# THE ABSTRACT

_A Monthly Update from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee_

**May 2013**

## Recent STAC News

## Coastal Habitats Workshop Recap – Easton, Md.
## April 16-17, 2013

STAC hosted a two day workshop in Easton, Md., entitled, "Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats," to (1) specifically assess a series of targeting approaches for restoring aquatic habitats including black duck habitat, coastal wetlands, living shorelines, and SAV beds and determine the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches; (2) share with federal, state, local, academic, and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners state-of-the-science regarding targeting and following site identification strategies for reporting on the restoration of these habitats; (3) build consensus among partners and report findings on the best available approaches in a way that strengthens coastal ecosystems and maximizes the benefits that they provide.

The overall workshop goal was to design sustainable approaches and initiatives for coastal habitat restoration and protection within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Workshop lead Jeff Horan (USFWS) and the rest of the steering committee will develop a white paper/report detailing workshop recommendations and key points, to be published later this summer. Workshop website: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=221

## Nutrient Trading Workshop Recap – Annapolis, Md.
## May 14, 2013

STAC held its final workshop of the 2012 fiscal year on May 14th, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. Nearly 50 attendees participated in this workshop, entitled "Critical Issues and Opportunities for Improving Performance of Water Quality Credit Trading Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed." The morning session of the workshop focused on verification and monitoring issues and the afternoon session addressed eligibility baselines for trading. The workshop also featured two panel discussions with representatives of state stakeholders. Panelists were asked to consider three questions prior to the workshop: What are the biggest current challenges to trading? What do you see as the biggest future challenges to trading? How is success defined? A workshop report is being developed and will be published later this year. Workshop website: http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=223

## STAR Updates

STAR (Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting) held their most recent monthly meeting in Annapolis on April 25th. The STAR team heard the following presentations: (1) Jeff Horan and Jennifer Greiner about the status of the brook trout indicator, (2) Liza Hernandez and Christina Lyerly provided an update on the Lessons Learned Report (a review of management lessons learned on BMP effectiveness developed by the tidal and non-tidal monitoring teams), (3) a Report Card update from Bill Dennison, (4) John Clune about the USGS Local Scale Watershed study, (5) and a seminar by W. Dean Hively (USGS-Eastern Geographic Science Center) about Measuring Cover Crop Performance in the Eastern Shore landscape. Please follow this link for more information: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/18838/

## GIT Updates

**Editorial Note:** Below are summaries of both recent and upcoming CBP Goal Implementation Team (GIT) and workgroup meetings. All STAC members are **STRONGLY** encouraged to attend or call in to a particular workgroup or GIT of their choosing, and relay information to us for informing the rest of the STAC membership through inclusion in the newsletter.

All workgroups and GITs are in need of additional scientific and technical expertise. As a reminder, reimbursement is available for STAC members who wish to attend CBP meetings in-person. For more information on the GITs and workgroups, please visit the CBP committee activities website at: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/committeeactivities.aspx?menuitem=14890.

For additional details regarding any of the meetings below, please visit the CBP calendar at: http://archive.chesapeakebay.net/calendar.cfm?RequestDate=05/26/2011&DefaultView=2.

### GIT 1 (Sustainable Fisheries)

The GIT 1 Invasive Catfish Taskforce has been working towards finalizing their Invasive Catfish plan, which will be submitted to the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee in May, and the American Shad Indicator Action Team is developing a new Baywide indicator to better represent ongoing American shad restoration efforts. The next full GIT 1 meeting will be held on June 17-18, 2013. **Contacts**: Peyton Robertson (Chair), NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office; Thomas O'Connell (Vice-Chair), Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Bruce Vogt (Coordinator), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Adam Davis (Staff), Chesapeake Research Consortium

### GIT 2 (Habitat)

The Habitat GIT joined with STAC to host the "Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats" Workshop on April 16-17 in Easton, MD (see first section above). Workshop participants developed more than 20 recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program, to be summarized in a white paper/STAC report due later this summer. GIT 2 also proposed a potential stream-

focused workshop to STAC.  The proposed workshop will focus on methods for designing sustainable restoration projects, identifying best practices, and documenting agreements.  The Habitat GIT is working on initiating wetland focused discussions in VA and MD to determine potential priority restoration projects.  Initial meetings were scheduled for April.  The Habitat GIT has also been working closely with funders like the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) to target BMPs that link habitat restoration and water quality improvements.  NFWF's 2013 Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund will award approximately $8 million - $10 million in grants in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program to restore the habitats and water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.  To further that effort, NFWF has targeted watersheds where there are significant opportunities to benefit species habitats such as in brook trout in headwater streams or create spawning opportunities for river herring (source:  Chesapeake Bay Program Update – May 16).
**Contact**: Jennifer Greiner; Jennifer_greiner@fws.gov.

## GIT 3 (Water Quality)

GIT 3 held a two-day agricultural modeling workshop on May 22-23, 2013 to address priorities raised through the midpoint assessment, bringing together industry, private, federal, state, and academic representatives.  Additionally, the GIT has the following activity underway:  The "BMP Expert Panels Approved, Underway, or Planned" on ChesapeakeStat has been updated to include additional information about the status, next steps, and report-out dates of the expert panels and will be updated on a monthly basis.  The table can be accessed here: http://stat.chesapeakebay.net/q=node/130&quicktabs_10=3.
**Contact**: Lucinda Power; power.lucinda@epa.gov.

