



# Blue Crab Abundance

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*Sustainable Fisheries GIT Vice Chair*

*Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...*



## Goal: Sustainable Fisheries

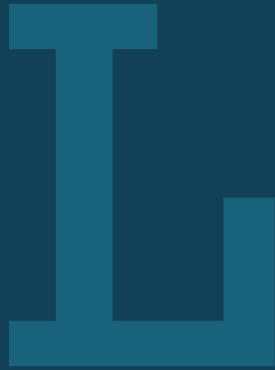
*Outcome: Maintain a sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.*



## How You Can Help



- Current female-specific management framework is working
  - Consistently above threshold of 70 million female crabs
- Future logic and action plans should focus on prioritized science needs
  - Limited funding for single-goal focus of this outcome



# Learn

*What have we learned in the last two years?*



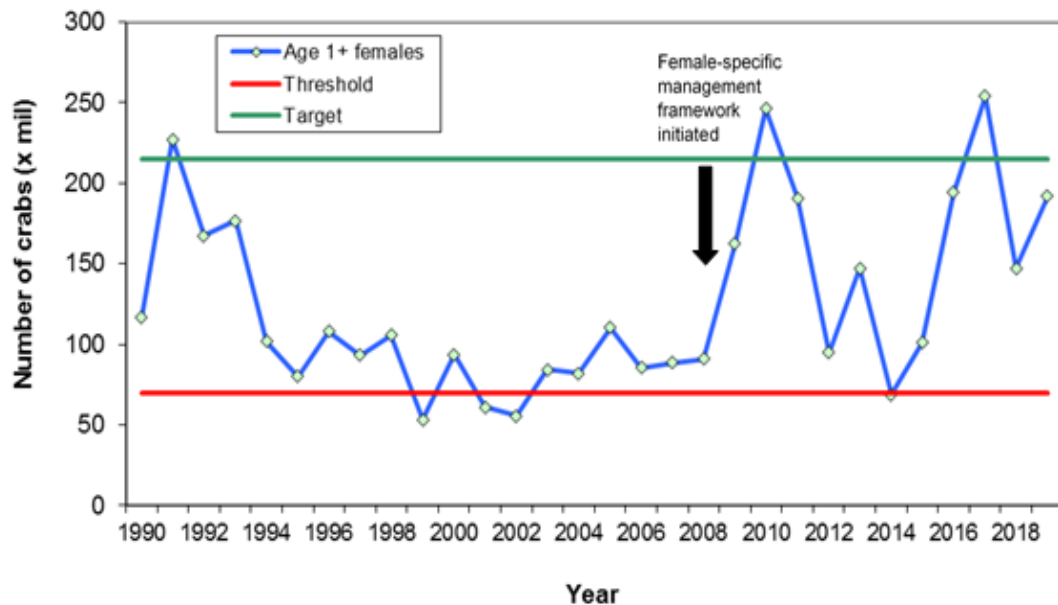
## Successes and Challenges



- GIT should primarily focus on science and research needs
- Current management framework is working based on winter dredge survey results
  - No need for benchmark stock assessment at this time
- Completed blue crab ecosystem factor study
  - Need to identify applications of results



## What is our Expected and Actual Progress?







## On the Horizon



- Recent CBSAC/ExComm meeting prioritized blue crab science needs
  - Will inform next logic and action plan
  - Identify applications of new science/research
- No immediate financial or policy needs
  - Management decisions made by the jurisdictions



# Adapt

*How does all of this impact our work?*





## Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

- Provide the best available science to management jurisdictions
- Focus on scientific and analytical needs to improve population models and stock assessments
- Include annual stock assessment update in the Blue Crab Advisory Report



# Help

*How can the Management Board  
lead the Program to adapt?*



## Help Needed

- Continue to support science and research needs for blue crab population assessment and management
- Identify opportunities to utilize quantitative fisheries expertise within the Bay Program/GIT
- GIT funding of ecological studies is difficult
  - Research needs are specific to blue crabs and not easily linked to other outcomes/priorities

QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING  
*Chesapeake Bay Program*



# Discussion