Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team
Biannual Full GIT Meeting
December 3-4, 2013
Chesapeake Biological Lab – Bernie Fowler Lab
142 Williams St. Solomons, MD 20688

Meeting Materials: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21025/
Call-In: 866-917-0618; Pass Code: 1613714
Day 1 Webinar: https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/635255567
Day 2 Webinar: https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/249994919

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (Fisheries GIT) continues to provide a forum for connecting science and policy across jurisdictions and the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The diverse team meets bi-annually in June and December. For this December's meeting, we have designed an agenda to keep us moving forward on top priorities (oysters, blue crabs, and invasive catfish) and to stimulate discussion on recent happenings in the Bay including the 2013 ASMFC striped bass benchmark stock assessment, ecosystem-based management, and a discussion on forage fish.

Objectives:

- Discuss oyster management across the jurisdictions and update the Fisheries GIT on oyster restoration progress in both MD and VA.
- Discuss the latest science, modeling, and economics of oyster ecosystem services.
- Update the Fisheries GIT on the current invasive catfish research.
- Brief the Fisheries GIT on the work of the Invasive Catfish Task Force and their management recommendations.
- Update the Fisheries GIT on the Chesapeake Bay Program's American Shad Abundance Indicator.
- Discuss CBSAC's prioritization of blue crab research needs and the role of economics in blue crab management.
- Discuss advances in ecosystem modeling and its management applications.
- In context of the upcoming new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, discuss the current research and monitoring of forage fish in the Bay.
- Discuss the results of the ASMFC striped bass stock assessment and management implications.

Tuesday, December 3rd

10:00 am **Welcome and Overview of Day 1** – Peyton Robertson, Fisheries GIT Chair

Oysters

10:15 am **Oyster Management Primer** – Tom O'Connell (MD DNR), Marty Gary (PRFC), Jack Travelstead (VMRC)
Presentation-45 min (10 min each MD, PRFC, VA); Discussion-15 min
***Objectives*:** Review oyster management approaches in each jurisdiction with respect to aquaculture, the wild fishery, and restoration.
Outcomes:

- *Understand the big picture of oyster management in the Bay.*
- *Recognize the different management approaches.*

- *Identify current and future management challenges.*

11:00 am **Oyster Restoration Updates** – Stephanie Westby (NOAA) and Susan Conner (USACE)
Presentation-35 min; Discussion-15 min
***Objectives*:** Hear from the Oyster Interagency workgroups on restoration progress and next steps in both Maryland (Harris Creek, Tred Avon, Little Choptank) and Virginia (Lafayette, Lynnhaven, and Great Wicomico)
Discussion:

- *What are the next steps for oyster restoration in context of the oyster outcome in the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement?*

  ***Oyster Outcome:** "Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025 to recover the benefits of fish habitat and water quality improvements that healthy oyster reefs provide."*

11:50 am **Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services Science** – Howard Townsend (NOAA), Lisa Kellogg (VIMS), and Rom Lipcius (VIMS)
Presentations-30 min; Discussion-10 min
***Objective*:** Update the team on the Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services (ORES) project and the multiple studies it comprises across jurisdictions. Explain each individual research study and any initial results.

Howard Townsend *(10 min)* – ORES Review and Fish Trapping in Tred Avon

Lisa Kellogg *(10 min)* – Denitrification and Fish Trapping in Harris Creek

Rom Lipcius *(10 min)* – Fish Trapping in Great Wicomico, Lafayette, and Lynnhaven

Discussion:

- *How will the future results of these studies be used to evaluate the success of oyster restoration?*

12:30 pm **Lunch (not provided)**

1:30 pm **USACE Oyster Population Model** – Dr. Todd Swannack (USACE Engineering Research Development Center)
Presentation-30 min; Discussion-15 min
***Objective*:** Update the team on the new results of this model to assess oyster reef populations with different management strategies based on a model in the Great Wicomico River.
Discussion:

- *What are the effects of different management strategies on oyster reef ecosystem services?*
- *How can this information be applied?*

2:15 pm **Oyster Economics** – Doug Lipton (NOAA)
Presentation-30 min; Discussion 15 min

Objectives: Present the body of research and modeling work on the valuation of oyster ecosystem services.

Discussion:

- *What are the most valuable benefits of oyster reef ecosystem services from a fisheries perspective?*
- *Is there any additional information that could help inform management?*

3:00 pm **Break**

Invasive Catfish

3:15 pm **Invasive Catfish Research Updates**

Presentation-60 min; Discussion-15 min

***Objective*:** Update the Fisheries GIT on new results from the latest blue and flathead catfish research.

Discussion:

- *What are the policy implications and application to the Task Force management recommendations?*

Catfish Portal Application *(15 min)* – Greg Garman (VCU)

Contaminant study *(15 min)* – Rob Hale (VIMS)

Catfish Distribution, Diet, and Movement in MD *(15 min)* –Matt Ogburn (SERC)

Virginia Tech Diet Study *(15 min)* – Bob Greenlee (VDGIF)

4:30 pm **Invasive Catfish Response Plan** – Bruce Vogt, Invasive Catfish Task Force Chair

Presentation-20 min; Discussion-20 min

***Objectives*:** Present the Task Force's management recommendations and findings to the full GIT.

Discussion:

- *How do jurisdictions want to move forward on this issue?*

5:10 pm **New Agreement Update** – Peyton Robertson (NOAA)

***Objective*:** Update the full Fisheries GIT on the timeline for the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and the opportunity to provide input during the 2014 public comment period.

