Fish Habitat Workshop

Factors Influencing Fish Habitat Function in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Application to Restoration and Management Decisions

April 25-26, 2018
Maymont Estate Richmond, Virginia.

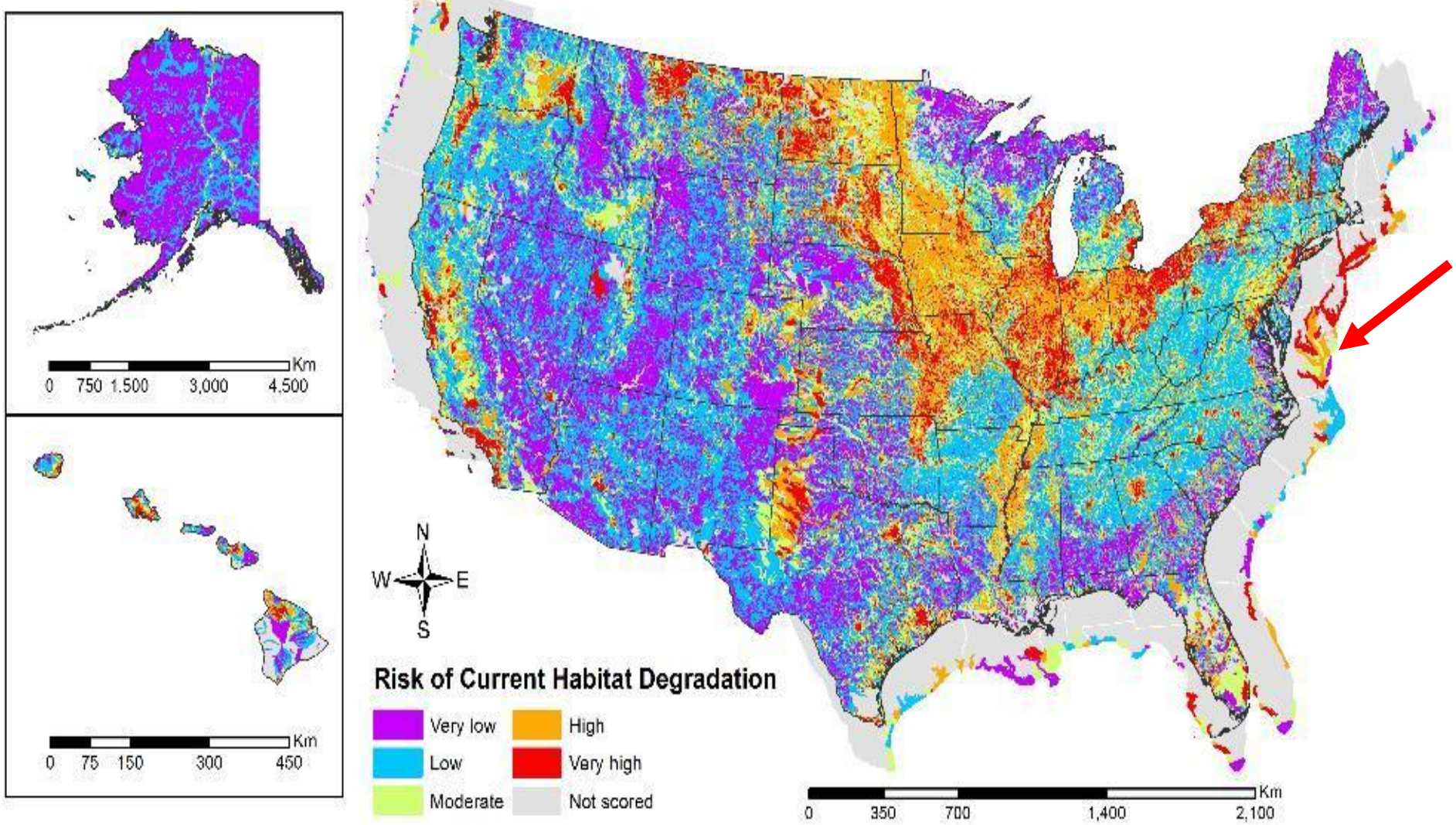
Workshop Goals

Chesapeake Watershed Regional Fish Habitat Assessment:

