

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Work Plan

Written January 2014

Category	Priority	Lead	Timeline	Status	Other Participants
Chesapeake Bay Program	Review stakeholder and public comments from 2014 public comment period on the draft New Agreement. Participate in relevant New Agreement discussions at the Bay Program.	Executive Committee	February-May 2014	Not started	Full GIT – submit comments through the public comment period; provide expertise/feedback needed to make any edits to the current Agreement draft.
	Develop Management Strategies for each fishery outcome and collaborate with other GITs on their outcomes	Executive Committee	June 2014 – June 2015	In Progress – GIT Staff developing a plan to guide the GIT to complete these strategies	Full GIT
	Update Bay Health and Restoration Indicators on the Bay Program website for the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oyster Abundance• Restoring Native Oyster Reefs• Striped Bass Coastwide Abundance• Menhaden Coastwide Abundance	Executive Committee and GIT Staff	January – June 2014	In Progress – Ex Comm decided on a plan to move forward with each of the indicators; this plan was approved by the CBP Management Board in November 2013	MD and VA Interagency Oyster Teams ASMFC

Category	Priority	Lead	Timeline	Status	Other Participants
Chesapeake Bay Program (<i>cont'd</i>)	Update the American Shad Abundance Indicator with annual data and continue to explore adding additional tributaries/data to the indicator	GIT Staff and CBP American Shad Team Co-chairs	Ongoing	In progress	American Shad Indicator Action Team
Blue Crabs	Implement and analyze the results of the new gear selectivity trial sampling design (approved by the full GIT at the December 2013 meeting)	CBSAC	January – June 2014	In progress	
	Analyze summer trawl data and assess WDS ability to track juvenile abundance.	CBSAC; VIMS (Rom Lipcius)	Ongoing	In progress	
	Initiate discussions to evaluate a baywide allocation framework (<i>management strategy for New Agreement</i>)	Executive Committee and CBSAC	June 2014 – June 2015	Not started	
Oysters	Develop tributary specific restoration plans (blueprints) with specific restoration targets for selected tributaries through the MD and VA interagency oyster teams.	MD and VA Oyster Interagency Teams	Ongoing	Harris Creek blueprint complete; Little Choptank blueprint drafted; Lafayette habitat assessment/ restorable bottom analysis in progress	

Category	Priority	Lead	Timeline	Status	Other Participants
Oysters (cont'd)	Identify a single tributary that by the oyster metrics criteria is seen as restored and quantify the ecosystem services and fishery benefits	Oyster Interagency Teams/ORES project/denitrification work	Ongoing	ORES project in Choptank complex	
Invasive Catfish	Pursue partnerships/funding/support from other groups or agencies	Invasive Catfish Task Force Coordinator	Ongoing	In progress	
	Complete Task Force Report and finalize management and public outreach strategies	Invasive Catfish Task Force	January - March 2013	In progress – presented draft report in June 2013 and presented draft management strategies in December 2013	CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) – peer review of the report
Forage Fish	Define the forage base that the Fisheries GIT will focus on when developing the management strategy for the New Agreement forage fish outcome	Executive Committee and GIT Staff	January – June 2014	In progress	ASMFC Full GIT members
Land Use	Determine the role of the SFGIT in addressing land use impacts on fisheries	Executive Committee, GIT Staff	Ongoing	In progress	

Category	Priority	Lead	Timeline	Status	Other Participants
Admin	Membership	Executive Committee	Ongoing	In progress	
	June Meeting Planning	Executive Committee, GIT Staff	March-June 2014	Not started	

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Action Summary

2012-2013

Blue Crabs

- Jurisdictions implemented new female-specific management abundance and exploitation targets and thresholds in 2012.
- CBSAC developed male conservation triggers that were approved by the Executive Committee in 2013.
- CBSAC prioritized the blue crab research needs in fall 2013.
- CBASC met in-person in November 2013 and developed a new trail sampling design for the WDS to explore gear selectivity between MD and VA.

Oysters

- The oyster metrics were used to develop the Harris Creek blueprint.
- The oyster metrics were applied to existing restoration projects in the Great Wicomico and Lynnhaven to determine if they meet the “restored tributary” criteria.
- The GIT identified research priorities regarding the quantifiable benefits of oyster restoration such as nitrogen reduction and other ecosystem services.

Invasive Catfish

- The Invasive Catfish Policy Statement was adopted in January of 2012.
- The Invasive Catfish Task Force was formed and tasked to develop a strategy to mitigate the spread and potential impacts of invasive catfish.
- The Task Force presented their draft report and set of recommendations to the full GIT in June 2013.
- GIT staff worked with the Task Force members and jurisdictions to develop language that could be used in fishing guides regarding the ecological threats of invasive catfish and associated regulations/fines. (Fall 2013)

New Agreement

- The Ex Comm and other GIT members developed fisheries outcomes for the New Agreement in the summer/fall of 2012 after input from Chesapeake Bay Program leadership and stakeholder/public comment.

Land Use

- Engaged both the Executive Committee and the full GIT on the impacts of land use planning on fisheries.
- Began to explore the role of the Fisheries GIT in addressing land use issues through public outreach; the Executive Committee sent a letter to the Charles County Commissioners saying that the protection of fisheries and natural resources should be addressed in the comprehensive plan.