



Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team
Chesapeake Bay Program
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http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/sustainable_fisheries

February 14, 2014

Kirk Havens
Chair, Scientific and Technical Assessment Committee
645 Contees Wharf Road
Edgewater, MD 21037

Dear Mr. Havens,

As the Chairs of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Sustainable Fisheries and Habitat Goal Implementation Teams (GITs), we are writing to endorse the Fisheries GIT's proposal for a STAC-funded workshop titled "Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities."

The Fisheries GIT's work is based on applying science to inform management decisions. This proposed workshop supports the Fisheries GIT directly by identifying: (1) which forage groups are critical to assess; (2) existing data for these groups; (3) data gaps; and (4) strategies to improve the quantification of the forage base. The outcomes of this workshop will be both timely and essential to fulfill a commitment by the Fisheries GIT made in the current draft of the Chesapeake Bay Program's new Watershed Agreement "By 2016, develop a strategy for assessing the forage fish base available as food for predatory species in the Chesapeake Bay", enabling fishery management decisions to be made in an improved ecosystem context.

The Habitat GIT recognizes the importance of available habitat to support forage species in the Bay. This workshop strengthens our collaboration with the Fisheries GIT to connect forage species to specific locations and habitat types in the Chesapeake system.

We recognize the importance of efficiently synthesizing the results of the workshop, and therefore support the Steering Committee's requirement that the final workshop report be delivered within 90 days of the workshop completion. Both the Fisheries and Habitat GITs look forward to working with the workshop Steering Committee and with STAC throughout the proposal process.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Peyton Robertson
Chair, Sustainable Fisheries Goal
Implementation Team
Director, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Mike Slattery
Chair, Habitat Goal Implementation Team
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service