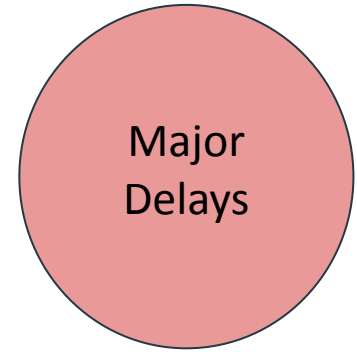
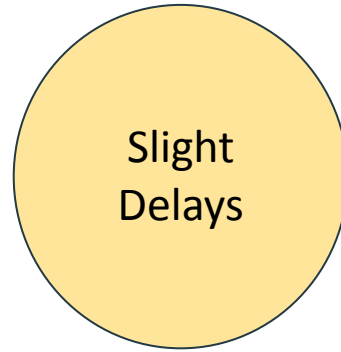




Fish Habitat: Action Plan Progress

Leading up to 2021 SRS Cycle



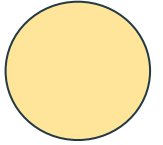


Tracking Key

Action 1.1: Complete NCBO-funded research projects addressing habitat utilization and connectivity for black sea bass, summer flounder, striped bass, and forage (NCBO)

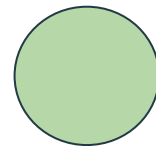
- These projects are at various stages of progress:
 - Black Sea Bass
 - Summer Flounder
 - Striped Bass
 - Forage
- Additional Comments:
 - Bruce Vogt will speak to these actions and where they stand

Action 1.2: Complete GIT-funded project – Chesapeake Bay striped bass nursery habitat assessment (VIMS and FHAT)

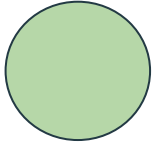


- NCBO and Steering Team recently had a progress check-in with the the project PI's
- Slight delays from the original timeline, but project is progressing

Fish Habitat Assessment: Non-tidal Actions (USGS)



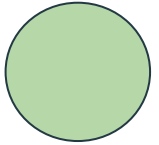
- 2.1: Evaluation of different scales and summary assessment methods in a test area where data are available (nontidal only)
- 2.2: Evaluation of information at 1:100,000 for the entire non-tidal portion of the watershed. Begin a nontidal watershed assessment at 1: 1:100K, (to compare with existing NFHP assessment)
- 2.9: Conduct co-designed 'test bed' study with MD DNR on invasive blue catfish in the Patuxent River
- 3.1: Species *occurrence* maps (Nontidal only) showing where different species occur
- 3.2: Potomac River and Shenandoah River bathymetric LIDAR.
- Additional Comments/Questions
 - Occurrence maps currently going through USGS review process and addressing request to go electronic instead of static (action as written is completed)
 - General point of discussion to address is where these data products live. Gina will continue dialogue with CBP/STAR



Fish Habitat Assessment: Tidal Actions (NOAA NCCOS)

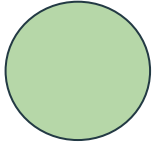
- 2.3: Build analytical (statistical) framework for candidate tidal tributary using physical and biological datasets.
- 2.3: Obtain feedback on the tidal framework from regional experts and incorporate feedback in final version of analytical (statistical) framework to Chesapeake Bay tidal areas.
- 2.4: Develop recommendations for extending the tidal analytical /statistical framework from candidate tributary to Chesapeake Bay tidal areas.
- 5.2: Summary of lessons learned and variables used in previous fish habitat
- Additional Comments/Questions
 - The deliverables for action 2.4/5.2 will be distributed to the Action Team in the near future

Fish Habitat Assessment: Joint Actions (USGS and NOAA NCCOS)

