

**Chesapeake Bay Program Update
Management Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 10, 2012**

CBPO Calendar

Nov 28	Habitat GIT meeting (Shepherdstown, Wv.)
Nov 16	NCEL and CB legislators (Annapolis, Md.)
Nov 29-30	CAC meeting (Havre de Grace, Md.)
Dec (TBD)	Healthy Watersheds GIT Meeting
Dec 2-4	Maryland Farm Bureau conf (OC, Md.)
Dec 4	STAC meeting (Annapolis, Md.)
Dec 5	Principal Staff Committee meeting (TBD)
Dec 6-8	Fisheries GIT meeting (Port Isobel, Va.)
Dec 10	Maintain Health Watersheds GIT Meeting
Dec 12	Management Board conf call
Dec 13-14	LGAC meeting (Annapolis, Md.)

Program Updates

Endorsements Sought for Final Forest Restoration Strategy

The US Forest Service (USFS) in collaboration with federal and state partners, jurisdiction representatives of CBP, and a broad group of other interested parties has finalized the Forest Restoration Strategy for the Chesapeake Bay watershed (originally presented to the MB during its August meeting). The Strategy focuses on restoring forest cover in targeted areas to improve ecosystem function and provide community benefits in targeted areas of the landscape such as urban forests, mine lands, contaminated lands, agro-forestry, and fish and wildlife habitat. The Forest Restoration Strategy is part of the Recover Habitat goal of the Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

USFS is seeking final endorsement from the CBP Partners for the Forest Restoration Strategy. A letter to the Chesapeake Bay Program Principals' Staff Committee members (which will include a link to the document) will be sent this week to request their endorsement, and use of the CBP logo in conjunction with the USFS logo. MB members are requested to work with your PSC representatives to receive such support. A signing ceremony is planned for December 5 in Washington DC and we would like to hear back from PSC members by November 27. Once finalized, the document will be made available at <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/>. Contact: Sally Claggett, 410-267-5706, sclaggett@fs.fed.us.

2013 Executive Order Action Plan

The Chesapeake Federal Leadership Committee Designees (FLCD) plan to publish for public comment on Wednesday, November 14 their draft 2013 Action Plan. The Action Plan as required by the Executive Order *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay*. The Action Plan lays out commitments for the current fiscal year from each of the federal agencies involved in restoration of the Bay. The draft plan will be available for comment through November 23 and the final report is anticipated to be released the week of December 17. The FLCD met on October 25 to discuss the draft Action Plan and its planned release. Contact: Jim Edward, 410-267-5705, edward.james@epa.gov

Draft Toxic Contaminants Report

A draft CBP Toxic Contaminants Report, developed by a STAR Action Team, was released for comment on October 22. Comments received by the end of the review period (Friday, November 9) are currently being considered and where appropriate integrated into the draft.

For the remainder of November, the Action Team's editorial board will be finalizing the document including any necessary internal agency reviews and concurrences. A final report is expected in mid-December and a detailed briefing is being planned for the December MB meeting.

Contact: Greg Allen, 410-267-5746, allen.greg@epa.gov

Draft Model Program for Onsite System Management in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Later this week, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to release for public comment a draft Model Program for Onsite System Management in the Chesapeake bay watershed. The draft document was developed to assist states in developing and implementing a model program for managing onsite systems with the goal of minimizing nitrogen impacts to the Chesapeake Bay. The document is intended to help address nutrient pollution in surface waters when such systems are not otherwise regulated under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The model program reflects EPA's latest research and recommendations on the reduction of nitrogen pollution using different onsite system technologies. It does not establish any binding requirements, nor does it change or substitute for any legal requirements under which states and municipalities regulate onsite systems. Whether and to what extent a state or local government chooses to implement the recommendations contained in this document is a decision that is ultimately left up to the state or local government. Once it receives final internal review, the document will be posted on the CBP webpage at EO webpage at <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net>.

Chesapeake Bay Program Participation in RAE Conference

The Chesapeake Bay Program's efforts to restore the watershed were highlighted during the 2012 Restore America's Estuaries Conference in Tampa, FL., October 22-24. Jeff Corbin, Senior Advisor to the Administrator for the Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River participated on a panel discussing implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and CBP Deputy Director Jim Edward chaired a panel, made up of other CBP Federal Office Directors, on implementation of the Executive Order *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay*. In addition, information about CBP efforts was distributed at a conference booth and two posters depicting the Chesapeake Bay Program's work on the TMDL and on the Partnership's use of adaptive management were part of the conference poster session.

Contact: Jim Edward, 410-267-5705, james.edward@epa.gov

CBPO Associate Director at Susquehanna River Basin Commission meeting

CBPO Associate Director for Science, Rich Batiuk, participated in a panel at the 2012 Federal Susquehanna Coordination meeting on October 16 in Lancaster, Pa. Representatives from EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, US Geologic Service, Department of Energy, National Weather Service, Bureau of Land Management, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania met with SRBC to discuss current issues and potential improvements to coordination in the future. Batiuk was a panelist on the 2013 Susquehanna Water Science Forum: Aquatic Ecosystem Management. The group hopes to leverage resources and utilize diversified funding sources by developing a coordinated strategy for improvements in water quality of the Susquehanna.

