

Decisional Item: Invasive Catfish Taskforce

Recommendation:

Fisheries GIT ExComm establishes an *Invasive Catfish Task Force* (could be a restructured Invasive Catfish Work Group with updated membership). The role of this task force will be to coordinate activities and recommend actions toward the five policy objectives with an emphasis on exploring potential management measures and proposing actions to mitigate impacts of invasive catfish. This group will be responsible for explaining possible management scenarios presented to the Fisheries GIT based on sound science. The Fisheries GIT, lead by the Executive Committee, will then consider the proper course of action to achieve baywide agreement and management of invasive catfish under the authorities of the jurisdictions represented on the GIT.

Roles:

- Incorporate all available information on blue and flathead catfish to develop an agreed upon management strategy for handling these invasive species across all jurisdictions. These recommendations should incorporate the five bullets outlined in the invasive catfish policy management recommendations.

Responsibilities:

- Task force responsible for coordinating the best available science and developing precautionary management approaches aimed at mitigating the spread and minimizing the impacts of invasive catfish species on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Responsibilities should also include periodic updates to the executive committee and the SFGIT membership.

Start Date:

- Assemblage of Invasive Catfish Taskforce complete with new members and initial scoping projects developed by the end of April. Initial work presented at the June full GIT meeting.

Recommendations of Task Force Membership Nominations

Current Invasive Catfish Workgroup Members:

- Nancy Butowski (MD DNR)
- Mary Fabrizio (VIMS)
- Greg Garman (VCU)
- Bob Greenlee (VDGIF)
- Joe Grist (VMRC)
- Mary Groves (MD DNR)
- Derek Orner (NOAA)

Potential Additions: (others?)

- MD DNR – Fisheries Biologist
- DE DNR – Fisheries Biologist
- PRFC – Fisheries Biologist
- PFBC – Fisheries Biologist
- Seafood Market Specialist

Fisheries Economist
Contaminants Specialist