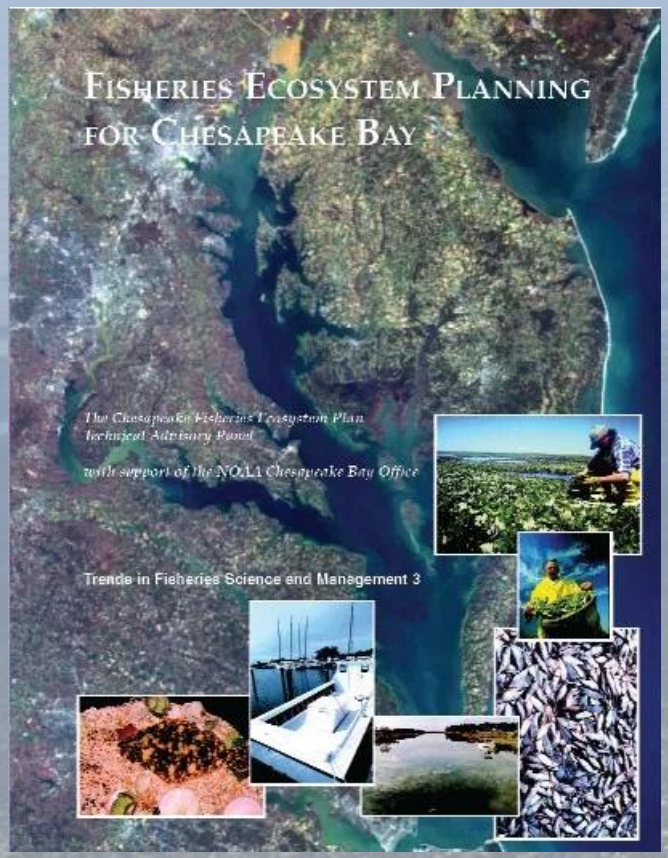
- Identify a list of factors and criteria to rank stressors to be included in a Regional Fish Habitat Assessment

