

**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.<br>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"><li>• Oyster Abundance</li><li>• Restoring Native Oyster Reefs</li><li>• Striped Bass Coastwide Abundance</li><li>• Menhaden Coastwide Abundance</li></ul> | 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<br><br>ASMFC   |

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|------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Chesapeake Bay Program<br>(cont'd) | 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  |                                     |
| 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 |                                     |

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|---------------------------|---|--|----------------------|--|--|
| Oysters ( <i>cont'd</i> ) | 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 |
| 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<br><br>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  |  |

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|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 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.