



*Manage for a stable and productive crab fishery, including working with the industry, recreational crabbers, and other stakeholders to improve commercial and recreational harvest accountability. By 2018, evaluate the establishment of a Bay-wide, allocation-based management framework with annual levels set by the jurisdictions for the purpose of accounting for and adjusting harvest by each jurisdiction.*

### Why is this outcome important?

Blue crabs have important commercial, recreational, ecological, and cultural value. This outcome describes specific strategies and tools that will be explored to improve management of the blue crab fishery.

### Current Conditions:

- Jurisdictions are currently partnering with industry representatives to develop and test initiatives to improve harvest accountability.
- Stakeholders have engaged in initial discussions with jurisdictions regarding exploring a Bay-wide allocation-based management framework.

### How was the outcome derived?

#### Who came up with it?

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Executive Committee and many stakeholders—the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Chesapeake Bay Commission and local state management agencies, including the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission—came up with this outcome. Additionally, they discussed projects currently under way to improve harvest accountability and the importance of these efforts to improve management. The group also discussed future consideration of a structure for managing the fishery based on allocations.

#### What was the basis or baseline?

The fisheries managers and stakeholders considered 2018 an appropriate target date since the intervening time allows them to address the science and management questions associated with managing the fishery based on allocations. Further, the next benchmark stock assessment is expected in 2016 and the results of this effort may present new data analyses and inform any changes to the current management.

#### For More:

<http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/fish-facts/blue-crab>

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/crab/>

<http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/index.shtm>

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/blue\\_crab\\_abundance\\_adults](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/blue_crab_abundance_adults)



See how Blue Crabs are doing at [chesapeakebay.net](http://chesapeakebay.net)