

Chesapeake Bay Program Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team

September, 2012 Update

Our Vision: The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (Fisheries GIT) brings a wide group of managers and scientists together to improve management and maintain the sustainability of commercially and ecologically important Chesapeake Bay fisheries. The SFGIT recognizes the need to span organizational and jurisdictional boundaries to address ecosystem-based fisheries management by using the best available science to make informed bay wide fisheries management decisions.

Summer 2012 Accomplishments

The Fisheries GITs Executive Committee has continued to collaborate on science and policy issues to support sustainable Chesapeake Bay fisheries. Recent highlights include:

Blue Crab

- The 2012 Blue Crab Advisory Report was completed by the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) and approved for release through the Fisheries GIT on June 19th.
- CBSAC will meet in October to develop male-specific reference points to complete the sex-specific reference points for the blue crab population.
- **Blue Crab Management Story?**

Invasive Catfish

- The Invasive Catfish Task Force, including members from throughout the Bay watershed, will be meeting in October to begin considering options to “reduce densities and limit range expansion, and to evaluate possible negative ecological impacts” of blue and flathead catfish.

Oysters

- In attempts to restore oyster reefs to 20 tributaries by 2025, Harris Creek was the focal point of a Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Management Board meeting in which cross-collaboration amongst the GITs was the main goal. This project brought the CBP GITs together on how their efforts could support oyster restoration in Harris Creek. The presentation was very well received and the CBP is currently looking for the next area of cross-GIT collaboration as a result.

American Shad

- The Fisheries GIT assembled the Shad Indicator Development Team that met for the first time on August 29th to develop a new indicator for the Chesapeake Bay Program. This group, comprised of members from the US FWS, PA Fish and Boat Commission, ASMFC, MD DNR, STAR, Habitat GIT, Decision Framework Implementation Workgroup, and the Fisheries GIT, is working to incorporate habitat and fish recovery efforts into the indicator. The next meeting for this group will be in October.

American Fisheries Society (AFS) Symposium 2012

- Andrew Turner, Derek Orner, and Karen Terry organized an all day symposium at AFS titled, “Making the connection between land, water, and sustainable fisheries: Management beyond the aquatic zone.”
- Derek Orner, Joe Smith, and Steve Meyers organized another symposium called “Role of forage species in Ecosystem Approaches to Management” to review and discuss recent advancements in forage fish research and management to address which tools exist or need to be developed for management.

Extra (better name?)

- The Executive Committee met to discuss and prepare for the September 6-7 Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting.
- The Executive Committee is currently reviewing and prioritizing the 2012 workplan and June full GIT meeting priorities into an updated list. They are also tasked with providing their input on critical science needs to address management objectives for 2013.

Executive Committee Meeting

Presentations

At monthly Fisheries GIT Executive Committee meetings, attendees hear from Bay scientists and policy administrators on topics including this recent presentation:

- Low Dissolved Oxygen – Direct and Indirect Effects on Fisheries Species
 - Denise Breitburg (SERC)
 - Diel-cycling hypoxia systems fewer fish and crab biomass, increased Dermo, and variable pH which increases the need to consider these co-occurring stressors.

December 2012 - Full GIT Meeting

The next Full GIT meeting is scheduled for December 6-8th on Port Isabel of Tangier Island, Virginia.

Please save the dates!

Potential agenda topics include:

- Field Trip (optional)
- Progress since June meeting
- Increased Stakeholder Engagement

Meetings, Presentations, and other Fisheries GIT information can be found at:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/sustainable_fisheries