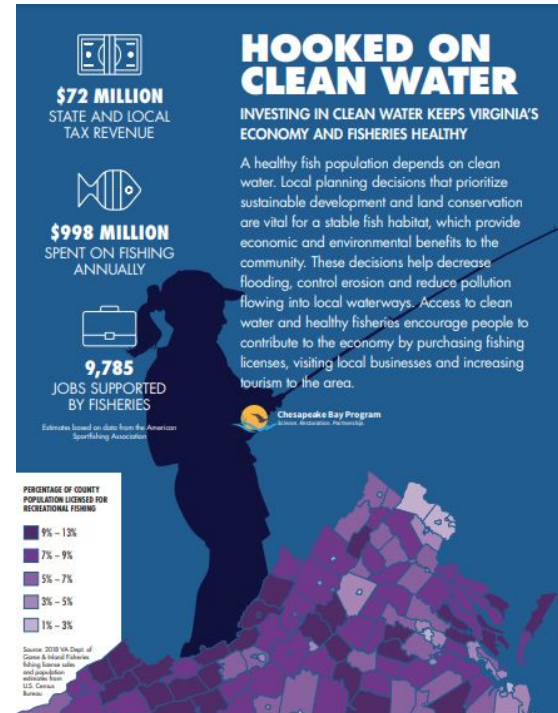


- 2.5: Summary of fish metadata and data gaps (non-tidal and tidal) Specific to biological fish data
- 2.6: Updated inventory of stressors and predictors, their spatial scale and identification of data gaps (non-tidal and tidal)
- **2.7: Build on non-tidal and tidal analytical and assessment work to identify options for joint NOAA-USGS pilot with non-tidal and tidal habitats**
- 2.8: American eel habitat assessment
- 4.1: Produce report on stakeholder needs - includes NOAA's white paper (tidal) and USGS summary of meetings (nontidal)
- 5.1: Coordination with NRHA inland assessment and ACFHP Northeast assessment
- Additional Comments/Questions
 - Metadata and stakeholder reports are both published.
 - Efforts to address action 2.7 have increased as of late with the project team meeting every three weeks.

Cross Outcome Communication/Collaboration (FHAT)

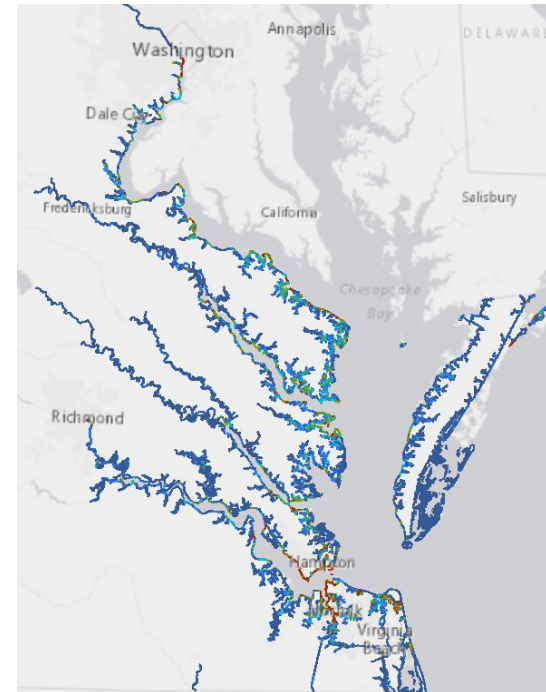


- 4.2: Improved Cross Outcome Coordination: Engage and communicate fish habitat information and efforts with other teams. Including Healthy Watershed/Habitat GIT
- 4.3: Develop and communicate the value of fisheries (economic impact) to local government planners and officials.
- 4.5: GIT funded project - Cross Outcome Watershed Educational Materials for Local Government
- 4.6: Habitat Tools summary that describes how fisheries management can use habitat tools to address habitat influences and improve management outcomes



Action 3.3: Develop a percent hardened shoreline GIS layer using existing shoreline inventory data and connect to shoreline threshold results (CBP GIS Team)

- Resulted from VIMS GIT-funded study finding shoreline hardening of 10-30% (17% mean) as a threshold for species decline
- GIS team used shoreline inventory data from VIMS to develop maps for VA and MD
- Outstanding Questions:
 - Next Steps? Can this information progress towards an indicator?



Action 4.4: Complete GIT-funded project- Developing communications and guidance on shoreline protection options for coastal landowners

- Gina already reviewed specifics of this project.
- Final Report should be available October 31, 2021.



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Next Steps

SRS Timeline:

- July 22 - Presentation to STAR
- August 12 - Presentation to Management Board
- December 8 - Final Materials Due

For the FHAT:

- We will reconvene in June to finalize our “message” for SRS
 - Asks to Management Board
 - Team priorities
 - Projects to include