Addendum to Attachment IIc

Habitat GIT Recommendation to Management Board for Stream Health Outcome:

The *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* published under Executive Order 13508 contains the following outcome:

> *"Restore stream health and function so that **70%** of sampled stream sites throughout the watershed rate fair, good or excellent as measured by the Index of Biotic Integrity by 2025."*

Following concerns raised by Pennsylvania at the Management Board level that this is more appropriate as an indicator, rather than an outcome, the Habitat Goal Implementation Team recommends that the following **revised outcom**e for stream condition be included in any new Bay agreement:

> *"Restore stream health and function by **10%** above the 2008 level of sampled stream sites* throughout the watershed rating fair, good, or excellent as measured by the Index of Biotic Integrity, by 2025". [*Note: STAR's NTWG will re-assess baseline]*
>
> *Monitoring and assessment of IBI should be compiled by states between 2008-2016 (assessment made available by 2017) and between 2017 and 2025;*

The more modest 10% figure adapts to and aligns with two other associated watershed outcomes:

- Increase stream mileage buffered by riparian forest from 58% to 63% by 2025, and
- Increase total cumulative patch area occupied by brook trout by 8% by 2025.

Suggested Next Steps:

STAR, with support from the CBP Habitat GIT, would set up an **Action Team with representation from the jurisdictions** to assess (a) an **improved metric** for stream health, and (b) options for an associated stream health **goal**. The working group **would include members of the STAR NTWG** workgroup (including ICPRB and Bay jurisdictions that helped develop the CBP stream health indicator), **Habitat GIT Stream Health WG**, and other interested parties (i.e. **Stream and Sediment Coordinator team** from the Center for Watershed Protection).

Suggested options to for the Action Team to consider include:

- Assess whether there are other approaches to assess **change over time** for the current CBP stream health indicator *(Claire Buchanan@ ICPRB et al have agreed to lead this assessment)*
- Develop a **multi-dimensional stream health index** based on a suite of stream information including benthic IBIs, fish IBIs, stream bank stability, and floodplain connectivity. This will take more effort but provide a more representative metric and associated options for an outcome; or
- Consider a stream outcome that focuses on **conditions needed to support watershed fisheries**. Such an outcome could be more closely tied to conditions to support key freshwater species that will return to streams as BMPs such as forest buffers are implemented on the landscape.