



Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee 2020 Charter

Purpose

The purpose of this charter is to provide clarification for the structure and operations of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC). This charter sets forth a framework that identifies the roles and responsibilities of the committee and its individual members, and provides guidance for formal committee procedures such as adding new members and making management recommendations. The framework also provides a mechanism to expand the traditional role of CBSAC to include other key species apart from blue crab and to support ecosystem-based management in the Chesapeake Bay.

Mission Statement

To provide analytical support and science-based management advice for key fishery resources in the Chesapeake Bay.

Scope of Work

CBSAC is a technical workgroup within the Chesapeake Bay Program, supporting the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (SFGIT). The workgroup is comprised of fisheries managers from state agencies around the Chesapeake Bay, blue crab scientists along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and technical experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service. The role of CBSAC is to advise on scientific priorities to support management and work with the Bay jurisdictions to develop management advice for the blue crab stock in the Chesapeake Bay. The group meets annually in the spring to review the results of the Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey and harvest data to develop management advice for the three Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions: the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. The survey results and management advice are then summarized in the annual Blue Crab Advisory Report. CBSAC also meets when necessary to discuss science needs that would improve the blue crab stock assessment and potential strategies to address those needs, as well as new research results relevant to the workgroup's tasks.

The primary responsibilities of CBSAC are to:

- Review analysis of the results of the Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey, provide science-based recommendations for managers, and publish the annual Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Advisory Report to inform the SFGIT and the public on the blue crab stock status;
- Identify and prioritize research needs and knowledge gaps to support the sustainability of key Chesapeake Bay fisheries; and
- Address additional fisheries issues brought forward by the SFGIT Executive Committee, which may include consideration of species apart from blue crab, to support ecosystem-based management in the Chesapeake Bay.

Committee Structure and Membership

As a workgroup under the Chesapeake Bay Program's SFGIT, the SFGIT Executive Committee provides oversight for CBSAC and serves as the charging body, identifying future tasks and fisheries issues for the workgroup to address. The Executive Committee is coordinated and chaired by the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO), and consists of senior fisheries managers from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

CBSAC members include fisheries managers from MDNR, VMRC, and PRFC, blue crab scientists from academic institutions along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and stock assessment experts from NOAA. Voting membership composition aims to embody blue crab expertise, with fair and equal representation of management jurisdictions, academia, and NOAA. To add or replace committee members, the CBSAC Chair, with support from the Coordinator, must submit a letter of recommendation to the SFGIT Executive Committee that details the justification for membership (e.g. fills a gap in expertise). All CBSAC membership changes must be voted on and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Current CBSAC membership is listed in Appendix A.

Roles and Responsibilities

Voting Member:

Voting members must attend CBSAC meetings to the extent possible (in person, where applicable) and actively participate by providing insightful comments and input on the task or issue at hand. Members should also provide feedback, edits, and contributions to CBSAC documents such as the Blue Crab Advisory Report. If a member is unable to fully participate in meetings and offer timely contributions to the group, the CBSAC Chair and Coordinator will discuss replacement of the member with the SFGIT Executive Committee. Voting members will be appointed in two-year terms, and may be reappointed with no maximum term length. This will ensure active engagement and participation on the committee.

Chair:

CBSAC operates under the leadership of the Chair with support from the Coordinator. The Chair is responsible for calling CBSAC meetings, and coordinating and facilitating these meetings with the help of the Coordinator. The Chair is also responsible for responding to and addressing the tasks and issues identified by the SFGIT Executive Committee. The Chair is a rotational position with two-year terms (starting in 2016) that may alternate between representatives from Maryland and Virginia. Near the termination of a Chair's two-year term, CBSAC will meet to nominate a new Chair. A letter of recommendation for the nominee will be submitted to the Executive Committee for review and approval. A Chair may be re-elected for a second term with a vote of majority approval by members of CBSAC and the SFGIT Executive Committee; however, a Chair may serve only two consecutive terms maximum.

Coordinator:

CBSAC Coordinator is typically a federal partner or contractor from NCBO. Although the position has no set term length, it is at the discretion of the SFGIT Executive Committee and the CBSAC Chair. The Coordinator is responsible for the general functioning of CBSAC, ensuring fluid operation, coordinating

meetings, developing agendas, drafting documents, updating the CBSAC website, and representing CBSAC within the Chesapeake Bay Program and the SFGIT.

Consulting Scientist:

CBSAC may enlist the service of consulting scientists, as necessary, to help address fisheries issues brought forward by the SFGIT Executive Committee that are outside the traditional blue crab scope of the workgroup. Consulting scientists are temporary positions and, as such, are not voting members nor do they participate in the development or circulation of CBSAC documents. The Chair and Coordinator are responsible for identifying the need for a consulting scientist and submitting a letter of recommendation to the Executive Committee that includes a nomination and justification. Consulting scientists must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Subcommittees

Depending on the tasks charged by the SFGIT Executive Committee, CBSAC may create smaller, more focused subcommittees to conduct specific tasks. The CBSAC Chair and Coordinator will engage prospective members to discuss participation, roles, and responsibilities of the subcommittee and their assigned task(s). Once the task has been evaluated and approved by the CBSAC Chair, and the subcommittee members have been selected, a timeline for addressing the task will be developed. The subcommittee will develop any products (e.g. models, analyses) needed to address the task with the help and support of the CBSAC Chair and Coordinator.

Making Official Management Recommendations

Every year, CBSAC makes general management recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions and publishes them in the Blue Crab Advisory Report. While this list of general recommendations can often be static from year to year, occasionally CBSAC may deem it necessary to make a more significant management recommendation that needs to be addressed in a timelier manner, such as a change to the management framework or the biological reference points. In these cases, members of CBSAC must have a thorough discussion of the issue and the recommendation, and reach an internal consensus. Once CBSAC reaches a consensus, the Chair and Coordinator must develop a letter of recommendation to submit to the SFGIT Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will then review the recommendation and put it to a vote. A recommendation will be implemented with the majority approval of the Executive Committee. In cases where members of the Executive Committee do not have jurisdiction over the species of which the recommendation pertains, those members should recuse themselves from the vote. For example, when considering a management recommendation for blue crab, only Committee members representing MDNR, VMRC, and PRFC should vote.

Appendix A

CBSAC membership as of November 2020:

Glenn Davis (Chair)	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Mandy Bromilow (Coordinator)	ERT Inc./NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
Ellen Cosby	Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Pat Geer	Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Dan Hennen	NOAA, Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Eric Johnson	University of North Florida
Alexa Kretsch	Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Rom Lipcius	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Genine McClair	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Tom Miller	University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
Amy Schueller	NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Mike Seebo	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Alexei Sharov	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Mike Wilberg	University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science