



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

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ASMFC Releases Factsheet on Living Shorelines

Arlington, VA – In late 2018, the Commission approved an update to the 2010 Habitat Management Series document, “Living Shorelines: Impacts of Erosion Control Strategies on Coastal Habitats,” that highlights the growing body of literature and lessons learned since the original publication. The [factsheet](#) and [additional information](#) feature selected case studies, websites, and references in support of the application of best practices moving forward. Both can be accessed on the Commission’s website at <http://www.asmfc.org/habitat/hot-topics>.



Living shorelines in Punta Rassa, FL. Photo © www.floridalivingshorelines.com

A living shoreline (LSL) is a protected, stabilized coastal edge made of natural materials such as plants, sand, or rock. Unlike a concrete seawall or other hard structure, which impede the growth of plants and animals, LSLs grow over time. LSLs are adopted with increasing frequency to address coastal shoreline erosion issues along both public and private shoreline properties. They are mostly used along bays, sounds, and in other estuarine settings, as beach and inlet systems experience energy levels higher than those for which natural materials can successfully be used. LSLs integrate habitats across the shoreline landscape by promoting the land-water continuum, provide enhanced habitat for fish and wildlife, naturally adapt to changing sea levels in the face of climate change, and enhance the natural beauty of adjacent properties.

As sea level rise continues, armoring shorelines against wave energy and erosion will continue to be important to those living along coastal waters. Using LSLs to accomplish this will ensure connections remain established between the uplands and estuaries to maintain or even improve the health of the important fish habitats they sustain. For more information, please contact Dr. Lisa Havel, Habitat Committee Coordinator, at lhavel@asmfc.org.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.