



# THE ABSTRACT

*A Monthly Update from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee*

May 2014

## *Recent STAC News*

### April 2014 Management Board (MB) Meeting and Invasive Catfish Press Event

**Smallwood State Park  
Marbury, MD  
April 10, 2014**

The MB held an abbreviated meeting via conference call from Smallwood State Park in conjunction with an Invasive Catfish press event there on April 10<sup>th</sup>. During the three-hour call, the MB discussed comments received via various New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement listening sessions, online submissions, and through Issues Resolution Committee (IRC) discussions.

Details: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21454/>.

Jake Reilly, Chesapeake Bay Programs Director for NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and former CRC Fellow), provided an overview of NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund for Small Watershed Grants.

Presentation:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/21454/iii.nfwf\\_cbsf\\_2014\\_rfp\\_final.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21454/iii.nfwf_cbsf_2014_rfp_final.pdf).

Bruce Vogt (NOAA-CBPO) presented Blue Catfish recommendations from the Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (GIT 1) and asked for support from the MB to move forward with jurisdictions on these management recommendations.

Presentation:

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/21454/iv.b.catfish\\_mgmt\\_recs\\_mb\\_4-10\\_updated.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21454/iv.b.catfish_mgmt_recs_mb_4-10_updated.pdf)

Following Vogt's presentation, the MB and various press and public attendees convened for the announcement of Maryland Department of Natural Resources' (MD DNR) Invasive Catfish

campaign to inform citizens of the presence of blue and flathead catfish and proper ways to remove them from local waterways if caught.

## **Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) Two-Day Retreat**

**Cambridge, MD**  
**April 13-14, 2014**

The PSC met for a two-day retreat to discuss public comments received regarding the New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, Issues Resolution Committee (IRC) deliberations/recommendations, and follow-up discussions to the February 28<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting.

On Day 1, the PSC reviewed public comments, GIT Chair comments and considerations, and discussed next steps to include and incorporate the comments. On Day 2, IRC members presented recommended options for the top 9 agreement issues included in Bin 1 (of three bins). Those presentations provided options to include New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement sections dealing with (1) participatory language, (2) toxic contaminants, (3) climate change, (4) Conowingo Dam, (5) stewardship goal/outcomes, (6) impervious surface related to land use outcomes, (7) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)/Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), (8) Environmental Justice/diversity goals for committee structure, and (9) governance/approval of new and revised outcomes.

Complete PSC Retreat Actions and Decisions (April 13-14):

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/21635/psc\\_issues\\_resolution\\_table\\_psc\\_4-15-14\\_draft\\_revised\\_v2.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21635/psc_issues_resolution_table_psc_4-15-14_draft_revised_v2.pdf).

The PSC discussed other issues in Bins 2 and 3 (see Bin 2 and 3 issues in above link) and held an April 29<sup>th</sup> call to follow-up on these issues and others they did not discuss at the retreat. On the April 29<sup>th</sup> call, the PSC discussed revised consensus language developed by Maryland in consultation with STAC and GIT Chairs. STAC's initially recommended text additions aim to incorporate adaptive management into the New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals and outcomes. On the April 29<sup>th</sup> call, the PSC determined more information was required before voting on STAC's recommendations and the issue was tabled until the May 6<sup>th</sup> PSC call.

## **STAC Workshop: The Peculiarities of Perviousness**

**Annapolis, MD**  
**April 22-23, 2014**

STAC sponsored a workshop on April 22-23 in Annapolis, Maryland titled, "The Peculiarities of Perviousness: A Workshop to Define, Measure, and Model the Nutrient Dynamics from the Mosaic of Land Cover Known as Pervious Land."

This workshop was rescheduled from an earlier date due to winter weather. The purpose of the workshop was to characterize the key source areas and pervious cover types that generate

nutrients and sediments and/or reduce runoff in the urban landscape, and determine whether it is feasible to utilize them in Phase 6 of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model (CBWM) by answering four questions:

1. Does the nutrient and sediment source or land cover type loadings depart in a meaningful way from the average nutrient loading for generic pervious land?
2. If so, are their existing or future mapping tools that can accurately measure the source or cover type at the scale of a county and the entire Bay watershed?
3. If so, can the pollutant dynamics of the source or cover type be accurately simulated in the context of existing or future versions of the CBWM?
4. If so, would the source or cover type respond in a unique manner to the application of a new or existing urban BMP type?

