

Stakeholder Comments
Fisheries Goals/Outcomes

Sustainable Fisheries Goal: Restore, enhance, and protect the finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem in the watershed and bay.

Fisheries Outcomes and Stakeholder Comments:

As of 7/18/13 Stakeholder Comments from:

- GIT Chairs (Meeting 6/6)
- CBF (letter 6/26)
- CBC (email 6/28)
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (letter 7/10)
- EDF (Management Board 7/11)
- Ken Hastings – Mason Springs Conservancy (7/12)

Blue Crab Outcome: Maintain sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females (1+ years old) and continue to refine population targets between 2013 through 2025 based on best available science.

Blue Crab Outcome Comments

CBF	"We fully support the science-based (control rule) approach embodied in this outcome, but we believe it has to be adopted within a broader context and commitment to restore the health and stability of both the blue crab population and the fishery. The first five years' experience under the control rule approach has indicated that the sustainability it maintains does not necessarily translate into a stable, productive fishery. Consequently, <u>we suggest adding an additional outcome: 'Work with the industry and other stakeholders to develop a baywide allocation framework that provides individual participants either total catch or total effort allocations. Consider limited transferability of such allocations.'</u> "
CBC	"Add a <u>commitment to explore catch or total effort allocations</u> and recognize that this is an approach that will address outstanding latent fishing efforts... This [allocation and accountability] outcome addresses recommendations already put forward by CBSAC in the 2013 Advisory Report to increase harvest accountability and evaluate a quota based management framework."
EDF	The current outcome just refers to population abundance; there needs to be an additional blue crab outcome referring to <u>harvest limit</u> (allocation framework) and <u>harvest accountability</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Look to ASMFC as an example○ New Agreement could mandate that a harvest limit be set, but the states would decide individually what their harvest limit would be

Blue Crab Allocation Draft Outcome

- **CBC suggests** *“Improve our ability to manage for a stable and productive crab population and fishery by working with the industry and other stakeholders to improve commercial and recreational harvest accountability and evaluate the establishment of a Baywide allocation-based management framework with annual levels set by the jurisdictions that will provide predictability for crabbing businesses and accountability of the harvest for each jurisdiction.”*

Oyster Outcome: Restore native oyster habitat and populations in _x_ tributaries by 2025.

Oyster Outcome Comments

CBF	“We fully support the targeted tributary approach, and yet we recognize that the original goal of twenty tributaries restored by 2025 in the EO strategy was, perhaps, too ambitious. Thus, we would <u>support a goal of ten tributaries baywide</u> and believe that meeting the success metrics in ten tributaries would dramatically advance oyster restoration. Furthermore, we believe that it is appropriate to frame the outcome in terms of restoring ecosystem services as well as the public and private fisheries.”
GIT Chairs	“This outcome relates to oysters for habitat as well as populations. May want to modify to <u>reflect ecological restoration outcome</u> (in accordance with oyster metrics) and consider a separate goal in support of oyster aquaculture (oysters as seafood).”
CBC	“Reference that the <u>intent of the oyster outcome is for improved public/private fisheries and ecosystem services.</u> ”
Alliance	Support restoration in at least <u>ten tributaries</u>
Ken Hastings	There should be <u>no reduction</u> in the original tributary number for the oyster restoration outcome. Jurisdictions should give oyster restoration a higher priority when considering competing recourse among oyster restoration, aquaculture, and wild harvest. The commercial oyster industry should not impede oyster restoration efforts

Oyster Draft Outcome

- *Restore native oyster habitat and population in ten tributaries by 2025 to enhance the ecological benefits oyster reefs provide*

Add Forage Fish Outcome

CBF	“It is widely understood that the ongoing or periodic depletion of many ecologically key forage species such as shad, river herring, menhaden and bay anchovy undermines the health of the Chesapeake Bay food web. Individual species management plans cannot account for the health of the full complex of lower trophic level species, and ecosystem-based fisheries management has proven to be a long-term endeavor. Accordingly, we <u>recommend the adoption of a Forage Fish Outcome for the purpose of maintaining suitable cumulative forage potential for the predatory</u>
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	<u>species</u> such as striped bass, bluefish and weakfish that support valuable commercial and recreational fisheries.”
CBC	“Include an initiative on forage fish—CBF has offered some language the GIT could start with”
EDF	Ensure that any additional outcomes are consistent with other relevant management plans
Alliance	“We recommend <u>a forage fish goal</u> that would help support the survival and health of other iconic fish, like rockfish. Measures seeking to ensure healthy populations of fish highly-valued by the public represent a way to engage sports fisherman/women and tourist and the hospitality industry.”

Forage Fish Draft Outcome

Add Habitat Outcome

EDF	Add a habitat outcome because the current Habitat outcomes under the Habitat GIT are related to terrestrial habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat is important to fisheries for spawning areas and juvenile development
Habitat GIT	The Fish Passage outcome under the habitat goal has been updated to include other species: <i>“During the period 2011-2025, restore historical fish migratory routes by opening 1,000 additional stream miles, with restoration success indicated by the presence of Alewife, Blueback herring, American shad, Hickory shad, American eel and/or Brook Trout.”</i>

Habitat Draft Outcome under the Fisheries Goal

- Apply existing tools and authorities to Increase protection of juvenile, nursery, and spawning habitat for xx key fish species*