

Discussion: The Future of the Invasive Catfish Workgroup



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Additional Comments on Mentimeter

In addition to our discussion, feel free to add your comments to the mentimeter

<https://www.mentimeter.com/app/presentation/alotg9kneavv488wvknv14cpejgy26dt/edit?question=74h9uu75sybn>

What information do we have on the ecological impacts of blue catfish? What information do we need?

- Diet studies - evaluate what we know about diets and where there are spatial & temporal gaps (and then fill that)
 - Quantify ecological impacts of blue catfish
- How are we going to manage this information?
 - Difference size classes - to target biomass
- Eastern shore information
 - Still do not know impact level on striped bass (rec and commercial fishing interest)
 - Missing piece of the puzzle?
 - Map of the bay of invasion status (and level of ecol impact) - do we have information to put something like this together as a communication piece?
 - Depends on populations (e.g. river shad) within tribes
 - Gut content analysis from fishermen - Blackwater refuge
 - MDNR map survey data (presence/absence of blue cat) -driving people to hotspots
 - Geographic map showing time frame of invasions would be helpful
 - Need to leverage information - improve sharing

How can we measure baywide invasive catfish populations & what % population reduction is necessary for mediation of ecological impacts?

- Tom Ihde's project - uncertainty around interests and tradeoffs - contingent on voices in the room
- Modeling on Patuxent work - expansion to other areas
 - Additional survey data
- Focus on specific tributaries and apply to others for rough approximations
 - Upper bay and middle bay (connectivity/salinity shifts)
- Dependant on the goal threshold
 - Influence on striped bass population - how much to reduce catfish population?
- Dave Secor's recommendation - resources not available yet
 - Focus on specific tributaries - look at time frames
 - Improve insights on ecological impacts and inform management
- Time dimension & goals
 - All systems are changing - this is a snapshot - is that what we want? Or focus on longer time horizon of probable impacts?
 - Model a range of possibilities - tool to look at where systems are heading - cannot assume systems will go in the same direction
- Availability of biomass to fisheries? (address ecological impacts while also maintaining fishery)

What is the best way to summarize or quantify what we know?

Best way to engage recreational fishermen in this effort?

Discussion: What is the most useful role that the ICW can play moving forward?

Small Group Chair Follow - Up

Background: The Role of the ICW

- “...**coordinates the best available science and develops methods to evaluate the impacts** of invasive catfish on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem”
- “...**coordinates activities and recommends actions** to implement objectives outlined in the 2020 Invasive Catfish Management Strategy”
- “...regularly **report out on current knowledge** of the issue and incorporate all available information on blue and flathead catfish to **inform management** of these invasive species across all jurisdictions”
- “...emphasizes **bay-wide communication** among jurisdictions and **engagement of a broad group** of members”

Background: The Role of the ICW

