



Management Strategy Overview

Emilie Franke – Chesapeake Research
Consortium

Fisheries GIT Meeting – December 2, 2014

New Watershed Agreement

- Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council signed the new Agreement on June 16, 2014
- Signatories:
 - *Delaware*
 - *District of Columbia*
 - *Maryland*
 - *New York*
 - *Pennsylvania*
 - *Virginia*
 - *West Virginia*
 - *Chesapeake Bay Commission*
 - *EPA (for federal government)*



Fisheries Outcomes

Sustainable Fisheries Goal:

Protect, restore and enhance finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem in the watershed and Bay.

- *Blue Crab Abundance Outcome*
- *Blue Crab Management*
- *Oyster Outcome*
- *Forage Fish Outcome*
- *Fish Habitat Outcome*

What is a Management Strategy?

A document that will articulate the actions and considerations necessary to achieve the New Agreement outcomes.

The Fisheries GIT and stakeholders have assembled into strategy teams to develop the **four** management strategy documents:

- Blue Crab Abundance/Management
- Oyster Restoration
- Forage Fish
- Fish Habitat (joint effort with Habitat GIT)

When will strategies be developed?

Sept-Dec
2014:
Assemble
strategy
teams

Dec 2014:
In-person
discussions
at full GIT
meeting

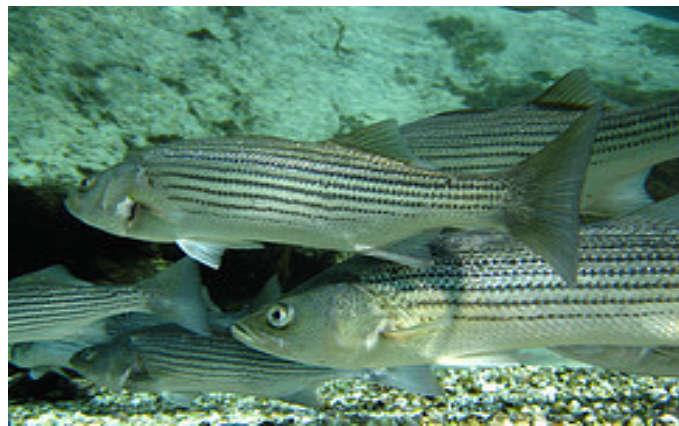
Jan-Mar
2015:
Develop
drafts

Mar-Apr
2015:
Public input
period and
review

**June
2015:
Final
strategies**

Why are these strategies important?

- Coordinate efforts across jurisdictions
- Document the work already being done
- Guide the priorities of the Chesapeake Bay Program and Fisheries GIT through 2025



Key Elements of Mgmt Strategies

1. Executive Summary
2. Outcomes and Baselines
3. Participating jurisdictions and stakeholders
4. Factors influencing the ability to meet goal
5. Current efforts and gaps
6. Management Approach
7. Monitoring Progress
8. Assessing Progress
9. Adaptively Manage
10. Biennial Workplan

Note: While some new content will be needed, much of this information already exists in current reports, plans, etc. and just needs to be compiled into this outline.

EPA Funding for GITs



Support GIT
priorities and
needs related to
management
strategy
development



EPA Funding for GITs

Funded Fisheries GIT Projects for 2015

- CBSAC Research Needs
 - Summer survey data analysis, gear efficiency survey, recruitment variability
- Forage Metric Development
 - Outcomes of STAC Forage Workshop
- Striped Bass Health Indicator Development

Breakout Groups this afternoon

Forage Fish Outcome:

Continually improve the Partnership's capacity to understand the role of forage fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay. By 2016, develop a strategy for assessing the forage fish base available as food for predatory species in the Chesapeake Bay.

Fish Habitat 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.

Breakout Groups this afternoon

**Each person assigned to Forage or Fish Habitat*

1. What are the objectives we are trying to achieve with this outcome? What are the tangible actions this outcome calls for?
2. Key Elements Outline
 - Where does information from the morning presentations go into this outline?
 - What else can we fill out? Where would this information come from? Existing information?
 - Baseline/Outcomes (Element 2)
 - Factors Influencing (Element 4)
 - Current efforts/gaps (Element 5)
 - Management Approach (Element 6)