Fisheries GIT Project Proposals for CBP GIT Funding
July 3, 2014

Ex Comm Rankings:
1) Forage Fish Indicator
2) (tie) Peeler Pot Survey
2) (tie) Striped Bass Health Indicator
4) Habitat/Fish Data Synthesis
5) Blue Crab Allocation Modeling/Workshop

Final Rankings submitted to CBP:
1) Forage Indicator/Metric
2) CBSAC Research Needs
3) Striped Bass Health Indicator
4) Oyster Population Assessment
5) Habitat/Fish Data Synthesis

Notes:

- Blue crab projects were combined into a single line item "CBSAC Research Needs" intended to fund multiple projects that could be chosen by the Ex Comm and CBSAC once the funding amount is known.
- Funds to complete the Oyster Population Assessment project were added as a priority. Significant investment has already gone into this project and its completion will be important for all jurisdictions.

See next page for rankings chart and comments from Ex Comm members on the projects.

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Project Title Ex Comm Rank*/Final Rank	VMRC (Rob)	MDDNR (Tom)	PRFC (Marty)	ASMFC (Bob)
Blue Crab Allocation Workshop and Modeling Analysis *Ex Comm Rank: 5th(last)* *Final Rank: could be included in CBSAC Research Needs (2nd)*	2 An outside review should be based on biological, as well as economic considerations. A harvester-based economic profile would be difficult to assess, as buyers control the economics. The workshop could be beneficial to gain some insight from those outside the fishery, as VMRC used this approach in 2007, for a Regulatory Review.	5 Don't believe this academia work is necessary.	5	5 While this work is also important, it appears that other funding sources (e.g.) may possibly be more appropriate. Also, a full economic understanding of the industry (including peeler pots) is needed prior to modeling potential impacts of regulations; <u>possibly some industry funding?</u>
Peeler Pot Industry Survey *Ex Comm Rank: 2nd (tie)* *Final Rank: could be included in CBSAC Research Needs (2nd)*	1 CBSAC requested peeler pot information. CBSAC noted that current efforts could be expanded to better quantify sex ratios and size compositions of the harvest specifically in the peeler crab fishery. CBSAC recommended analyzing the magnitude of incidental mortality, specifically sponge crab discards and unreported losses after harvest from the peeler pot fishery. Yet, a	4 Is this a research priority identified by CBSAC? I would look at CBSAC research priorities before funding a non-priority crab project.	4 Interested, but lower priority	2 A better understanding magnitude, mortality, and economics of the peeler pot fishery is needed to better manage the resource Bay-wide. This mortality has the potential to significantly impact the stock and assessment. It appears this information is needed for economic modelling to be effective.

	quantitative understanding, as proposed, would mean multiple peeler harvesters would have to allow access to all aspects of their business, from the exact amount harvested, (and dead losses in the pots by month) to the amount sold (and dead losses from transport and shedding operations).			
Forage Fish Indicator/Metric Development *Ex Comm Rank: 1st* *Final Rank: 1st*	3	1	3	1
	Tentative support, but would rather wait for results from the STAC Forage Base Workshop in November 2014 and discuss funding priority based on those results; Look at MAFMC progress on forage fish from their past workshop	Support	Support, but concerned about the defined scope being too limited, with too much emphasis on just menhaden and Bay Anchovies (striped bass & their dominant prey). Prefer a broader scope under the definition of forage (including invertebrates) and through various stages of development of the predator species and the geographic niches they inhabit. Aware that the scope could be too large as well, but the appropriate scope is somewhere in between; ASMFC funding?	A better understanding of the forage base in the Bay is critical to fishery management. The successful completion of this project could possibly be expanded along the Atlantic coast; possibly limited ASMFC funding?

Habitat/fisheries data and literature review; Shallow-water survey development *Ex Comm Rank: 4th* *Final Rank: 5th*	4	3	2	4
	A large literature review project with no funding amount estimate. Is this project intended to establish EFH designations for particular species?	Is this work duplicative of conservation habitat prioritization work that MD DNR has already completed (e.g. green print, blue print)	Support	This work is important, but may have less direct application to management. Nearly all of the Bay is critical to many species life stages. However, land use practices and other large scale impacts will not likely be impacted through the results of this effort.
Striped Bass health indicator development *Ex Comm Rank: 2nd (tie)* *Final Rank: 3rd*	5	2	1	3
	Until there is a comprehensive bay-wide study to resolve the various 'snapshot' studies of striped bass health, it may be better to assess the health (via lipid content, e.g.) of advanced young of year to understand the relationship between production and recruitment to the fishery.	Support	Support; ASMFC funding?	A striped bass health indicator could directly be used by managers as a metric of changes in the striped bass stock that may affect the fishery and stock along the coast. This indicator will also provide insight into the status of forage base and the water quality in the Bay; possibly limited ASMFC funding?

*Ex Comm Rank – Add all rankings for each project across Ex Comm members; lowest sum=top priority; highest sum=bottom priority