STAR Meeting

Habitat and Fish Habitat Outcomes

12/03/2015

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Purpose of Meetings

- Work with Goal Teams to discuss science activities needed to carry out Management Strategies and Work Plans
  - Modeling and decision tools
  - Monitoring/indicators
  - Analysis and reporting
- Discuss current resources (CBPO or other partners) available to address science needs (and be reflected in work plans)
  - Identify responsible science providers
- Determine remaining science gaps
  - Suggest potential new partners/efforts
- STAC & STAR are working together to help Goal Team, each with different responsibilities

Outcomes to Discuss and Current Indicators

Fish Passage - Reopening Fish Passage (Miles Restored)

Brook Trout

Wetlands - Tidal Wetlands Abundance Only

Stream Health - Health of Freshwater Streams in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed using IBI

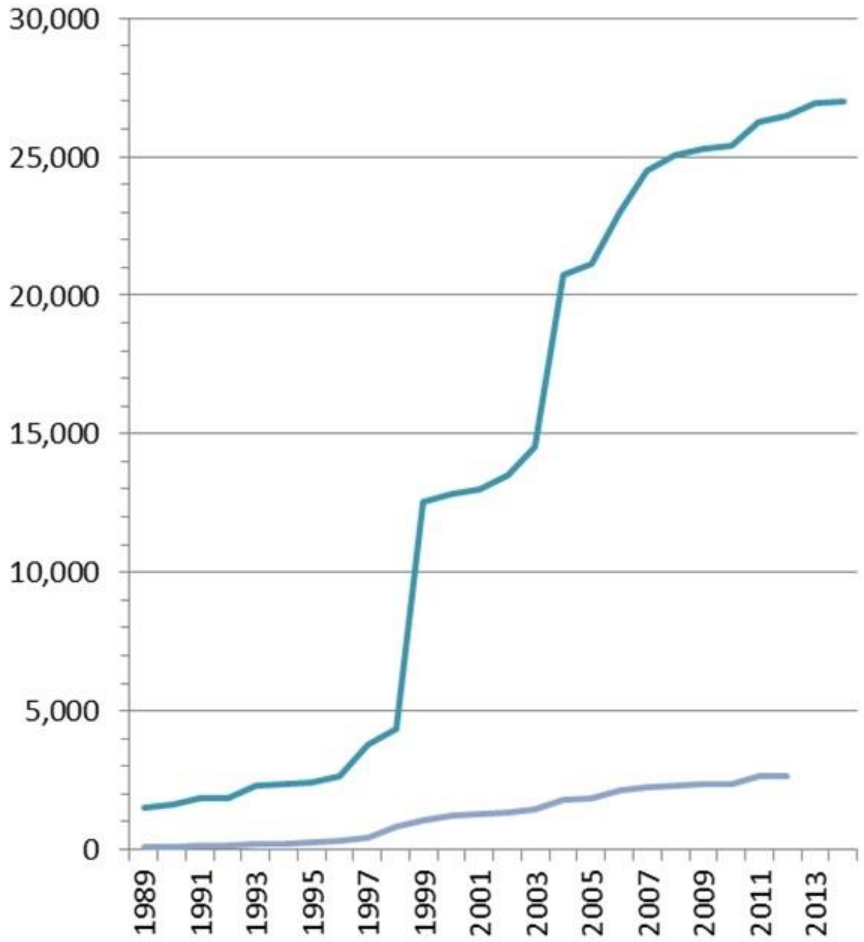
Black Duck

Fish Habitat

Needs of the Habitat Goal Team

Fish Passage

Outcome: Open 1000 additional stream miles



All miles opened upstream until headwater or the next blockage.

Stream miles opened in the stream order of the newly added passage plus stream miles of any connected -1 order streams

- Priority Need: Assist in applying the new method and incorporation to the Bay Program indicators.

Brook Trout

Outcome: Restore and sustain naturally producing Brook Trout populations with an 8% increase in occupied habitat

