

Blue Crab Management Outcome: Manage for a stable and productive crab fishery including working with the industry, recreational crabbers and other stakeholders to improve commercial and recreational harvest accountability. By **2018, evaluate the establishment of a Bay-wide, allocation-based management framework** with annual levels set by the jurisdictions for the purpose of accounting for and adjusting harvest by each jurisdiction.

Outline

What is an **allocation-based management framework**?

- An Allocation Based Management Framework (ABMF) is a framework that 1) establishes a Bay Wide total allowable catch for the Chesapeake Bay blue crab fishery and 2) apportions separate allocations to each fishery management jurisdiction (including Virginia, Maryland and the Potomac River) for their use in establishing appropriate fishery management policies. *Fishery management jurisdictions are responsible for implementing and managing their respective allocations.*

Steps toward a Bay-wide, allocation-based management framework

- Establish fishery goals
 - Stable and productive crab fishery
- Calculate a Bay wide Total Allowable Catch around fishery goals
 - Define TAC (options)
 - The total amount of crabs that can be sustainably caught in a given year
 - The annual recommended or specified regulated catch for a species
 - Calculate TAC (options)
 - Projection analysis, apply exploitation rate to a biomass level
 - Total removals
 - Consider Sex specific TAC
 - Consider management and scientific uncertainty in the above options
 - Consider how often TAC is calculated (annual was mentioned by Rob O.)
 - What science is needed to improve TAC?
- Develop options for allocating a percentage of the Bay wide TAC to jurisdictions
 - Historical harvest data
 - Option 2
 - Option 3

- Develop tools to implement
 - Harvest accountability (how will this be accomplished in each jurisdiction)
 - Consider other removals (i.e. discards, latent effort, recreational)
 - Improve estimates of M (natural mortality)
- Complete and Implement Management plan

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