



Chesapeake Bay Program

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BROOK TROUT WORKGROUP SPRING 2024 MEETING

Tuesday, May 14th, 2024, from 1:00-4:00 ET

[Link to Meeting Materials](#)

ATTENDEES:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| • Adam Nabors, EQR LLC | • Gina Hunt, MDNR | • Matt Lawrence, MDNR |
| • Ben Harris, TU | • Jason Detar, PFBC | • Michael Lagua, NFWF |
| • Bill Jenkins, EPA | • Katie Ombalski, Woods and Waters Consulting | • Sara Weglein, MDNR |
| • Brian Wade Jamandre, NFWF | • Katlyn Fuentes, CRC | • Sarah Brzezinski, EPA |
| • Dan Goetz, MDNR | • Lori Maloney, EBTJV | • Than Hitt, USGS |
| • Emily Young, ICPRB | | |

1:00 – WELCOME, ROLL CALL, & INTRODUCTIONS

Presenters: Workgroup Co-Chairs Katie Ombalski (Woods and Waters Consulting) and Dan Goetz (MDNR)

1:15 – UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMINGS/GOINGS:** After three years on the CBP's Habitat Goal Implementation Team, **Katlyn Fuentes** (CRC) is finishing her term as the Stream Health Workgroup Staffer on July 1st. The advertisement for her position is now live and will be sent out shortly. We anticipate that the next staffer will begin mid-August. In this interim period, **Dede Lawal** (fellow Habitat Staffer) and **Chris Guy** (Habitat Coordinator) will be providing workgroup support.
- **RECENT BROOK TROUT PUBLICATIONS AND DATA RELEASES:** <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/2024.05.14-BTWG-Recent-Publications-Data-Releases.pdf>
- **BEYOND 2025:** The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee advises the development of recommendations to meet the Chesapeake Executive Council charge to the Principals' Staff Committee on charting a course beyond 2025.
 - **LINK TO PRESENTATION:** <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/2024.05.02-HGIT-Spring-Meeting-PRESENTATION-Beyond-2025.pdf>
- **FY2024 GIT FUNDING COMPETITION & 6PPD-q PROJECT:** The Brook Trout and Toxic Contaminants Workgroups put forth a joint-project proposal for consideration in the CBP's FY2024 GIT Funding cycle. CBP Leadership is currently reviewing the project, titled "*Investigating the Potential for and Presence of 6PPD-Q in Brook Trout Habitat*", and more information will be shared once the funding decision has been made.
- **UPDATE ON THE ICARE eDNA PROJECT, "TEMPERATURE AND SPATIAL EFFECTS ON eDNA DYNAMICS TO INFORM BROOK TROUT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, WITH UMBC MASTERS STUDENT: AIMAN RAZA":** ICARE is a 2-year interdisciplinary master's degree program with a dual mission of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice combined with research focused on improving the health of Baltimore Harbor. In 2022, ICARE Master's student Aiman Raza was mentored by UMBC faculty member Dr. Tamra Mendelson, as well as partner mentors Dr. Cheryl Morrison and



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Dr. Stephen Faulkner to complete a thesis project. This project was focused on using environmental DNA (eDNA) to track brook trout recovery in tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Aiman has successfully defended her thesis and completed her Masters program (*congrats, Aiman!*) and her project deliverables can be found on the workgroup webpage.

- **LINK TO AIMAN'S THESIS:** <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/Brook-Trout-eDNA-Project-Results-Aiman-Raza-2024-Masters-Thesis.pdf>
- **LINK TO AIMAN'S THESIS PRESENTATION:** https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/Brook-Trout-eDNA-Project-Results-ICARE-Presentation-Raza_2024-05-14-041258_ozgu.pdf
- **HABITAT GIT SPRING MEETING:** The Habitat Goal Implementation Team Spring Meeting was on May 1st and 2nd. This was a hybrid meeting with the in-person location at the DOEE office in the District of Columbia.
 - **LINK TO DAY 1 INFORMATION:** <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/habitat-git-spring-2024-meeting>
 - **LINK TO DAY 2 INFORMATION:** <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/habitat-git-spring-2024-meeting-day-2-of-2>

1:40 - CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM'S SRS PROCESS OVERVIEW: RECENT BROOK TROUT WORKGROUP EFFORTS

Presenters: Dan Goetz & Katie Ombalski

- **LINK TO PRESENTATION:** <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/2024.05.14-BTWG-PRESENTATION-Summary-of-SRS-Recent-Efforts.pdf>
- **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:**
 - **The Forest Buffers Outcome** (for the Forestry Workgroup) is: "*Continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Restore 900 miles/year of riparian forest buffer and conserve existing buffers until at least 70% of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested.*"

2:20 – PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR BROOK TROUT AND WATER TEMPERATURE TREND ANALYSIS IN MARYLAND

Presenter: Than Hitt (USGS)

- **This presentation contained preliminary information and as such, will not be distributed nor posted to the webpage.**
- **PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:** Than provided a report out of stream temperature and brook trout abundance trends in Maryland. This presentation also included information/preliminary results related to environmental predictors such as land use change, non-native trout, geophysical features, and air temperature change.
- **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:** **If you have any additional comments or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Than Hitt (nhitt@usgs.gov).**



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2:55 - UPDATE ON FY2022 GIT-FUNDED PROJECT, "FACILITATING BROOK TROUT OUTCOME ATTAINABILITY THROUGH COORDINATION WITH CBP JURISDICTIONS AND PARTNERS"

Presenter: Lori Maloney (EBTJV)

- **LINK TO PRESENTATION:** <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/2024.05.14-BTWG-PRESENTATION-L.-Maloney.pdf>
- **PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:** Lori provided a report out as to the status of the current ongoing FY2022 GIT Funded project.
- The goals for this project are:
 - Identify opportunities for cross-GIT collaboration with other CBP teams
 - Strengthen communication and coordination with other stakeholders
 - Collect and compile existing data from stakeholders and analyze monitoring and implementation data necessary to adequately track progress
 - Work with CBP EPA Data Center Team to develop a tracking/reporting application (i.e., the *Habitat Tracker*)
- We are currently waiting for the last of the data to be provided by the Jurisdictions, and the project should be finalized by July 30th.
- **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:** **If you have any additional comments or questions, please contact Lori Maloney (lori.maloney@canaanvi.org).**

3:30 – MEMBER UPDATES:

- **Sarah Brzezinski:** Thanks for the workgroup's collective plans and efforts on updating the Management Strategy!

4:00 – MEETING ADJOURNED.

Next workgroup meeting: November 12th, 2024, from 10:00-1:00 ET