

Land Use and Fisheries Timeline

December 2010 GIT Meeting

- The Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup (FEW) recognized their ability to provide technical advice and scientific support to characterize and communicate land-use impacts on fisheries.
- The Fisheries GIT agreed on a need to develop visualization tools that could be used to show and communicate the impacts land use decisions have on fish habitat.

June 2011 GIT Meeting

- The GIT members identified spatial planning, the relationship between habitats and land use, as a priority goal for the next year.

December 2011 GIT Meeting

- A trip was taken to the Alexandria Sanitation Authority that highlighted the increasing stressors land use practices are having on available resources.
- The second day of the meeting was centered on making the connections between land use decisions and water quality as it relates to health and management of fisheries. It was acknowledged that there is no regulatory mechanism for fisheries to influence land use decisions, and GIT members therefore are obligated to address this disconnection. The main solution brought forth was the creation of citizen groups, which would include fishermen, to pressure local representatives to make decisions. In order to do so, GIT members recognized their necessary role in assisting to educate local citizens.
- Several key discussions were facilitated between GIT members including: opportunities for cross-collaboration between GITs, critical areas that could be targeted for protection and/or restoration and criteria for identifying these areas, and strategies and tools to assist stakeholders in understanding the connection among land use activities and decisions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its fisheries.
- GIT members left the meeting with an understanding that land use issues are of critical importance to the health of fish resources. Further, land use policies, practices, and laws have significant impact on economic, ecological, and recreational aspects of fisheries health and management. GIT members agreed that the means and information by which local land use decisions are made need to be linked with the broader ecosystem impacts that result from the cumulative effect of such decisions.

June 2012 GIT Meeting

- This meeting aimed to identify strategies for protecting areas critical to the sustainability of fishery resources from land development. A vision for the role of the GIT with respect to land use effects on fisheries was formulated.

August 2012 AFS Meeting

- Organized and Moderated by Andrew Turner and Derek Orner, this symposium was meant to bring the research connecting land use and fisheries from the Mid-Atlantic and the Great Lakes region to a national arena. This meeting resulted in interactions between both fishery and watershed managers from around the country and a better understanding of how other systems are addressing the impact of land based activities on fisheries.

December 2012 GIT Meeting

- One of the main objectives for this meeting was to discuss the impacts on forage fish biology from land use practices. It was recognized that the Fisheries GIT continues to refine guiding principles by working with the Habitat and Healthy Watersheds GITs to create a sense of urgency of these issues. The meeting

also acknowledged the Fisheries GIT's work with partners, such as the academic community and state coastal programs, to compile and synthesize available science into products that could be used by engaged citizens (recreational and commercial fishing) and planners in comprehensive land use planning.

December 2012: Three point plan to addressing land use and habitat loss impacts on Chesapeake Bay tidal fish and shellfish

- Established principles for protection of Chesapeake Bay fish and shellfish that serve as a set of planning and management approaches that should be considered throughout the local land use planning process for the sake of protecting and sustaining the tidal fisheries resources of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Identified special places important to fisheries sustainability to target to apply principles of protection and other conservation approaches with the purpose of sustaining tidal fisheries resources and ecosystem services.
- Developed a guide to engage local stakeholders and community leaders in how to become involved in land use planning processes.

February 2013: STAC Proposal

- The SFGIT submitted a proposal for a STAC funded workshop to identify key drivers in local land use decision making and the implications for resource managers. This proposal was developed targeting two primary goals that are key pieces in making the connection between land use and fisheries. Final funding recipients should be announced by the end of June, 2013.
- The goals of the workshop are to:
 - 1) Initiate a dialogue between land use planners, developers, and social scientists to understand the key drivers that influence land use decisions by planners and developers;
 - 2) Apply findings to develop concrete next steps to improve engagement between resource managers, land use planners, and developers.

March 2013: Charles County Comment Letter

- The executive committee of the SFGIT submitted a formal comment letter to the Charles county Commissioner's office addressing the potential changes to the Mattawoman watershed in the 2012 re-evaluation of the Charles county comprehensive plan. This watershed has been identified by this goal team as a priority area and its conservation is a key part of the connection between land use and fisheries.