

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting
Horn Point Laboratory, Cambridge, MD
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Fish Habitat Outcome

Fish Habitat Action Team Update and Communications Strategy

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Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Goal: *Sustainable Fisheries*

Outcome: *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.*



Successes and Challenges

- April 2018 STAC Workshop identified critical stressors impacting fish habitat.
- Now building on workshop through USGS / NOAA collaborative work on metadata inventory and analysis.
- Hardened threshold identified as a significant stressor- Shoreline threshold study will provide new information.
- Challenge- Communication with partners and continued communication with the WIP.



On the Horizon

- GIT-funded project related to shorelines: content development for nature based shorelines
- Pilot studies for Regional Fish Habitat Assessment
- Further development of Communication Strategy, and implementation. Focus on communication of:
 - fish habitat stressors, and
 - economic value of fisheries and fish habitat on local level.

Primary Messages –

- “It is cheaper to conserve than to restore”
- A fish habitat assessment and other tools to help make informed decisions
- Fish Habitat provides ecosystem services and economic value. Economic impacts of fisheries at local level
- Ecosystem services of WIP BMPs – see factsheet
- Consider co-benefits and linking various benefits (socio-economic) to highlight needs from different angles
- Focus messaging around identified priority stressors that are measurable and have ongoing research to study:
 - Impervious surfaces
 - Hardened shorelines
 - Buffer loss
 - Other stressors identified by assessment

Communication Strategy Outline

Primary audience-

- Local planners (i.e. comp plans)
- Local and state WIP planners –
- Natural resource managers (parks and rec, and fisheries depts.)

Challenges to communicating about fish habitat-

- Different, unique issues in each jurisdiction
- Success is not easily measured. There is no baseline or regional assessment of habitat condition.

Communications Vehicles/Trusted Messengers-

Economic Benefits of Fishing

Data from Economic Contributions of Recreational Fishing within U.S. States and Congressional Districts by Southwick and Assoc.

Anglers numbers on sheet are from the state – not the USFWS.

But the economic information is extrapolated the 2011 state-level estimates to 2016 based on state-specific growth rates and controlling for the 2016 Census Division estimates.



Economic Benefits of Fishing in: **MARYLAND**

Congressional District 5

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Anglers: 2846 - Commercial Watermen: 649

CONTRIBUTIONS BY ANGLERS IN THIS DISTRICT

JOBS SUPPORTED



577
jobs

ECONOMIC OUTPUT

\$27.5
million



MD ANGLER CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONSERVATION:

License Sales

\$57.5
million

Excise Taxes

\$5.3
million

TOTAL

\$62.8
million

81,586 anglers in this district
spent **\$89.6 million**
on fishing-related purchases in Maryland



Estimates based on data from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2011 & 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, Southwick Associates and Burt, Inc.