

Take Aways/Actions

Oysters

- Broadly communicate success of restoration in MD and VA. Develop communication tools/products that show the public restoration results toward the tributary goal (an oyster restoration progress indicator).
- Clarify differences between restoration, managed fishery and aquaculture in public messaging
- Begin tributary planning in Virginia (i.e. Lafayette) and look into refining restoration targets for other VA tributaries based on progress to date and success metrics.
- Continue to quantify value of restoration work through collaborative scientific investigations of ecosystem services and economic benefits of oysters in tributaries being restored.
- Evaluate and develop a plan for control sites for assessing ecosystem services in restoration tributaries.

Invasive Catfish

- Coordinate individually with jurisdictions to increase the number of anglers who know this species is invasive and illegal to introduce.
- Investigate solutions and identify barriers to increase market value, develop new markets, and establish fishery for blue catfish.
- Pursue grants/funding/support from groups like Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel, Sea Grant, federal and state agencies.

Bay Agreement

- Identify options to replace/revive capacity of the former Ecosystem based Fishery Management (EBFM) Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup.
- Need to monitor benefits of restoration projects. Draft letter from Fish GIT members on Chesapeake Bay Program's monitoring review effort with need for living resource monitoring and other non-water quality outcomes.
- Fish GIT members inform their organizations/jurisdictions about the New Agreement and participate in the public comment period beginning in late January 2014.

Blue Crab

- CBSAC to begin multi-year gear selectivity analysis beginning with new sampling design trials in winter 2013 and analysis of the results of the trial sampling design in spring/summer 2014.
- CBSAC analyze summer trawl data and assess WDS ability to track juvenile abundance.
- Develop plan (terms of reference) and timeline for next blue crab benchmark stock assessment.
- Identify applications of economic viability models to management.
- Develop economic viability products that suggest improved revenue strategies for watermen, connecting with harvest accountability projects where necessary.

Ecosystem Modeling

- Work with the modeling teams to identify and develop specific management scenarios that can be investigated with existing models.
- If needed, respond to questions from the modeling teams regarding fisheries-related inputs or outputs of the models.

Forage Fish

- Identify additional analyses of striped bass gut content data from Price and Uphoff working with CBSAC and other biologists.
- Articulate message about why we care about forage fish and base of food chain.
- Define forage base
 - 1) Identify key “representative” commercial and recreational predatory fish species and birds?
 - 2) Identify primary prey for these species and rank relative importance
 - 3) Characterize what we know and don’t about ranked list
 - 4) Focus on what we know most about first
 - 5) Identify fish (forage thresholds) and habitat management strategies for key forage

Striped Bass

- Follow up on Striped bass addendums IV (modify stock specific F ref points) and V at June 2014 GIT meeting.
- Consider implications for bay based on modified fishing mortality target.
- Continue to consider ecological reference points (i.e. nutritional health indicators).