

## **Fish Habitat Action Team Meeting Notes**

February 27, 2020 1:00 – 2:30pm

### ***Participants***

Donna Bilkovic	Margaret McGinty	Pam Mason	Kelly Maloney
Steve Faulkner	Pat Geer	Julie Devers	Julianna Greenberg
Mandy Bromilow	Angie Wei	Ron Vogel	Jeni Keisman
Kevin du Bois	Jessica Coakley	Matt Ogburn	Edna Stetzar
Rachel Felver	Gina Hunt	Morgan Corey	

### **Seeking Feedback**

#### **Chesapeake Bay Program GIS Team – 3D Habitat Interpolator Tool**

- See presentation slides and contact Angie Wei for more information
- Discussion:
  - Application for tidal water quality trends over time and visualizing how changing conditions influence fish habitat volume
  - The visualization tool could help interpret observations from Matt Ogburn research focused on studying fish habitat use with field sampling, telemetry
    - Complimentary work from Mary Fabrizio ongoing project to develop a hydrodynamic habitat suitability model
    - The visualization tool could better examine effects of depths and look at most productive areas
    - Also related to Dave Secor work with striped bass habitat
  - Currently the tool uses monthly water quality monitoring data from modeling team outputs, could increase spatial resolution over the 1km view with satellite data for temperature
    - Contact Ron Vogel, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) [ronald.vogel@noaa.gov](mailto:ronald.vogel@noaa.gov)
    - Could include CBIBS data on temperature and salinity

#### **Chesapeake Bay Program GIS Team – Shorelines Mapping Update**

- See presentation slides
  - GIS team is working to map Bay-wide shoreline inventory based on current VIMS dataset as a first step for starting a discussion within the partnership
- Discussion:
  - Maryland shoreline inventory updates are expected to be complete in late 2020
  - Focusing on York River subwatershed found that the area is still too broad
    - Currently using HUC12 scale approach for entire Bay
  - Caution that the science supporting subwatershed scale may not apply across all areas of the Bay, location specific results
  - Rates of hardened shoreline permit requests also vary by location
    - Consider areas with currently lower % hardened but rapid development
  - Clarify definitions of shoreline armoring and hardened structures included

### **Local Engagement Priorities Survey**

- Local Engagement team is working to develop a comprehensive Needs and Resources Assessment list across the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- The Fish Habitat outcome communications strategy outline focuses on messaging for identified priority stressors that are measurable and have ongoing research to support
  - For example, hardened shorelines, impervious surfaces and loss of buffers
- Primary audiences identified include local planners, WIP planners and natural resource management agencies
- Follow-up Action:
  - [Share questions from Local Engagement survey with FHAT members to provide feedback by March 9](#)
    - What action needs to happen at the local level to further this outcome?
    - Who has the power to make that action a reality (audience)?
    - What kind of interactions do you want with your audience?
    - Who is your audience's 'trusted source' or messenger? Think about where they go for support or to network with peers.
    - What can the 'local engagement' team do to support your work?
- Discussion:
  - Fish Habitat overlap with other workgroups, e.g. brook trout
  - Instead of the term “trusted sources”, suggest using “messengers”

### **Action Research Consultation on Behavior Change**

- Fish Habitat had a consultation meeting with Action Research to explore applications for behavior change that would influence our ability to meet the outcome, focused on trying to narrow down specific behaviors to address priority stressors.
- Discussion:
  - Shorelines management behavior change project ongoing now, with follow up communications project planned to build on results
  - Potential for common interests with the Wetlands Workgroup and collaboration on behavior change for coastal property owners mowing wetland vegetation
    - Project idea in the early discussion stages

### Assessment Updates

#### **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) Assessment**

- See [presentation slides](#) 72-100
- Contact Julie Devers for more information

#### **Regional Chesapeake Bay Assessment Progress Update**

- Contact Gina Hunt for more information

### Member Updates

- Matt Ogburn at SERC is working on the Land and Sea Initiative with a pilot project in the Chesapeake Bay, likely in the Rappahannock River
- Jessica Coakley update on progress for the Northeast Regional Marine Fish Assessment
  - Reminder that the Regional Chesapeake Bay Assessment is nested within others like ACFHP and the Northeast, with collaboration built in across assessments