

**Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team**  
**2012 Work Plan**

**Blue Crabs:**

- New bay-wide abundance and exploitation targets and thresholds for blue crabs recommended by the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee and adopted by the states. (NOAA)
- Assess extent to which the population is sustainable (i.e., between the abundance and exploitation targets and thresholds) by preparing and delivering the Blue Crab Advisory Report annually (2012 and 2013) and convening the Fisheries GIT to discuss the report and adapt management approaches when necessary. (NOAA)
- Implementation of the newly revised female abundance targets as proposed by CBSAC
- Develop of male specific abundance targets and reference points to determine a hard catch limit for each jurisdiction to manage “as they see fit”
- CBSAC to complete 2012 Blue Crab Advisory Report

**Oysters:**

- NOAA and USACE will continue restoration in the Great Wicomico and Lynnhaven Rivers and Harris Creek in 2012 and begin focused planning and restoration in two to three additional bay tributaries by 2013 (candidate tributaries include, but are not limited to, Cox Creek, Little Choptank River, Lafayette and Piankatank Rivers). However, we note that the first several years are focusing more heavily on establishing standardized assessment protocols and developing tributary restoration plans with accelerated implementation of in-water restoration expected in the outyears. (NOAA/USACE)
- The Fisheries GIT will continue to adopt and apply oyster restoration performance metrics to existing projects in the Great Wicomico and Lynnhaven Rivers. These metrics will be used to guide new tributary restoration planning and monitoring. (NOAA/USACE)
- Complete bay-wide Oyster Stock Assessment. (NOAA)
- Complete native oyster protection and restoration strategy, including a collaborative and agreed-upon federal-state list of priority tributaries targeting four to six tributaries for restoration and lay out steps for expanding aquaculture and evaluating sustainability of wild fishery. The collaborative strategy will document a phased approach for developing tributary scale restoration plans, reef construction, monitoring and performance evaluation. (NOAA)
- Complete USACE Native Oyster Restoration Master Plan. (USACE)
- Establish a team to consider funding, substrate, and three-dimensionality of reefs
- Develop a multi-jurisdictional policy for oyster management and aquaculture (this would require involving the Coast Guard) to assist localities in dealing with user conflict and other hurdles
  - Proposed Options
    - a) Convene a policy discussion among key actors across the jurisdictions
    - b) Workshops
    - c) Oyster Summit
    - d) Develop a strategy for execution of goals
- MD and VA tributary selection for initial restoration practices implementing the adopted Oyster Metrics
- Research the potential for aquaculture operations to contribute to population rebuilding efforts

**Invasive Catfish:**

- Finalize adoption of the invasive catfish policy statement
  - Begin implementation of actions listed within statement

**Land Use and Fisheries:**

- Develop GIT 1 action plan to prioritize and implement recommendations from December 'Land & Fish' workshop

**Other Priorities:**

- Support basic fishery science for the Bay, and market the importance of Bay restoration as central to the vitality of the entire East Coast
- Move forward in educating the land-use community to make effective connections

**Administrative Duties:**

- Maintain monthly Executive Committee meetings
  - New science briefing at each meeting
- Complete outputs from December full GIT meeting
- Hold biannual full GIT meetings
- Biannual newsletters
- Increase communications between GITs
- Relay other GITs goals/updates within the Fisheries GIT