

July 19th, 2013

Carter Waterson (cc: Sarah Diebel, Chris Porter, Melanie Frisch)
Naval Facilities Engineering Command

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (GIT) of the Chesapeake Bay Program is a group of executive level fisheries managers, scientists, and non-governmental partners from within the around the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We are focused on ecosystem-based fisheries management and developing bay wide management approaches that support sustainable fish populations in the Chesapeake. We also work to bolster the growth and sustainability of both recreational and commercial fisheries, while providing for natural and healthy ecosystem function.

The recent deployment of the Navy Vemco Receiver Array in the Lower Chesapeake presents an significant opportunity for long-term research and monitoring of many important Chesapeake Bay species. As a large estuary with robust commercial and recreational fisheries, our stakeholders are largely dependent on a variety of highly mobile species. We view acoustic telemetry as a valuable emerging technology that can assist in answering complex fisheries questions about habitat use, migrations, seasonal distribution, recruitment, and emigration of the species that drive and support our fisheries.

The better managers and academic institutions understand the migrations as well as the habitat selection of resident and migratory species in the watershed, the better management controls can be used to maintain sustainable fisheries and properly functioning estuarine ecosystems across jurisdictional boundaries in the Chesapeake Bay.

The Navy array is by far the most extensive and strategically located telemetry asset in the Chesapeake, and as a whole, we are interested in its sustained maintenance and use by the fisheries research and management community. It is our hope that we may continue this discussion on the longevity of the naval array as it is mutually beneficial to bay jurisdictions. We do realize that to maintain this significant investment will take the collective effort of Federal, State, University, and non-governmental partners. If you would like to further discuss the sustainability of this valuable resource, and explore potential funding mechanisms in the near future, please contact Peyton Robertson.

We thank you in advance for your consideration,

The SFGIT????