



## Brook Trout Action Team (BTAT) Fall 2025 Meeting

November 20, 2025  
9:00 AM – 11:45 AM ET

**Meeting Link:** [Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)

**Meeting ID:** 236 526 794 585 **Passcode:** Gg7Rq7Yk

**Call:** [+1 202-991-0477,,282059313#](#) United States, Washington [Find a local number](#)

**Conference ID:** 282 059 313#

[Visit the meeting webpage](#) for meeting materials and additional information.

This meeting may be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes. To turn on closed captioning, click on the three ellipses (More actions), then click on “Turn on live captions” (preview). To request accommodations, please contact Nick Staten at [staten.nick@epa.gov](mailto:staten.nick@epa.gov).

**Please read the following information carefully, as our meeting policies have changed:**

- All meeting attendees' cameras and microphones will be muted at the start of the meeting.
- To request access to the microphone and camera, all meeting participants will be required to use the raised hand feature on Teams. Once access has been granted by the meeting organizer, you will then be allowed to unmute your mic and turn on your camera. Unless instructed otherwise, once a participant has microphone or camera access, they will have this permission for the remainder of the meeting.
- Access to chat will be provided as well. Should it be necessary, the Q&A feature on Teams will be utilized to field participant questions.

**Compromised Meeting Plan:** If the meeting's privacy is compromised, the meeting staffer and coordinator will send an email to all Members, alternates, staffers, coordinators, and interested parties. Within the email, you will find a new meeting link, instructions on sharing this information with external partners, and any necessary adjustments to the meeting schedule. Please do NOT share this information publicly or post it to the Chesapeakebay.net webpage.

**Purpose:** The main purpose of this meeting is to

- review membership list and flag discrepancies,
- begin to identify long-term abundance monitoring sites and protocols,
- identify grant opportunities for habitat implementation,
- establish criteria for determining brook trout extirpation,
- review methodology and calculation document for the resiliency target,
- hear BTAT member updates, and
- set 2026 BTAT meeting dates.

# Agenda

## I. Welcome, Roll Call & Introductions (9:00 – 9:10)

*Requested Action: Put your [Name, Affiliation] in the meeting chat and review current membership (as of November 2025) and flag inaccuracies.*

*Leads: Workgroup Co-Chairs Katie Ombalski (Woods and Waters Consulting) and Dan Goetz (MD DNR)*

*Materials: [Link to membership spreadsheet](#)*

## II. Updates and Announcements (9:10 – 9:20)

*Updates and announcements since our previous BTAT meeting.*

*Requested Action: Discussion and presentation only.*

*Lead: Workgroup Co-Chairs Katie Ombalski (Woods and Waters Consulting) and Dan Goetz (MD DNR)*

*Materials: n/a*

- New outcome approved to be signed at December Executive Council Meeting:

### **Revised Brook Trout Outcome (2025 - 2040):**

Protect and enhance brook trout within the Chesapeake Bay watershed by increasing occupancy, abundance and resilience to changing environmental conditions.

- By 2040, increase brook trout occupancy by 1.5% (233 miles) in watersheds supporting healthy populations while achieving no net loss in other watersheds.
- By 2040, increase abundance at 10 long-term monitoring sites.
- By 2040, reduce identified threats by 15% to increase brook trout resilience in watersheds supporting healthy populations.
- Tracking BMPs and Reporting with Habitat Tracker
  - Data call going out in December by Emily Young for all projects that haven't been submitted that were completed between 2023-2025.
    - Due Jan. 30th so we can have a report out during the spring meeting.
  - Template available at [habitat tracker website](#).
  - Purpose: to track our resiliency target.
- STAC Workshops Update

## III. New Outcome Discussion Part 1: Occupancy (9:20 – 9:30)

Discuss the occupancy target of our revised outcome.

*Requested Action: Discuss criteria for determining brook trout extirpation.*

*Lead: Workgroup Co-Chairs Katie Ombalski (Woods and Waters Consulting) and Dan Goetz (MD DNR)*

*Materials: n/a*

Occupancy Target:

- o By 2040, increase brook trout occupancy by 1.5% (233 miles) in watersheds supporting healthy populations while achieving no net loss in other watersheds.

#### **IV. New Outcome Discussion Part 2: Abundance**

**(9:30 – 10:15)**

Discuss the abundance target of our revised outcome.

*Requested Action: see below*

*Lead: Workgroup Co-Chairs Katie Ombalski (Woods and Waters Consulting) and Dan Goetz (MD DNR)*

*Materials: [Locations of where different monitoring entities are counting brook trout](#)*

Abundance Target:

- o By 2040, increase abundance at 10 long-term monitoring sites.

Sites submitted to date: [Google Sheet Link](#)

##### **Desired Actions:**

Identify long-term monitoring sites in stronghold and persistent (elsewhere?) patches where restoration is or will be occurring.

- Minimum of two per state to monitor long-term abundance
  - o The term we will use:  
***BTAMS (Brook Trout Abundance Monitoring Sites)***
  - o BTAMS Repository - Administered by BTAT Chairs/staffer
- Do states/partners have additional sites to include?
  - o Are there control sites?
  - o Should there be additional sites in marginal populations?
- Monitoring protocol - Habitat, water quality and brook trout surveys
  - o Survey type (e.g. depletion or 1 pass)
  - o Water quality data
  - o Habitat data
- Discuss grant funding for habitat projects where work is not ongoing
  - o Identify subrecipients/partners

#### **V. Break**

**(10:15 – 10:25)**

#### **VI. New Outcome Discussion Part 3: Resilience**

**(10:25 – 10:55)**

Discuss the abundance target of our revised outcome.

*Requested Action: Review [methodology and data calculation document](#).*

*Lead: Workgroup Co-Chairs Katie Ombalski (Woods and Waters Consulting) and Dan Goetz (MD DNR)*

*Materials: [methodology and data calculation document](#)*

Resilience Target:

- o By 2040, reduce identified threats by 15% to increase brook trout resilience in watersheds supporting healthy populations.

## **VII. Member Updates**

**(10:55 – 11:35)**

Hear updates from jurisdictions and NGO partners

*Lead: Multiple*

*Materials: n/a*

- *MD (5 minutes)*
- *PA (5 minutes)*
- *VA (5 minutes)*
- *WV (5 minutes)*
- *NY (5 minutes)*
- *Trout Unlimited (5 minutes)*
- *Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (5 minutes)*
- *Western PA Conservancy (5 minutes)*

## **VIII. Summary of Actions/Decisions and Meeting Debrief**

**(11:35 – 11:45)**

Discuss the abundance target of our revised outcome.

*Requested Action: Set 2026 meeting dates and see requested actions below.*

*Lead: Workgroup Co-Chairs Katie Ombalski (Woods and Waters Consulting) and Dan Goetz (MD DNR)*

*Materials: n/a*

- 2026 Fall and Spring Brook Trout Meeting: need to determine date and whether they will be virtual or in-person.
- Reminder to review membership list by Jan 30
- Reminder to submit projects to habitat tracker by Jan 30
- Decide on 2 primary BTAMs by Mar 30