Fisheries Goal Team (GIT 1)

Management Board presentation 9/2/2012

Peyton Robertson, Chair
Thomas O'Connell, Vice Chair
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Fisheries GIT Goals

What?

Overarching Goals

- *Improve interjurisdictional management of fisheries resources that move across political and administrative jurisdictions.*
- *Improve the connection between science and management to ensure decision making leads to productive and sustainable fisheries.*
- *Promote coalition building, information sharing, and appropriate coordination of management decisions that can feed into broader fisheries commissions and councils (e.g., Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council).*

Workgroup Goals

- Blue Crabs: Maintain sustainable blue crab interim rebuilding target of 200 million adults (1+ years old) in 2011 and develop a new population target for 2012 through 2025.
- Oysters: Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 20 tributaries out of 35 to 40 candidate tributaries by 2025.
- Invasive Catfish: Reduce the spread of invasive catfish and mitigate their negative impacts on native species.

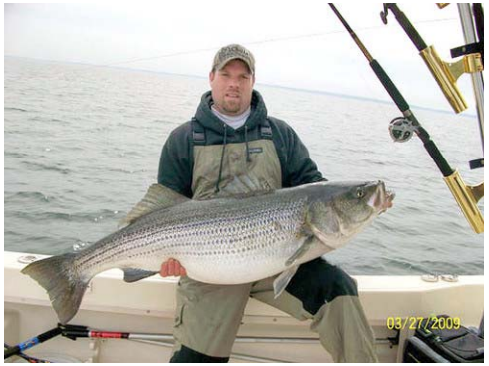
Fisheries GIT Goals

Why?

- The Fisheries GIT believes these goals are of top priority in order to recover and sustain fisheries resources within the Chesapeake Bay.
- Most goals originated from Executive Order 13508
- Overarching Goals:
  - More timely science to lead decision making
  - Regular discussion on priority fishery issues raises awareness and improves cross-jurisdictional decisions
- Blue Crabs:
  - Maintaining a sustainable population for commercial and recreational fisheries with ample supply for consumption and perpetuation of the stock
- Oysters:
  - Shift to large scale, targeted (place based) restoration approaches
  - Habitat benefits for other fisheries
- Invasive Catfish:
  - Invasive species have the potential to harm native species and disrupt ecosystem balance

Fisheries GIT Goals

Who?



- Who the GIT is working with:
  - Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (scientists, academics, managers)
  - Oyster Metrics Team (scientists, academics, state, federal)
  - Oyster MD and VA Interjurisdictional Workgroups (state, federal, NGOs)
  - Invasive Catfish Taskforce (scientists, academics, state, federal)
- <u>Key Stakeholders</u>:
  - Commercial and Recreational Fishermen
  - Jurisdictional Managers (MD DNR, VMRC, PRFC, DC DOE, ASMFC)
  - General Public (fisheries resources = the "people's" resources)
  - Restoration & Conservation Interests
- Through our membership and workgroups, these stakeholders are involved in the science and decision making processes of the Fisheries GIT.

Habitat Goal Team (GIT 2)

Management Board presentation 9/2/2012

Jeff Horan, Chair
Jennifer Greiner, Coordinator

Habitat GIT Goals

Restore a network of land and water habitats to support priority species and to afford other public benefits

Wetlands: Restore 30,000 and enhance 150,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands by 2025 (restore 4,000 and enhance 20,000 acres every 2 years)

- **Black Duck** – wintering population of 100,000 birds by 2025 ("wetland habitat adequate to support")

Fish passage: Open 1,000 additional steam miles for fish passage by 2025 (64 mi/yr)

- **American shad, river herring, eel** – Monitor populations at 50% of new projects

Stream Health: Provide expert guidance on stream restoration techniques, funding, and priority restoration projects that benefit water quality and aquatic habitat

- **Brook Trout** – Improve 58 sub-watersheds by 2025 *(Work with STAR taskgroup to translate outcome to "catchments" and "patches" to better target restoration)*

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation: Coverage of 185,000 acres for restored Bay

- Meet water clarity criteria in areas and at depths designated for SAV use
- Plant or seed 20 acres of SAV each year to enhance understanding of site selection, recruitment, and habitat suitability

Habitat GIT Rationale

These are important because…

- Wetlands provide wintering habitat for waterfowl, nursery habitat for fish and shellfish, remove nutrients/sediment from overland flow, absorb flood waters, and buffer shoreline communities from tidal storm surge
- Fish passage structures allow commercially and recreationally valuable fish to migrate to their historic spawning grounds, facilitating their recovery
- Healthy streams provide habitat for recreationally important species such as brook trout, and have stable banks that are less likely to erode
- SAV is nursery area for crabs and oysters and oxygenates the Bay's water

Where is the goal derived?