The workshop agenda was organized into eight tracks with four on each day:

Day 1: (1) Setting the Stage, (2) Review of Dry and Wet Weather Urban Water Quality Monitoring Data, (3) the Impact of Changes in Fertilizer and Atmospheric Deposition Inputs on Urban Lands, and (4) Urban Nutrient Enrichment in the Urban Landscape: Is it a Predictive Tool for Loading or Urban BMPs?

Day 2: (5) the Urban Stream Corridor as its Own Land Cover Type, (6) Interconnections Between Pervious and Impervious Areas in Urban Watersheds, (7) the Effect of Tree Canopy on Urban Land, and (8) Synthesis Session.

The workshop steering committee will schedule a conference call in the near future to begin outlining the workshop report. The expected outcome of the report are recommendations that highlight the best processes to create a scientifically sound pervious land sub-classification system for the purposes of simulating and managing nutrient loads in the Bay Watershed.

### **Future STAC Discussion Issues**

Important upcoming issues for inclusion in the newsletter and discussion at future STAC meetings and other CBP-related meetings (please submit topics to STAC Staff as soon as possible).

The issues below, identified from recent communications, include:

- Oysters and Water Quality: What can be said and advocated, and what to avoid, in response to an earlier request from Lisa Kellogg (VIMS) and Jeff Cornwell's (UMCES) presentation and subsequent discussion at the April Modeling Workgroup meeting.
- CBP-proposed STAC activities, 2014-2016 (from Rich Batiuk, EPA).

- Microplastics as a threat to regional waters and biota (suggested by A. Swanson, Chesapeake Bay Commission - CBC).
- Procedures for Expert Panel efficiency estimates (suggested by T. Jordan, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center – SERC) and operating procedures (B. Benham, Virginia Tech and STAC BMP Verification lead).
- STAC role in BASIN Phase III activity (suggested by Kevin Sellner, CRC).

Please submit your suggestions to STAC Staff Matt Ellis ([ellism@si.edu](mailto:ellism@si.edu)) in the coming weeks.

## *Key Events*

- **May 2014 Communications Workgroup Call**  
**Date:** May 2, 2014  
**Time:** 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21437/>
- **Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WTWG) Conference Call**  
**Date:** May 6, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21137/>
- **Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects Within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed – Workshop Leads: Bill Stack (Center for Watershed Protection - CWP), Neely Law (CWP), and Rich Starr (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS))**  
**Date:** May 6-7, 2014  
**Location:** Sheraton Hotel – Annapolis, MD  
**Details:** [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity\\_id=232](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/workshop.php?activity_id=232)
- **Water Quality GIT (GIT 3) Conference Call**  
**Date:** May 12, 2014  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21213/>
- **May 2014 CBP Management Board Meeting**  
**Date:** May 15, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21455/>
- **May 2014 Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting**  
**Date:** May 15-16, 2014  
**Time:** Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21405/>
- **Sustainable Fisheries GIT (GIT 1) Executive Committee Call**

**Date:** May 19, 2014

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21534/>

- **May 2014 Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Meeting**

**Date:** May 22, 2014

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21548/>

- **June 2014 Sustainable Fisheries Full GIT (GIT 1) Meeting**

**Date:** June 4-5, 2014

**Time:** Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 a.m.; Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21643/>

- **June 2014 Communications Workgroup Call**

**Date:** May 2, 2014

**Time:** 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21438/>

- **June 2014 Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Meeting**

**Date:** June 5-6, 2014

**Time:** Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Details:** <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21409/>

- **June 2014 STAC Quarterly Meeting**

**Date:** June 17-18, 2014

**Time:** Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Details:** [http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/meeting.php?activity\\_id=227](http://www.chesapeake.org/stac/meeting.php?activity_id=227)

\*Please see the Chesapeake Bay Program Calendar for more specific event times and CBP conference line information: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar>.

