Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Fish GIT *Draft* Outcome Language

Fish GIT Meeting: Spring 2025
March 25 & 26, 2025

Definitions:

Outcome = The change in state we aim to influence or the future state we aspire to reach as a result of our actions.

Output = Actions we plan to take as partners to achieve the outcome

Indicator = Metrics used to track desired change in the system and/or to track progress toward the outcome.

Factors Influencing = Current or future factors (e.g. environmental, political, social) that are likely to affect the achievability of the outcome and the actions we take to meet the outcome goal.

SMART Goal = A **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant, and **T**ime-bound target, used to guide restoration and protection efforts

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Blue Crab Sustainability Outcome

Draft Language: Maintain a sustainable bay wide blue crab fishery through cross jurisdictional coordination that supports fishing communities by achieving abundance and harvest rate targets as determined by the benchmark stock assessment. Communicate progress toward achieving abundance and harvest rate targets through the annual blue crab advisory report, and refine targets through 20xx based on best available science.

Outputs:

- Benchmark stock assessment
- Annual Blue Crab Advisory Report
- Research

Indicators:

- Blue crab abundance (adult female, Adult male, juveniles)
- Exploitation rates (catch,, landings)
- Economic Value

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Fish Habitat Outcome

Draft Language: Maintain suitable shallow water habitat area* for key species through focused water quality, conservation** and restoration*** improvements informed by a synthesis of fisheries science and habitat assessments completed by xxxx.

**Suitable shallow water habitat area is the measurable metric we will develop to define a current baseline of fish habitat quality and track changes over time*
*** Protecting areas with already high functioning habitat & fish productivity*
****Efforts in areas with somewhat degraded habitat where additional resources can help improve ecosystem functioning and increase species resilience*

Outputs:

- Tidal segment Living resource habitat assessment to score habitat suitability in the 92 tidal segments. Apply the results of the assessment to identify areas for water quality improvements, conservation priorities and habitat restoration strategies.
- Status and trends of structured habitat (oysters, SAV, tidal wetlands, shoreline condition) linked to fish productivity if possible to define habitat objectives (how much habitat is needed to sustain x level of productivity)
- Strategies to build habitat and fish resilience as temperature increases
- Assessment of forage availability, trends and projections of change. Determining if there is enough food now and going forward for key predators.
- Evaluation of movement and behavior of fish species relative to habitat conditions.

Indicators:

- Habitat suitability metrics
- Forage abundance for key species
- Habitat use and movement patterns (spatial indicators at local, bay and regional scales)
- Fishery surveys

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Oyster Restoration Outcome

Draft Language: Continually increase finfish and shellfish habitat and water quality benefits from restored oyster populations. Restore and conserve at least 1800 acres of oyster reef habitat to achieve restoration success metrics while maintaining reefs established under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Outputs:

- Review and update (if necessary) reef success metrics
- Selection of focus areas
- Determine the extent to which Artificial Reef Programs can contribute to this outcome
- Focus area restoration plans/blueprints
- Oyster reef construction and seeding
- Implementation progress reports
- Oyster reef performance monitoring reports

Indicators:

- Oyster reef restoration (habitat success metrics)
- Continued evaluation of ecosystem services

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Oyster Abundance Outcome

Draft Language: Enhance the capacity of oysters to improve water quality through increased oyster abundance in the sustainably managed fishery and aquaculture.

Outputs:

Indicators: