

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Work Plan : 2014-2015**

Written July 2014

**Note: Additional items may be added in late summer 2014 pending CBP funding awards to GITs.**

Category	Priority	Lead	Timeline	Status	Other Participants
Chesapeake Bay Program	Review stakeholder and public comments from 2014 public comment period on the draft New Agreement. Participate in relevant New Agreement discussions at the Bay Program.	Executive Committee	February-May 2014	Completed	Full GIT – submit comments through the public comment period; provide expertise/feedback needed to make any edits to the current Agreement draft.
	Develop Management Strategies for each <a href="#">fishery outcome</a> and collaborate with other GITs on their outcomes*	Executive Committee and GIT Staff	June 2014 – June 2015	In Progress – CBP preparing guidelines for GITs	Full GIT (via workgroups for each outcome?)
	Update Bay Health and Restoration Indicators on the Bay Program website for the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oyster Abundance</li> <li>• Restoring Native Oyster Reefs</li> <li>• Striped Bass Coastwide Abundance</li> <li>• Menhaden Coastwide Abundance</li> <li>• American Shad Abundance</li> </ul>	Executive Committee and GIT Staff	January – June 2014	Completed	MD and VA Interagency Oyster Teams  ASMFC  American Shad Indicator Action Team

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Chesapeake Bay Program (cont'd)	Communicate and advocate for fisheries monitoring needs to the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) team as CBP revamps their monitoring infrastructure.	Executive Committee and GIT Staff	June-December 2014	Ongoing: Fisheries GIT identified the zooplankton survey and a shallow-water dredge survey for juvenile crabs as current monitoring needs	STAR members
	Participate in the development of the <a href="#">climate resiliency</a> management strategy of the New Agreement to ensure that impacts on fisheries and habitat are considered	Executive Committee and GIT Staff	June 2014-June 2015	Not started	Full GIT members
Blue Crabs	Implement and analyze the results of the new gear selectivity trial sampling design (approved by the full GIT at the December 2013 meeting)	CBSAC	January – June 2014	Completed	
	Analyze summer trawl and ChesMMAP data and compare to WDS trends.	CBSAC; VIMS (Rom Lipcius)	Ongoing	In progress	
	Initiate discussions to evaluate a baywide allocation framework <i>(to address New Agreement outcome)</i>	Executive Committee and CBSAC	June 2014 – June 2015	In progress; discussed at April 2014 Ex Comm; white paper being developed	

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Blue Crabs (cont'd)	Develop CBSAC Charter	Andrew Turner and CBSAC	December 2013- May2014	Completed	Ex Comm
	Continue dialog with industry to discuss long-term management options to continue to protect the stock	Ex Comm	Ongoing	In progress: Discussion at June 2014 full GIT meeting; within each jurisdiction	Industry reps
Oysters	Develop tributary specific restoration plans (blueprints) with specific restoration targets for selected tributaries through the MD and VA interagency oyster teams.	MD and VA Oyster Interagency Teams	Ongoing	Harris Creek blueprint complete; Little Choptank blueprint drafted; Tred Avon blueprint in development; Lafayette habitat assessment/ restorable bottom analysis in progress; VA tributary teams are meeting regularly	
	Identify a single tributary that by the oyster metrics criteria is seen as restored and quantify the ecosystem services and fishery benefits	Oyster Interagency Teams/ORES project	Ongoing	ORES project in Choptank complex; Lynnhaven currently being evaluated against the Oyster Metrics	

Category	Priority	Lead	Timeline	Status	Other Participants
Invasive Catfish	Pursue partnerships/funding/support from other groups or agencies	Invasive Catfish Task Force Coordinator	Ongoing	In progress	
	Complete Task Force Report and finalize management and public outreach strategies	Invasive Catfish Task Force	January - March 2013	Completed – report is complete and under scientific review by STAC; review projected to be complete by October 2014	CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
Forage Fish	Develop and run a STAC workshop to define the “forage base”, develop metrics for the Bay, and identify research and management recommendations	GIT Staff and Workshop Steering Committee	January – November 2014	In progress – workshop will be held November 12-13 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Ex Comm
Land Use	Determine the role of the SFGIT in addressing land use impacts on fisheries	Executive Committee, GIT Staff	Ongoing	In progress	
Admin	Membership	Executive Committee	Ongoing	In progress	
	June Meeting Planning	Executive Committee, GIT Staff	March-June 2014	Completed	
	December Meeting Planning	Executive Committee, GIT Staff	September-December 2014	Not started	

## **Sustainable Fisheries GIT Action Summary**

2012-2013

### **Blue Crabs**

- Jurisdictions implemented new female-specific management abundance and exploitation targets and thresholds in 2012.
- CBSAC developed male conservation triggers that were approved by the Executive Committee in 2013.
- CBSAC prioritized the blue crab research needs in fall 2013.
- CBASC met in-person in November 2013 and developed a new trawl sampling design for the WDS to explore gear selectivity between MD and VA.

### **Oysters**

- The oyster metrics were used to develop the Harris Creek blueprint.
- The oyster metrics were applied to existing restoration projects in the Great Wicomico and Lynnhaven to determine if they meet the “restored tributary” criteria.
- The GIT identified research priorities regarding the quantifiable benefits of oyster restoration such as nitrogen reduction and other ecosystem services.

### **Invasive Catfish**

- The Invasive Catfish Policy Statement was adopted in January of 2012.
- The Invasive Catfish Task Force was formed and tasked to develop a strategy to mitigate the spread and potential impacts of invasive catfish.
- The Task Force presented their draft report and set of recommendations to the full GIT in June 2013.
- GIT staff worked with the Task Force members and jurisdictions to develop language that could be used in fishing guides regarding the ecological threats of invasive catfish and associated regulations/fines. (Fall 2013)

**New Agreement**

- The Ex Comm and other GIT members developed fisheries outcomes for the New Agreement in the summer/fall of 2012 after input from Chesapeake Bay Program leadership and stakeholder/public comment.

**Land Use**

- Engaged both the Executive Committee and the full GIT on the impacts of land use planning on fisheries.
- Began to explore the role of the Fisheries GIT in addressing land use issues through public outreach; the Executive Committee sent a letter to the Charles County Commissioners saying that the protection of fisheries and natural resources should be addressed in the comprehensive plan.