## ***Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Reporting (STAR) Updates***

Phase II of STAR's BASIN (Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks) process is in progress. To date, STAR has hosted panel discussions detailing how other long-term monitoring programs conduct and fund their network activities. These panel discussions served as long-term monitoring program case studies for STAR to consider options and alternative approaches to monitoring, funding, and communicating the science of monitoring programs. The information gathered during these panel discussions and STAR workgroup discussions will feed into a BASIN Water Quality Report (the final product of Phase II), along with historical monitoring recommendations, to outline alternative water quality monitoring strategies with cost scenarios.

STAC will become heavily involved in BASIN Phase III, during which STAC will review the monitoring needs required to support tracking and reporting of New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement outcomes and goals.

STAC also sponsored the March 25-26, 2014 workshop: “Enhancing Approaches to Explain Management Effects on Water Quality Trends.” Led by STAC’s Gene Yagow (Virginia Tech) and Gary Shenk (CBP) STAR members and staff participated in the workshop. The goal of the workshop was to discuss efforts to measure the effects of management actions on water quality trends in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The workshop steering committee is in the process of drafting a workshop report. STAC members will have the opportunity to review and comment on the report before it is distributed to the CBP partnership.

Finally, a full draft of STAR’s Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup’s technical addendum, titled “Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll-*a* for the Chesapeake Bay and its Tidal Tributaries,” is near completion. The document will be available for workgroup reviews in April 2014. Meanwhile, the Modeling Workgroup and Modeling Team continue to work on 2017 Midpoint Assessment Priorities.

If you have any questions regarding the BASIN process, or other STAR activities, please contact STAR Coordinator Peter Tango at [ptango@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:ptango@chesapeakebay.net).

## ***GIT Updates***

**\*The following updates are provided by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Some GITs do not have recent updates to provide at this time.**

### **Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (GIT 1)**

The GIT 1 Invasive Catfish Task Force submitted a final report to STAC on April 11, 2014 for peer review. STAC also agreed to fund GIT 1’s FY2014 workshop, “Assessing the Chesapeake Bay Forage Base: Existing Data and Research Priorities.” STAC member Tom Ihde (NOAA) will join Ed Houde (UMCES-Chesapeake Biological Laboratory) to co-chair this workshop.

Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) staff is drafting a charter to better define the roles and responsibilities of CBSAC and its members. CBSAC is preparing for the 2014 Blue Crab Advisory report and review of a proposal to limit re-opening of the blue crab fisheries in Virginia. CBSAC is also preparing for analysis of Winter Dredge Survey results.

The next biannual meeting of the full Fisheries GIT is scheduled for June 4-5, 2014 (see “Upcoming Events” for further details).

If you have any questions regarding GIT 1 activities, please contact GIT 1 Coordinator Bruce Vogt at [bruce.vogt@noaa.gov](mailto:bruce.vogt@noaa.gov).

### **Habitats Goal Implementation Team (GIT 2)**

GIT 2 will follow up their 2013 “Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats” STAC-sponsored workshop with the “Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed” workshop, scheduled for May 6-7, 2014 at the Sheraton Annapolis Hotel. The workshop will look at expanded spatial and temporal scales for habitat restoration/conservation actions identified in Management Strategies to be developed under the New Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, and the potential identification of pilot landscapes. The workshop will be chaired by Bill Stack (CWP) and Rich Starr (USFWS). More specifically, the workshop objective is to create agreement among practitioners, regulators, and scientists on a common language and assessment method for designing sustainable stream restoration projects that improve the functional elements of stream health in order to address water quality, climatological impacts, and physical and biological components within the stream and adjacent riparian zone.

A GIT 2 wetland initiative project is underway to accelerate wetland restoration across four states in the watershed (efforts led by The Nature Conservancy), and a tool is being developed to prioritize and target brook trout habitat restoration in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Finally, discussion at the February 2014 GIT 2 meeting identified an interest in formulating suggestions to improve the ways diverse viewpoints are heard and addressed through the BMP Expert Panel Process. A small group of CBP partners convened to discuss possible adjustments to the process to ensure that all voices among the Partnership feel that they are being heard in all CBP endeavors. Recommendations were drafted that include ways to advance the general awareness of the process and involve other GITs to identify BMPs for expert panel review process. The recommendations will be implemented on future conference calls. STAC’s Brian Benham (Virginia Tech) will lead discussions of some of the issues listed in the proposed process at the quarterly meeting.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 2 activities, please contact GIT 2 Coordinator Jennifer Greiner at [Jennifer\\_greiner@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_greiner@fws.gov).

