

The Maryland Blue Crab design Team has read over and discussed the Outcomes for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. We would like to share our support for the efforts that the fishery managers put into conducting these stock assessments and believe that finding funding to support these efforts is an important one.

We would like to request some minor changes be made to the Outcome document.

1. In Management Approach 2, one of the Key Action Items is the development of a framework for a Total Allowable Catch. The first performance target includes; “guide the evaluation of allocations moving forward.” We do not believe that Allocations should be included in a section discussing Total Allowable Catch. A Key Action about Allocations is already included in this document and we feel all references to allocations should remain there. The Design Team asks that allocations be discussed within it prospective section and be removed as a performance target of the TAC development section.
2. In Management Approach 2, within the Key Action to Improve Harvest Accountability, the 5th Performance Target again references allocations. The Design Team requests that references to allocations be kept within the Key Action about Allocations Section.
3. Within the Feasibility of Allocating Section, Target #2; we would like to request that the wording be changed to, “Determine which, **if any**, of the potential allocation methods have sufficient data to support them.
4. We would also like to request an additional Allocations Performance Target be added to allow for the possibility that allocations are not feasible. We do not believe that the document has stated this possibility clearly in its writing.

Thank You,

The Maryland Blue Crab Design Team