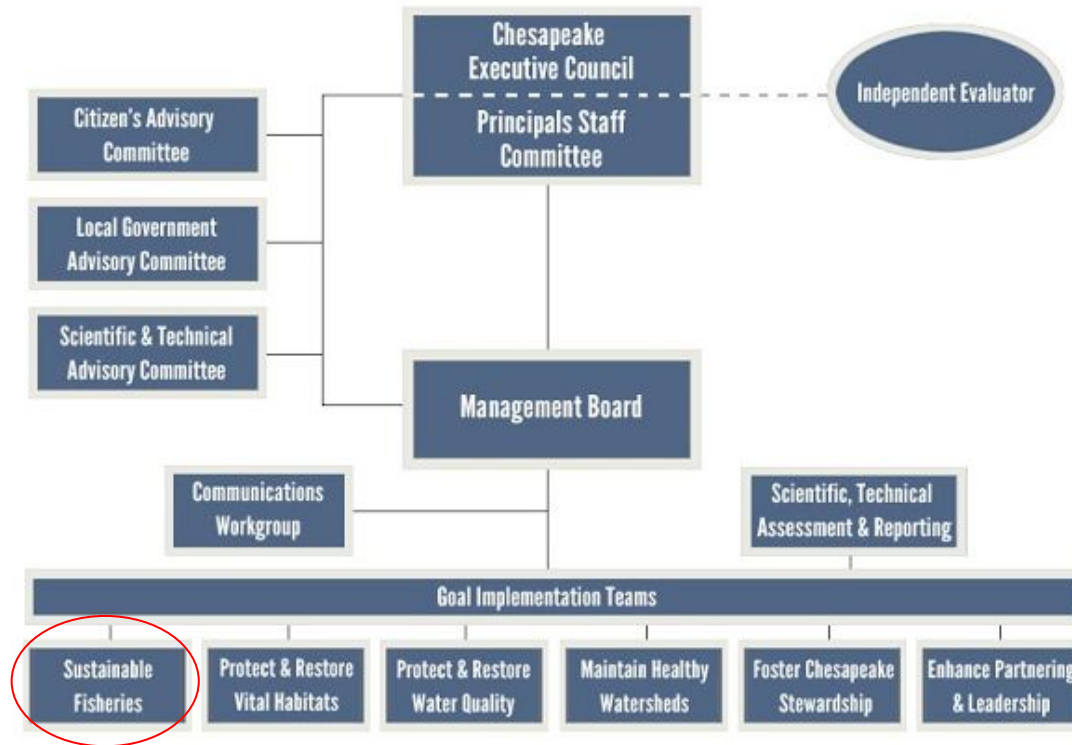

2016-17 Workplans

Fisheries Outcomes
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
June 2, 2016 Update



Chesapeake Bay Program



Background

PLANNING

IMPLEMENTATION

2014
Watershed
Agreement

Management
Strategies

2-year
Workplans

- Blue Crab Abundance & Management
- Oyster Restoration
- Forage Fish
- Fish Habitat

Outcome: Oyster Restoration
Goal: Sustainable Fisheries-Protect, restore and enhance finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem in the watershed and

Outcome: Continually increase finfish and shellfish habitat and water quality benefits from restored oyster populations. Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025 and ensure their protection.

Long term Target: Restore oyster populations (complete construction/seeding) in 10 tributaries of the Chesapeake

2 year Target: Complete Harris Creek restoration construction, continue construction/seeding in the Little Choptank and Tred Avon. Assess past restoration projects in Lynnhaven and Lafayette against the Oyster Metrics. Develop plans and acreage target for the Flankank River.

2016-2017 Workplan

Management Approach 1: Restoration planning and implementation.

Key Action**	Performance Target(s)	Participating Entity	Geographic Location	Timeline	Estimated Project Cost	Available funding by Partner	Factors influencing and/or Gap
Description of work/project. Define each major action against its own plan. Identify specific programs that will be used to achieve action.	Identify incremental steps to achieve Key Action.	Identify responsible partner for each step.		Identify completion date (month & year for each step)	Best estimate of total project cost (needed)		Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy
Harris Creek: Monitor restored reefs for parameters outlined in the Oyster Metrics. Monitor first cohort in Fall 2015 and the second cohort in Fall 2016 for oyster growth and survival.		MD Interagency Team, University of Maryland	Harris Creek (MD Eastern Shore)	Fall 2015 and Fall 2017	\$130,000 for 2016	NOAA	
Harris Creek: Maintenance seeding of past restoration sites. TBD depending on monitoring results from 2015.		MD Interagency Team	Harris Creek (MD Eastern Shore)	2016	Estimated combined cost for seeding in Harris Creek, Tred Avon, Little Choptank in 2016: \$2,225,000	Estimated for 2016 seeding: NOAA: \$1,000,000 MD DNR: \$1,225,000	

4 x 11 Oyster Restoration Interagency Team Members

Blue Crab Abundance & Management Outcomes

- Planning and implementing the next stock assessment.
- Continuing to support the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee's annual review of the status of the blue crab population.
- Evaluating an allocation-based jurisdictional management framework.

Status Report: Blue Crab



Y

Leads: MD DNR, VMRC, PRFC, CBSAC

Recent activity:

- Draft 2016 Blue Crab Advisory report completed
- Stock assessment terms of reference completed
- Jurisdiction advisory committees initiated discussion on evaluation of allocation framework

Issues:

- Funding for stock assessment

Next Steps:

- Review objectives of and identify funding for stock assessment
- Jurisdiction advisory committees compile initial input for the allocation framework evaluation.

