

Invasive Catfish Symposium: State of the Science & Status of the Fishery

Virginia Commonwealth University Rice Rivers Center

November 6-7, 2017



Purpose: Bring managers, scientists, and interested stakeholders together to gain a common knowledge of invasive catfish research findings and the fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.

Agenda

Consider a few discussion questions for each presentation; Templates for presentations

- *Why are these topics important?*
- *What is the value to fishery managers?*

Later compile the answers to these two questions in a single slide for discussion

Presenters will provide these answers to Bruce ahead of meeting

Day 1

10:30am Welcome (Bruce Vogt, Sean Corson, Greg Garman)

Theme I: Context

- 11:00am Invasive Catfish Task Force and 2014 Report (Bruce Vogt-NOAA)
- Task Force Coordinator Bruce Vogt will provide background on the Invasive Catfish Task Force and a review of their 2014 report and recommendations.
 - Jurisdiction Intro:
 - What's happened since 2014?
 - Expectations from this workshop?
 - What do you plan to do with the workshop information?

LUNCH 12:00-1:00pm

Theme II: Science

A. Population Dynamics

- 1:00pm Annual Monitoring
- Jurisdictions and academic institutions will review data, including relative abundance trends, from annual monitoring programs in various tributaries.
 - VDGIF - Bob Greenlee
 - MDDNR - Mary Groves
 - DC DDOE
 - PAFBC
 - DNREC - Edna Stetzar
 - VIMS (Trawl Survey) - Troy Tuckey

2 slides summarizing the type of gear, locations, and current trends; approximately 10 minutes each

BREAK

- 2:45pm Population Estimates and Range Expansion
- James River Population Study and Range Expansion – Mary Fabrizio (VIMS)
 - Pamunkey and Rappahannock Rivers - Bob Greenlee (VDGIF)
- 3:20pm Wrap up Population Dynamics

B. Movement and Habitat Use

- 3:45pm Movement
- Scientists will discuss telemetry studies that are tracking the movements and habitat use of blue catfish in specific tributaries.
 - VDGIF
 - SERC - Rob Aguilar
 - VIMS (dart tagging data)
- 4:30pm Environmental Drivers
- Salinity and Blue Catfish Habitat Use – Vaskar Nepal (VIMS)
- 4:50pm Wrap up Movement and Habitat Use
- 5:15pm End Day 1

Day 2

- 9:00am Welcome back
- Could shorten to accommodate talks, want to leave in some buffer time in case we have a late start*

Theme II (cont'd): Science

C. Diet

- 9:15am Diet - What do blue and flathead catfish eat? How does this vary among tributaries and seasonally? How is this different from other catfish species?
- VT - Joe Schmitt *(30 mins preferred to discuss flathead and blue catfish)*
 - SERC – Rob Aguilar
 - MDDNR - Mary Groves *(only blue catfish)*
- 10:30am Potential Ecosystem Impacts - Can we quantify invasive catfish impacts on the ecosystem? Are they targeting species of concern?
- VT - Corbin Hilling
- 11:00am Wrap up Diet

BREAK

Theme III: Fisheries

- 11:15am Fishery Stats
- Overview of commercial blue catfish harvest and recreational fishing activity in the Bay
- VMRC - Joe Cimino
 - VDGIF - Bob Greenlee

- PRFC – Marty Gary
- MDDNR - Mary Groves

LUNCH 12:00-1:00pm

Theme III (cont'd): Fisheries

1:00pm Commercial Electrofishing Pilot Project - Matt Balazik (VCU), Bob Fisher (VIMS)
Gear conflict Study - Bob Fisher

1:20pm PCB/Contaminants Study (Drew Luellen-VIMS)

1:50pm USDA Regulations (Mike Hutt)

2:20pm Wrap up Fishery Discussion

BREAK

Theme IV: Looking Ahead

2:30pm Addressing Invasive Species with Fisheries: Case Studies

- Jason Goldberg/Susan Pasko of USFWS

3:00pm Industry and Fishery Stakeholder Perspectives (Panel)

- Commercial, recreational, processors, markets, non-profit

May be a listening session, will allow for stakeholders to talk

5:00pm Next Steps

- Management implications based on information heard at this workshop?
- Moving forward with science, monitoring, and fishery?

Want a report similar to the Cownose Ray Summit report - Bruce to lead this effort