

Improving Coordination of Science to Inform Management Decisions

Problem Trying to Solve

-Coordination of fisheries science bay wide and communication of science to policy managers.

Recognized Need

Identified in *Fisheries Ecosystem Planning for Chesapeake Bay 2004*, (<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/irc/docs/00009489.pdf>) and *Baywide and Coordinated Fish Stock Monitoring Workshop 2006*, (http://www.chesapeake.org/pubs/230_Bonzek2007.pdf).

Ecosystem based approaches

- “Make the protection and enhancement of sustainable fisheries of Chesapeake Bay estuarine species within an ecosystem management framework the primary focus...” (FEP, 99)
- “The CBP has long held ecosystem-based management as its goal.” (FEP, 318)

Better science

- “Use the best scientific information available...basing management actions on solid science remains important.” (FEP, 318)

Better coordination of monitoring and surveying

- “Develop comprehensive monitoring programs to characterize the status of predator and prey species, evaluate habitat quality, and demonstrate the effect (or lack thereof) of instituted management actions.” (FEP, 319)
- “Incorporate survey data and analytical results from new multispecies monitoring...initiatives into stock assessments supporting Bay management decisions.” (FEP, 319)
- “To date, however, little coordination of fish stock monitoring among the jurisdictions (or, at times, among various programs within a jurisdiction) has taken place. Data, as well as information delivered, remain heterogeneous across jurisdictions; routine, manager-identified data products are few and irregularly generated.” (Fish Stock Workshop, 8)

Key Ideas

- Create a science coordination framework to improve coordination and synthesis of science to provide science based advice to GIT managers, advance ecosystem tools and approaches to management, and coordinate and synthesize science bay-wide.
- The framework could include groups as needed such as blue crab stock assessment, oyster, finfish, ecosystem based fisheries management, and monitoring coordination committees to address management priorities. These groups differ on if they are based on short or long term goals, and all utilize adaptive management.

