



Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team
Chesapeake Bay Program
410 Severn Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/sustainable_fisheries

August 8th, 2013

Carter Watterson
U.S. Department of Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Dear Mr. Watterson,

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (Fisheries GIT) of the Chesapeake Bay Program is a diverse group of executive level fisheries managers, scientists, and non-governmental partners from within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We are focused on achieving ecosystem-based fisheries management and developing bay wide management approaches that support sustainable fish populations in the Chesapeake. We also work to strengthen the growth and sustainability of both recreational and commercial fisheries, while striving for healthy ecosystems.

The recent deployment of the Navy Vemco Receiver Array in the Lower Chesapeake Bay presents a significant opportunity for long-term research and monitoring of many important Bay species. As a large estuary with robust commercial and recreational fisheries, our stakeholders are largely dependent on a variety of highly mobile species. We view acoustic telemetry as a valuable emerging technology that can assist in answering complex fisheries questions about habitat use, migrations, seasonal distribution, recruitment, and emigration of migratory species.

The more managers and the scientific community understand fish migrations and habitat selection by resident and migratory species in the Bay watershed; the better management actions can address sustainable fisheries and ecosystem processes.

The Navy array is by far the most extensive and strategically located telemetry asset in the Chesapeake. We are interested in its sustained maintenance and use by the fisheries research and management community. We would like to discuss how to ensure the longevity of the array for multiple outcomes. Please respond as to your interest and willingness to engage in a discussion on this topic.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peyton Robertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peyton" and last name "Robertson" clearly distinguishable.

Peyton Robertson

Chair, Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team
Director, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Cc:

Sarah Diebel, US Department of Defense
Christine Porter, US Department of Defense
Melanie Frisch, US Department of Defense