

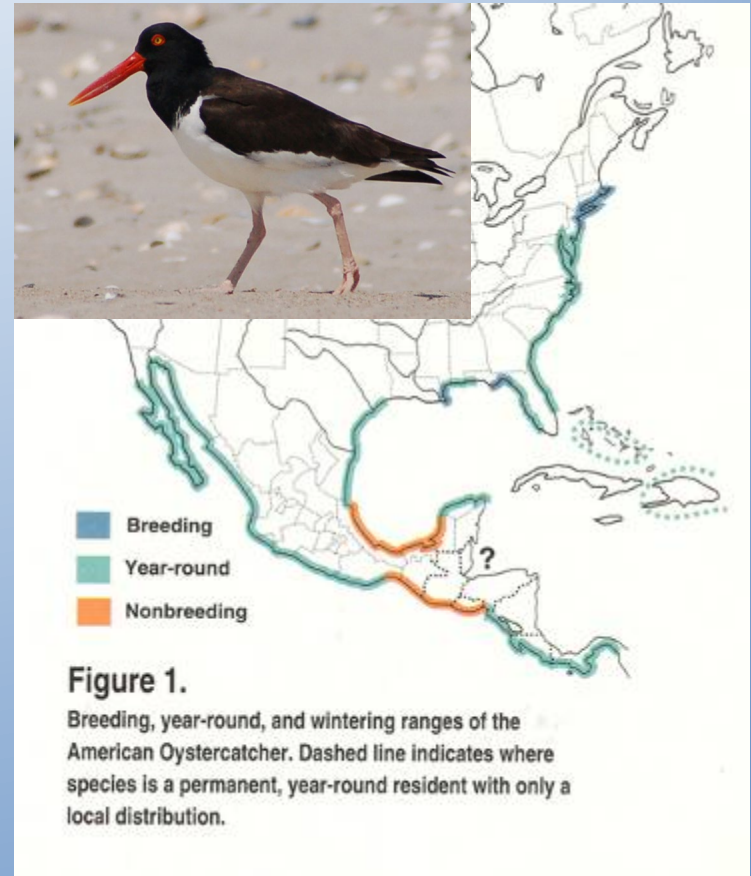
American Oystercatcher Working Group

2020 overview and
US breeding season
update



History

- Oystercatchers recognized as a species of conservation concern
- The American Oystercatcher Working Group was formed at the Waterbird Society Meeting in 2001.
- Mix of researchers, land managers, conservation groups
- In 2008 the group developed a business plan for Oystercatcher population recovery in cooperation with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



