



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

FISH PASSAGE WORKGROUP SPRING 2025 MEETING

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 from 10:00am - 1:00pm

[Link to Meeting Materials](#)

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Meeting ID: 254 439 332 358

Passcode: op22GA27

Links to Share:

- SWG RFP:
- Link to agenda:
- Link to mentimeter: <https://www.menti.com/aldiwp94e5ke>
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ATTENDEES:

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10:00 – WELCOME, ROLL CALL, & INTRODUCTIONS (15 minutes)

Presenters: Workgroup Co-Chairs Ray Li (USFWS) and Jim Thompson (MDNR)

10:15 – UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (10 minutes)

- **BROOK TROUT WORKGROUP'S STAC PROPOSAL** : *Blueprint For Building Partnerships And Recommendations For Scaling Brook Trout Restoration In Stronghold And Persistent Patches.*
 - o Identify possible areas of collaboration
 - Thermal Barriers, AMD Barriers
- **HABITAT GIT SPRING MEETING:** The Habitat Goal Implementation Team Spring Meeting will be on April 29th from 9am - 5pm
 - o [LINK TO EVENT PAGE](#)



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- **FISH PASSAGE WORKGROUP LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT**

10:25 - UPDATE ON OUTCOME ASSESSMENT (30 minutes)

Presenters: Chris Guy, Gina Hunt

Jurisdictions that disagreed with the workgroup's recommendation:

1. PA suggested to **consolidate**
2. NRCS suggested to **reclassify**
3. GIT 6 (Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management) suggested **consolidate**
4. DE **stood-aside**
5. WV **stood-aside**
6. GIT 1 (Sustainable Fisheries) **stood-aside**

Current Fish Passage Outcome:

"Continually increase access to habitat to support sustainable migratory fish populations in Chesapeake Bay freshwater rivers and streams. By 2025, restore historical historic fish migratory routes by opening an additional 132 miles every two years to fish passage, with restoration success indicated by the consistent presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, American eel and brook trout, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods."

Draft Language for updated outcome:

*"Improving habitat, water quality, and creating more resilient and sustainable populations of **fish and other aquatic organisms** throughout the Chesapeake Bay's coastal and freshwater rivers and streams by removing barriers to aquatic organism passage to restore connectivity to **at least 150 miles** of aquatic habitat every two years."*

- 132 -> 150 miles annually
- focus on aquatic organisms, not just fish

10:55 - MEMBER UPDATES (30 minutes)

Maryland (5 minutes)

Pennsylvania (5 minutes)

Virginia (5 minutes)

New York (5 minutes)

Delaware (5 minutes)

West Virginia (5 minutes)

DC Update (5 minutes)

11:25 - BREAK (15 minutes)



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11:40 - NFWF PROJECT PROPOSAL UPDATE & DISCUSSION (30 minutes)

Presenter(s): Nick Staten (CRC), Jessie Thomas-Blate (American Rivers)

12:10 - DEBRIEF; CLOSING REMARKS (5 minutes)

12:15 - MEETING ADJOURNED