
December Fisheries Goal Team Summit

The Sustainable Fisheries GIT continues to support and provide sound science to CB management jurisdictions through the forum of the Fisheries Goal Implementation Team. The team meets bi-annually once in June and again in December. As many of our last few meetings were focused on both continuing and highlighting the successes, challenges and application of current management driven research projects, we would like to use this opportunity to create an environment that is both interactive and allows for stakeholder input on how we can further support Chesapeake Bay fisheries management. To accomplish this, we propose to adapt our meeting design this December to be more of a summit where the Executive Committee along with invited participants, will have the opportunity to take a longer term (eye to the future) look at address some of the most high priority issues facing stakeholders and managers. We propose to hold the meeting on Port Isobel with the thought that the sense of place (middle of the Chesapeake surrounded by the Bay's fishing heritage) will drive our agenda and engagement with the fishing community. Below are prospective topics we can use to form the agenda for the December Summit on Port Isobel.

- Build on momentum of current efforts (Maryland Industry Design Team and their accountability and data management pilot, and the newly formed Virginia industry panel) as well as committed steps in management improvement under the GIT - developing male reference points, establishing Bay-wide catch limits, and preliminary jurisdiction allocations. These are all positive stories where various stakeholders are working collaboratively together to achieve a better management system.
- Begin the discussion of what an allocation based blue crab fishery would look like in the Chesapeake Bay. What are some of the challenges and complications for each jurisdiction and how can the Fisheries GIT continue to support the development of an allocation based management framework?
- Use Port Isobel to (1) highlight the two primary facets of good natural resource/fish management (reduce runoff from the land + effective fisheries management), (2) hold a listening session with local watermen, possibly highlighting the differences between Virginia striped bass management and Virginia blue crab management, (3) ask some Smith Islanders to come down to speak about the accountability and data management pilot.

- Discuss with stakeholders some of the needs of both the recreational and commercial sectors. What are some of the challenges they are faced with and how can the fisheries GIT continue to support the sustainability of recreational and commercial fisheries. The question to stakeholders would be how exactly do we achieve this and how do you value the participation of these organizations or stakeholders?
- Discuss the outcomes and recommendations from the Invasive Catfish Taskforce and discuss ways we can take precautionary action based off of what we know to mitigate the spread and lessen the adverse effects of BCF on the estuary.
- What's next for oysters? Do we want to begin developing some reference points for the wild fishery? How can we continue to grow aquaculture? How can we better support the restoration progress toward the EO 20 tribes by 2025 outcome (quantifying benefits of having more oyster habitat in the bay like nitrogen removal and increased fisheries production)