- Goal and top 3 outcomes derived from *Strategy for Conserving and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* (Executive Order 13508)
- SAV target is from SAV Strategy and based on historic acreage
- Brook trout and black duck outcomes based on Joint Venture science

Habitat GIT Collaborators

Member Organizations:

Pennsylvania FBC
Virginia DGIF
Maryland DNR and MDE
Delaware DNREC
West Virginia DNR
New York DEP
University of MD
Ducks Unlimited

FWS
USGS
NRCS
USACE
NOAA
EPA
USFS
NPS

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
Upper Susquehanna Coalition
Chesapeake Bay Trust
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

Close Collaboration With:
STAC, STAR
Fisheries GIT
Watersheds GIT
Water Quality GIT
Comm Team

Need involvement from:

- Agricultural landowners
- Local governments
- District of Columbia

Water Quality Goal Team (GIT 3)

Management Board presentation 9/2/2012

Larry Merrill, Chair
Russ Baxter, Vice Chair
Katherine Antos, Coordinator

Water Quality GIT Goals

- **Have all practices in place by 2025 that are necessary to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment to levels that will contribute to meeting water quality standards in the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay for DO, SAV/clarity, and chlorophyll-a.**

- **Practices will be in place by 2017 that would achieve 60% of the necessary pollutant reductions compared to 2009.**

- **Restoration of water quality is vital to achieving conditions that support living resources and protect human health.**

WQGIT Goal Basis and Support

- **Multiple Chesapeake Bay Agreements, most recently Chesapeake 2000**
- **In 2009, Executive Council called for practices in place by 2025**
- **Similar goal in Executive Order 13508 and Bay TMDL**
- **WQGIT Workgroup Support:**
  - **Source Sector Workgroups (Agriculture, Urban Stormwater, Wastewater, Forestry)** – Analyze information and provide mh1 recommendations to support better understanding and accelerated implementation of practices to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment.
  - **Additional WQGIT Workgroups** – Provide information and recommendations on two-year milestone development, evaluation and communication; technical issues relating to BMPs; development and impacts of trading and offset programs; estimates and future projections of land use and land cover.

Slide 11

mh1

Is there a better term for "non-source sector" workgroup?
mharrington, 7/20/2012

WQGIT Partner Engagement

- **Diverse partnership composed of:**
  - Federal, state, and local agencies
  - River basin commissions and non-profit organizations
  - Industry groups
  - Academic institutions
  - Other interested parties
  - Over 25 agencies/organizations regularly participate

- **Collaborative pollution reduction efforts are imperative:**
  - Actions in one jurisdiction directly impact water quality in another.
  - Water quality is vital to achieving conditions that support living resources and protect human health.

Healthy Watersheds Goal Team (GIT 4)

Management Board presentation 9/2/2012

Mark Bryer, Chair
Richard Hall, Vice Chair
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Healthy Watersheds GIT

What?

Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT

- Maintain local watersheds at optimal health across a range of landscape contexts

Healthy Watersheds GIT

Why?

Importance

- Restoration efforts can't succeed without protection of what is currently healthy
- Watershed health protection is significantly more cost-effective than restoration
- Local watershed health is meaningful to local interests throughout the Bay watershed

Origins

- E.O. 13508 Strategy: Stream Restoration Desired Outcome: 70 percent of sampled streams rate fair, good or excellent
- Chesapeake 2000: "Preserve, protect and restore those habitats and natural areas that are vital to the survival and diversity of the living resources of the Bay and its rivers."

Healthy Watersheds GIT

Who?

Who will my GIT work with to accomplish this goal?

- State environment and natural resources staff
- Conservation NGOs (TNC, CBF, AFT)
- STAR, other GITs
- EPA HQ Healthy Watershed Initiative

Who are the stakeholders?

- The partner jurisdictions
- Local governments and local watershed organizations

Which stakeholders/partners need to be involved to meet goal? Are they currently represented on the GIT?