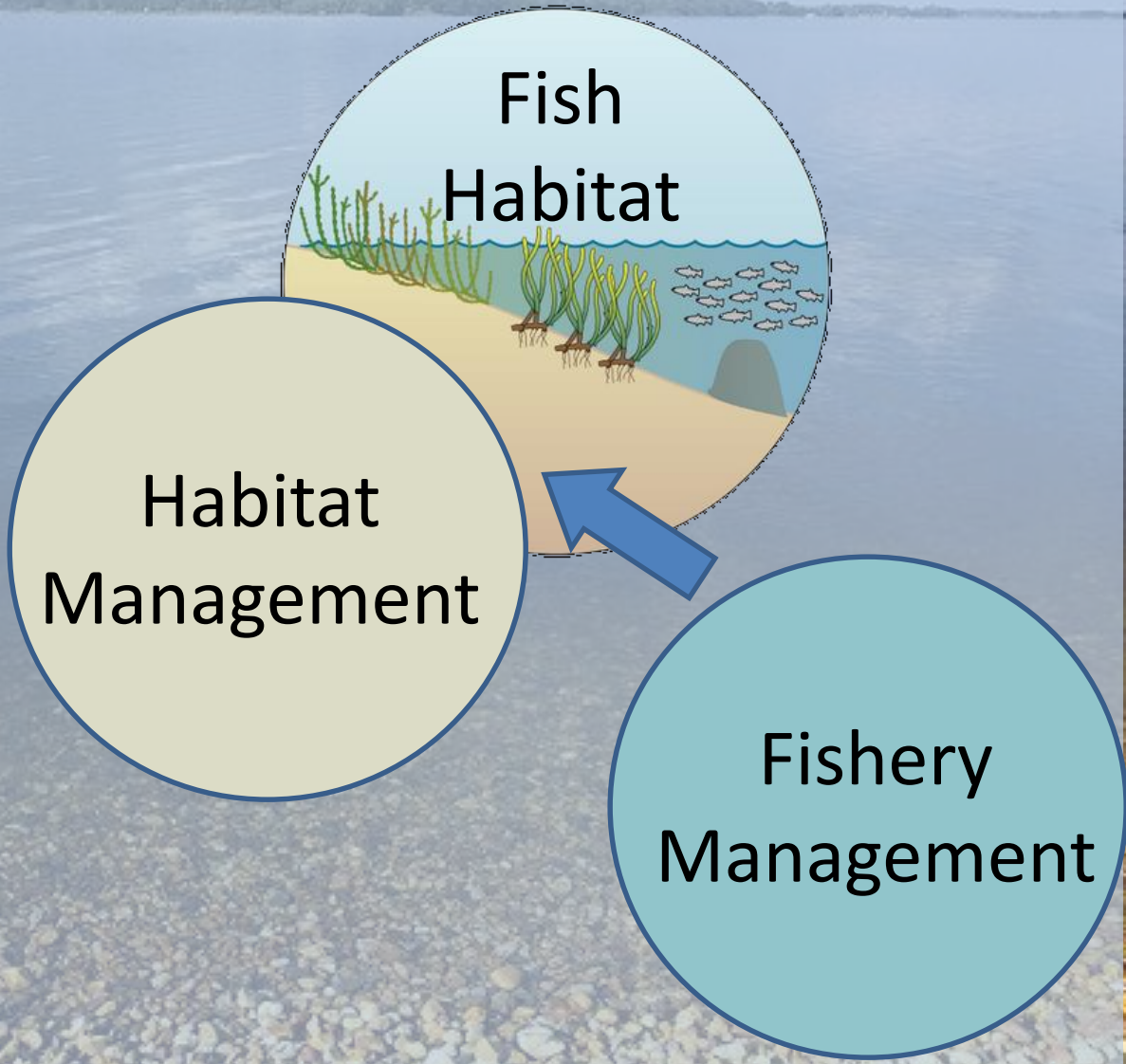
- Identify science and information gaps

Through a Fish's Eye: The Status of Fish Habitats in the United States



Fishery management and habitat management have long been disconnected.





Chesapeake Executive Council

Principals' Staff Committee

Management Board

Advisory Committees

- Citizens
- Local Government (LGAC)
- Scientific & Technical (STAC)

Goal Implementation Teams

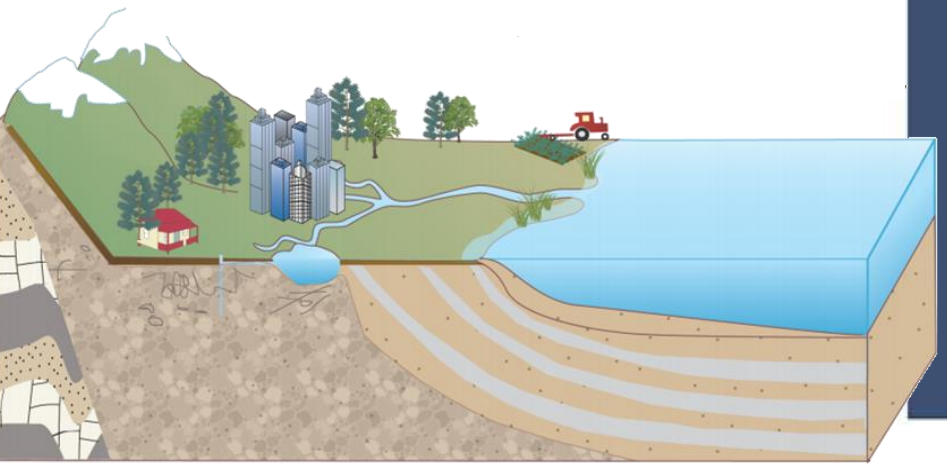
- Sustainable Fisheries (SFGIT)
- Habitat HGIT
- Water Quality
- Maintain Healthy Watersheds
- Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship
- Partnering, Leadership & Management

Communications Workgroup

Scientific, Technical Assessment & Reporting (STAR)

The Fish Habitat outcome was new in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement

- More focus on ecosystem services.
- Fish need more than clean water.



CHESAPEAKE
WATERSHED
AGREEMENT

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage, and a diversity of engaged citizens and stakeholders.

2014

Goals and Outcomes

Chesapeake Bay Program

- Sustainable Fisheries Goal: Protect, restore and enhance finfish, shellfish and other living resources…

- Vital Habitats Goal: Restore, enhance and protect an network of land and water habitats to support fish and wildlife…

Creating a tool to connect these goals

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**.

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)*

Fish Habitat Workshop

Workshop Proposal was developed to identify factors influencing habitat function throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, building off the initial listing from the Management Strategy.