## GIT 4 (Healthy Watersheds)

In an April 22nd meeting, the Maintain Healthy Watersheds GIT (GIT4) focused on CBP and state healthy watershed vulnerability assessment capabilities and metrics.  GIT 4 published state-identified healthy watershed layers on ChesapeakeSTAT so visitors can now view maps of state-identified healthy watersheds and vulnerability to urban growth and proximity to protected lands.  GIT 4 also submitted two proposals to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for healthy watershed-themed sessions at the annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum. **Contacts**: Mark Bryer, TNC, GIT4 Chair; Dan Baldwin, MDP, GIT4 Vice-Chair; Mike Fritz, EPA, GIT4 Coordinator; Anna Stuart Burnett, CRC, GIT4 Staffer

## GIT 5 (Foster Stewardship)

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan is complete, and the GIT 5 Public Access Action Team held a plan implementation meeting in April 2013, to address, among other topics, two outstanding issues including urban access concerns and the need for paddle-in primitive campsites along Chesapeake watershed waterways.

The goal of the Public Access plan is to develop 300 new public access sites around the Chesapeake Bay by 2025.  GIT 5 received 2012 site development data.  The data showed that 18

new public access sites were opened throughout Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia: http://www.baygateways.net/PublicAccess/Public_Access_Plan_FINAL.pdf

The Foster Stewardship GIT's Education Workgroup is also developing a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) Capacity Assessment Tool to assess the "comprehensiveness of a school system's environmental literacy program and ability to implement the program. The Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Education Workgroup intend to request that the Principal Staff Committee (PSC) endorse the Environmental Literacy Strategy at the June 27th in-person PSC meeting, for later consideration at the 2013 Executive Council meeting.

The Land Conservation Action Team continues to maintain and improve the LandScope Chesapeake publicly accessible land conservation geographic information and priority system. Nature Serve, NPS, USGS, and other partners recently refreshed the LandScope Chesapeake system with 71 new data layers, for a total of 156 data layers available across the Chesapeake watershed. **Contacts**: Kristin Saunders-Evans (Chair), Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Amy Handen (Coordinator), National Park Service (NPS); Sarah Brzezinski (Staff), Chesapeake Research Consortium

## GIT 6 (Partnering and Leadership)

GIT 6 is moving forward with leading the process for the development of a proposed new Chesapeake Bay Agreement. GIT 6 has been working with the other GITs for several months with the development of goals and outcomes, to be included in the agreement. These goals and outcomes were presented at the May 16th Management Board (MB) meeting and voted on by the MB.

GIT 6 is currently focused on developing structure and wording for the mission, vision, and principles sections of the new agreement. After receiving input from the May 16th MB meeting, GIT 6 will now develop the draft wording and details of the mission, vision, and principles segments of the new agreement. These draft sections will then be brought back to the MB during its June meeting for further discussion and review prior to the next PSC meeting.

GIT 6 is developing a timeline outlining the proposed steps and deadlines for all appropriate stakeholders needed to reach a new agreement by the Fall 2013 Executive Council Meeting. Other work will include revising the CBP Governance document and assisting with the development of management strategies which will likely be referred to in the new agreement. **Contacts**: Mike Foreman (Chair), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; Carin Bisland (Vice-Chair), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Greg Allen (Coordinator), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Tim Wilke (Staff), Chesapeake Research Consortium

## *Upcoming STAC-Related Events*

## Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) May 2013 Meeting

**Date:** May 30-31, 2013
**Location:** Kent Manor Inn – Kent Island, MD

## Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) June 2013 Meeting

**Date:** June 5-6, 2013
**Location:** Tremont Plaza Hotel – Baltimore, MD

## STAC June 2013 Quarterly Meeting

**Date:** June 11-12, 2013
**Location:** Annapolis, MD – Sheraton Hotel

**Details:** The first STAC quarterly meeting of FY2013 will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis. Seven STAC members will be cycling off the committee membership this summer and STAC will revisit the committee's expertise needs discussion from the March 2013 quarterly meeting to then elect new members. Other agenda items include a review of the RFP proposals received for the March 2013 meeting; sustainability in Washington, D.C.; a discussion of the Executive Council message; and updates on the new Bay agreement, the CBP modeling database, model analysis plan for the 2017 Midpoint Assessment, and recent STAC workshops. The meeting will begin at 10am on June 11th and end at 1pm on June 12th.

If you wish to reserve a room for the quarterly meeting, please contact the Sheraton Hotel at 410-266-3131 and ask to book a room with STAC. Please try to reserve your room as early as possible.

## June 2013 Management Board Meeting

**Date:** June 13, 2013
**Location:** Annapolis, MD – Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)

## Principal Staff Committee (PSC) Meeting

**Date:** June 27, 2013
**Location:** Washington, D.C.

## *STAC Reports*

*Upcoming Reports:*

o *Real World Sustainable Wastewater Practices (Workshop Date: May 16, 2012)*
- An embargoed copy will be published and distributed to the Chesapeake Bay Program and other groups affiliated with workshop and report production in late May. The final report has an expected public release date soon thereafter.

o *Research-Based Best Practices for Environmental Education (Workshop Date: August 27-28, 2012)*

- The embargoed report will be released in early June, with the final report to be distributed in late June.

  o *Lag Times in the Watershed and Their Influence on Chesapeake Bay Restoration (Workshop Date: October 16-17, 2012)*
    - An embargoed report will be released in late June for review prior to final public release one week later.

  o *Using Multiple Management Models (M3.2) in the Chesapeake Bay (Workshop Date: February 25-26, 2013)*
    - Workshop lead Don Weller (SERC) is currently outlining the draft workshop report.  The final report is expected to be released in June 2013.

  o *Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats (Workshop Date:  April 16-17, 2013)*
    - The draft workshop report is in planning stages.  A final report is expected to be released in July 2013.