Full GIT Comments on Sustainable Fisheries Workplans
December 14, 2015

Blue Crab

Management Approach 1: Stock Assessment

- Evaluation:
    - Public – Is this something we feel we want to do?
    - CBC - legislature
- Value of fishery
- Dividing line: Industry vs. Management

Key Action 1: Finalize plans for the next stock assessment

- Explore potential of fishery/no fishery
- Be careful how you word this

Management Approach 2: Evaluate an Allocation-based Management Framework

- Public Input
- Estimation of recreational accountability
- Baywide – varies regionally

Key Action 3:Explore feasibility of allocating a percentage of the Baywide TAC to the jurisdictions

- Commercial vs recreational

Forage

General

- What are primary drivers to forage variability?
- What forage to focus on?
    - Trend approach (seagrasses)
    - Managed Forage
- Base reference points on water quality goals?
    - Shifts to system on productivity
- How to account for harvest (commercial) when balancing forage?
    - Man as predator
- Connect fish habitat closely

Management Approach 1: Define Forage Species

Key Action 1: Identify highest priority forage species for near term efforts

- Dog fish, bluefish
- Blue crab gap?
- Communications

Key Action 3: Conduct outreach

- Add CBC

Management Approach 2: Determine forage status

Key Action 2: Develop a definition of a "balanced" state

- Establishing baseline prey-predator conditions
    - Current Bay productivity
- Ecosystem modeling scenarios
    - Based on current state, what's achievable?

- Scale trophic demand for management objectives species

Management Approach 3: Inform Decisions

Key Action 1: Management jurisdictions will establish management objectives for forage

- Are there management or regulatory gaps?
  - State authorities?
  - Later date?

Management Approach 4: Maximize monitoring

- What management options do we have?

Fish Habitat

General

A lot for 2 years!

Management Approach 1: Identify and prioritize threats

Key Action 1: Improve understanding of specific habitat stressors

- Suggested species from Al Spells for M1: Atlantic sturgeon, STB, anadromous *Alosids*, Eastern Brook Trout, Invasives: Blue Catfish and Snakehead, menhaden, bay anchovy.

Key Action 3: Develop thresholds and/or metrics for stressors and threats

- Conductivity (add as a prioritization parameter using Marsan criteria)

Management Approach 2: Compile data on habitats and fish utilization

- Tool sharing? – MD is ahead on tools, deliverable products, share with VA
- Role – How can we facilitate sharing?

Management Approach 3: Develop spatial tools for fish habitat

Key Action 1: Overlay spatial data on fish species habitat dependence with high-value habitat

- Including data in forage fish report and RFP results

Management Approach 4: Communicate importance of fish habitat

Key Action 1: Engage and communicate fish habitat needs with partners and local communities

- MDE role? – regulatory approach in MD

Management Approach 5: Enhance fish habitat protection

Key Action 1: Engage local planner and restoration practitioners

- Restoration too?
  - Climate change (eelgrass in lower Bay?)
  - Go “fresher” with partners, ie. VA DGIF, VA DEQ
- Add LGAC (local not just regional), TNC and others

Oysters

General

Stephanie addressed the following comments from the GIT meeting. The changes were incorporated into the 12-18 draft.

Management Approach 1: Restoration Planning and Implementation

- Remove the key action "Track oyster restoration in tributaries that are not selected"
- Add "collaborate with PRFC" to the key action on identifying new candidate restoration tributaries.
- Remove the specific mention of the Great Wicomico.

Management Approach 3: Future Protection

Add PRFC as a partner in the implementation and assessment of poaching enforcement plans