**Vital Habitats GIT**

2012-13 DRAFT Work Plan

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| **Topic** | **Task** | **Lead POC** | **Timeline** | **Status** |
| **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation** | Review methodology for SAV aerial survey and work with EPA on new 5-year RFP. | Lee Karrh |  | In progress |
| Incorporate findings of STAC panel report into updated SAV restoration strategy. | Lee Karrh | December 2012 | In progress |
| Develop new research agenda and identify funding sources for research projects. | Lee Karrh | December 2012 | In Progress |
| Work with Wetlands WG and GIT 1 to identify areas where opportunities align for SAV, black duck habitat (intertidal mud flat), and fringe oyster reef restoration; communicate these priority living shorelines to coastal communities. | Peter Bergstrom? | January 2013 |  |
| Hold workshop on SAV & Global Change at Horn Point with invitations to researchers and managers. | Lee Karrh | December 2012 | In Progress |

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| **Fish Passage** | Use the recently completed Fish Passage Prioritization Tool to identify the highest priority fish passage projects VA, PA, and MD   * Work with partners to fund and implement top Tier I and Tier II projects in 2012-2013. | Mary Andrews | Ongoing | In Progress |
| Work with American Rivers, TNC and other NGOs on to demonstrate for local governments the utility of the fish passage prioritization tool in decision making. Tool identifies two scenarios; Anadromous fish and Resident Fish | Mary Andrews | Ongoing | In Progress |
| Work with states to ensure that monitoring for shad, river herring, American eel and/or brook trout are included in at least 50% of new fish passage projects | NFWF, USGS | Ongoing | In Progress |
| Work with hydropower companies through FERC relicensing process to plan, design, and install passage at all dams on Susquehanna River | Workgroup member or feed info through Rich Starr | Ongoing | In progress |
| **Streams** | Finalize decision framework for stream health per CBP and present to STAR, GIT | Mark Secrist | 2013 | In Progress |
| Work with STAR and GITs 3 and 4 to host Chesapeake Streams scoping forum in winter 2013; propose 2014 STAC workshop focused on maximizing benefits (water quality and habitat) of stream restoration/protection | Jeff Horan | January 2013 | Steering group forming |
| Target streams for restoration of brook trout habitat and provide input on the Fish Passage Prioritization Tool. |  |  |  |
| **Wetlands** | Facilitate focused discussions in VA, DE, NY, PA, and WV to identify state-specific step-down contributions to the watershed wide milestones of 5,000 acres restored and 12,500 acres enhanced between 2012-2013 | Bernie Marczyk | October | In Progress |
| Work with NRCS to explore potential options for a Ches Bay WREP initiative to create greater incentives for ag landowners to restore wetlands on their property | Steve Strano | March 2013 | In progress |
| Work with the BMP verification panel to agree upon practical methods to evaluate successful construction of wetland restoration sites, which are counted as BMPs for nutrient reduction. | Denise Clearwater, Steve Strano | 2013 | In Progress |
|  | Improve the process for completing successful restoration projects. This effort would begin by meeting with restoration practitioners in the different States to clarify what works in regards to restoration; what are the obstacles to successful and timely restoration; and how the WWG and Habitat Goal Implementation Team may be of assistance. A major issue is expected to be the conflicts associated with obtaining permits for the restoration projects. | Proposed to Workgroup |  |  |
|  | Improve data collection and reporting of wetland rehabilitation and enhancement projects. | Proposed to Workgroup |  |  |

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| **Brook Trout** | Work with EBTJV’s Science and Data Committee to recommend to the MB a revised performance metric reflecting 2011 re-assessment at catchment level | Doug Stang | February 2012 | Completed |
| Work with STAR to translate existing EO outcome from sub-watershed level to catchment level; recommend criteria for prioritization of projects | Peter Tango & STAR Taskgroup | 2013 | In progress |
| Prioritize patches in each State occupied by brook trout for restoration and protection; share these priorities with GITs 1, 3, and 4 | STAR Taskgroup | May 2013 |  |
| Develop adaptive management plan for brook trout outcome per CBP |  | 2013 |  |
| **Black Duck** | Host Strategic Decision Making workshop on black duck habitat needs in Chesapeake Bay watershed | Pat Devers | April 2012 | Completed |
| Work with ABDJV and ACJV, and North Atlantic LCC, to apply results of research on energetic carrying capacity of Chesapeake for wintering black ducks to regional population goals; present recommendations to GIT steering committee and STAC | Alicia Berlin | August 2012 GIT (web); Dec 2012 STAC? | Report expected July 2012 |
| Recommend to Management Board and FOD two-year milestones for black duck habitat restoration/protection needed to support 100,000 wintering ducks | Wetland WG | June 2013 |  |
| Develop adaptive management plan for black duck outcome per E.O. pg. 67 |  | 2013 |  |
| **Coordination/**  **Communication Tasks** | Hold monthly Steering Committee conference calls (Third Thursday @ 2 pm) | GIT Staff | Monthly | Ongoing |
| Hold biannual full GIT meetings (May and November) | GIT Staff | Spring, Fall | Ongoing |
| Participate in weekly GIT Coordinator/staffer meetings and use these as opportunity to increase communication on cross-cutting issues between the GITs | GIT Staff | weekly | Ongoing |
| Prepare Chair and Vice-Chair for MB meetings and suggest agenda items as appropriate | GIT Staff | October-November | Ongoing |
| Videos with Comm Team on brook trout and black duck, emphasizing link between species and habitat, recreational value to people, local governments as audience | Jennifer Greiner, Josh Davidsburg, Hannah Martin, Steve Droter | Preview at Fall Meeting, Premiere by Spring Meeting | Complete/in progress |
| Develop Habitat GIT poster display for Fish Shack | Hannah Martin | August/Sept | Complete (need to print) |
| Work with GITs 1 and 4 on GIS overlay of priorities/ look for areas of alignment | Hannah Martin | August/Sept |  |
| Work with CBP web team and ChesStat team to update Habitat GIT content | Hannah Martin | Oct/Nov |  |
|  | Respond to request from GIT 3 for recommendations of stream habitat and wetland experts willing to participate on BMP Verification Panel | Debra Hopkins | July 2012 | In progress |
|  | Stream/Sediment Coord (CBP and CWP) | Jennifer Greiner | Monthly Meetings | Complete |
|  | Host STAC workshop to apply tools to target tidal wetland restoration to adapt to rising water levels in the Chesapeake Bay and protect near-shore habitat | Jeff Horan/Natalie Gardner/Steering Committee | April | In progress |