Headwaters 3rd order and lower (Cold Non-tidal)		*From management strategy- add more from data file*	*Select primary stressors from data file list*	*Select primary conditions from data file list*
			Variables	
Sub-Classification	**Species**	**Factors**	**Stressors**	**Conditions**
	Brook trout	Climate Change	Increased Water temp	

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:

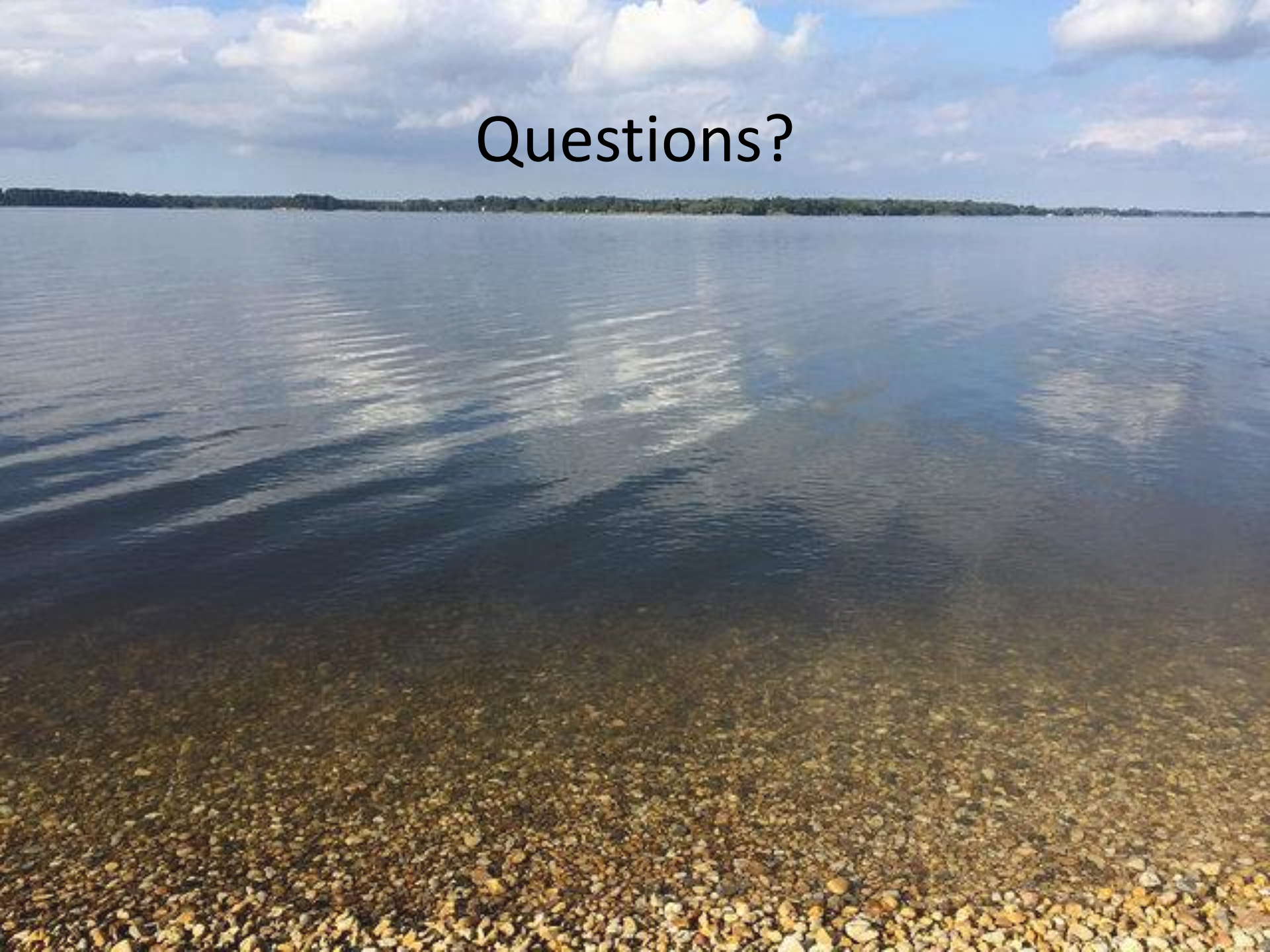
Scale must support planning and management decisions
Based on best available science, data, and analytical approaches.
Designed to integrate or compliment with other tools

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


Questions?