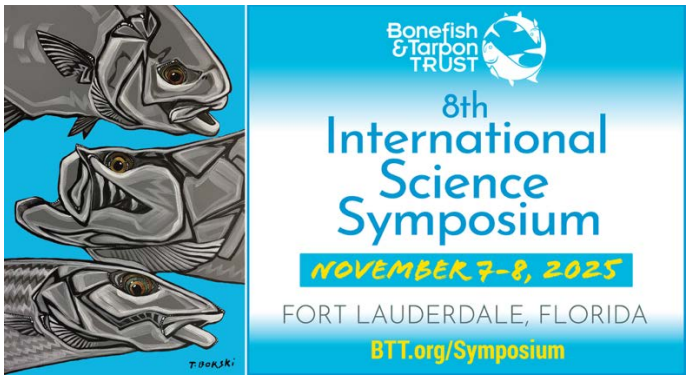


Science-Based Strategies for Atlantic Tarpon Conservation Across Ecosystems

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Atlantic tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*) are long-lived, highly migratory fish whose conservation is challenged by their movement across domestic and international boundaries, reliance on diverse habitats throughout their life cycle, and exposure to a wide range of region-specific threats. This presentation brings together recent findings on tarpon spatial ecology and life history, drawing from acoustic telemetry, foraging landscape modeling, and a study of shark depredation. These efforts reveal high interannual site fidelity, distinct migratory groups, and

connectivity across components of ecosystems. The depredation study provides additional insights into angling risks and highlights the importance of responsible angling practices in areas where predation pressure is high. We also review key conservation challenges, such as the loss of juvenile habitat, water quality decline, reduced prey availability, and angling-related impacts, and place them within a life cycle–based framework designed to inform management. This talk provides a broad ecological and conservation context that will set the stage for the region-specific presentations that follow, highlighting how localized threats and opportunities connect back to the species' broader conservation needs. Our work also contributes to an upcoming reassessment of the global conservation status of tarpon by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

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