

# ***Welcome and Introduction***



**Peyton Robertson, Sustainable Fisheries GIT Chair  
Chesapeake Bay Program**

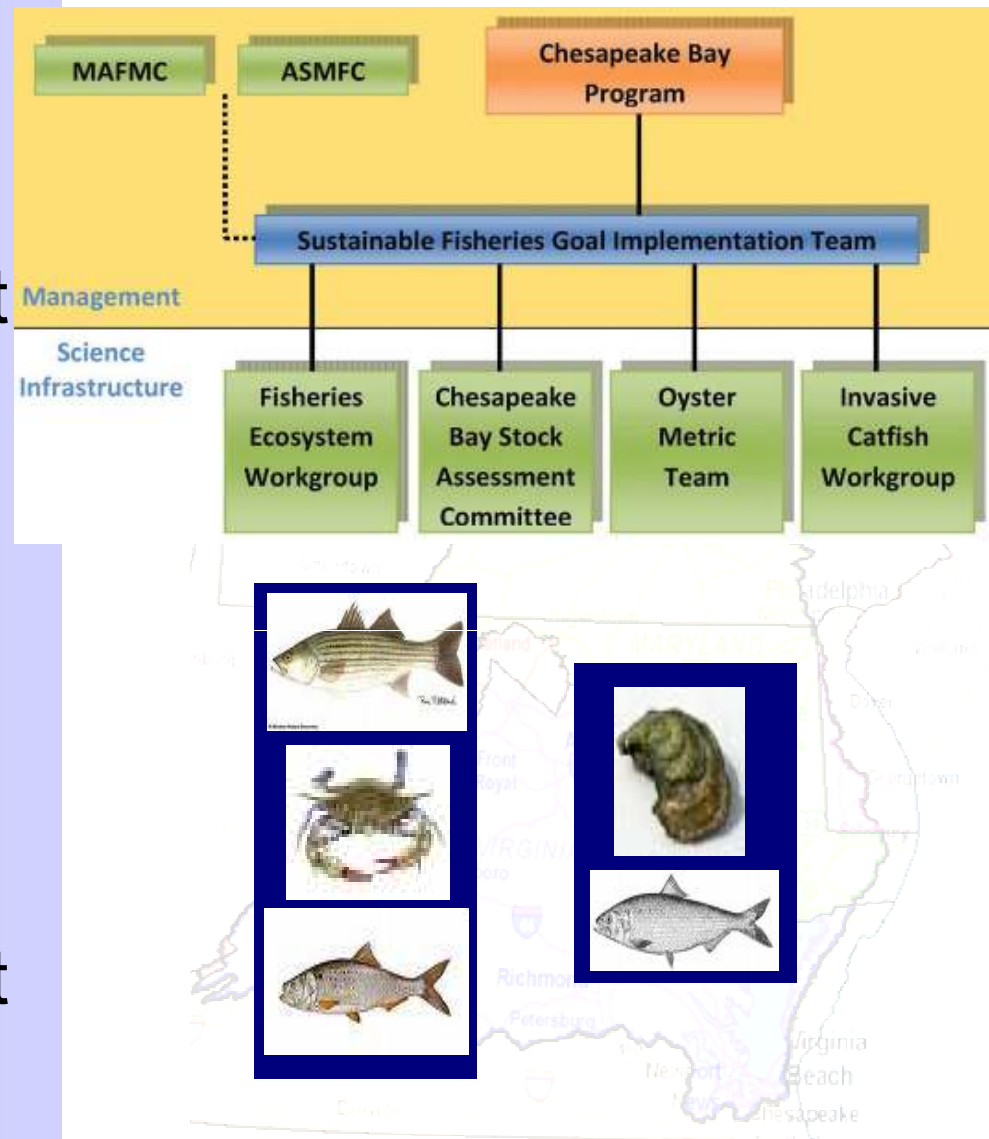
June 11, 2012



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*A Watershed Partnership*

# Our Charge

- Facilitate regional fisheries management
- Better connect science to fisheries policy
- Engage stakeholders
- Incorporate habitat and other factors into fisheries management



