



Workshop Background Materials: Atlantic/Gulf Coast Studies

Cownose Rays in the Chesapeake Bay: What do we know?

Thursday, October 22nd, 2015
National Aquarium, Baltimore, MD

Age, Growth and Reproduction

- Neer, J. A. and B. A. Thompson. 2005. Life history of the Cownose Ray, *Rhinoptera bonasus*, in the northern Gulf of Mexico, with comments on geographic variability in life history traits. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* 73:321–331. Doi: [10.1007/s10641-005-2136-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10641-005-2136-5)

Diet Studies

- Ajemian, M.J. and S.P. Powers. 2012. Habitat-specific feeding by cownose rays (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) of the northern Gulf of Mexico. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* 95(1): 79-97. Doi: [10.1007/s10641-011-9858-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10641-011-9858-3)
- Ajemian, M.J. and S.P. Powers. 2013. Foraging effects of cownose rays (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) along barrier islands of the northern Gulf of Mexico. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 439: 119-128. Doi: [10.1016/j.jembe.2012.10.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jembe.2012.10.021)
- Collins, A., M.R. Heupel, R.E. Hueter and P.J. Motta. 2007. Hard prey specialists or opportunistic generalists? An examination of the diet of the Atlantic cownose ray *Rhinoptera bonasus*. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 58(1): 135-144. Doi: [10.1071/MF05227](https://doi.org/10.1071/MF05227)

Population Dynamics and Spatial Distribution

- Craig, J.K., P.C. Gillikin, M.A. Magelnicki and L.N. May. 2010. Habitat use of cownose rays (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) in a highly productive, hypoxic continental shelf ecosystem. *Fisheries Oceanography* 19(4): 301-317. Doi: [10.1111/j.1365-2419.2010.00545.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2419.2010.00545.x)
- Goodman, M.A., P.B. Conn and E. Fitzpatrick. 2011. Seasonal Occurrence of Cownose Rays (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) in North Carolina's Estuarine and Coastal Waters. *Estuaries and Coasts* 34(3): 640-651. Doi: [10.1007/s12237-010-9355-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-010-9355-5)
- Grubbs, R.D., J.K. Carlson, J. Romine, T.H. Curtis, and D. McElroy. 2011. Save the Bay, Eat a Ray: A Purported Trophic Cascade Mediated by Declines in Large Shark Populations and the Consequences of Applying Simplistic Models to Complex Ecosystems.

Conference Paper for American Fisheries Society 140th Annual Meeting. [Link](#)

- Myers, R.A., J.K. Baum, T.D. Shepherd, S.P. Powers and C.H. Peterson. 2007. Cascading effects of the loss of apex predatory sharks from a coastal ocean. *Science* 315:1846–1850. Doi: [10.1126/science.1138657](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1138657)
- Peterson, C.H., J.F. Fodrie, H.C. Summerson and S.P. Powers. 2001. Site-specific and density-dependent extinction of prey by schooling rays: generation of a population sink in top-quality habitat for bay scallops. *129(3)*: 349-356. Doi: [10.1007/s004420100742](https://doi.org/10.1007/s004420100742)