

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.
- Rob Hale's (VIMS) study on contaminant levels in blue catfish from the James, Rappahannock, and Potomac is now complete. The study found that catfish on the Potomac have a different isotope composition than the other tributaries, and that the Potomac catfish have relatively high levels of contaminants. The results across all tributaries were generally consistent with current consumption advisories, although these advisories do not take into account individual fish and human consumption variability.
- 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).