

## STAR's American Shad Indicator Action Team (ASIAT)

### August 2013 Meeting Summary

#### Logistics:

Time: Tuesday, August 20, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Call in: Conference Bridge: 866-299-3188, Code: 267-985-6222 (DC Line #2)

Adobe Connect: <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/americanshad2/> (enter as guest)

Annapolis CBP On-site Location: Conference Room 303

Meeting Materials: available at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/20859/>

#### Agenda:

##### Welcome/Introductions (5 mins) – Eric Brittle and Jim Cummins

- *Attendance: Jim Cummins, Eric Brittle, Nita Sylvester, Emilie Franke, Nancy Butowski, Joe Cimino, Ellen Cosby, Lisa Moss, Mike Odom, Alan Weaver, Howard Weinberg, Beth Zinecker, John Wolf*

##### Revised Population Metrics in Virginia: Changes, Additions and Re-weighting (60 mins) – Eric Brittle, All

- Eric Brittle will present the work of the VA Team and seek input from the ASIAT.
  - VA team members are Eric Brittle, Eric Hilton, Brian Watkins, Mike Odom, Alan Weaver, Mike Isel and Joe Cimino.
- Eric B., Eric H., Alan, Mike I. and Joe met on Aug 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss adding adult monitoring gillnet data from the lower James River and adult monitoring data from the Rappahannock River; using historical commercial catch data to set the targets for each of the additional metrics; and re-weighting each portion of the tributaries to better represent the populations returning to each of the rivers.
- Joe presented 2012 catch rate data from the [VIMS staked gill net \(SGN\) survey](#) (in place since 1998). This catch rate data is used to calculate the [catch index](#) for each year.
  - The comparison of ASMFC targets (based on 1980s data) and the current SGN catch indices on James, York and Rappahannock rivers reveal that [higher restoration targets are needed](#)
  - The 1950s benchmark seems more reasonable based on 1950s York river data
- The VA team used the [ratio of the York 1980s to 1950s catch index](#) to calculate the 1950s catch indices for the James and Rappahannock based on their respective 1980s catch indices
  - After evaluating the available commercial catch data, the VA determined that commercial landings data is not a true reflection of shad abundance
- **Important assumptions:**
  - James and Rappahannock experienced the same level of decline as the York from the 1950s to the 80s
  - 1950s levels are achievable and represent a sustainable population in the midst of significant harvest effort
  - 1980s could be considered a threshold; it was a low point but the stock did not collapse
- The total James river index will be comprised of two [weighted components based on area](#): lower James SGN catch index (55% weight of total) and the Boshers' Dam count index (45% weight of total)
- The overall Bay Index will be comprised of all four river values weighted by watershed area as discussed at the June 2013 meeting
  - [Note:](#) the Susquehanna area will be recalculated to include only the area above York Haven Dam

##### Mock-ups of New Maps for the Indicator Webpage (30 mins) – John Wolf, Howard Weinberg, All

- John and Howard will present mock-ups of the new maps and seek input from the ASIAT in order to make refinements prior to posting to the webpage.
  - [Static Map:](#) Printable map; bar charts instead of the current pie charts; different y-axes in order to show trends in the James and Susquehanna
  - [Dynamic Map:](#) a clickable map that will include the indicator data as well as links to

additional shad information for tributaries that are not part of the indicator data (Ex: MD juvenile index webpage)

- Discuss additional information needed from ASIAT members in order to finalize the maps.
  - If possible, the whole watershed should be highlighted on the maps (instead of just the tidal portion) to more accurately represent shad location
  - Bar charts may also be shown on the Shad Indicator webpage in addition to on the map

#### Finalizing the Revised Indicator (20 mins) – All

- Discuss status of web-link provision from MD, VA, Potomac.
- Discuss best ways to portray the revised indicator information on the webpage
  - ([http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/american\\_shad\\_abundance](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/american_shad_abundance)).
- Discuss best ways to communicate the changes to the shad abundance indicator to the Fisheries Goal Implementation Team, the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting Team, and the Management Board.
- Discuss Timeline for finalizing the revised indicator including:
  - Provide update to the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee and the STAR in September (to get their feedback for moving forward with plans to finalize the revised shad abundance indicator, including the links to the supplemental information).
    - Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting: Monday, Sept 23 at 1pm
      - Be sure to include PA rep on this call
    - STAR Meeting: Thursday, Sept 19 at 1pm
  - Request Fisheries GIT and STAR acceptance of the revised indicator in October.
  - Anticipating Fisheries GIT and STAR approval, recommendation of revised indicator to the MB for approval in November.
  - Anticipating MB approval, post revised indicator in December

#### Summarize Action Items (5 mins) – Nita Sylvester

- Nita and Emilie will recalculate the shad abundance index scores:
  - Update York target
  - Add lower James and Rapp data and their new targets
  - Calculate a total James index with the new weighting of the lower and Boshers' Dam sections
  - Calculate a total baywide index score based on the revised river weighting by watershed area
- Howard and John will continue to work on the static and dynamic maps and incorporate the additional information links – Nita will make sure they have all the additional information
- Jim, Eric, Nita and Emilie will coordinate to plan the Fisheries GIT and STAR presentations