Fish GIT Outcome Options

1. **Finfish outcome**:
Recover finfish populations to xxxx levels for both resident and transient species.

Pro: The outcome is all inclusive.
Con: May not be based on science, and not necessarily achievable.

2) **Single species outcome:**
Develop bay outcomes for striped bass, shad, herring and menhaden, in a similar way to how c2k was handled.

Pro: Specific to each key species, and is clear and definable.
Con: Single species management focused, instead of ecosystem based. The c2k numbers were not meaningful to the Bay or managers. The goal set by the c2k for striped bass was a spawning stock biomass (SSB) equal to the average from 1960 to 1971, which was 82.7 million pounds of females and a threshold not to go below 66.15 million pounds. Shad target levels were differentiated between the major river systems shad spawn in: the Susquehanna, Potomac, York and James Rivers. The Susquehanna and James Rivers both have dams that require fish passage systems; the goals for these rivers were dictated by these systems. For the Susquehanna River the target for shad was 2 million shad passing the York Haven Dam each year, and 500,000 shad passing the Boshers Dam annually in the James River. For the Potomac River a goal was set for 31.1 catch per unit effort (CPUE) and 17.4 CPUE for the York River for shad. No specific target was set for menhaden because no estimate could be made of the existing population of menhaden in the Bay.

3) **Forage fish outcome:**
Maintain a population level of forage fish that supports other commercial and recreational finfish species.

Pro: Forage fish support and maintain the ecosystem and food web, making this policy an ecosystem based approach.
Con: Could be challenging to scientifically define a base population level or carrying capacity. Habitat considerations would also need to be included (i.e. fish passage).

4) **Ecosystem outcome**:
This outcome could be based on habitat objectives or bay wide multispecies plans or targets. Established habitat objectives with links to land use and support to fisheries would identify and establish measurable minimum thresholds. Established bay wide multispecies plans or targets would be based on the findings that MSY for a complex of species tends to be lower than the sum of MSY for single species.

Pro: Measurable, and would move ecosystem based fisheries management forward on a bay wide scale.
Con: Possible concerns by fisheries.

5) **Invasive catfish outcome:**
Reduce populations of invasive catfish in xxxx key tributaries and watersheds to levels that mitigate impacts and reduce spread.

Pro: High visibility outcome that would drive action in jurisdictions.

Con: