

GOAL: Vital Habitats. LEAD: Habitat Goal Team (GIT2)

**OUTCOME:** Continually increase access to habitat to support sustainable migratory fish populations in Chesapeake Bay freshwater rivers and streams. By 2025, restore historical fish migratory routes by opening an additional 132 miles every two years to fish passage, with restoration success indicated by the consistent presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, American eel and brook trout, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods.

Recommend updating the outcome to include an increase from 132 to 150 miles every two years, because this increase is achievable, and incorporate all fish (resident and migratory), and other aquatic dependent organisms (freshwater mussels, reptiles, amphibians, etc.).

- Reduced federal funding will impact the number of restored miles. There will be fluctuations in achievement, but the current rate of miles added averages well above 150 miles. Therefore, we believe the goal is achievable.
- Recommend expanding fish passage to be inclusive of other aquatic species in the watershed and create healthy streams with high biological diversity and resiliency.
- Recommend expanding scope to include barriers other than traditional physical barriers. This could include thermal and chemical barriers such as acid mine drainage.