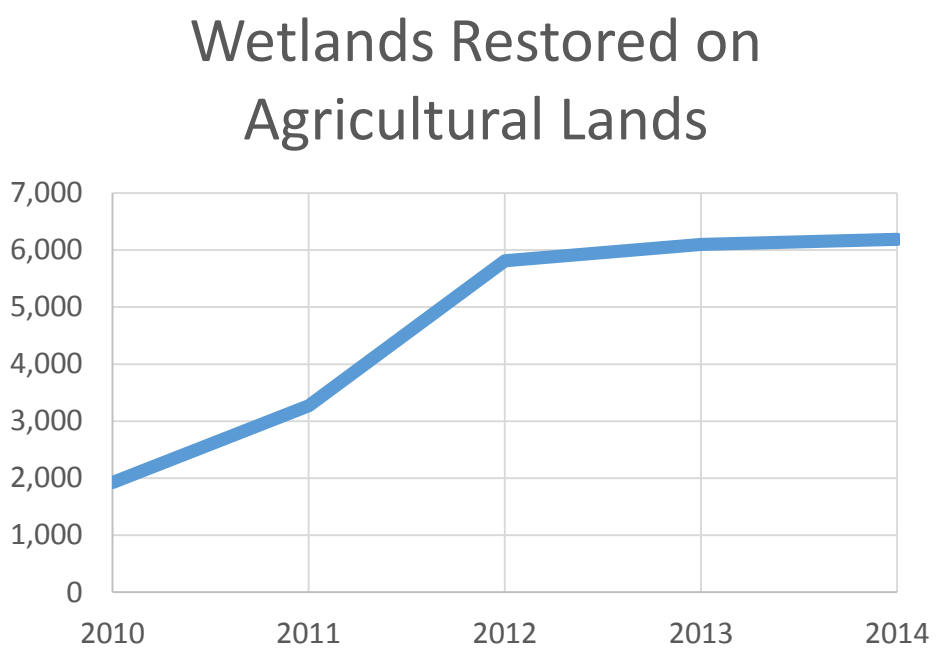
Current monitoring efforts

- The EBTJV is working with the states to determine the distribution of native Brook Trout.
- Coombs is researching genetic information as a potential census method for determining population viability and restoration success.

High	Assistance with translating the sampling data (being analyzed by Jason Coombs @ UMass) into an indicator depicting progress toward the 8% increase in occupied patch area.
High	Continued funding for brook trout monitoring (summer of 2016 and beyond)
Medium	Develop a Brook Trout Story Map

Wetlands

Outcome: Create or reestablish 85,000 acres of wetlands



High	**Improve mapping of tidal and non-tidal wetlands**
Medium	Consistent reporting of wetland acres (including enhanced) from states to NEIEN
Medium	QA/QC of wetland data (Jackie Johnson used to do this; HGIT has lost but needs support of one of the science contractors for this and other data)

CBP is in talks with Upper Susquehanna Coalition regarding updated wetland mapping for PA.

Stream Health

Outcome: Improve health and function of 10% of streams above the 2008 baseline

Current monitoring efforts:

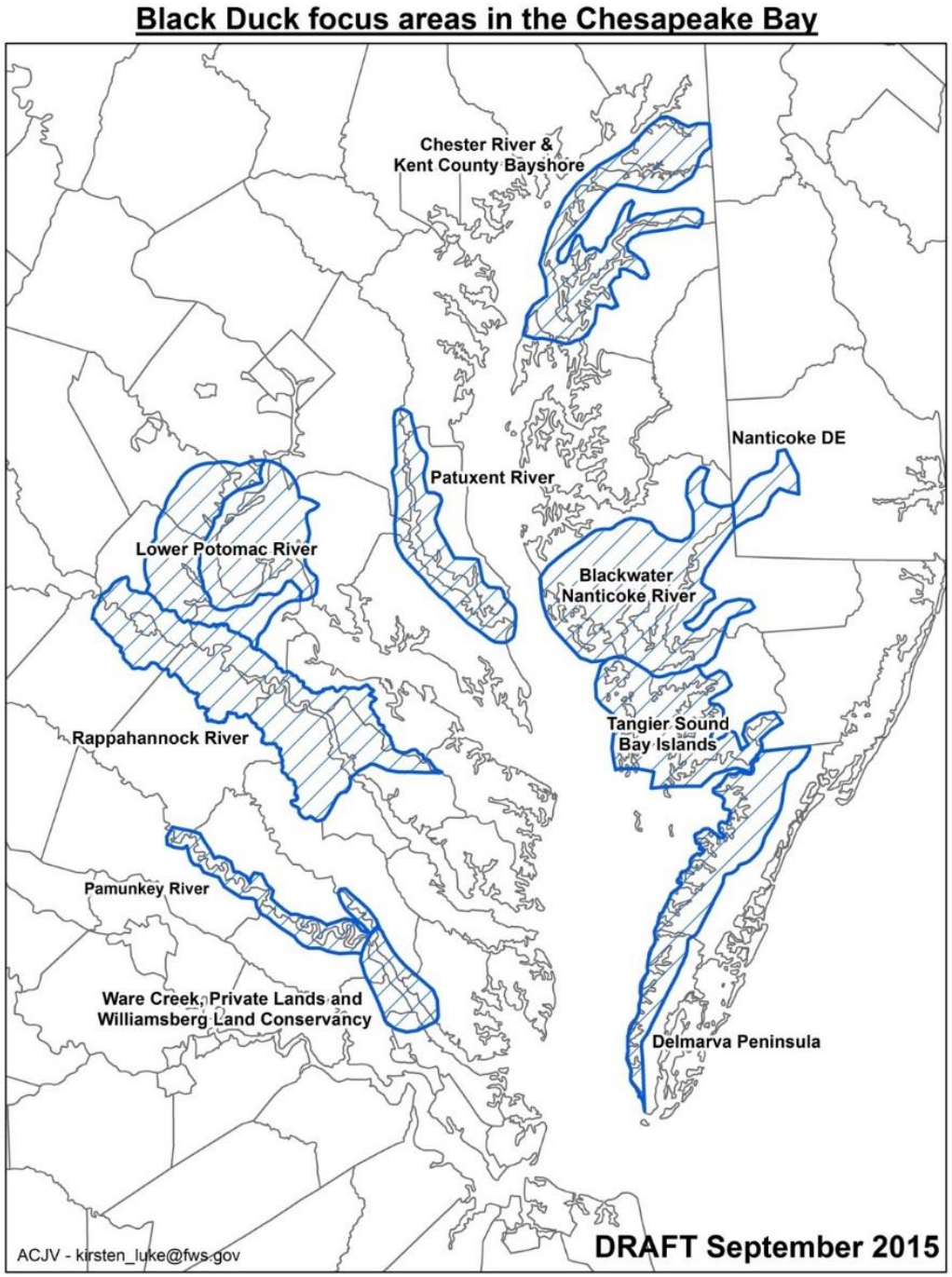
- Updating and refining the Chessie BIBI to track the outcome
- Develop and implement pooled monitoring approach for stream restoration data