Oystercatcher recovery business plan

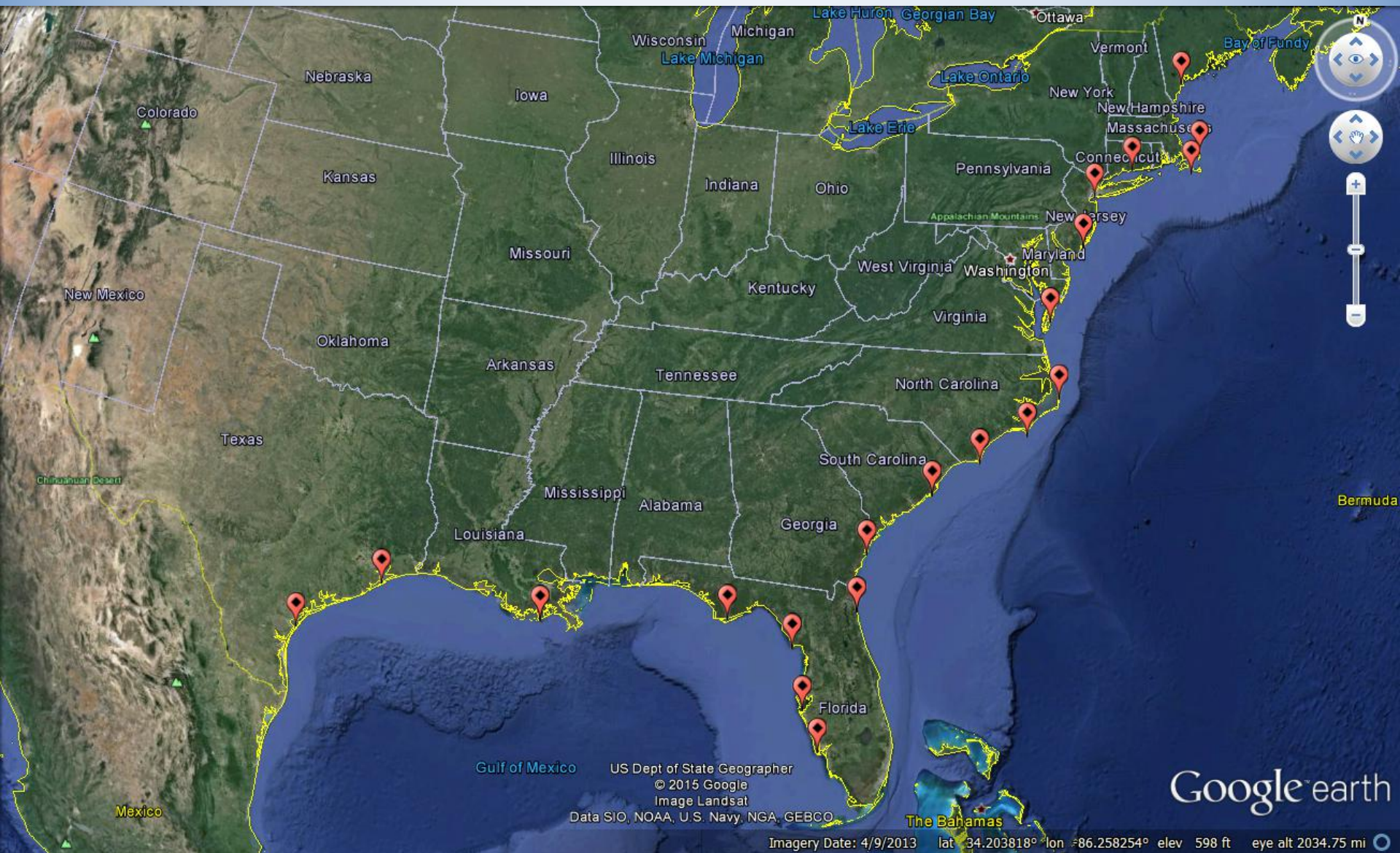
- 2008 - Business plan for Oystercatcher population recovery developed in cooperation with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Problem: declining population
- Objective: 30% population increase in 10 years
 - ~ 0.5 chicks/pair/year
- Solution: Coordinated long-term management and conservation
- Predicted outcomes for different levels of funding/capacity
- Scale:
 - 10M over 10 years in matching support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
 - Encompasses the range of the American Oystercatcher on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States



Business Plan for the Conservation of the American Oystercatcher

A 10-Year Plan to Secure a Coastal Keystone Species

American Oystercatcher Working Group
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
October 26, 2008



US Dept of State Geographer
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Image Landsat
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google earth

Imagery Date: 4/9/2013 lat 34.203818° lon -86.258254° elev 598 ft eye alt 2034.75 mi

Accomplishments

- Long-term, cooperative Mark-Recapture effort
 - 6197 birds banded
 - 75691 resight records
 - Data sharing agreement
- Developed new disturbance management techniques and best practices
- Pioneered predator management techniques and contributed to a comprehensive best practices manual
- Greatly expanded capacity for management
- Completed 3 full surveys of the US wintering population
- Full revision of the BNA account
- **Increasing Oystercatcher population!**
23% growth in 10 years



