Fish Habitat Action Team
Meeting Summary

Tuesday, June 15th · 1:00-3:00 PM

Attendance:

- Justin Shapiro (CRC/NOAA NCBO)
- Gina Hunt (MDNR)
- Ed Houde (UMCES)
- Ryan Woodland (UMCES)
- Pat Geer (VMRC)
- Alexis Park (MDNR)
- Lisa Havel (ASMFC)
- Kelly Maloney (USGS)
- Jake Solyst (Alliance)
- Edna Stetzar (DNREC)
- AK Leight (NOAA NCCOS)
- Marek Topolski (MDNR)
- Troy Tuckey (VIMS)
- Yan Jiao (VT)
- Danielle Zaveta (ADS)
- Bruce Vogt (NOAA NCBO)
- Alexandra Fries (UMCES)
- Sara Coleman (ORP)
- Kevin Krause (USGS)
- Laura Mckay (MARCO)
- Tom Parham (MDNR)
- Tyler Neimond (PABFC)

Introduction & Announcements: (*Gina Hunt, MDNR: 10 min)*

- ***Gina Hunt announces that she will be stepping down as Fish Habit chair, as she will be taking over the chair role of the Habitat Goal Team. If members have any suggestions for replacements, please contact Justin and Gina.***

Summary of Recent Work Plan Review (What have we accomplished): *(Justin Shapiro, CRC: 10 min)*

- Most actions are rated as “on schedule”
- Delays that do exist can by in large be attributed to COVID19 restrictions
- Link to Work Plan
- Link to Summary PowerPoint

Documented Priorities from Membership - November 2020 (What are our new priorities): *(Gina Hunt: 40 min)* We reviewed the priorities discussed last fall in consideration of focus and priorities in the next logic and action plan.

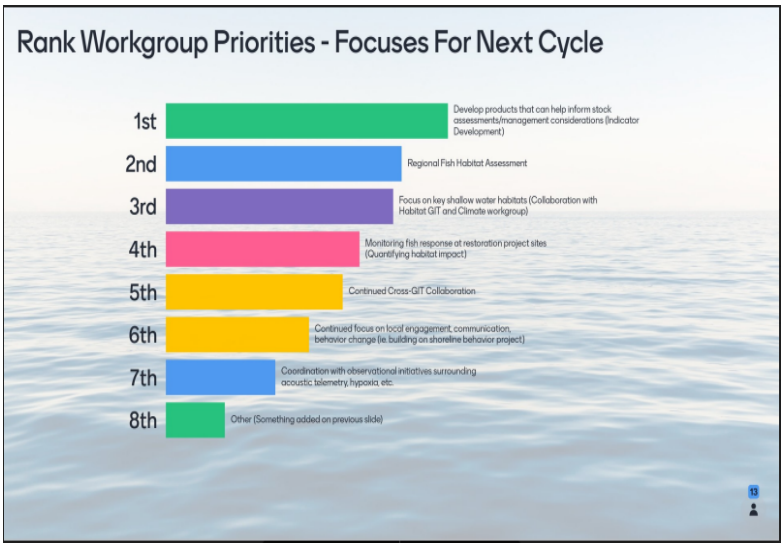
- Link to Priorities and Next Steps Document

Group Responses to Mentimeter: Some members were not present for the fall priorities meeting. We wanted to provide an opportunity for those members and any new ideas. We used the memtimeter to gather responses. The additional priorities (not mentioned in the document) are listed below:

- ***Science for large-scale nearshore, wetland restoration goal setting and planning***
- ***Status and trends analyses***
- ***Continued coordination with other regional assessments (Ex. NRHA)***
- ***Climate and land use change***
- ***Research surrounding habitat stressors influencing species mortality/reproduction (to be used for stock assessments)***
- ***Habitat connectivity linking specific juvenile habitat to recruitment of adult stock***
- ***Ecological function of engineered habitat relative to natural***
- ***Ocean acidification***
- ***Fish assessment for bay report card***

Group prioritization exercise Attendees were then asked to rank the priorities. Rankings in order are provided below and in the graphic.

1. ***Develop products that can help inform stock assessments/management considerations***
2. ***Regional Fish Habitat Assessment***
3. ***Focus on key shallow water habitats (Collaboration with Habitat GIT and CRWG)***
4. ***Monitoring fish response at restoration projects sites***
5. ***Continued cross-GIT collaboration***
6. ***Continued focus on local engagement, communication, behavior change***
7. ***Coordination with observation initiatives surrounding acoustic telemetry, hypoxia, etc.***
8. ***Other***



Avenues to Achieve Goals (How do we pursue these priorities): *(Gina Hunt: 50 min)*

- GIT funding ideas. No definite dates yet, but it looks like we will need project ideas

in early July.
    - We had brief presentations on two projects to serve as ideas for GIT funding:
        - CCA Project - Diverse Angler Outreach. This is a fish habitat (reef balls) and DEIJ project.
        - Ecological Changes Across the Urban Gradient - Patapsco Case Study
    - ***<u>Group thoughts or takeaways:</u>***
        - ***AK Leight (NCCOS) mentions that this Patapsco study underscores the importance of shallow water habitat even in developed watersheds***
            - ***Ryan Woodland (UMCES) agrees and adds on that it has nice connection to forage***
        - ***Troy Tuckey (VIMS): These projects point to a gap in our understanding of social science - Understanding public interests and how we can get them to care. This makes sense as future focus for the FHAT***
- NCBO priorities (*Bruce Vogt: 10 min*)
    - Observations and linking to fish habitat/response
    - Increasing observational capacity
    - Many NCBO science projects are coming to a wrap. How do we apply this science to management (ie. indicator development)
- "Asks" to the Management Board (Narrative Analysis) There are several questions that must be answered for the management board as part of the SRS process. The team discussed the following.
    - ***Scientific, fiscal, policy-related developments will influence your work over the next two years?***
        - ***N/A***
    - ***4) Based on your response to the questions above, how will your work change over the next two years?***
        - ***Monitoring re-evaluation and outcome of changes in monitoring will impact habitat assessment in the next few years***
    - ***5) Asks to the Management Board?***
        - ***Supporting monitoring programs will be key for assessing fish habitat***
        - ***Ask the Management Board to form a group to help connect fish habitat work to necessary stakeholders, cross-git partners - where is FH needed in the Bay Program?***
        - ***Staffing support needs (evolving with changes in monitoring programs like hypoxia) (potentially social science)***