

Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Decision making process:

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (Fisheries GIT) Executive Committee will serve as the decision making body of the Full Fisheries GIT and will operate under a consensus decision-making process led by the Chair.

The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee will invite Non-executive Committee representatives to participate in decision making processes as necessary. For example, on an issue such as blue catfish where entities with direct management responsibility or jurisdiction (e.g. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) are not represented on the GIT Executive Committee a representative will be invited to participate as a voting member of the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee.

Members of the Full Fisheries GIT, unless otherwise invited to participate as a voting member by the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee, will serve in an advisory capacity (reviewing the major policy decisions before the Executive Committee and providing recommendations to inform the decision making process) and to the extent practicable apply their professional expertise to positively influence actions within their organization that either directly or indirectly impact Chesapeake Bay fisheries.

In general, the Fisheries GIT will apply the following decision making steps:

Step 1:

Define the problem

Step 2:

Identify available alternative solutions to the problem

Step 3:

Evaluate the identified alternatives

Step 4:

Make the decision

Step 5:

Implement the decision (Ultimately implementation will be the responsibility of states or other entities with jurisdiction over the resource, location, and or issue. However, implementation should reasonably be coordinated by the Fisheries GIT as a means of enhancing effectiveness and accountability.)

Step 6:

Evaluate the decision (Evaluation should reasonably be coordinated by the Fisheries GIT as a means of ensuring oversight and accountability.)

In general, the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee will apply the following consensus decision making process:

A consensus decision making process is a group decision making process that not only seeks the agreement of most participants, but also the resolution or mitigation of minority objections.

The Fisheries GIT consensus decision-making process will aim to be:

- **Inclusive:** As many stakeholders as possible should be involved in the decision-making process.
- **Participatory:** The process should actively solicit the input and participation of all decision and non decision makers.
- **Cooperative:** The process should strive to reach the best possible decision for the group and all of its members, rather than opt to pursue a majority opinion, potentially to the detriment of a minority.
- **Egalitarian:** All members of the decision-making body should be afforded, as much as possible, equal input into the process. All members have the opportunity to present, amend and veto or "block" proposals.
- **Solution-oriented:** An effective decision-making body strives to emphasize common agreement over differences and reach effective decisions using compromise and other techniques to avoid or resolve mutually-exclusive positions within the group.