Accomplishments

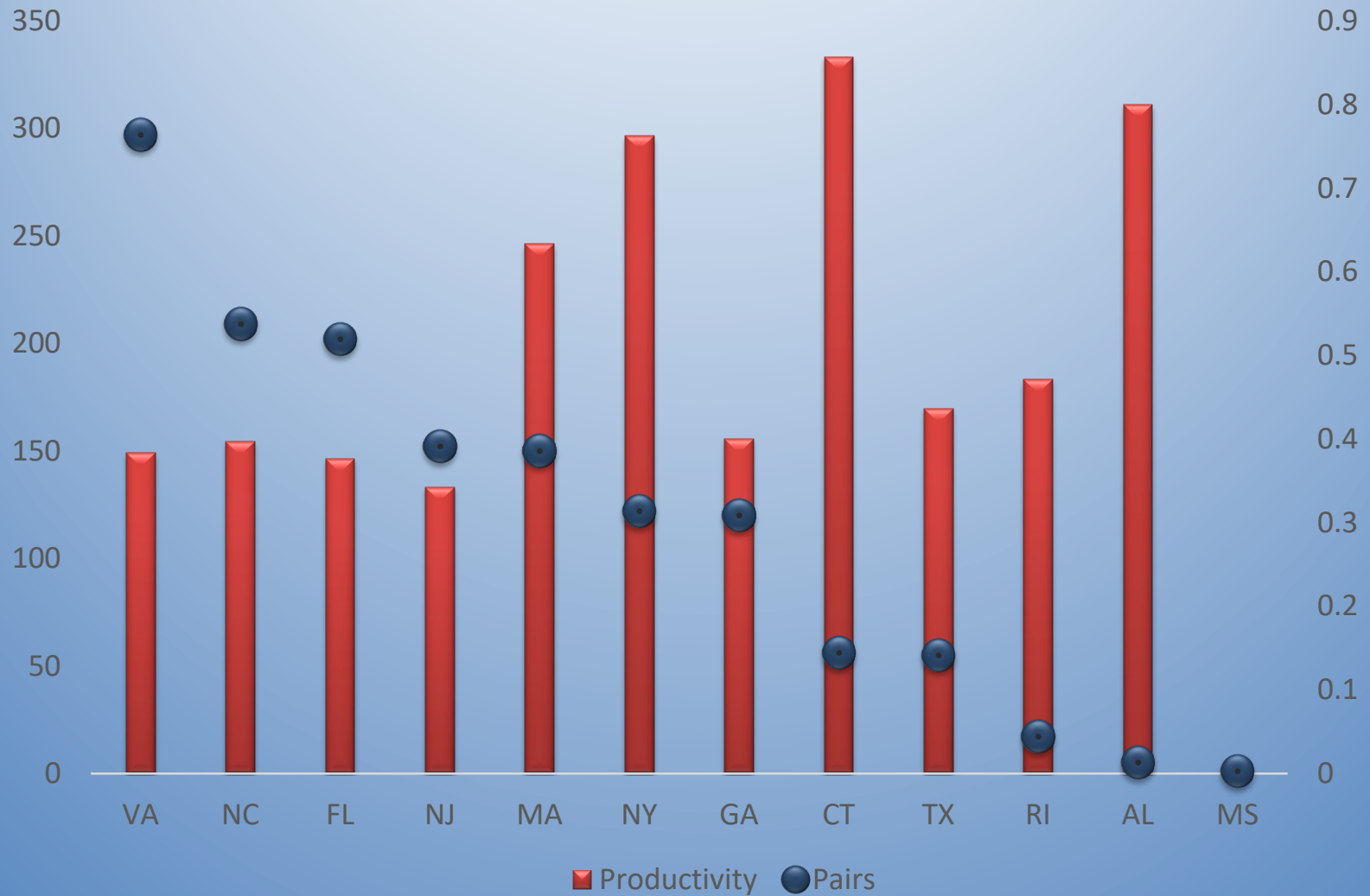
- AMOY website with project info and research paper clearinghouse
- Developed breeding season survey protocol
- Conducted predator management pilot projects
- Estimated demographic parameters
- Estimated natal philopatry and site fidelity
- Studied effects of disturbance
- Assessed effect of AMOY management on associated species
- Foraging habitat restoration
- Nesting habitat restoration
- Education initiatives
- Social marketing campaigns
- Story map