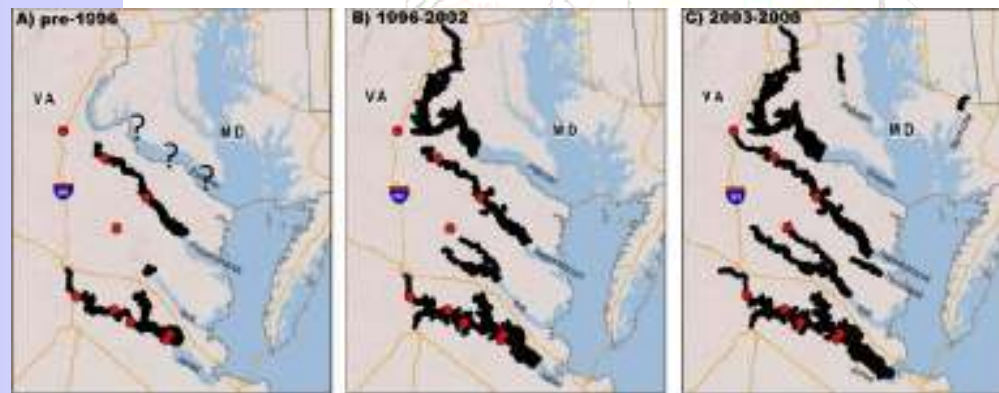
# Blue Crabs

- CBSAC recommended and states adopted female specific targets and reference points
- Incorporated the female specific abundance target into the management control rule
- CBSAC has a plan to develop male specific reference points





# Invasive Catfish



# Invasive Catfish

- Invasive Catfish Policy Adoption  
Statement signed December, 2011
- Invasive Catfish Task Force assembled
  - Charged with coordinating research, increasing public awareness, and recommending options to reduce spread and mitigate impacts



# *Invasive Catfish Task Force*

## **Membership:**

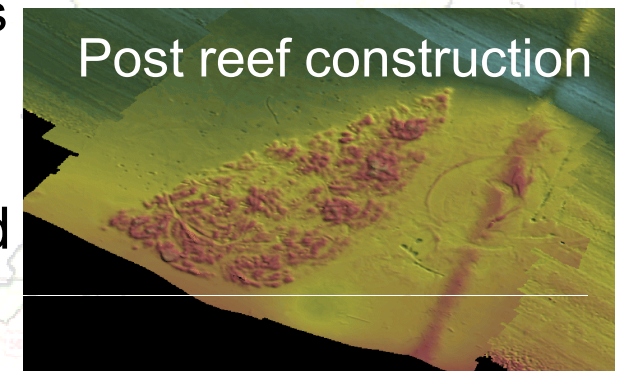
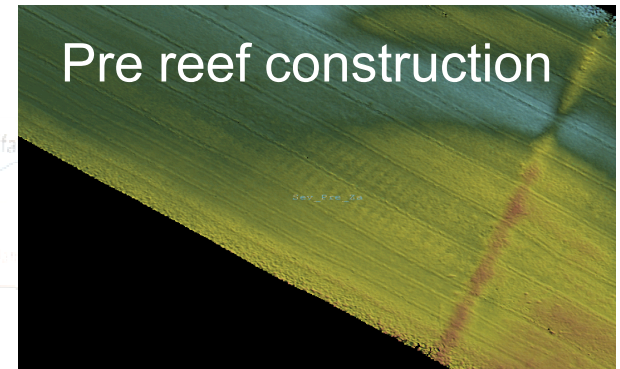
- Geoffrey Smith (PFBC)
- Matt Fisher (DE – DNREC)
- Nancy Butowski (MD DNR)
- Mary Groves (MD DNR)
- Steve Vilnit (MD DNR)
- Danny Ryan (DC DOE)
- Ellen Cosby (PRFC)
- Mary Fabrizio (VIMS)
- Mike Hutt (VA Marine Products Board)
- Robert Hale (VIMS)
- Greg Garman (VCU)
- Bob Greenlee (VDGIF)
- Joe Grist (VMRC)
- Derek Orner (NOAA)
- Andrew Turner (NCBO/CRC)





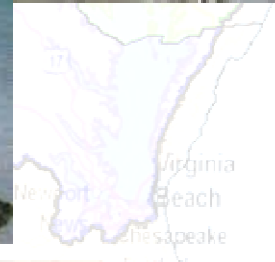
# Oysters

- Adopted Oyster Metrics in December, 2011
  - Established reef- and tributary-level metrics to evaluate oyster restoration success
- MD and VA Interagency Workgroups established to select priority tributaries and plan restoration projects
  - MD Draft Harris Creek Blueprint completed
  - VA beginning to select tributaries
- Oyster Decision Framework submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Program for adaptive management



# Oysters: Next Steps

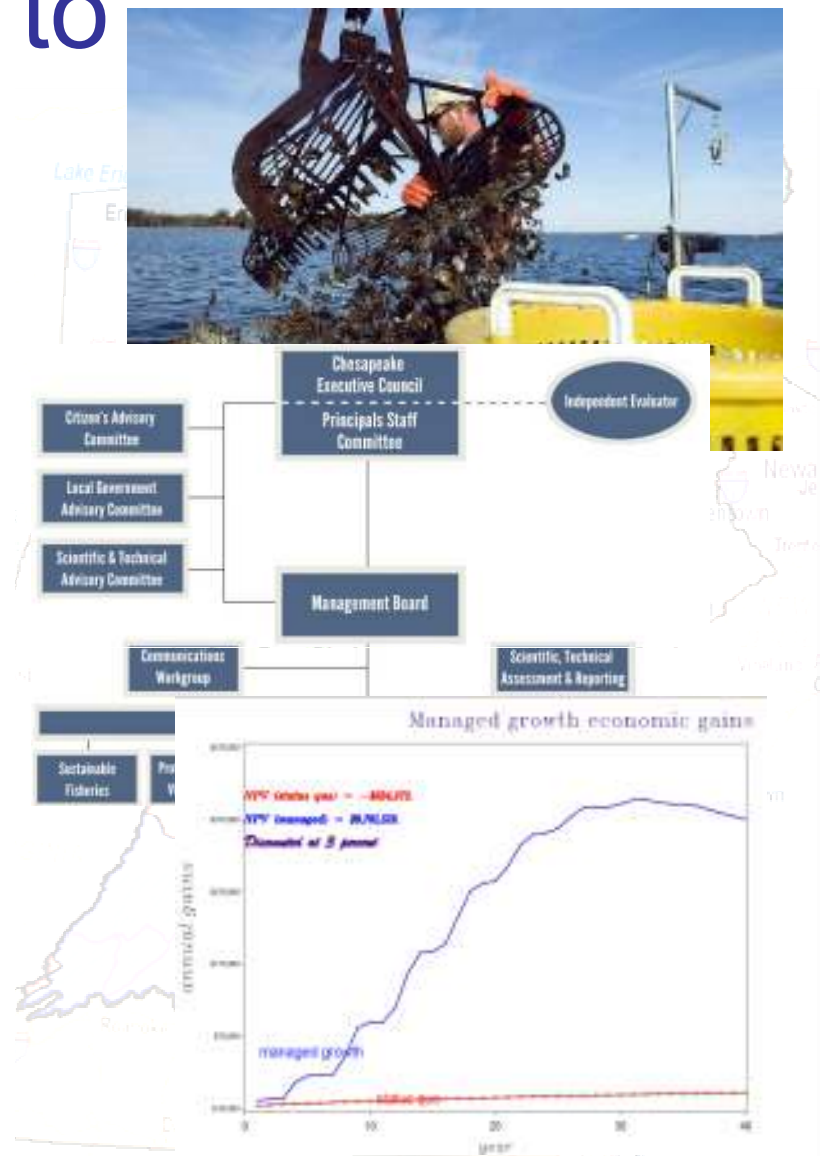
- Develop a list of priority tributaries using science based tools
- Oyster stock assessment
- Quantify ecosystem services (i.e. nitrogen removal)
- Address substrate limitations (decline in available shell)





# Connecting Science to Management

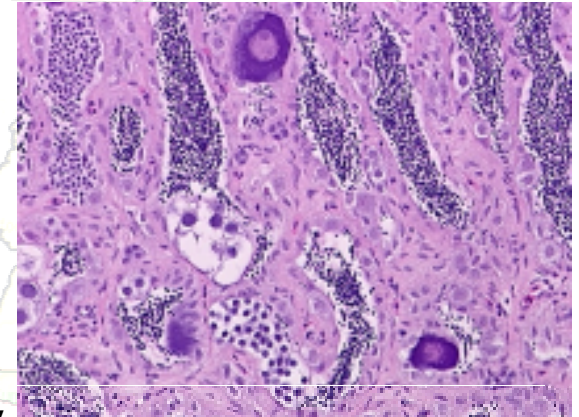
- **Oyster Gear Efficiency Comparisons**
  - Roger Mann (Virginia Institute of Marine Science)
  - Preliminary agreement between dredges and patent tong efficiency; shell base density key in gear conversion estimators
- **Chesapeake Bay Program – GIT Structure and Direction**
  - Nick DiPasquale (CBP Director)
  - GITs are making progress towards goals and the CBP is looking for areas of cross-collaboration
- **Economic Valuation of Crab and Oyster Fisheries in Puget Sound**
  - Georgi Spiridonov (CRC)
  - Managed land use growth could result in increases in shellfish abundance and the value of recreational fisheries.



# Connecting Science to Management (continued)

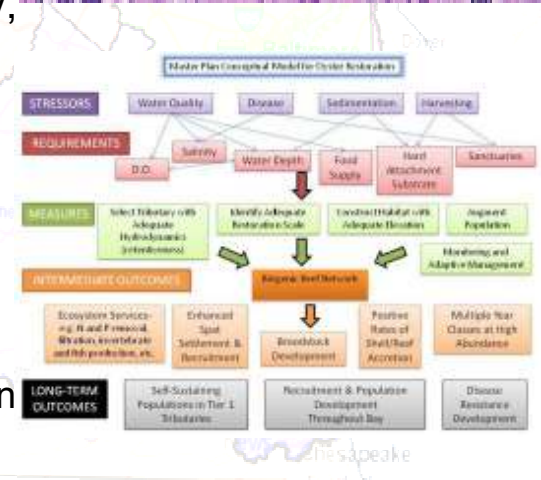
## ■ Endocrine Disruptors and Intersex in the Potomac and Susquehanna River's Smallmouth Bass

- Vicki Blazer (US Geological Survey)
- Short term exposure at sensitive life stages can have long term effects
- Intersex prevalence and severity are highest in areas with wastewater treatment plant flow, high animal density, feeding operations, agriculture, and poultry houses



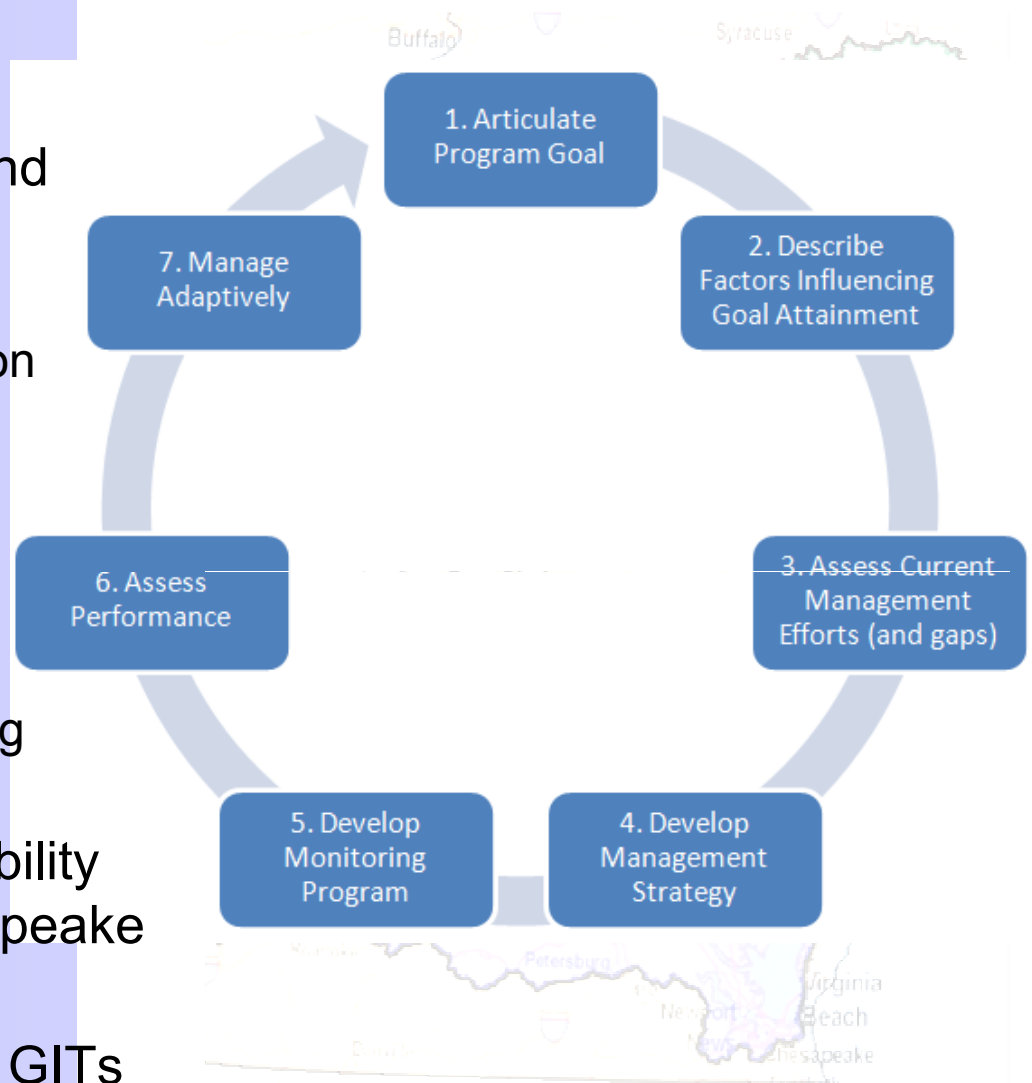
## ■ USACE Chesapeake Bay Native Oyster Restoration Master Plan

- Angie Sowers (USACE)
- Presented the strategic plan for pursuing long-term, wide-scale restoration throughout the Bay that complements the States' oyster restoration programs as well as other Bay-wide restoration efforts and future uses of the Chesapeake Bay



# Role of the Chesapeake Bay Program's GITs

- Decision Making Framework and Adaptive Management
  - Clearly articulate goals and objectives under a new decision making framework
  - Improves accountability for completing goals
  - Identifies problems within goal attainment as a self-improving system by adaptively managing progress
- GIT are gaining more responsibility and influence within the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Building relationships between GITs





# The Triumvirate

- Fisheries GIT + Healthy Watersheds  
GIT + Habitat GIT
- Met with the Chesapeake Bay Program's Director, Nick DiPasquale, to advocate for-- *Increased momentum and capacity toward shared protection, restoration, and sustainability of fish and wildlife in the Bay watershed*



# Objectives of this Meeting

- Learn about the latest science and what it means for management
- Apply the struggles, successes, and lessons learned from conservation focused cases studies (i.e. Mattawoman Creek)
- Target places to focus land use and fisheries goals
- Foster coordination across GITs and stakeholders

