

## Planning for Fall 2017 Invasive Catfish Symposium

### Invasive Catfish Task Force Planning Calls

- February 15, 2017
- April 17, 2017
- May 2017 (date TBD)
- **ACTION:** Bruce/Emilie will distribute a survey before May call to get input on dates and location preferences.
- **ACTION:** Bruce/Emilie will use these notes to develop a first draft symposium agenda.

### Symposium Logistics

Timeframe: October

Location: Virginia

- VCU Rice Center (Charles City, VA)
- DGIF Headquarters (Henrico, VA)
- VIMS (Gloucester Point, VA)

### Pre-workshop Tasks

- Summary table of Task Force report recommendations and progress/actions taken to date.
- List of names, org and contact info for stakeholders
- Compile brief research summaries for advanced distribution.
- ACTION

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### ***Discussion from April 17<sup>th</sup> Call***

### Symposium Purpose/Objectives

- **Title:** *Invasive Catfish Symposium: State of the Science and Status of the Fishery*
- **Purpose:** Bring managers, scientists, and interested stakeholders together to gain a common knowledge on invasive catfish research and the fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Outcomes:**
  - Shared knowledge.
  - Start developing management objectives for addressing invasive catfish through science/monitoring and the fishery.

### General Notes

- Caution not to pack too much into the workshop.
- Need two days to cover the topics.
- Present research findings to start the workshop.
- Who is the audience?
  - Management and scientists.
  - Stakeholders (share common knowledge in what scientists are observing).
  - Need to make clear that public participation is a process that extends beyond just the workshop.

## Agenda Framework

### **Theme 1: Set the Context**

- Review the Task Force 2014 report and original recommendations.
- Review any actions by the jurisdictions or Fisheries GIT since then.

### **Theme 2: Science**

*For science presentations, discuss differences among tributaries.*

- Population Dynamics
  - Where are the fish? Relative abundance trends?
  - State monitoring (VDGIF, MDDNR, PAFBC, DNREC)
  - VIMS trawl survey
- Movement/Habitat Use
  - Telemetry (SERC, VDGIF)
  - Environmental drivers (ex: salinity) (VIMS)
- Diet
  - What are they eating and when? (VT, SERC, VCU)
  - Potential ecosystem impacts?
- Modeling (TBD)
  - **ACTION: Bruce, follow up to see if EcoPath/EcoSim can be used to test scenarios using new research findings.**

### **Theme 3: Fishery**

- Commercial harvest stats (MDDNR, VMRC, PRFC)
  - Landings, gear, effort
- Commercial electrofishing pilot project (Balazik)
- Contaminants study (Hale)
- Stakeholder perspectives
  - Commercial, recreational, processing, markets
- Outside region perspective: fishery removal of invasive species
  - Suggested Jason Goldberg/Susan Pasko of USFWS

### **Theme 4: Looking Ahead**

- Management implications based on research and fishery information?
  - What to consider when using a fishery to control invasive species?
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## ***Discussion from February 15<sup>th</sup> Call***

What would the workshop objectives be?

- Science updates – overall, there is a lot of new information since 2014 that should be communicated to managers
  - Movement: studies show some large movements-what are the implications?
  - Population Dynamics/Growth: changing over time? Differences among tributaries?
  - Diet: now have more data-is there significant impact on high value species?
- Updates/discussion on outreach efforts
- Discuss the fishery and consumer market

Who should attend the workshop?

- Fishery managers
- Reach out to commercial watermen and recreational anglers
- Open to the public – keep a focused agenda
- It is important to acknowledge various user conflicts and perspectives regarding the rec and commercial fisheries

Logistics/Details

- Make sure to put the workshop in context and refer back to the Task Force recommendations and report
- Timeline for workshop
  - Fall? Summer?
  - Need to avoid field season
  - **UPDATE**: The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee indicated that they prefer a fall (October?) workshop.