Scientific, Technical Assessment, & Reporting Team Meeting
TOPIC: Sustainable Fisheries Science Support Needs
July 29, 2015
10:00AM – 1:30PM
Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack), Room 305A

Conference Line:
10AM-12:30PM: 1-866-299-3188 Access Code: 410-267-5731
12:30PM-1:30PM (STAR Seminar): 1-866-299-3188 Access Code: 267-985-6222
Adobe Connect: https://epa.connectsolutions.com/star/
Event webpage: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/21561/

GOAL: Highlight science gaps where Goal Teams need to support for their respective Agreement outcomes. The information will be used to help STAR and STAC reach out to additional science providers enhance partnerships to help fill those science gaps.

AGENDA

10:00 AM **Welcome, Introduction, and Announcements** *(Scott Phillips, Bill Dennison, and Mark Bennett, STAR Co-Chairs)*

10:10 AM **Communications** *(All)*

ACTION: STAR will notify the communications team of upcoming publications and projects.

10:20 AM **STAR Business Items**

- Action Items from June STAR Meeting
- STAR/STAC Coordination Efforts (*Scott Phillips*)
  - GIT Funding
  - STAC Reviews (*See timeline*)
- STAC Workshop Planning
- Citizen Science Monitoring Needs

10:40 AM **USACE BMP Prioritization Scope of Work** *(Dave Robbins, Army Corps of Engineers)*

The Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Water Resource and Restoration Plan (CBCP) will serve as an integrated water resources assessment evaluation of the problems, needs, and opportunities in the Chesapeake Bay region. The CBCP will focus on USACE existing and future work areas informed by the priorities of partnering organizations in cooperation with State and local governments, other Federal agencies, non-government organizations, the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the Chesapeake Executive Council. The CBCP is expected to identify a number of potential feasibility studies and research efforts as well as possibly design/build opportunities for the Chesapeake

Bay region for action by USACE, which would complement the efforts of other ongoing efforts associated with the Chesapeake Bay Program.

11:00 AM **Fisheries Goal Team Science Support Needs and Related Indicators** (*Bruce Vogt (NOAA) and Emily Franke (Earth Resources Technology, Inc.*))
The session will focus on science needed to carry out work plans for the outcomes being addressed by the Fisheries Goal Team (listed on the next page). Bruce and Emilie will review science needs for each outcome with an emphasis on monitoring needed to measure progress for each outcome. STAR will review what we've learned meeting with Fisheries outcome leads and what STAR has done to follow up so far. For each outcome we will further discuss the two questions listed below. The information will be used to help the STAR and the Goal Team build science capacity to carry out the work plans.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you established a sustained capacity to measure, assess, and report on progress towards achieving Watershed Agreement outcomes you are responsible for?

2. What scientific support gaps do you have, beyond currently provided support by partners, to meet your capacity to address your Watershed Agreement outcomes including: research efforts, monitoring, modeling, GIS, trends analysis?

12:30 PM **Lunch in 305A** (Bring a lunch or $10 cash for a Jimmy John's Box Lunch)

12:45 PM **STAR Seminar Presentation – CBPO Room 305A** (*Don Outen, AICP, Natural Resource Manager for Forest Management with the Baltimore County Dept. of Environmental Protection & Sustainability)*
Don will talk about a new project called the Prettyboy Resource Collaborative. This project was proposed last year as a means to incentivize rural landowners to implement eco-smart practices across the multi-jurisdictional Prettyboy Reservoir Watershed, in a way that can help agencies meet TMDLs and other environmental objectives. The core concept involves addressing the high degree of fragmentation of watershed resources and property parcelization through aggregation of potential stewardship opportunities. Don will explain how the Collaborative is building capacity to implement the concept, through the involvement of more than a dozen private organizations and agencies and the investment of nearly a half million dollars in funding. If successful, the PRC offers a model for consideration across many areas of the Chesapeake Bay watershed for providing sustainable economic benefits while improving the health of forest and agricultural resources.

1:30 PM **Adjourn –** Next STAR Meeting: August 27, 2015

Outcomes for Discussion:

Blue Crab Abundance Outcome
Maintain a sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.

Blue Crab Management Outcome
Manage for a stable and productive crab fishery including working with the industry, recreational crabbers and other stakeholders to improve commercial and recreational harvest accountability. By 2018, evaluate the establishment of a Bay-wide, allocation-based management framework with annual levels set by the jurisdictions for the purpose of accounting for and adjusting harvest by each jurisdiction.

Oyster Outcome
Continually increase finfish and shellfish habitat and water quality benefits from restored oyster populations. Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries by 2025 and ensure their protection.

Forage Fish Outcome
Continually improve the Partnership's capacity to understand the role of forage fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay. By 2016, develop a strategy for assessing the forage fish base available as food for predatory species in the Chesapeake Bay.

Fish Habitat Outcome
Continually improve effectiveness of fish habitat conservation and restoration efforts by identifying and characterizing critical spawning, nursery and forage areas within the Bay and tributaries for important fish and shellfish, and use existing and new tools to integrate information and conduct assessments to inform restoration and conservation efforts.

Additional Metrics:
- *Striped Bass Abundance*
- *Striped Bass Fishery Management*
- *Striped Bass Juvenile Abundance Index*
- *American Shad Abundance*
- *Atlantic Menhaden Abundance*
- *Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management*