



Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (Fisheries GIT) facilitates fisheries management that encourages sustainable Chesapeake Bay fish populations, supports viable recreational and commercial fisheries, and promotes natural ecosystem function. The Fisheries GIT provides the forum to discuss fishery management issues that cross state and other jurisdictional boundaries.

The Fisheries GIT also works to connect science to management decisions and create a framework/mechanism for implementing ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management. The Fisheries GIT fosters the use of, and relies upon, multiple sources of information, including cooperative research, monitoring, modeling, and assessments to develop management actions that restore, enhance, and protect finfish, shellfish and other living resources in the Bay.



The Fisheries GIT provides the forum through which the appropriate managers with jurisdiction and standing can work together to coordinate management actions in a regional context and efficiently prioritize and receive technical guidance to drive decision making.

Who is the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team?

- *Full Team:* Diverse set of managers, scientists, and stakeholders with direct and indirect ties to fisheries management
- *Executive Committee:* Senior fisheries managers representing Bay jurisdictions (Maryland, Virginia, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, District of Columbia, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- *Specialized Workgroups:* Ad hoc groups identified to address specific issues.
 - The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) provides scientific analysis and advisory services on blue crabs.
 - The MD and VA Interagency Oyster Workgroups are selecting tributaries for applications of the oyster restoration success metrics.
 - The Invasive Catfish Task Force is investigating management scenarios to limit invasive catfish's range expansion and negative effects.
 - The Fisheries GIT is also involved in updating the American Shad indicator for the Chesapeake Bay Program to incorporate habitat, health, and recovery efforts.



Objectives

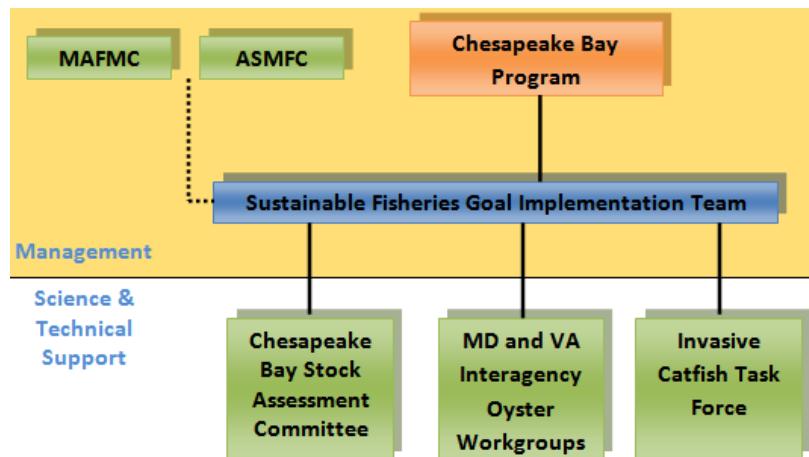
- Improve interjurisdictional management of fisheries resources that move across political and administrative jurisdictions.
- Improve the connection between science and management to ensure decision making leads to productive and sustainable fisheries.
- Develop and apply ecosystem approaches to fisheries management across both fishery and non-fishery management structures (i.e. influencing land use decisions that impact fisheries health and abundance).
- 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 [ASMFC] and the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council [MAFMC]).



2012 Top Priorities

- Maintain sustainable population (i.e. between the abundance and exploitation targets and thresholds) by preparing and delivering the 2013 Blue Crab Advisory Report and convening the Fisheries GIT to discuss the report and adapt management approaches when necessary.
- CBSAC will recommend male blue crab reference points to be adopted and implemented by the Fisheries GIT ExComm in 2013.
- In order to make progress towards developing an interjurisdictional blue crab allocation framework, we should begin discussions on an allocation process and develop an allocation framework complete with preliminary numbers for each jurisdiction.
- A) Initiate discussions on an interjurisdictional blue crab allocation process; and B) develop an interjurisdictional blue crab allocation framework complete with preliminary numbers for each jurisdiction.
- Continue blue crab commercial accountability pilot project. Evaluate efficacy of accountability program in MD and consider application in VA and PRFC.
- Continue to make progress towards the EO oyster outcome to restore 20 tributaries by 2025 by selecting priority tributaries and develop tributary specific restoration plans (blueprints) through the MD and VA interagency oyster teams.
- Identify a single tributary that by the oyster metrics criteria is seen as restored and then quantify the ecosystem services and fishery benefits.
- Convene the Invasive Catfish Task Force to coordinate research findings and develop and present their policy options/recommendations to implement the goals from the Invasive Catfish Policy Statement.

Organization



For more information on the Fisheries GIT visit: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/sustainable_fisheries or email bruce.vogt@noaa.gov.