

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Work Plan*Written January 2014*

| Category | Priority | Lead | Timeline | Status | Other Participants |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| Chesapeake Bay Program | Review stakeholder and public comments from 2014 public comment period on the draft New Agreement. Participate in relevant New Agreement discussions at the Bay Program. | Executive Committee | February-May 2014 | Not started | Full GIT – submit comments through the public comment period; provide expertise/feedback needed to make any edits to the current Agreement draft. |
| | Develop Management Strategies for each fishery outcome and collaborate with other GITs on their outcomes | Executive Committee | June 2014 – June 2015 | In Progress – GIT Staff developing a plan to guide the GIT to complete these strategies | Full GIT |
| | Update Bay Health and Restoration Indicators on the Bay Program website for the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oyster Abundance• Restoring Native Oyster Reefs• Striped Bass Coastwide Abundance• Menhaden Coastwide Abundance | Executive Committee and GIT Staff | January – June 2014 | In Progress – Ex Comm decided on a plan to move forward with each of the indicators; this plan was approved by the CBP Management Board in November 2013 | MD and VA Interagency Oyster Teams ASMFC |

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| Chesapeake Bay Program (<i>cont'd</i>) | Update the American Shad Abundance Indicator with annual data and continue to explore adding additional tributaries/data to the indicator | GIT Staff and CBP American Shad Team Co-chairs | Ongoing | In progress | American Shad Indicator Action Team |
| Blue Crabs | Implement and analyze the results of the new gear selectivity trial sampling design (approved by the full GIT at the December 2013 meeting) | CBSAC | January – June 2014 | In progress | |
| | Analyze summer trawl data and assess WDS ability to track juvenile abundance. | CBSAC; VIMS (Rom Lipcius) | Ongoing | In progress | |
| | Initiate discussions to evaluate a baywide allocation framework (<i>management strategy for New Agreement</i>) | Executive Committee and CBSAC | June 2014 – June 2015 | Not started | |
| | Develop CBSAC Charter and Membership Guidelines | Andrew Turner and CBSAC | December 2013- February 2014 | In progress | |

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| Oysters | Develop tributary specific restoration plans (blueprints) with specific restoration targets for selected tributaries through the MD and VA interagency oyster teams. | MD and VA Oyster Interagency Teams | Ongoing | Harris Creek blueprint complete; Little Choptank blueprint drafted; Lafayette habitat assessment/ restorable bottom analysis in progress | |
| | Identify a single tributary that by the oyster metrics criteria is seen as restored and quantify the ecosystem services and fishery benefits | Oyster Interagency Teams/ORES project/denitrification work | Ongoing | ORES project in Choptank complex | |
| Invasive Catfish | Pursue partnerships/funding/support from other groups or agencies | Invasive Catfish Task Force Coordinator | Ongoing | In progress | |
| | Complete Task Force Report and finalize management and public outreach strategies | Invasive Catfish Task Force | January - March 2013 | In progress – presented draft report in June 2013 and presented draft management strategies in December 2013 | CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) – peer review of the report |

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| Forage Fish | Define the forage base that the Fisheries GIT will focus on when developing the management strategy for the New Agreement forage fish outcome | Executive Committee and GIT Staff | January – June 2014 | In progress | ASMFC Full GIT members |
| Land Use | Determine the role of the SFGIT in addressing land use impacts on fisheries | Executive Committee, GIT Staff | Ongoing | In progress | |
| Admin | Membership | Executive Committee | Ongoing | In progress | |
| | June Meeting Planning | Executive Committee, GIT Staff | March-June 2014 | Not started | |

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Action Summary

2012-2013

Blue Crabs

- Jurisdictions implemented new female-specific management abundance and exploitation targets and thresholds in 2012.
- CBSAC developed male conservation triggers that were approved by the Executive Committee in 2013.
- CBSAC prioritized the blue crab research needs in fall 2013.
- CBASC met in-person in November 2013 and developed a new trawl sampling design for the WDS to explore gear selectivity between MD and VA.

Oysters

- The oyster metrics were used to develop the Harris Creek blueprint.
- The oyster metrics were applied to existing restoration projects in the Great Wicomico and Lynnhaven to determine if they meet the “restored tributary” criteria.
- The GIT identified research priorities regarding the quantifiable benefits of oyster restoration such as nitrogen reduction and other ecosystem services.

Invasive Catfish

- The Invasive Catfish Policy Statement was adopted in January of 2012.
- The Invasive Catfish Task Force was formed and tasked to develop a strategy to mitigate the spread and potential impacts of invasive catfish.
- The Task Force presented their draft report and set of recommendations to the full GIT in June 2013.
- GIT staff worked with the Task Force members and jurisdictions to develop language that could be used in fishing guides regarding the ecological threats of invasive catfish and associated regulations/fines. (Fall 2013)

New Agreement

- The Ex Comm and other GIT members developed fisheries outcomes for the New Agreement in the summer/fall of 2012 after input from Chesapeake Bay Program leadership and stakeholder/public comment.

Land Use

- Engaged both the Executive Committee and the full GIT on the impacts of land use planning on fisheries.
- Began to explore the role of the Fisheries GIT in addressing land use issues through public outreach; the Executive Committee sent a letter to the Charles County Commissioners saying that the protection of fisheries and natural resources should be addressed in the comprehensive plan.