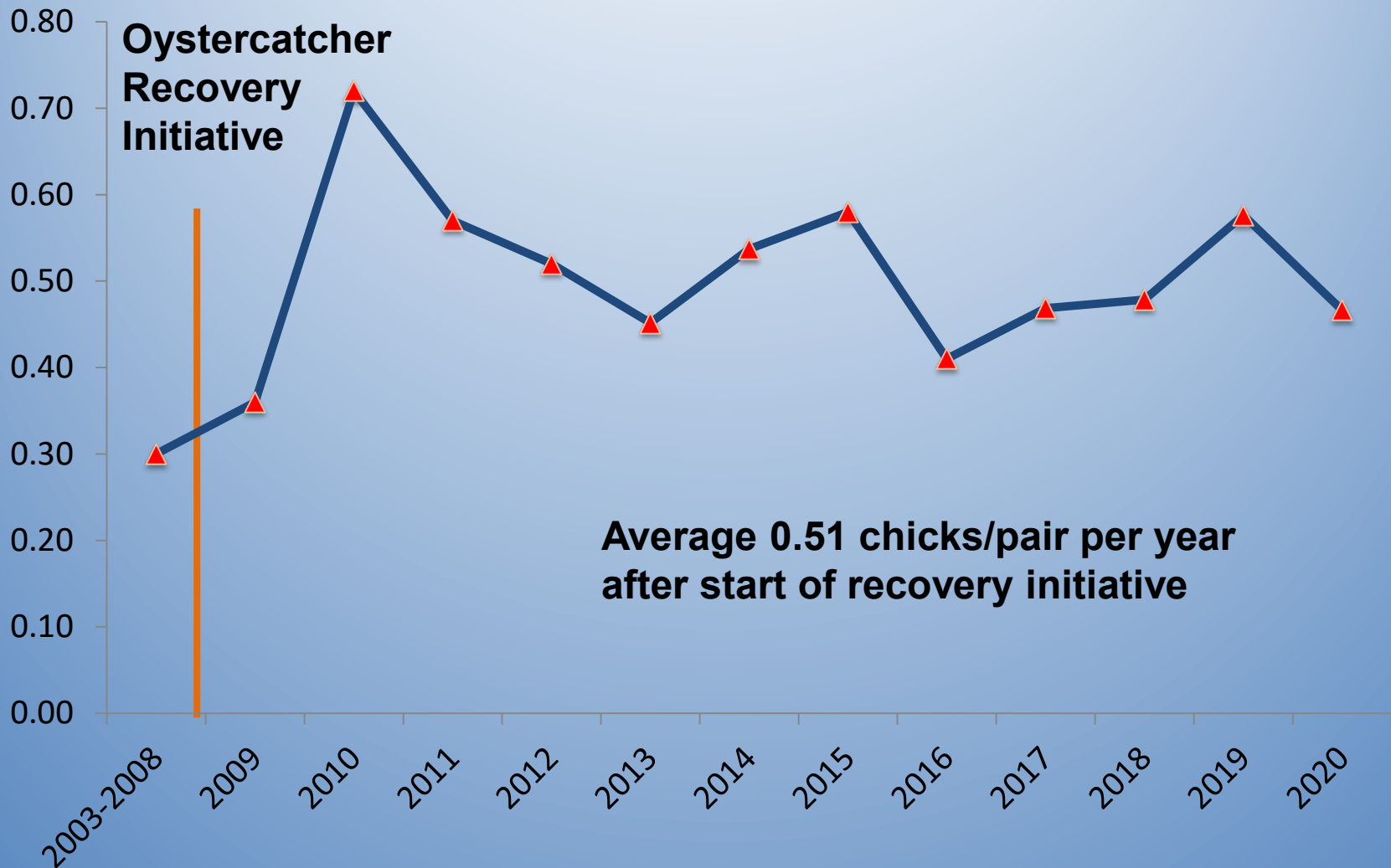
Conservation Strategies

- Coordinated Management
 - Planning
 - Communication
 - Shared resources, management strategies
- Coordinated Monitoring
 - Common metrics, survey standards, and reporting
- Conservation scale
 - ~900 miles of coastline managed
 - ~1400 AMOY pairs under active management
 - 40+ partners in US AMOY Working Group
 - Partners in every Atlantic and Gulf Coast state
 - Federal, State, and private support for the initiative
 - Expanded international cooperation

2020 Productivity



Productivity



Population trend

- 2003: 10,971 +/- 298
- 2008: 10,150 +/- 385 8% ↓
- 2013: 11,284 +/- 313 11% ↑
- 2018: 12,453 +/- 245 10.3% ↑

23% population increase 2008-2018



Current Objectives

- Maintain population trajectory
 - Productivity > 0.5 chicks/pair
 - Manage current nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat
 - Create or restore habitat
 - Minimize human disturbance
 - Address predation where needed
 - Build a constituency of public support for AMOY conservation
- Standardize shared metric collection and reporting
- Maintain or increase banding effort
- Develop shared database for breeding season data
- Improve connections with international partners