- See first list above, all of whom are represented on the GIT

Stewardship Goal Team (GIT 5)

Management Board presentation 9/2/2012

John Maounis, Chair
Kristin Saunders, Vice Chair
Amy Handen, Coordinator

Stewardship GIT

GOALS:

- **Conserve landscapes and increase access to the Bay and rivers to allow all to enjoy the natural and cultural resources of the watershed. Increase the number of citizen stewards who support and carryout local conservation and restoration.**

Stewardship GIT

Conserve Landscapes: Conserve landscapes treasured by citizens to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value.

Importance

- Protecting these special places provides a suite of related benefits including ecological, cultural, historic, and recreation benefits.
- Chesapeake's most treasured landscapes add billions of dollars to the region's economy
- Many Chesapeake landscapes with great ecological, historical, and cultural importance are vulnerable to the effects of land development and climate change

Origin

- **E.O. 13508 Strategy:** Conserve landscapes treasured by citizens to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value.
- **Chesapeake 2000:** Strengthen programs for land acquisition and preservation within each state that are supported by funding and target the most valued lands for protection. Permanently preserve from development 20 percent of the land area in the watershed by 2010.

Who

- Partners: Federal and state environment and natural resources staff, conservation NGOs and Land Trusts
- Stakeholders: Citizens, partner jurisdictions, Land Trusts and NGOs.
- Additional partners needed: All partners needed are currently represented.

Stewardship GIT

Expand Public Access: Expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new local, state and federal parks, refuges, reserves, trails and partner sites.

Importance

- Currently, public access to the Bay and its rivers falls short of public demand.
- Public access to the Bay and its tributaries enriches our communities. Outdoor recreation encourages physical health, human connectivity, and spiritual renewal. Time spent close to the land and water creates a sense of place that motivates more people to become personal stewards of our natural and cultural resources—and citizen advocacy is critical to the ultimate success of restoration efforts underway across the region.

Origins

- **E.O. 13508 Strategy:** Expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new local, state and federal parks, refuges, reserves, trails and partner sites.
- **Chesapeake 2000:** Expand public access by 30%. Install 30 new gateway sites by 2003, and increase water trails by 500 miles by 2005.

Who

- Partners: Federal and state environment and natural resources staff, conservation NGOs
- Stakeholders: Citizens, recreation and sport organizations, partner jurisdictions and NGOs.
- Additional partners needed: All partners needed are currently represented.

Stewardship GIT

Expand Chesapeake Conservation Corps: Expand Chesapeake Conservation Corps workforces.

Importance

- Conservation Corps programs provide opportunities for diverse youth to work and volunteer in the outdoors, develop technical, life, leadership and employment skills, receive mentorship, and participate in recreational activities that promote physical, mental, and social well-being.
- Youth in Chesapeake Conservation Corps programs complete conservation and restoration projects in priority watersheds, work on infrastructure and maintenance projects on public lands, participate in environmental, historical, and cultural education and interpretation programs, and much more.

Origin

- **E.O. 13508 Strategy:** Expand Chesapeake conservation corps workforces.

Who

- Partners: Conservation and youth-related NGOs, federal and state environment and natural resources staff
- Stakeholders: Youth, mentors, natural resource and land management agencies, citizens, partner jurisdictions and NGOs.
- Additional partners needed: All partners needed are currently represented.

Stewardship GIT

Ensure Environmentally Literate Students: Ensure that elementary and secondary students in the Mid-Atlantic Region graduate environmentally literate with the tools they need to make informed choices to protect and restore local environments and the Chesapeake Bay.

Importance

- The health of our environment is dependent upon the actions of every citizen and will soon rest in the hands of our youngest citizens.
- Environmental education is critical to developing the next generation of citizen stewards who possess the critical thinking skills needed to assess scientifically credible information related to the environment, the ability to communicate what they have learned in a meaningful way, and the ability to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the environment.

Origin

- **E.O. 13508 Strategy:** Develop a Chesapeake Bay Elementary and Secondary Environmental Literacy Strategy that expands upon the meaningful watershed educational experience objective.
- **Chesapeake 2000:** 5.1.4: Beginning with the class of 2005, provide a meaningful Bay or stream outdoor experience for every student in the watershed before graduation.

Who

- Partners: Federal, regional, state, and/or local representation from natural resource agencies, departments of education, colleges/universities, and non-governmental organizations (including NAAEE affiliates)
- Stakeholders: Youth, educators, education agencies, natural resource agencies, families, and NGOs.
- Additional partners needed: PA Department of Education, WV Department of Education, WV Natural Resource Agency, WV College/University, DC College/University