High	Advice on indicator (metric) development beyond Chessie BIBI to support tracking and reporting. Include reconciliation of scale issues between Bay-wide metric (BIBI) and response of stream health and function due to restoration projects
High	Support to determine and report progress for Chessie BIBI (see Key Action 3 in Biennial Workplan) (Note: this is currently not funded but a necessary step to report on recommendations from ICRPB. See Key Actions 1 and 2.
Medium	Develop an improved process for organizing/pooling raw stream data and calculating a variety of bioindicators to evaluate stream health.
Low	Interaction with Watershed GIT for tracking current status of streams.

Black Duck

Outcome: Restore, enhance, and preserve wetland habitats that support a wintering population of 100,000 Black Ducks

High	**Assistance with development of a habitat-based indicator (to be based on results of habitat prioritization map that will be refined by Spring 2016)**

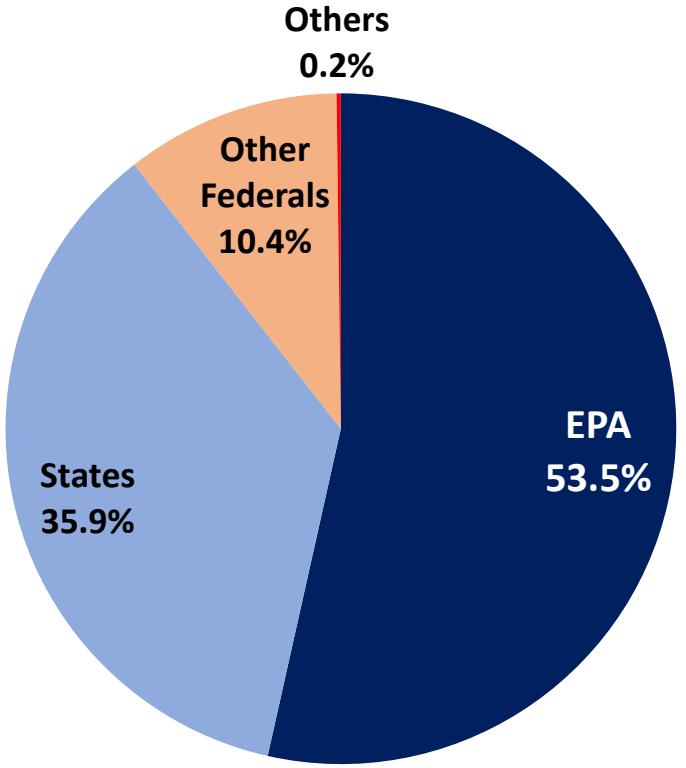


SAV

GIT Funding Proposal

(unfunded)

- Is existing SAV in the Chesapeake Bay adequately protected?
  - Regulatory review to address shortfalls in SAV protection



Contribution percentage over the years (1974-2012) from EPA, States, Other Feds, and Other agencies

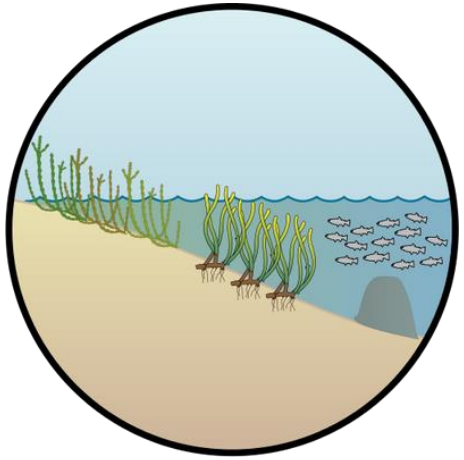
High	Continued funding for aerial surveys (consider whether needs to be annual)
Medium	Improve SAV component in shallow water model
Medium	Characterize threats posed to SAV by climate change and sea level rise
Medium	Assist with economic value assessments of Chesapeake Bay SAV

Fish Habitat

- Identify and characterize critical spawning, nursery and forage areas
- Use existing and new tools to integrate information and conduct assessments

Current Indicator:
None

Potential Indicator:
Location and size of spawning, nursery and forage areas



Needs: Process to identify and map such habitats, measure fish in actual habitat areas, shallow water monitoring, increased understanding habitat requirements of fish