

## **Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team**

Biannual Full GIT Meeting

Chesapeake Biological Lab

Solomons, MD

December 3-4, 2013

Call-In: 866-917-0618; Pass Code: 1613714

### **Overview by Day:**

- **Day 1**
  - **Oysters**
  - **Invasive Catfish**
- **Day 2**
  - **Blue Crabs**
  - **Ecosystem-based fisheries management**
  - **American Shad Indicator**
  - **Striped Bass**
  - **New Agreement**

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The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (Fisheries GIT) continues to provide a forum for connecting science and policy across jurisdictions and the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The diverse team meets bi-annually in June and December. For this December's meeting, we have designed an agenda to keep us moving forward on top priorities (oysters, blue crabs, and invasive catfish) and to stimulate discussion on recent happenings in the Bay including the 2013 ASMFC striped bass benchmark stock assessment and the new Watershed Agreement.

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### **Objectives:**

- Discuss CBSAC's prioritization of blue crab research needs and progress on addressing the top priorities.
  - Update the Fisheries GIT on oyster restoration progress in both MD and VA. Discuss and compare oyster management across the jurisdictions.
  - Brief the Fisheries GIT on the Invasive Catfish Task Force's completed Action Plan Report and seek the team's approval to finalize the report. Update the Fisheries GIT on the current invasive catfish research, and hear from local commercial and recreational watermen about their encounters with invasive catfish.
  - Review the fisheries outcomes in the new Watershed Agreement, and discuss the upcoming Management Strategy development.
  - Discuss the results of the ASMFC striped bass stock assessment and associated management implications.
  - Discuss ecosystem-based management in the context of the Bay and from jurisdictions' perspectives.
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## Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 10:00 am**      **Welcome and Overview of Day 1** – Peyton Robertson, Fisheries GIT Chair
- 10:15 am**      **Oyster Management Primer** – Rep for each jurisdiction  
*Objective:* Review oyster management approaches in each jurisdiction with respect to aquaculture, the wild fishery, and restoration to get a big picture of oyster management across the Bay. Identify current and future challenges in management.
- 10:40 am**      **Oyster Restoration Updates** – Stephanie Westby (NOAA) and Susan Conner (USACE)  
*Objective:* Hear from the Oyster Interagency workgroups on restoration progress and next steps in both Maryland and Virginia.
- 11:10 am**      **Break**
- 11:20 am**      **Oyster Science**  
*Objective:* Update the team on relevant and current oyster research that will help inform management.  
*Ensure that each presenter focuses on new, timely updates.*
- Oyster Reef Elevation and Disease** – Ryan Carnegie (VIMS)
- Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services (ORES) Project** – Howard Townsend (NOAA)
- USACE Oyster Ecosystem Services Model** – Dr. Todd Swannack (USACE)
- Population Assessment and Shell Budget** – Roger Mann (VIMS)
- Oyster Economics** – Doug Lipton (NOAA)
- 12:30 pm**      **Lunch**
- 1:30 pm**      **Discussion and Oyster Wrap-Up**  
*Objective:* What does the science tell us? What are the best approaches for achieving restoration for oysters as seafood and for ecological restoration?
- Oyster Planning Questions:**
- **Invite someone from outside the Chesapeake (Delaware Bay?) to speak about their oyster management and restoration efforts?**
  - **What are the possible outcomes from the November CBC meeting, and how can we build on those conversations at the SFGIT meeting?**
  - **Are there any products that could come out of the oyster section?**
    - **Ex: tabular representation of oyster management in the Bay by jurisdiction**
- 2:00 pm**      **Invasive Catfish Research Updates**  
*Objective:* Update the Fisheries GIT on results from the latest blue and flathead catfish research and discuss and confirm proposed next steps.

10 min each

**James River Predation Study** - Greg Garman (VCU)

**Contaminant study** – Rob Hale

**Diet Analysis** – Mary Groves (MD DNR)

**Mark-Recapture Studies** – Mary Fabrizio (VIMS) and SERC

**Virginia Tech/VDGIF Predation Study**– Bob Greenlee (VDGIF)

**Pilot Removal Projects** – Bob Greenlee and Greg Garman

**Patuxent Tagging Project** –Matt Ogburn (SERC)

**Catfish Growth Analysis** – Rob Latour

**3:30 pm**      **Break**

**3:45 pm**      **Invasive Catfish Action Plan** – Bruce Vogt, Invasive Catfish Task Force Chair  
*Objective:* Discuss the policy outcomes and management recommendations suggested by the Task Force. Show how the invasive catfish research contributes to the report's recommendations.

**Discussion:** Do jurisdictions agree to implementation of the recommended strategies?

**Catfish Planning Questions:**

- **Invite someone from NOAA to discuss invasive catfish management in the Bay and connections to nationally managed species?**
- **Are there any products that could come out of the Invasive Catfish section?**
  - **Ex: graphic representation of research project timelines and their connection to management recommendations**

**4:45 pm**      **Public Comment Period**

**5:15 pm**      **Day 1 Recap**

**5:30 pm**      **Adjourn**

**6:00 pm**      **Dinner**

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**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 am**      **Day 2 Overview** – Peyton Robertson, Fisheries GIT Chair

**9:45 am**      **CBSAC Prioritization of Critical Blue Crab Research Needs**

*Objective:* CBSAC will present their prioritization of critical blue crab research needs and explain their reasoning. CBSAC will also provide updates on these items, including retrospective analyses of summer survey data and investigation into sperm limitation.

**10:20 am**      **Break**

**10:30 am**      **Economics and Blue Crab Management** – Mike Wilberg (UMCES), Rich Woodward (Texas A&M), and David Tomberlin (NOAA)  
*Objective:* Discuss the role of economics in fishery management from the perspective of jurisdictional agencies that manage the fishery.

**11:15 am**      **Ecosystem-based fisheries Management** (working to further develop this agenda item)  
*Objective:* Discuss the potential for implementing ecosystem-based management in the Bay, and what factors need to be considered.  
**Ideas:**

- **Blue crabs – discuss applying EBFM to blue crabs; opportunity to use EBFM principles to discuss why the population decreased dramatically from 2012 to 2013**
- **Forage fish – how can we better understand the base of the food chain? What ecosystem factors need to be considered in trying to define the forage base in the Bay?**

**12:15 pm**      **Lunch**

**1:15 pm**      **American Shad Abundance Indicator** – Jim Cummins (ICPRB) and Eric Brittle (VDGIF)  
*Objective:* Inform the Fisheries GIT of the newly revised shad abundance indicator developed by the American Shad Indicator Action Team under the Chesapeake Bay Program.

**1:45 pm**      **Striped Bass Science and Management**  
*Objective:* Discuss the latest science, recent benchmark stock assessment, and related management considerations for striped bass.

**Striped Bass Disease Study** – Rob Latour (VIMS) 15 min

**ASMFC 2013 Striped Bass Stock Assessment Summary** – Pat Campfield/Rob O'Reilly? 20 min

**Management Implications of Stock Assessment**– Tom O'Connell? (Chair of ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board) and full GIT discussion 25 min

**2:45 pm**      **New Agreement and Management Strategies** – Peyton or Bruce?  
*Objective:* Review the fisheries outcomes in the new Watershed Agreement. Explain the management strategy process and discuss the elements required for the strategies. Outline a plan for the next year that describes how the GIT will develop the strategies.

<b>3:15 pm</b>	<b>Public Comment Period</b>
<b>3:45 pm</b>	<b>Day 2 Recap; Next Steps</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>

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