



Fish Habitat Workgroup Meeting - August 2026

August 5, 2026
12:30pm - 1:30pm

[Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.](#)

Purpose: This meeting will convene the Fish Habitat workgroup to discuss the Fish Habitat outcome management strategy subchapter and collect comments from members.

Minutes

- I. Introductions** **12:30pm – 12:35pm**
Lead: Chris Moore (CBF), Troy Tuckey (VIMS), & Bob Caccese (PFBC)

- II. Overview of the Fish Habitat Workgroup** **12:35pm – 12:40pm**
Lead: Bruce Vogt (NOAA)
Quick overview of the Fish Habitat Workgroup structure, leadership, goals, and next steps

Decisions: N/A

Actions: N/A

Discussion Notes:

- See slides for more information
- More standardization within the CBP for new Watershed Agreement
 - New membership structure for goal teams and workgroups
 - Goal team level is following a 9 & 6 member structure (9 signatories and 6 at-large representatives)
 - Workgroups can follow 9&6 structure but are not required to - Fish Habitat will be following this structure
 - Decision making process
 - Consent-based decision making process
 - There is a need to identify voting members in the case that a vote is needed

- Workgroups need to identify up to 15 voting members (do not need to have full 15)

III. Review Fish Habitat Management Strategy

12:40pm – 1:20pm

Lead: Chris Moore (CBF)

Review the first draft of the Fish Habitat Management Strategy subchapter. Time for discussion and to provide feedback.

Decisions: N/A

Actions:

1. Workgroup members to review the Fish Habitat Workgroup MS Subchapter and provide comments/suggested edits by **August 19th**

Discussion Notes:

- Habitat Suitability Index
 - Missing data sets for tidal shallow water habitat is likely - workgroup needs to work with what they have available
 - Inclusion of oyster reefs and SAV within the HSI?
 - Two different approaches are currently being developed
 - One approach is just using habitat data (not fish survey) and it does link to oyster reefs
 - There is a need to ensure that there is science to back up the assumptions under HSI indices
 - Plan is for HSI products to come to Fish Habitat workgroup for their review - this workgroup will play a role in evaluating the science
 - Is there a plan to have the Fish Habitat Workgroup to meet with the Water Quality GT at some point?
 - Yes, a meeting would be helpful to improve communication
 - This project will help inform the next set of WIPS - a lot needs to happen before then

IV. Wrap-Up

1:20pm - 1:30pm

Lead: Chris Moore (CBF), Troy Tuckey (VIMS), & Bob Caccese (PFBC)

Opportunity to hear questions, comments, and discussion from the workgroup chairs, co-chairs, and vice chairs.

Decisions: N/A

Actions:

1. Workgroup members to review the Fish Habitat Workgroup MS Subchapter and provide comments/suggested edits by **August 19th**

Discussion Notes:

- Next steps

- Workgroup members to review the Fish Habitat Workgroup MS Subchapter and provide comments/suggested edits by **August 19th**
- Management Strategies are due to PSC by October 19th
 - Afterwards management strategies will go out for public comment
 - This is an opportunity for workgroup members to provide more comments if they feel like they didn't have time to provide feedback or think of new feedback

V. Adjourn

1:30pm

Next Meeting: TBD

Attendees: Chris Moore (CBF), Troy Tuckey (VIMS), Bob Caccese (PFBC), Christina Garvey (CRC), Bruce Vogt (NOAA), Jim Uphoff (MDNR), Jeffrey Horne (MDNR), Nora Carlos (CBC), Donna Bilkovic (VIMS), Alex Kiser (USGS), Sarah Brezenski (EPA), Henry Legett (SERC), Chris Guy (USFWS), Clinton Morgeson (VDWR), Genny Nessler (UMCES), Matthew Ogburn (SERC), Rochelle Seitz (VIMS), Tom Ihde (MSU), Donna Bilkovic (VIMS), Jim Gartland (VIMS), Kelly Maloney (USGS), Marek Topolski (MDNR), Norah Carlos (CBC), Ryan Woodland (UMCES), Daniel Ryan (DOEE)