

# Fish Habitat Workshop Assessment Framework

**Objective:** To identify the necessary information and analytical approaches to assess the **condition** and **vulnerability** of fish habitat in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

## **Guiding Principles:**

- Scale must support management and planning decisions
- Based on best available science, data, and analytical approaches
- Designed to integrate or complement with other tools

## **DAY 1**

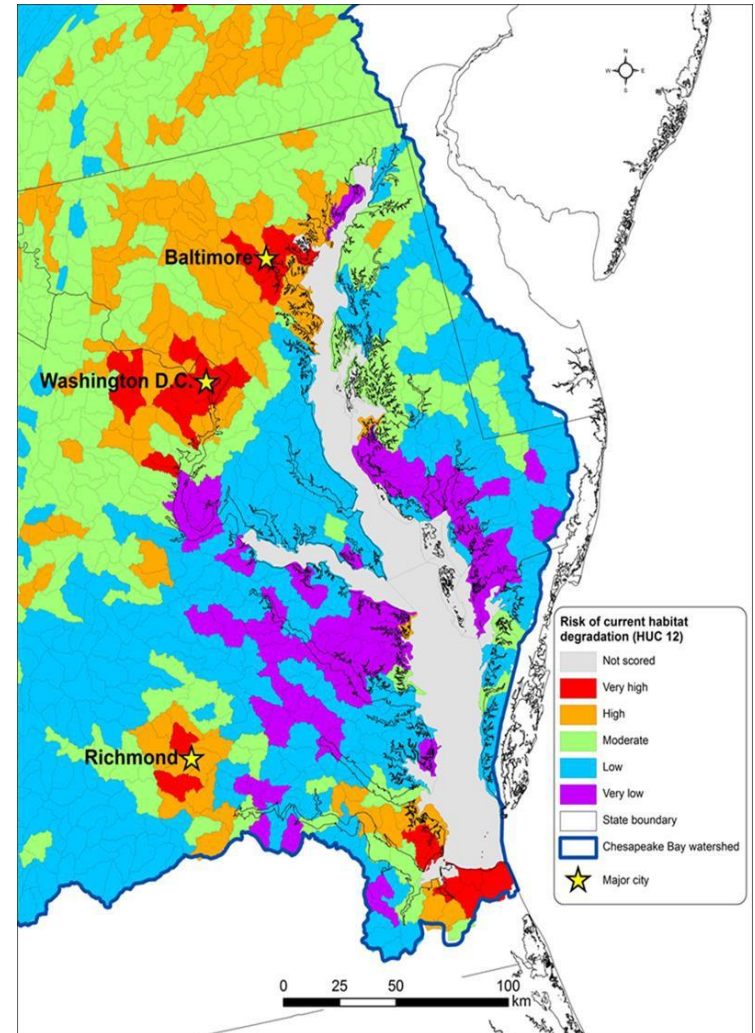
- Identify scale needed to drive action at relevant management levels
- Determine criteria for selection and ranking of variables
- Identify the variables (stressors and conditions) most influencing habitat condition and vulnerability.
- Why selected? Describe impacts on habitat function and ecosystem services.

## **DAY 2**

- Prioritize the variables (stressors and conditions) most influencing habitat condition and vulnerability.
- Identify information gaps
- Recommendations

# What should the assessment look like?

- Analytical tool/Ecosystem model to characterize fish habitat condition and identify most important factors/stressors/disturbances.
- Products:
  - Habitat condition index
  - Habitat Vulnerability scores



# How do we envision the assessment being used?

- Informing Bay Program decisions that link multiple objectives
- Practitioner project planning and siting
- Monitoring change (trends over time)
- Fishery management
  - Setting habitat objectives for a key species (striped bass spawning, black seabass and oysters)
  - Identifying Regional Essential Fish Habitat and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
  - Apply to stock assessments

# Who is the audience-end user?

## When/how should we communicate workshop with them?

- Bay Program (Management Board; Goal Teams)
- Fishery managers (Councils, Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership; NFHP, Atlantic Coast Marine Fisheries Commission)
- Local entities



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*



# STAC Workshop Report



STAC Workshop Report  
November 12-13, 2014  
Solomons, Maryland

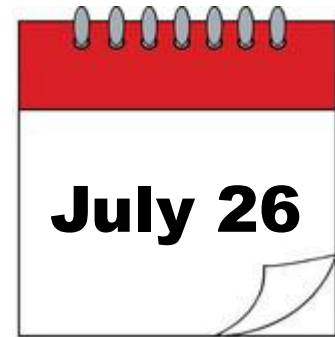


STAC Publication 15-005

*Provides a format for formulating guidance from the scientific and technical community to the CBP Partnership*

- Steering committee develops written report on the workshop proceedings, including **specific findings** and **recommendations**
- Additional products (factsheets, press releases) welcome
- Reports go to the CBP (specifically, the Management Board)
  - Actionable recommendations

Reports are due 90 days from the workshop date



1. Steering committee drafts report
2. STAC Coordinator conducts an editorial review; style and formatting
3. 1-week review by workshop participants (~early July)
4. 1-week review by STAC
5. Final review by STAC Coordinator/STAC Executive Secretary
6. Final report is distributed to the CBP Management Board, workshop participants, and posted on the STAC website

*\*All STAC reports can be found on our website: [www.chesapeake.org/stac](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac)*

# Workshop Steering Committee

- Gina Hunt – Coordinator (*MDNR/ FHAT*)
- Mark Monaco (*NOAA / STAC*)
- Margaret McGinty (*MDNR / FHAT*)
- Tom O’Connell (*USGS*)
- Donna Bilkovic (*VIMS/STAC/FHAT*)
- Bruce Vogt (*NOAA/SFGIT/ FHAT*)
- Peter Tango (*USGS/STAR*)
- Neely Law (*SHWG*)
- Tom Ihde (*STAC/ FHAT*)
- Mary Gattis (*Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay /LGAC*)
- Margot Cumming (*CRC*)
- Rachel Dixon (*CRC/STAC Coordinator*)