Oyster Restoration Outcome

- Selecting tributaries for restoration;
- Collecting appropriate data;
- Setting restoration targets;
- Developing and implementing restoration plans;
- Tracking restoration progress;
- Managing restoration efforts adaptively;
- Working collaboratively to secure spat, substrate, financial and human resources;
- Considering the future protection of restored reefs.

Status Report: Oyster Restoration

Y

Leads: MD and VA Interagency Teams

Recent activity:

- Harris Creek construction and planting completed; monitoring underway.
- Tred Avon and Little Choptank construction and planting initiated.
- 399.3 acres of reefs have been built and seeded in the Choptank Complex; an additional 118.6 acres have been built but are awaiting seed or have been partly seeded; 2.3 billion spat have been planted.
- Restoration goals are established for Lafayette and Piankatank Rivers with restoration underway.
- Goal is being determined for Lynnhaven to include evaluation of past and planned projects.

Issues:

- Maryland oyster management evaluation underway.
- Funding for restoration and monitoring.

Next Steps:

- Develop oyster restoration progress indicator.

Forage Outcome

- Defining forage species;
- Determining the status of the forage base;
- Establishing management objectives for forage species;
- Promoting actions to manage fisheries and protect habitats that support forage;
- Maximizing the efficiency of monitoring programs; and
- Building on existing efforts to map areas and habitats important for the production and maintenance of forage.

Status Report: Forage

G

Leads: Forage Action Team

Recent activity:

- STAC workshop held and report recommendations presented to Management Board.
- Key forage species identified.
- UMCES project on forage indicator and consumption profile development complete.
- Drivers of forage variability study funded and underway
- Public outreach video being explored by Chesapeake Bay Program.

Issues:

- Does the management strategy and workplan satisfy requirement to develop a strategy: “By 2016, develop a strategy for assessing the forage fish base available as food for predatory species in the Chesapeake Bay.”

Next Steps:

- Determine how to utilize/apply forage indicator options
- Agree on process to identify priority species (prey or predator) and management objectives

Fish Habitat Outcome

- Developing a set of criteria to identify high-value fish habitat;
- Mapping and targeting high-value fish habitat for conservation and restoration;
- Developing thresholds to set clear conservation targets;
- Communicating the importance of fish habitat;
- Evaluating ways to enhance fish habitat protection; and
- Identifying and prioritizing threats to fish habitat and proposing actions to manage them.

Status Report: Fish Habitat

G

Leads: Fish Habitat Action Team

Recent activity:

- Tetra Tech projects to synthesize habitat requirements and threats for 14 lesser studied fish/shellfish species.

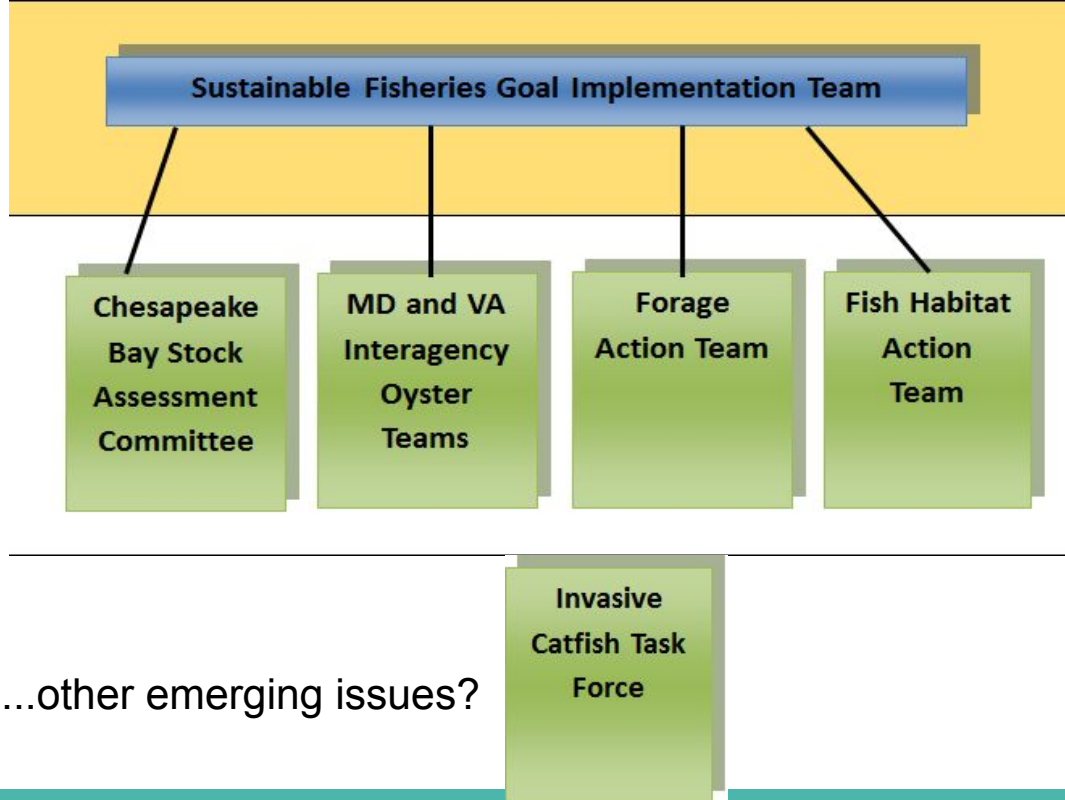
Issues:

- Large scope (entire watershed) of outcome. Need to focus around and/or divide into manageable regions.
- Coordinate with Habitat GIT.

Next Steps:

- Identify priority species to help focus.
- Illustrate what is meant by fish habitat to GIT and Management Board.

Implementation



- "Getting to Work" meetings this summer for outcomes
- Workgroup meetings and tracking - how often?
- Updates at June/December meetings and in March/Sept newsletters