

Blue Crab Abundance Outcome

Timeline for Management Board

The Charge: In Response to Concerns Surrounding Low Juvenile Abundance

- The Sustainable Fisheries GIT and CBSAC will review/update the current list of Blue Crab Abundance Outcome science priorities
 - *An updated benchmark stock assessment and potential for a regional science workshop will be considered during this process*
- The Sustainable Fisheries GIT/CBSAC will provide estimated costs and potential partner contributions to effectively address said priorities.

Near-Term Timeline:

- **December 16th** - Present updated science needs to STAR
- **March 10th:**
 - Present updated prioritized list to the Management Board
 - Present cost estimates/partner contributions to the Management Board

Recent Discussion:

- The Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee and CBSAC met in early December to discuss juvenile and male abundance concerns
 - They agreed the current list of science priorities remain important and will identify opportunities to address them via a new stock assessment or other options
 - There is support for holding a workshop to discuss the goals and objectives of a new benchmark stock assessment, data availability, costs and mechanisms for getting the work done.