**Fish GIT STAC Needs/Update - March 18, 2014**

* **Forage Workshop Proposal (STAC will be discussing this in detail on Day 2 of their meeting):** 
  + Based on the proposed forage fish New Agreement outcome and discussions at the Fisheries GIT's December meeting, the Fisheries GIT along with Tom Ihde have submitted a STAC workshop proposal to address some fundamental questions about forage species.
  + We put a lot of thought into the workshop Steering Committee to ensure that a range of perspectives and expertise were represented.
  + **The workshop is a key step toward ecosystem management.**
* **Invasive Catfish:** 
  + Task Force will be submitting their final report to STAC for peer review.
  + The Task Force's management recommendations were discussed by senior natural resource managers in all relevant jurisdictions (MD, VA, PRFC, DC, PA, DE) as well as ASMFC and NOAA. The recommendations fit into three broad categories: Reduce Population, Limit Spread, and Public Outreach.
  + Generally positive feedback from the managers and agreement to explore the recommendations in further depth for application in the jurisdictions.
  + VDGIF has been particularly interested in the effect of eutrophication on catfish populations, suggesting that more eutrophic environments are leading to increased catfish populations.
  + **Collaboration with STAC: support and/or review of future catfish research and protocols related to pilot catfish removal projects or monitoring procedures.**
  + *NOTE: After CB Program Management Board meeting on April 10, MD DNR is sponsoring an “invasive catfish lunch” at Smallwood State Park in Charles County, MD – STAC members are welcome for the lunch and post-lunch paddling on the Mattawoman.*
* **CBSAC**
  + Analysis of Winter Dredge Survey results will begin soon to inform the 2014 Blue Crab Advisory Report (to be completed June 2014).
  + Priority research and data needs have been identified and are being addressed.
    - new sampling design to address gear selectivity in WDS –what are we missing and how can we improve;
    - analysis of summer survey results--answering questions (where did the juveniles go?) from the previous year's WDS.
* **Oyster Restoration and Ecosystem Services**
  + NCBO is beginning a study this spring to quantify fish utilization and productivity of restored oyster reefs. Baseline sampling begins this spring in Tred Avon R. and will continue as restoration is implemented.
  + This work is complemented by projects in Harris Creek evaluating fisheries production and denitrification (Lisa Kellogg, Jeff Cornwell, and Ken Paynter) and fisheries productivity work in the Lafayette and Lynnhaven by Rom Lipcius and Rochelle Seitz.
* **Telemetry (NCBO-ASMFC-CBL partnership)**
  + Starting this spring Dave Secor’s research team at the University of Maryland’s Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) will place acoustic tags in 100 striped bass, tracking them for a 2.5 year period within the Potomac River and across major regions and tributaries of the Chesapeake and Atlantic coast.
  + The study addresses the key assessment issue of how Chesapeake Bay striped bass contribute to coastal stocks.
* **Other Science and Technical Needs – Reflecting on priorities for STAC**
  + Ecosystem-Based Management (and Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management)
  + Climate Change (and associated impacts on fisheries)
  + Toxics (including new and emerging contaminants)
  + Social Science