QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – August 2019
Chesapeake Bay Program

Fish Habitat Outcome

Presentation for STAR July 25, 2019

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Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to…*

Goal: *Sustainable Fisheries*

Outcome:

Continually improve effectiveness *of fish habitat conservation and restoration efforts by identifying and characterizing critical spawning, nursery and forage areas within the Bay and tributaries for important fish and shellfish, and* ***use existing and new tools*** *to integrate* ***information*** *and conduct* ***assessments*** *to inform restoration and conservation efforts.*

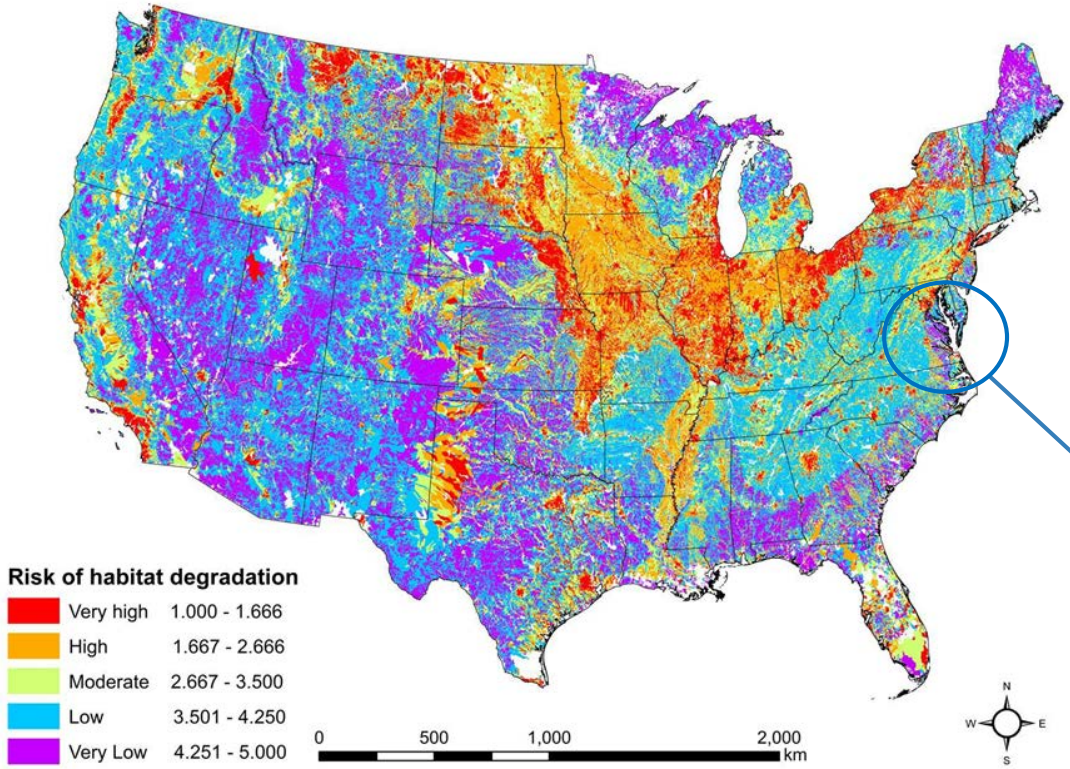
How You Can Help

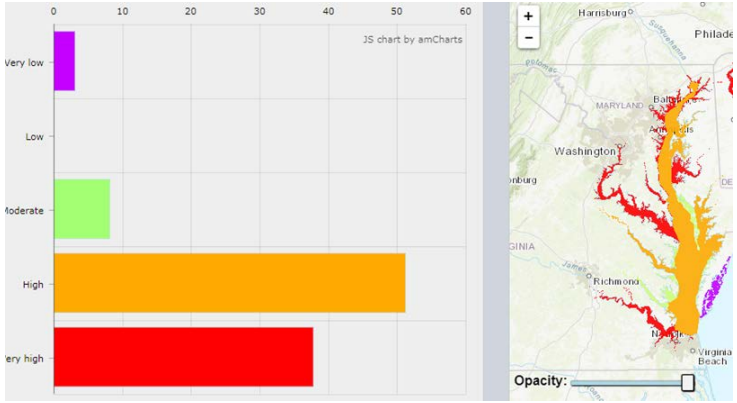
Achievements:

