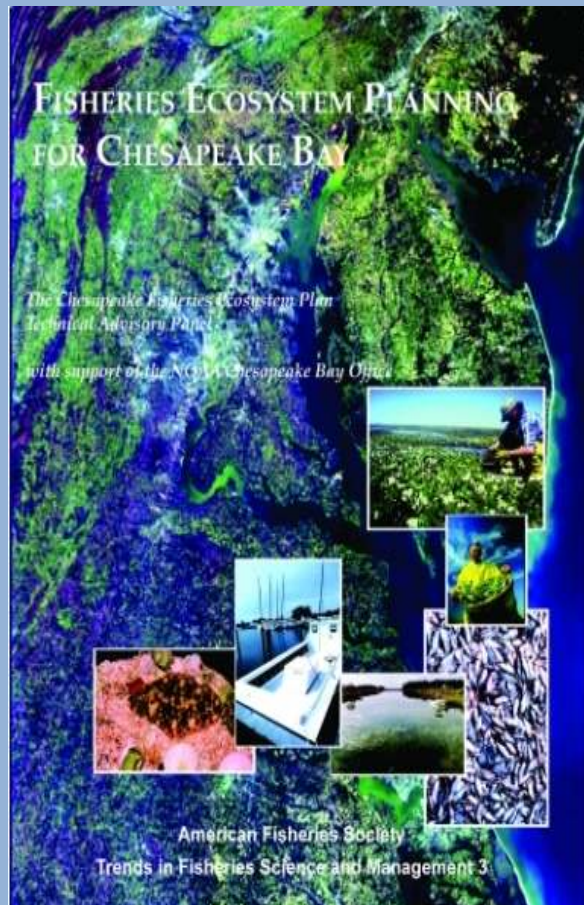
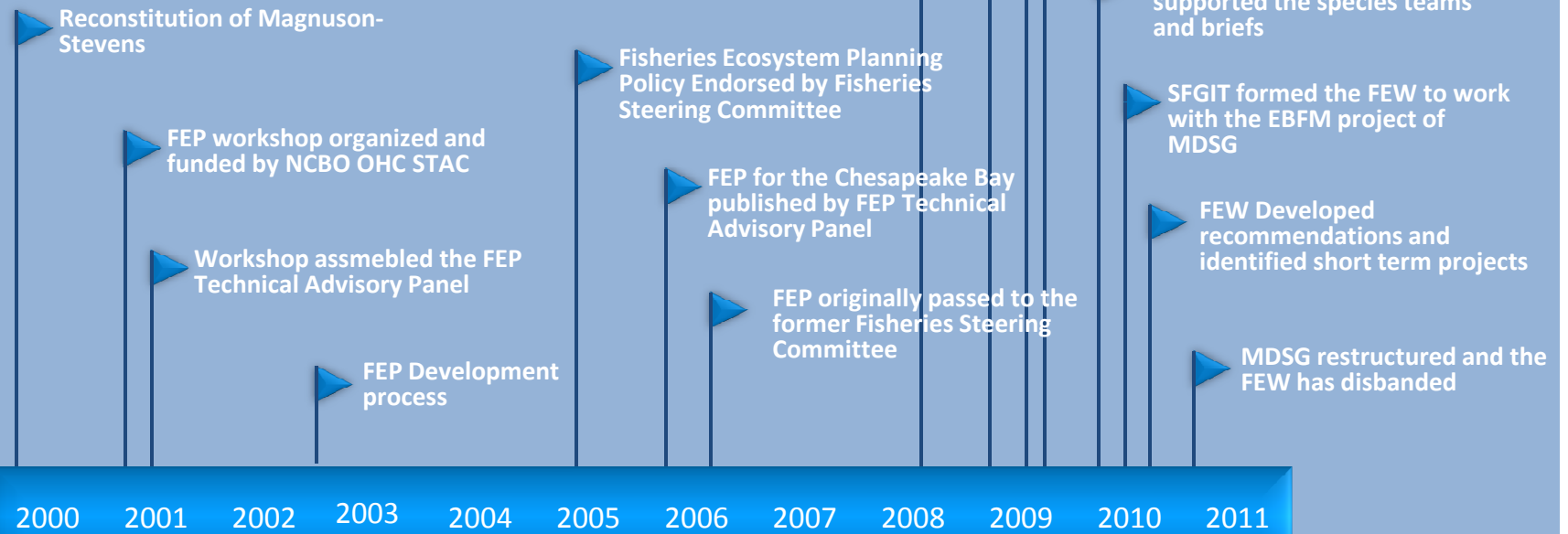