Contact: Rich Batiuk, 410-267-5731, batiuk.richard@epa.gov

New Study Shows Consumption of Contaminated Anacostia Fish

A yearlong survey of anglers along the Anacostia River has confirmed that many fishermen are catching, sharing and consuming contaminated fish despite fishing advisories published by Maryland and Washington, D.C. for more than two decades. Research found that current advisories do not resonate among diverse anglers. Only 11 percent of fishermen had seen a sign or poster, and even fewer had received warning material with a fishing license or reviewed related information online. And English-only outreach is not effective among a population in which one-quarter speaks a language other than English at home. Research was conducted through hundreds of interviews along fishing "hotspots" and a community survey that canvassed the lower Anacostia watershed.

According to the report published by the Anacostia Watershed Society, warnings are often not seen, understood or listened to—and as many as 17,000 residents could be consuming fish caught in the Anacostia. The report found that 40 percent of fishermen had never heard that fish from the Anacostia could make them sick. Children, elderly people and women of childbearing age are at most risk to contaminants like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), lead and mercury that lingers in the Anacostia River's waters, sediment and many species of fish. Health problems associated with increased exposure to these chemicals include cancer, liver disease and developmental effects, as well as effects on the immune and endocrine systems.

The survey which studied the social behavior of Anacostia anglers found that a complex set of factors is driving the sharing and consuming of locally caught and potentially contaminated fish: past experience and present beliefs, a lack of awareness of the health risks involved and an overriding desire to share their catch with those who might otherwise go hungry. The full report is available at: http://www.anacostiaaws.org/userfiles/file/AWS_angling_FINAL_web.pdf

CBP Advisory Committees

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

STAC will hold its third 2012 quarterly meeting on December 4, 2013 in Annapolis, Md. at the Historic Maryland Inn. If you plan on attending this meeting, please send your RSVP to Matt Ellis at ellism@si.edu.

STAC is currently planning a number of workshops for the upcoming months. These workshops include:

- 1) *Multiple Management Models in a Regulatory Setting* – This workshop will be held in February of 2013 in the Annapolis area. The purpose of the workshop will be to gather stakeholders, modeling experts and regulatory experts to discuss how multiple models have been applied in management situations around the nation, and analyze whether the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort may benefit from multiple models in the future.
- 2) *Targeting Restoration of Coastal Habitat Complexes* - This workshop will be held in March of 2013 at a location yet to be determined. The Habitat Goal Implementation Team (GIT) proposed a workshop to convene coastal wetland, living shoreline, black ducks, and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration partners to discuss complementary targeting approaches that will facilitate the development of coastal habitat complexes.

In addition, STAC recently held a workshop on October 16-17, 2012. Below is a description of this workshop:

- 1) *Lag Times in the Watershed and their influence on Chesapeake Bay Restoration –* This workshop was held on October 16th and 17th in Annapolis, Maryland at the Sheraton Annapolis Hotel. The workshop investigated how lag times between implementation practices and nutrient reductions in water bodies are simulated in the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. Participants developed a set of recommendations that will guide the Chesapeake Bay Program's future consideration of lag times. The workshop report will be released in the next few months.

For additional information about the workshops, contact Natalie Gardner at gardnern@si.edu.

CBP Goal Implementation Team Updates

GIT 1 – Sustainable Fisheries

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT focuses on advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management by using science to make informed fishery management decisions that cross state boundaries.

The Fisheries GIT's next monthly Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for November 16th from 10:30am-12:30pm. At this meeting we will discuss the blue crab male conservation threshold, December meeting planning, research priorities, GIT goals, and the baywide oyster stock assessment's terms of reference.

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (Fisheries GIT) provides a forum for connecting science and policy across jurisdictions and the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The next full Fisheries GIT meeting will be December 6th-8th at Port Isobel of Tangier Island. We have designed an agenda to keep us moving forward on top priorities (oysters, blue crabs, fish, and land use) and provide opportunities for one-on-one and group interaction that includes both the unique local community and landscape. Below is a brief outline of the agenda.

- Historical Tangier Island Cultural Tour
- Fisheries GIT Updates Since June
- Tangier Island Stakeholder Listening Session
- Blue Crabs – Male Conservation Threshold, Commercial Accountability Project
- Invasive Catfish – Task Force Progress and Research Updates
- Forage Fish & Land Use
- Oysters – Latest Restoration Updates and an Analysis of Aquaculture

GIT 2 – Habitat

The Habitat GIT is restoring a network of land and water habitats to afford a range of public benefits and to support priority species.

The next Habitat GIT meeting will be November 28th at Cacapon State Park, West Virginia. The meeting will focus on a regulatory theme that will include presentations of specific case studies. Following the case study presentations, there will be a facilitated discussion portion with the goal of developing recommendations to decrease time spent getting permits for habitat restoration projects.

