

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Goal and Outcome Summary

SFGIT Executive Committee Meeting

August 19, 2013

Goal:

Protect, restore, and enhance 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.

Blue Crab Abundance 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 Management Outcome:

Improve our ability to manage for a stable and productive crab population and fishery by working with the industry, recreational crabbers, 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 stability for crabbing businesses and accountability of the harvest for each jurisdiction.

Oyster Outcome:

Restore native oyster habitat and population in ten tributaries by 2025 to recover the benefits of fish habitat and water quality improvements provided by healthy oyster reefs.

Forage Fish Outcome:

By 2016 develop a strategy for assessing the forage base available for predatory species in Chesapeake Bay.

Habitat Outcome:

During the period 2014-2025, continue to identify and characterize critical spawning, nursery and forage areas within the Bay and [tidal] tributaries for important fish and shellfish and utilize new tools to integrate information and conduct assessments to inform restoration and conservation efforts.