



## Virginia Sea Grant Update

### Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Meeting

June 4-5th, 2014

Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA

1. **Update:** Virginia Sea Grant—NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office Postgraduate Fellowship: Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management & Implementation
2. **Background information:** Virginia Sea Grant (VASG) and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) are jointly supporting a postgraduate fellowship in ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) and implementation. The goals of the fellowship include: advancing EBFM in Chesapeake Bay by improving the understanding of linkages between fisheries, land-use changes and habitats; providing managers with EBFM synthesis and integration products; providing valuable training to a postgraduate student in science synthesis, the science-to-management process, and EBFM implementation; and promoting collaboration and communication among NCBO, VASG, and other key state and regional science organizations. The fellow will be based at VIMS. A position summary from the job announcement is below:

*Summary:* In partnership with the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, Virginia Sea Grant announces the availability of a two-year, postgraduate fellowship in ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM). This fellowship seeks to advance EBFM in the Chesapeake Bay by improving the understanding of linkages between fisheries, land-use changes, habitats, and the ecosystem services they provide. The fellow will leverage past EBFM work in the region, conduct literature review and extensive expert consultation, synthesize and integrate available scientific information, and develop decision support materials and conduct outreach to Chesapeake Bay coastal resource managers. While the specific EBFM project to be conducted will be determined in part by the expertise of the selected fellow, we envision a fellow working on a narrowly defined, concise project within one or more of the following thematic areas: climate change impacts on fisheries resources; ecosystem indicators for fishery management; habitat and fisheries linkages; or valuation.

The fellow will be paid \$42,000/year for two years with full employee benefits at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) with the College of William & Mary. In addition, there are funds available for travel and supplies. Qualified applicants may apply via the College of William & Mary jobs website:

<http://jobs.wm.edu/postings/17883>. Applicants will be asked to submit (via the jobs website): (1) a cover letter, including a statement reflecting their interests and expertise in EBFM and its implementation; (2) a CV that lists all GPAs and relevant graduate coursework; (3) a short writing sample (preferably less than 5-pg) targeting an end-user audience (e.g., manager, policy maker, citizen, stakeholder) and (4) three letters of recommendation submitted by referees. Review of applications will begin July 15, 2014.

3. **Update on current status:** We are finalizing the announcement with W&M HR to have the job posted and expect it to be posted within a week. Review of applications will begin July 15 with the goal of having a fellow in place by September. If successful, we hope this pilot may serve as a model for future joint EBFM fellowships.
4. **Connection to the Fisheries GIT and/or desired feedback from Fisheries GIT:** Once the job is posted, VASG requests your assistance in recruiting candidates for this position; please circulate the job announcement to appropriate colleagues and groups. The selected fellow will work closely with the GIT; GIT members are encouraged to contact Susan Park ([spark@vims.edu](mailto:spark@vims.edu); 804-684-7436) if they would like to serve as an advisor to the fellow, or would otherwise like to provide feedback on the fellowship.



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1. **Update:** Land-use and Fisheries Management Plan Discourse Analysis: Are we speaking the same language?
2. **Background information:** Virginia Sea Grant (VASG) hosts law school interns from the College of William & Mary Law School. In the spring 2014 semester two interns dedicated 120hours each to the review of text used in a fisheries management plan and several land use management plans and rules in order to conduct a preliminary assessment of whether similar concepts were described using similar words, whether there is conceptual overlap in the regulatory domains and the way managers are describing those domains, and to what extent fisheries and land-use managers understand what each other's language and priorities.
3. **Update on current status:** Two externs, Julie Cook and Jessica Hou, were recruited. In consultation with GIT members and managers, we selected the shad and river herring fisheries management plan (FMP) as a case study, since the species have up-watershed interactions and there is a habitat plan. In addition, we reviewed Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. Utilizing the VA Coastal Zone Management program's Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (GEMS) on-line resource to identify prospective municipalities for inclusion in the study, e.g., municipalities with dams/fish migration impediments. Web-sites were reviewed for all eligible municipalities to ensure plans and ordinances were available on-line and to identify a variety of land-use-scale planning documentation (e.g., comprehensive plans, topic-specific plans such as watershed and wildlife habitat plans, and ordinances). The following fisheries and land-use management documents were chosen:

Regional & State	Local Comp Plans	Local Topic-Specific Plans	Local Ordinances
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASMFC shad and river herring FMP</li> <li>• Shad and River Herring Management Board Habitat Plan</li> <li>• Virginia Shad Habitat Plan</li> <li>• Virginia Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King George County (VA) Comprehensive Plan 2013</li> <li>• Suffolk (VA) Comprehensive Plan 2006</li> <li>• Prince William County (VA) Comprehensive Plan 2008</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James City County (VA) Sub-watershed Management Plan</li> <li>• Stafford County (VA) Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newport News (VA) Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance 1990</li> <li>• Middlesex County (VA) Wetlands Zoning Ordinance, and Erosion and Sediment Ordinance</li> <li>• Isle of Wright (VA) Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Ordinance</li> </ul>

The data collection and preliminary analysis has been completed, final data analysis and report write-up is underway. We anticipate having a completed report by late July/early August.

4. **Connection to the Fisheries GIT and/or desired feedback from Fisheries GIT:** A few GIT members provided input to the selection of case studies. The Final Report will be provided to the GIT; no specific feedback is being requested at this time.