



Continually improve effectiveness of fish habitat conservation and restoration efforts by identifying and characterizing critical spawning, nursery and forage areas within the Bay and tributaries for important fish and shellfish, and use existing and new tools to integrate information and conduct assessments to inform restoration and conservation efforts.

Why is this outcome important?

This outcome works toward the targeted protection and restoration of important fish habitat and better science to inform these efforts. It makes the connection between fisheries and habitat and, further, the role of healthy habitats in supporting fisheries. It also provides a broad perspective on fisheries and ecosystem health throughout the Bay watershed for multiple species.

Current Conditions:

- At present, there is limited information and spatial data delineation of how different fish use the various habitats in the watershed at different stages of their lives.
- Few assessments and tools currently exist that integrate habitat and fish data



How was the outcome derived?

Who came up with it?

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team has discussed the importance of healthy habitat to fisheries productivity, especially regarding nursery, spawning, and forage habitat areas. The Sustainable Fisheries and Vital Habitats Goal Implementation Teams have collaborated to develop this outcome to address habitat and fisheries from an ecosystem-perspective.

What was the basis or baseline?

Targeting habitats that are utilized for spawning, juvenile nursery, and/or forage areas by fish species represent the specific ecological needs of these species at critical points in their life history. Available, healthy habitat to support these life stages is important in promoting a productive population.

For More:

<http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/habitats>

<http://www.cbf.org/about-the-bay/more-than-just-the-bay/habitats-of-the-chesapeake>