

## Blue Catfish Work Group Tasks/ Product Development

The team will develop a white paper that collects and synthesizes what is known about Blue and Flathead Catfish in the Bay and will suggest some near term steps that can be taken to address the Fisheries GIT objectives to 1) Mitigate the spread of this invasive species and 2) reduce populations to the lowest level possible.

Draft white paper should include these elements:

- Background and History of Species Introduction in the Bay
- Bay wide synthesis of population size and structure estimates including range and distribution
- Assessment of the ecological impacts of this invasive species (i.e. estimates of removal of native species biomass as an apex predator, habitat competition with native species, effects on restoration activities for shad, etc)
- Synthesis of current policies for commercial and recreational fishing, and introduction of these species
- Summary of human health risks and state/federal standards and regulations
- Gaps Analysis to identify research needed to advance understanding of the invasive species impacts on the Bay ecosystem
- Near (beginning 2011) and longer term management options for mitigating spread
- Near (beginning 2011) and longer term management options to reduce populations to the lowest possible level (a level at which ecological impacts are significantly minimized)

Note: The last two bullets could take the form of a decision matrix that lists the management option and its associated pros, cons, and/or unknowns.