

Invasive Catfish Symposium: State of the Science & Status of the Fishery

Virginia Commonwealth University Rice Rivers Center

November 6-7, 2017



Purpose: Bring managers, scientists, and interested stakeholders together to gain a common knowledge of invasive catfish research findings and the fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.

Agenda

Day 1

10:30am Welcome (Bruce Vogt, Sean Corson, Greg Garman)

Theme I: Context

- 11:00am Invasive Catfish Task Force and 2014 Report (Bruce Vogt-NOAA)
- Task Force Coordinator Bruce Vogt will provide background on the Invasive Catfish Task Force and a review of their 2014 report and recommendations.
 - Jurisdiction Intro:
 - What's happened since 2014?
 - Expectations from this workshop?
 - What do you plan to do with the workshop information?

LUNCH 12:00-1:00pm

Theme II: Science

A. Population Dynamics

- 1:00pm Annual Monitoring
- Jurisdictions and academic institutions will review data, including relative abundance trends, from annual monitoring programs in various tributaries.
 - VDGIF – Aaron Bunch
 - MDDNR – Mary Groves
 - PAFBC – Geoff Smith
 - DNREC – Edna Stetzar
 - VIMS (Trawl Survey) – Troy Tuckey

BREAK

- 2:45pm Population Estimates and Range Expansion
- James River Population Study and Range Expansion – Mary Fabrizio (VIMS)
 - Pamunkey and Rappahannock Rivers – Aaron Bunch (VDGIF)
- 3:20pm Wrap up Population Dynamics

B. Movement and Habitat Use

- 3:45pm Movement
- Scientists will discuss telemetry studies that are tracking the movements and habitat use of blue catfish in specific tributaries.
 - VDGIF (Aaron Bunch)
 - SERC (Rob Aguilar)
 - VIMS (Troy Tuckey)
- 4:30pm Environmental Drivers
- Salinity and Blue Catfish Habitat Use – Vaskar Nepal (VIMS)
- 4:50pm Wrap up Movement and Habitat Use
- 5:15pm End Day 1

Day 2

9:00am Welcome back

Theme II (cont'd): Science

C. Diet

- 9:15am Diet - What do blue and flathead catfish eat? How does this vary among tributaries and seasonally? How is this different from other catfish species?
- VT – Joe Schmitt
 - SERC – Rob Aguilar
 - MDDNR – Mary Groves
- 10:30am Potential Ecosystem Impacts - Can we quantify invasive catfish impacts on the ecosystem? Are they targeting species of concern?
- VT – Corbin Hilling
- 11:00am Wrap up Diet

BREAK

Theme III: Fisheries

- 11:15am Fishery Stats
- Overview of commercial blue catfish harvest and recreational fishing activity in the Bay
- VMRC – Ryan Jiorle
 - VDGIF – Bob Greenlee
 - PRFC – Marty Gary
 - MDDNR – Mary Groves

LUNCH 12:00-1:00pm

Theme III (cont'd): Fisheries

- 1:00pm Commercial Electrofishing Pilot Project - Matt Balazik (VCU), Bob Fisher (VIMS), George Trice (commercial fisherman), and Will Shuart (VCU)
- 1:20pm PCB/Contaminants Study (Drew Luellen- VIMS)
- 1:50pm USDA Regulations (Mike Hutt- Virginia Marine Products Board)
- 2:20pm Wrap up Fishery Discussion

BREAK

Theme IV: Looking Ahead

- 2:30pm Addressing Invasive Species with Fisheries: Case Studies
- Jason Goldberg/Susan Pasko of USFWS (remote)
- 3:00pm Industry and Fishery Stakeholder Perspectives (Panel)
- Commercial, recreational, processors, markets, non-profit
- 5:00pm Next Steps
- Management implications based on information heard at this workshop?
 - Moving forward with science, monitoring, and fishery?