### **Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (GIT 3)**

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, GIT 3 approved the selection of new Vice Chair James Davis-Martin (Virginia Department of Environmental Quality) and confirmed the nomination of Agriculture Workgroup Co-Chairs Kristen Saacke Blunk (Headwaters LLC) and John Rhoderick (Maryland Department of Agriculture).

The Land Use Workgroup (LUWG) released a recommendation for Phase 6 CBWM land use classifications with comments due from GITs and sector workgroups by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The LUWG will make a final recommendation in summer 2014 as part of the 2017 midpoint assessment process.

GIT 3 will be reviewing BMP panel reports from the Urban, Agriculture, Wastewater, and Forestry sector workgroups. Topics include: Erosion and Sediment Control, Septic, and Riparian Buffers.



The BMP Verification Review Panel and the BMP Verification Committee held a joint meeting on April 2nd to systematically review the latest version of the full verification framework. Should the CBP express interest in a STAC review of the Revised BMP Verification Framework, STAC would expect that this request be made in such a way as to provide sufficient, reasonable time for the BMP Verification Subcommittee to provide a thorough, detailed review. The subcommittee's review will be submitted to STAC for their review prior to releasing any report to the CBP.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 3 activities, please contact GIT 3 Coordinator Lucinda Power at [power.lucinda@epa.gov](mailto:power.lucinda@epa.gov).

### **Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT 4)**

The Local Engagement Workgroup and Tracking Workgroup convened for the first time in April 2014 for the purpose of addressing GIT 4's strategic priorities and furthering GIT 4's primary goals.

GIT 4 will hold a full GIT meeting in late spring with a date TBD.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 4 activities, please contact GIT 4 Staffer Tuana Phillips at [Phillips.tuana@epa.gov](mailto:Phillips.tuana@epa.gov).

### **Fostering Stewardship Goal Implementation Team (GIT 5)**

#### Public Access:

- The 2013 data call is complete and a total of 36 new public access sites were added in 2013. Currently 23% of the goal to open 300 new sites by 2025 has been reached.
- Potential access sites have been approved by the states and are now being assembled and mapped.

#### LandScope:

- A proposal was submitted for a LandScope session at the Restore America Estuaries conference this fall. The proposed session will demonstrate the LandScope system and provide attendees with information on how existing LandScope Chesapeake capabilities can be used to identify priority geographic locations for collaborative conservation.
- Chesapeake's LandScope website is preparing for an architectural change. This change will streamline data publishing workflow, scale up content by accessing already published material by federal, state, and non-government organization (NGO) partners, make the map viewer compatible with mobile browsers, expand interoperability with cloud-based platforms, and redesign the map viewer to make key usability improvements.
- The Healthy Watersheds Data layer generated by GIT 4 will be incorporated into the LandScope data layers.

#### Conserved Lands:

- Conserved lands data from each jurisdiction have been received and staff is currently assembling GIT layers from the data provided.



Environmental Literacy:

- The Workgroup is preparing to Beta test the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) Tracking Tool in school districts across the watershed.
- The Bay Backpack teacher resource website will be restructured to reorganize teacher resources and provide more background information on Bay issues and topics.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 5 activities, please contact GIT 5 Coordinator Amy Handen at [AMHanden@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:AMHanden@chesapeakebay.net).

### **Partnering and Leadership Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6)**

GIT 6 developed options for MB consideration of an ongoing program evaluation function within the CBP. A sub-workgroup of GIT 6 is currently developing options for an outline of the ongoing evaluation function, including making a distinction between Program Performance Assessment and Program Evaluation. A briefing to the MB on this work is expected later this spring.

GIT 6 members are involved in the re-design of the *ChesapeakeStat* website. Activities include gathering extensive input from potential *ChesapeakeStat* users to define the target audience and the needs of that group. The redesign effort will continue through 2014.

If you have any questions regarding GIT 6 activities, please contact GIT 6 Coordinator Greg Allen at [allen.greg@epa.gov](mailto:allen.greg@epa.gov).