



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Invasive Catfish Workgroup

October 16, 2025

Agenda

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|----------------------------|--|
| 9:30 am - 9:35 am | Introduction & Opening Remarks |
| 9:35 am - 10:05 am | Policy Updates |
| 10:05 am - 10:50 am | Commercial Fishing/ Processing/ Marketing Updates |
| 10:50 am - 10:55 am | Break |
| 10:55 am - 12:05 pm | Science & Management Updates |
| 12:05 pm - 12:30 pm | Recap & Next Steps |
| 12:30 pm | Adjourn |

Housekeeping

- This meeting is being recorded for note taking purposes
- Please put name and affiliation in the chat
- New security measures: Everyone is muted - raise your hand to request unmute
- Chat box for questions and brief comments, or use the Raise Hand icon to be called on during the discussion or Q&A sessions

The Invasive Catfish Workgroup

- Under the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team of the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Tasked with sharing information to inform the management of invasive catfish (mostly Blue catfish) throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Group includes state managers, government, scientists, recreational and charter anglers, commercial watermen, processors, marketing specialists and more



Photo Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

Invasive Catfish Workgroup

- Management strategy published in 2020
 - Reduce biomass by developing/expanding the fishery
- Updated Goal Statement in 2024
- Established specific small teams and action plan in 2024
 - Recreational Fishing and Charter Captains
 - Policy
 - Science and Management
 - Commercial Fishing, Processing and Marketing
- Coordinated funding for research and marketing studies



Invasive Catfish Workgroup Goal

"By 2029, develop management strategies to minimize the spread and ecological impacts of invasive catfishes in the Chesapeake Bay. The management strategies will use the best available science and consider the diverse interests of stakeholders, support ecosystem health, and increase public awareness"



Beyond 2025 Updates

- Sustainable Fisheries Goal Team → Thriving Habitats, Fisheries, & Wildlife
 - Structure is TBD
- Interest in invasive species across the Agreement
- On track for governors to sign the revised agreement by December 2025