The aerial photography of the entire Bay for the 2012 SAV survey was completed to produce a baywide SAV coverage number for 2012. The hot spots for SAV growth in 2012 are the Susquehanna Flats, mid-bay islands from Tangier to Bloodsworth, the Mobjack Bay and Poquoson Flats.

The Habitat GIT has been working with STAR on the Brook Trout Indicator Task Group. The next conference call will be November 19th with a formal meeting in West Virginia on November 29th (day after the Habitat GIT meeting) with the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture in order to update the indicator by Dec 2012 deadline. The new science data compiled by Mark Huday has been obtained and is currently being reviewed. Mark Huday will present his data at the November 29th meeting to facilitate the development of the new indicator and engage researchers and state partners.

The Habitat GIT has been working with CBP and DNR communication teams to develop a Brook Trout Habitat Video Story. Filming has been completed in West Virginia with interviews from a landowner as well as a GIT representative. The purpose of the landowner interview is to engage a common audience by discussing fishing for brook trout as a cultural, cross-generational hobby, while the GIT representative interview provides the expertise on Brook Trout and why it is an excellent indicator of stream health. Video editing has been completed and the video will be posted on the CBP blog website and will be presented at the Fall GIT meeting in West Virginia.

The Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species meeting was held in Raleigh, NC on November 7 with a focus on *Hydrilla* eradication programs. The SAV workgroup held a meeting on November 8 to revise their strategy document based on the 2011 STAC review.

GIT 3 – Water Quality

The Water Quality GIT works to evaluate, focus and accelerates the implementation of practices, policies and programs that will restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

On October 22-23, the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) met in Carroll Valley, Pennsylvania to prioritize input from the WQGIT and Modeling Workgroups for the midpoint assessment of water quality progress, to be completed by 2017. As a result, the WQGIT and its Workgroups identified eight high and several other lower priorities for conducting the midpoint assessment, including assigning lead entities for each priority, and a schedule and process for moving forward. Today's Management Board agenda item on the midpoint assessment will discuss what the WQGIT proposes bringing forward to the PSC for their concurrence.

One of the driving considerations framing the discussion was if the priority addressed barriers to implementation. The WQGIT and its Workgroups agreed that the primary barrier to implementation is the need to enhance the credibility and understanding of CBP models among local stakeholders. As a result, the majority of the higher priorities relate to updating the data inputs to the CBP modeling tools and making the tools easier to understand and more consistent with monitoring data. The WQGIT also recommends revising the submission schedule for the Phase III WIPs so that they can take into account whether jurisdictions met the 60% by 2017 goal.

The WQGIT Workgroups have been tasked with developing work plans for each of the high and

lower priorities, due to the WQGIT on December 3, 2012 and February 4, 2013, respectively. Many of the WQGIT Workgroups have already started working on these work plans and priorities, and recently a briefing was conducted for STAR at their November 5 meeting. As a result, STAR's modeling workgroup will be working closely with the WQGIT as part of the midpoint assessment process.

Additionally, several of the Best Management Practice (BMP) Panels undertaken by the WQGIT Workgroups have been progressing in the urban, agriculture, wastewater, and forestry sectors. At their October 9 meeting, the WQGIT approved the urban retrofits and performance standards reports for crediting these BMPs. It is anticipated that BMP Panel reports for urban nutrient management and urban stream restoration will be submitted for WQGIT review and approval in the winter timeframe.

Finally, Bay jurisdictions are encouraged to start submitting their 2012 progress run data, as the NEIEN node is now open. As in the past, the CBP Modeling Team is ready to assist the jurisdictions with their data submissions.

GIT 4 – Healthy Watersheds

The goal of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT (GIT4) is to maintain local watershed health across a range of landscape contexts. GIT4 activities in 2012 include the following:

The final version of the STAC Healthy Watersheds Workshop Report is expected to be released within the next week. In October and November the Goal Team's Coordinator and CRC Staffer met with all the states to discuss their priorities for GIT 4 2013 work planning. The GIT4 communications work group is going to have a conference call in November to create a list of work priorities and key messages for 2013. The December 10 Goal Team meeting will focus on 2013 work planning, including identification of measurable outcomes and adaptive management of activity planning. The Goal Team will be considering next steps to further develop and communicate identification and healthy watershed assessment capacities and other activities that the GIT can pursue in service to state and local healthy watershed identification and protection initiatives. The GIT 4 Strategy is to: 1) provide a forum for mutual learning and exploration of scientific and management issues, 2) develop information resources, including health and protection status tracking capabilities, and otherwise support communications in support of healthy watershed identification and protection, and 3) promote the science that supports better characterization of healthy watershed functional values. (Contacts: Mike Fritz, Goal Team Coordinator; Anna Stuart Burnett, Goal Team CRC Staffer).

GIT 6 – Partnering and Leadership

The goal of the Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management GIT is to continually improve the governance and management of the CBP Partnership.

Goal Team 6 will be updating the MB on current and upcoming priority work; including the next steps for GIT membership and development of the short-term decision making body for program alignment at the 11-14-12 Management Board meeting.