Atlas	
Contributing Data	
Data Dashboard	
Data Richness	
Date Quality	
Duplication Status	
General Metadata	
Geographic Search	
Participants	
Policies and Disclaimer	
Taxonomic Depth	

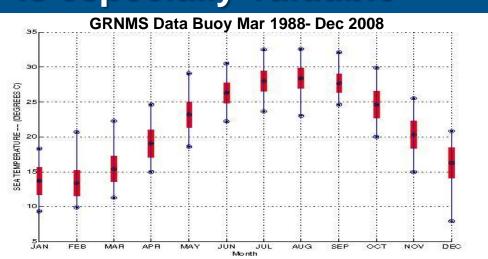


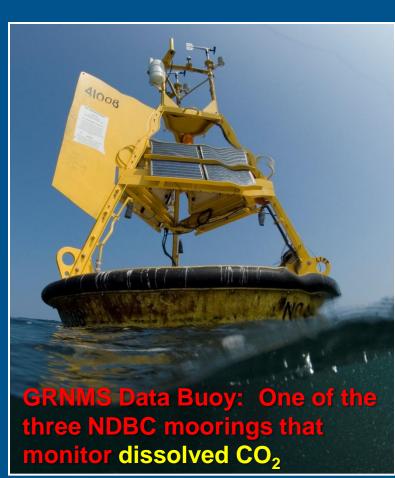


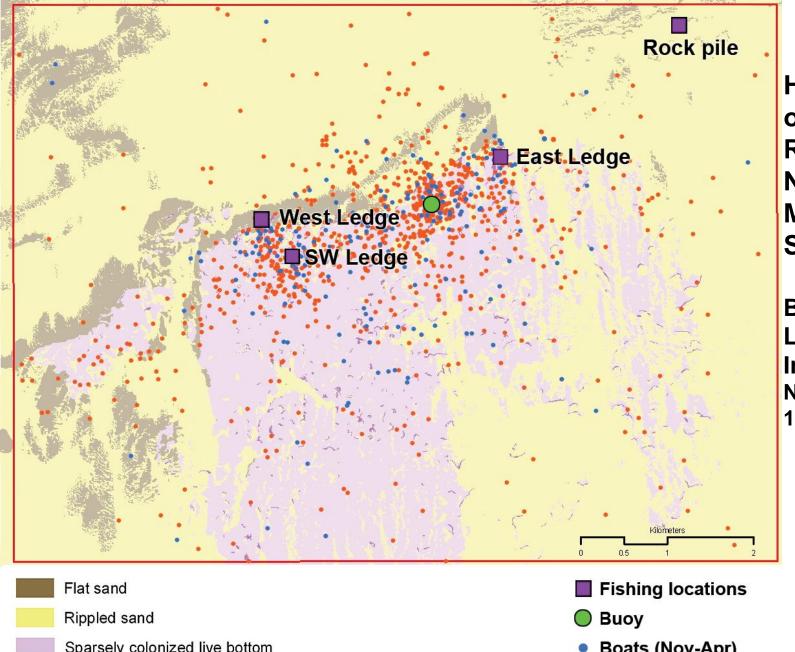
#### **OBIS-USA: Monitoring Biodiversity** Through the Census of Marine Life

### Climate Change and GRNMS

- GRNMS data buoy provides long-term temperature data: A sentinel site for climate change, ocean acidification, etc.
- Other long-term monitoring data available
- GRNMS geographic location is especially valuable





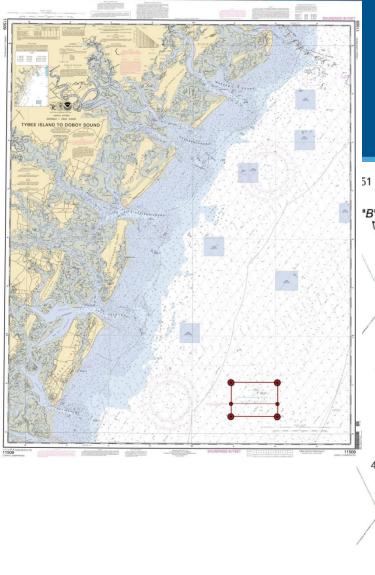


**Habitat Map** of Gray's Reef **National Marine** Sanctuary

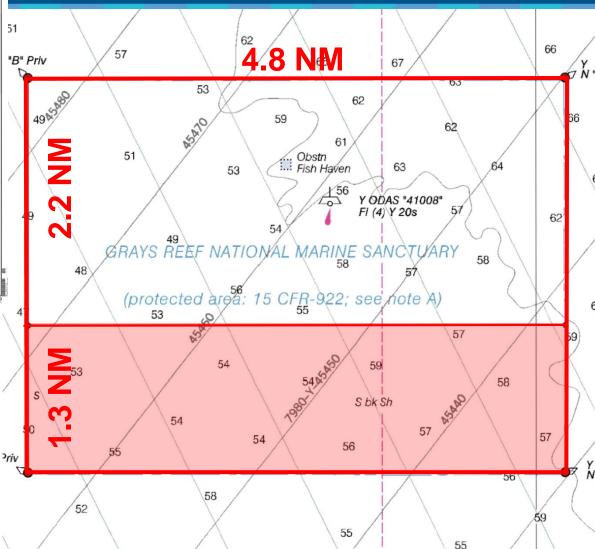
**Boat Use** Locations **Indicated** N=1140 1998-2007 Data

- Sparsely colonized live bottom
- Densely colonized live bottom (Ledge)
- **GRNMS** Boundary

- **Boats (Nov-Apr)**
- **Boats (May-Oct)**



### GRNMS Research Area



# Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Research Area

#### • What are the research questions?

- What impacts if any does fishing and associated impacts have on the reef? Is fishing an impact?
- What impacts does fishing have on overall fish and invertebrate community?
- Does fishing affect fish size, movements, spawning?
- What variability in the natural system is independent

of human impact?

- How well is NOAA conserving the resources of Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary?
- Lionfish!

# 2011 Fishing/No Fishing Comparison Site Selection