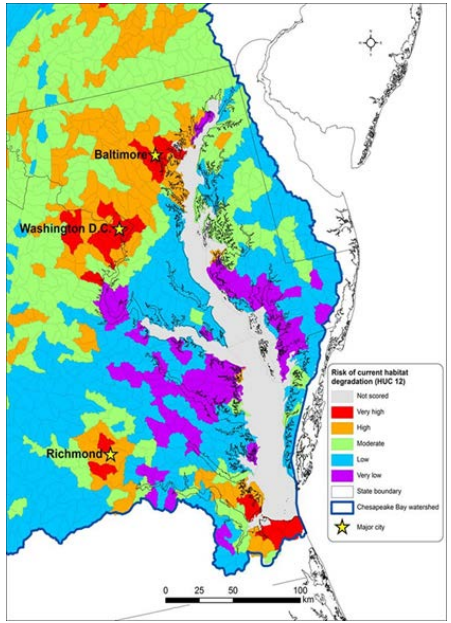
- Completed STAC workshop to identify stressors of fish habitat
- Assessment efforts ongoing with metadata inventory

Future Direction:

- Greater focus on communications moving forward







Source: 2015 Assessment of Stream Fish Habitats for the Conterminous United States

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

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Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?

Successes and Challenges

Success

- Fish Habitat Workshop and Report
  - ➢ Identified and refined understanding of critical stressors
  - ➢ Identified science and research needs
  - ➢ Stakeholder-informed user needs survey
- Coordination with other fish habitat assessments

- Six NOAA funded fish habitat focused studies
- Completed the shoreline condition threshold study

Successes and Challenges

Challenges

- Action 3.1 overlay assessment datasets in geospatial context to prioritize habitat areas - long term goal, still building datasets
- Continued engagement and communication with varied audiences
- Challenge to include habitat considerations in fisheries management, local planning, and WIP BMP actions

What is our Expected and Actual Progress?

Develop metrics or indicators to evaluate progress

- Regional assessment could serve as baseline for fish habitat condition to recommend habitat conservation and/or restoration targets
- Priority stressors could be monitored over time
- Use project milestones to demonstrate progress
  Example: pilot assessments

On the Horizon

- GIT-funded project – shorelines communication to coastal landowners
- Metadata inventory & analysis for regional assessment will inform pilot assessments
- Complete Communication Strategy

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Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?

Based on what we learned, we plan to …

- Develop a communications strategy for stakeholder engagement, message focused on priority stressors
- Communicate economic impacts of fisheries on local level
- Consider metrics to monitor progress:
  - Use fish habitat assessment datasets to prioritize high value habitat areas and co-benefits
  - Develop pilot assessment projects

Help

How can the Management Board lead the Program to adapt?

Help Needed

1) WIP Engagement

- Last SRS review, we asked for improved use of BMPs beneficial to fish habitat in WIPs
- We need MB support in evaluating what changed as a result of previous ask and identifying clear engagement opportunities

2) Setting Shoreline Hardening Limits

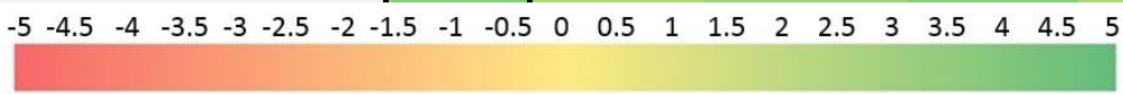
- Use shoreline threshold results to recommend shoreline hardening limits to states, and work with states to adopt into regulation and/or policy

Tree Planting at Stream Restoration Site in Annapolis, MD

Discussion

Reedville VA Living Shoreline. Photo: Northern Neck Master Gardeners

Best Management Practice	Fish Habitat	Additional Co-Benefits						
		Protected Lands	Habitat Biodiversity	Brook Trout	Blue Crab	Recreation	Forage Fish	Wetlands
Agricultural Forest Buffer	4.5	3.5	4	4.5	4.5	4	4	3.5
Narrow Forest Buffer	3.5	2	2.5	3.5	3	1.5	2	2
Streamside Forest Buffer	4.5	3	4	4.5	4	3	3	3
Urban Forest Buffer	4	3.5	5	5	2.5	3	3	3.5
Forest Conservation	4	5	5	4	3	3.5	3	2.5
Urban Shoreline Management	4.5	4.5	4	1.5	5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Wetland Restoration	3.5	3.5	3	1.5	2.5	2	1.5	5
Urban Stream Restoration	4	3	3.5	4	3	3	4.5	3.5



Values from *Quantification of BMP Impact on the Chesapeake Bay Program Management Strategies* by Tetra Tech, Inc.