Fisheries Ecosystem Plan

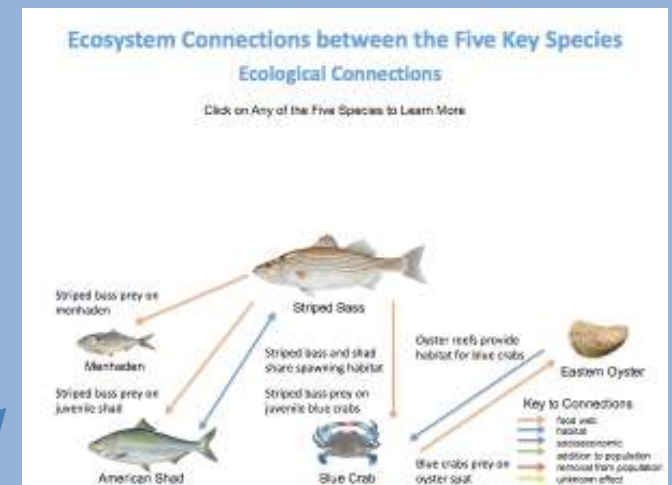
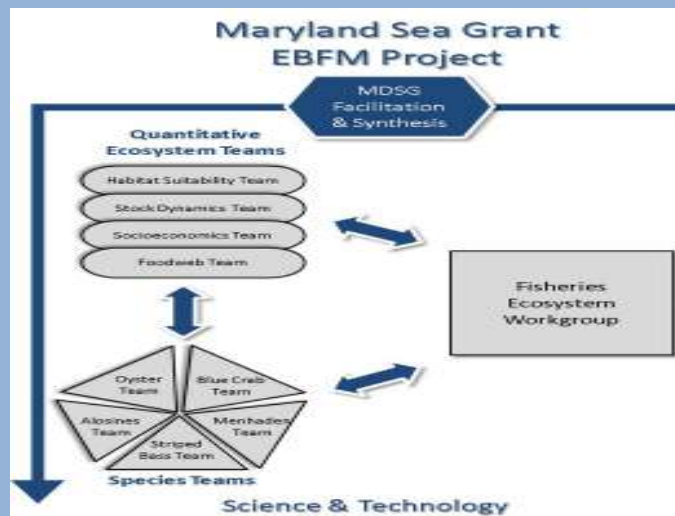


Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team
Executive Committee Meeting
March, 26th 2012

History: Fisheries Ecosystem Plan



Inside the FEW and the EBFM Project



SFGIT

VMRC
MD DNR
VDGIF
PRFC
DCDOE
ASMFC

Single species briefs for Striped Bass, Alosines, Atlantic Menhaden, Blue Crabs, and Eastern Oysters.

-6 short term research proposals created by the FEW

- Long term goal of enhancing current single species management plans.
- Proposed as prioritization questions the SFGIT.

-5 scoping papers created by the FEW

- Evaluated and highlighted developmental areas needed to address in support of EBFM.
- Identified the need for development of indicators and creating links between land use and fish productivity.

Goals of The Ecosystem Planning Policy Statement

Utilization of Fisheries Ecosystem Planning for the Chesapeake Bay

- Develop a cooperative framework linking fisheries, habitat and water quality management.
- Develop policies and programs to restore and protect finfish and shellfish habitats including the management of land-based activities that adversely affect water quality and aquatic habitats.
- Develop fishery management strategies and actions that take into account ecological processes and external influences.
- Identify monitoring, analysis, and modeling activities to support EBFMPs and locate sources of funding to implement these efforts to the extent practicable.



Outcomes: Short Term Research Projects

Six short term research projects were developed and proposed by the FEW and MDSG. These proposals could serve as good starting points for future efforts.

1: Menhaden EBFM Reference Points

-Set out to explain localized juvenile depletion of menhaden and develop reference points to evaluate the stock for purposes broader than optimizing fishery yield.

2: TMDL/Production Relationships

-Project proposed with the goals of better understanding and evaluating the effectiveness of nutrient reduction campaigns on fisheries production.

3: Demographics Relative to Sediments and Water Flow

-Integrating key demographic factors such as changes in land use and infrastructure associated with population expansion to fisheries productivity and management.

4: FMPs and Indicators – Matrix of Risk

-Selection of biotic and abiotic variables that serve as indicators and could be used in the construction of FMP's. Also the risk of each species associated with the respective indicators will also be assessed.

5: MSY and EwE Analysis for 19 Managed Species

-Using the CBFEM to determine the ecosystem effects of simultaneously managing harvested species at maximum sustainable yield as outlined in traditional management plans.

6: Pros and Cons of Single Species Management

-Evaluating traditional single species management plans and comparing them to a more ecosystem based approaches and associated adaptability to changing biotic and abiotic factors.



Outcomes: Scoping Papers

1: Watersheds and Estuarine Living Resources

-Water quality attainment as a reference point in ecosystem based fisheries management. Focus on upholding and evaluating the CBP program goal of restoring water quality to the condition that supports living resources and protects human health.

2: Transitioning from Single Species to Ecosystem Based Fishery Management of Blue Crab

-Project proposed with the goals of better understanding the ecosystem impacts of recovering blue crab populations. The paper also discusses linking essential habitat and changing biotic and abiotic factors with site specific recruitment.

3: Ecosystem Based Restoration and Fishery Management of Native Oysters

-Developing specific and compatible goals for ecological function, broader ecological services and fishery yields from sustainable oyster populations.

4: Blue Catfish Management Needs and Options

-Evaluating the ecosystem impacts of the invasive species and determine critical knowledge gaps that will contribute to developing bay wide management strategies.

5: Analysis and recommendations by the FEW

-This scoping paper served as a critique for the previous papers where members of the FEW began to assess the reports and make several recommendations on where to focus specific efforts

What's Next: The Big Questions

June 2012

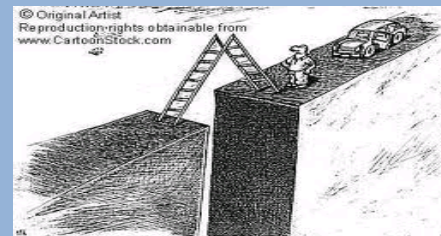


Identify and prioritize tools to support and develop EBFM.

- Assemble applicable recommendations
- Prioritize recommendations
- Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup
- MDSG single species research

Goals

- Where do we want to be?
- EBFMPs
- Indicators
- Land use and fisheries



Decisions

- Are we ready?
- Where are we now?
- What do we need?