5:20 pm **Public Comment Period**

5:40 pm **Day 1 Recap**

5:50 pm **Adjourn**

6:00 pm **Dinner**

Stoney's Kingfishers Seafood
14442 Solomons Island Rd S
Solomons, MD 20688

Wednesday, December 4th

9:00 am **Day 2 Overview** – Peyton Robertson, Fisheries GIT Chair

9:15 am **American Shad Abundance Indicator** –Eric Brittle (VDGIF) *(teleconference)*
Presentation-20 min; Discussion-10 min
***Objective*:** Inform the Fisheries GIT of the newly revised shad abundance indicator developed by the American Shad Indicator Action Team under the Chesapeake Bay Program.
Discussion:
- *What are the factors influencing successful shad restoration in different tributaries?*

Blue Crabs

9:45 am **CBSAC Prioritization of Critical Blue Crab Research Needs: Gear Selectivity** – Joe Grist (VMRC and CBSAC Chair), Mike Wilberg (UMCES)
Presentation-20 min; Discussion 10 min
***Objective*:** CBSAC will present their prioritization and rationale of critical blue crab research needs and provide updates on specific progress on research items.
Outcomes:
- *Discuss how to begin moving forward to address blue crab research needs.*

Reference Materials: Wilberg et al 2013 catchability; dredge efficiency application table; CBSAC_Selectivity_Summary; 11-21 crab presentation

10:15 am **Break**

10:30 am **Economics and Blue Crab Management** – Mike Wilberg (UMCES), Rich Woodward (Texas A&M), and David Tomberlin (NOAA)
Presentation-35 min; Discussion-15 min
***Objective*:** Present this project to develop approaches to integrate economics into blue crab management. Explore the economic effects of different blue crab management scenarios.
Discussion:
- *How can these results be applied to management decisions?*

11:20 am **Striped Bass Foraging** – Jim Price (Chesapeake Bay Ecological Foundation)
Presentation-15 min
Objective: Present this study of striped bass foraging in mid-Chesapeake Bay from 2006-2012.

Advances in Ecosystem Modeling

Discuss the current work in ecosystem modeling and how it can support ecosystem-based fisheries management.

11:35 am **Framework for a coupled Economic-Ecological Model in the Chesapeake Bay –** John Tschirhart and Dave Finnoff (University of Wyoming)
Presentation-35 min; Discussion-15 min

***Objective*:** Present and discuss work on ecological-economic models and fisheries management applications.

Discussion:

- *What factors in this model affect fish populations and management (harvest pressure, water quality, etc.)?*

12:25 pm **Lunch (not provided)**

What do we know about forage fish?

Discuss the current state of forage fish research and monitoring efforts in anticipation of the forage fish outcome in the upcoming new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement:

Forage Fish Outcome: *By 2016 develop a strategy for assessing the forage fish base available as food for predatory species in the Chesapeake Bay.*

1:30 pm **Current Forage Fish Efforts** – Ed Houde (UMCES) and Pat Campfield (ASMFC)
Presentation-20 min; Discussion 25 min

Objective: Discuss the suite of species that make up the forage base in the Bay and current research, monitoring, and management frameworks for these species. Additionally, discuss current trends in species abundance for some of these species. This discussion will inform our knowledge base in moving forward with the New Agreement forage fish outcome next year.

Outcomes:

- *Develop a list of species in the Bay that the GIT considers the forage base.*
- *Inform the full GIT about the current scientific, monitoring, and management efforts related to forage fish that will serve as a base to work from next year to address the forage fish outcome in the New Agreement.*

2:15 pm **Chesapeake Atlantis Model and Forage Fish** – Tom Ihde (NOAA) and Howard Townsend (NOAA)
Presentation-30 min; Discussion-15 min

Objective: Discuss potential effects on forage fish of different habitat scenarios in this ecosystem-based model.

Discussion:

- *How can this work connecting habitat change to fish populations be applied to management?*

3:00 pm **Break**

Striped Bass

3:10 pm **ASMFC 2013 Striped Bass Stock Assessment Summary** - Alexei Sharov (MD DNR), Chair of ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee
Presentation-30 min

Objective: Brief the GIT on the results of the recently released ASMFC 2013 benchmark striped bass stock assessment.

ASMFC Response to Stock Assessment – Mike Waine (ASMFC)

Presentation-10 min
Objective: Hear a report on ASMFC management considerations in response to the stock assessment.

Discussion – 25 min
Outcomes:

- *Inform the GIT of the current status and future management considerations for the coastwide striped bass fishery.*

4:15 pm **Public Comment Period**

4:45 pm **Day 2 Recap; Next Steps**

5:00 pm **Adjourn**
