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Implementation Plan for Management of the Chesapeake Bay Alosid (Shad and Herring) Fisheries

Chesapeake Bay Program

Implementation Plan

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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July 1990



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY ALOSID (SHAD AND HERRING) FISHERIES

Introduction

The Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council adopted the Chesapeake Bay Alosid Management Plan in July, 1989, to establish a framework for coordinated management of the Chesapeake's shad and herring fisheries. The goal of the management plan is to manage the alosid resources for long-term ecological and socioeconomic benefits. The management plan examines the current status of the Bay's alosid resources, identifies problems affecting management of the fisheries, and lists courses of action to address the problems. Each action item identifies the responsible implementing jurisdiction(s) and the date by which the action will be initiated or completed.

This implementation plan is a tabular synopsis of the management plan that will be useful in keeping track of management progress. It lists problem areas and corresponding implementing actions (in abbreviated form), schedules, and jurisdictions responsible for implementation. It also includes the type of implementing action required (i.e., administrative, regulatory, or legislative), an estimate of additional funding or personnel required, plus comments on the progress being made or direction being taken. The Chesapeake Bay Alosid Management Plan should be referred to for a more complete description of this information. Implementing actions by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the District of Columbia (DCFM), which were not included in the management plan, have been added here where appropriate.

Shad and herring management strategies contained in the management and implementation plans are intended to be flexible and adaptive. Periodic review of these plans will be undertaken to incorporate new information on the status of the resources and to evaluate the relative success of the management actions taken. This review will be conducted by the Fisheries Management Workgroup of the Living Resources Subcommittee.

Fishery Management Tasks for 1990-1991

In order to continue rebuilding Chesapeake Bay shad and herring stocks, the following tasks have been identified for special attention:

1. Continuing projects to remove impediments to migratory fishes. A number of projects have been completed and several are underway in each Bay jurisdiction.

2. Identifying the composition of coastal shad and herring stocks, in particular, to gauge what effects intercept fisheries have on Chesapeake Bay stocks.

These items and others are examined more thoroughly in the 1990 annual status report for the Chesapeake Bay Alosid Management Plan.

CHESAPEAKE BAY
ALOSID MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

PROBLEM AREA	ACTION	DATE	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY & METHOD	ADD. STAFF or \$	COMMENTS/NOTES
1. Declining alosid abundance	1.1.1 Continue shad moratorium in MD, other restrictions.	Continue	MDNR - A,R		When the shad population in the upper Bay reaches 500,000 fish, MD will open a limited, recreational fishery.
		1991	DCFM - R		DC will consider a moratorium on shad after estimating fishing pressure and adult shad abundance.
		Variable	PFC - R		A recreational fishery will be opened in PA when shad population reaches a predetermined level; will be coordinated with SRAFRFC.
		Continue	PRFC - R		Will continue present creel limit of 2 fish/person/day.
	1.1.2 VA will follow ASMFC recommendation to limit exploitation rate on shad and herring to 25%.	1989	VMRC - A,R		VA is assessing exploitation rates and will take appropriate steps as needed.
		1990	MDNR - A,R DCFM - A,R PFC - R VMRC - A,R		Will require coordinated efforts with the Fish Passage Workgroup and SRAFRFC. DC will control river herring catch in Rock Cr. & Potomac.
		Variable	MDNR - A,R DCFM - R PFC - R VMRC - A,R PRFC - R		PRFC & DCFM will place new restrictions on hickory shad to coincide with Am. shad fishery. MD will consider hook & release hickory shad fishery in 1991.
		1991	MDNR - A,R PFC - A,R		Continued coordination with Fish Passage Workgroup & SRAFRFC. Fish passage projects are underway.
2. Overfishing	2.1 Jurisdictions will participate in the ongoing ASMFC management program.	Continue	MDNR - A,R DCFM - A PFC - A VMRC - A,R PRFC - A		Need continued representation at ASMFC meetings. Will participate in coastal stock identification and ocean landing studies.

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PROBLEM AREA	ACTION	DATE	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY & METHOD	ADD- STAFF or \$\$	COMMENTS/NOTES
	2.2 VA. will reduce shad exploitation to 25%.	1990	VMRC - A,R		States, CBSAC, USFWS are discussing tagging program. VA is assessing data for 1991 regulatory proposal. MD will assess its coastal shad fishery.
	2.3.1 VA. will reduce river herring exploitation to 25%.	1991	VMRC - A,R		VA is assessing exploitation rates and will take steps as needed.
	2.3.2 Will ensure river herring by-catch is minimized in the mackerel fishery.	Continue	MDNR - A VMRC - A		Continued participation in ASMFC and MAFMC meetings.
3. Stock assessment deficiencies	3.1 Continue to collect alosid data.	Variable by item		MD - \$40K DC - 2 FTE	
	A) Collect alosid juvenile data.	Continue	MDNR - A PFC - A DCFM - A VMRC - A		Are conducting studies to develop baywide juvenile index of abundance.
	B) MD will continue projects in upper Bay and Nanticoke to estimate adult shad abundance.	Continue	MDNR - A		Underway.
	C) Improve assessment of catch/effort on shad stocks.	Open 1990 1990	PFC - A DCFM - A VMRC - A		Underway.
	D) VA will collect additional fishery-dependent data on shad	Continue	VMRC - A		Underway.
	E) VA will begin ocean intercept tagging program to determine shad stock composition.	1990	VMRC - A	\$200K	Proposed tagging study is delayed until 1991; are discussing possible coop study with MD, CBSAC, USFWS.
	F) MD & DC will examine and improve herring data.	1990	MDNR - A DCFM - A		Will include characterization of adult river herring and creel census.
	G) VA & DC will conduct surveys of alosid spawning grounds and compile info.	Continue	DCFM - A VMRC - A		DC will monitor Potomac and Rock Cr.
	H) A joint effort will be made to investigate fm. shad in the Potomac.	1991	MDNR - A DCFM - A PRFC - A VMRC - A		Planning underway.

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PROBLEM AREA	ACTION	DATE	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY & METHOD	ADD. STAFF	COMMENTS/NOTES
4. Habitat loss and degradation	4.1 Implement the Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Plan				
	A) - I) Implement various Fish Passage projects.	Variable	MDNR - A PFC - R DCFM - A VMRC - A		Refer to Fish Passage Plan.
	J) Coordinate to obtain sources of adult fish for restocking areas.	1990	MDNR - A PFC - R		Many projects are completed, others at different stages of implementation. More detail is provided in status reports for Fish Passage Plan.
	K) Establish measures to protect reintroduced stocks.	Variable	MDNR - R PFC - R VMRC - R		Discussions underway with SRAFRFC.
	L) Monitor impact of fish passage projects.	Variable	MDNR - R PFC - A VMRC - A		Must be coordinated with restoration efforts.
	4.2.1 MD & PA will work with SRAFRFC for successful downstream passage of alosids in the Susquehanna River.	Variable	MDNR - A PFC - A		Is being coordinated with restoration efforts.
	4.2.2 Hatchery production	Variable	MDNR - A PFC - A		Will develop and use SRAFRFC annual work plans.
	A) Promote use of Susquehanna brood stock for PA restocking.	Variable	MDNR - A PFC - A		Will develop and use SRAFRFC annual work plans.
	B) Increase funding for Pamunkey/Mattaponi hatcheries.	Variable	VMRC - A	\$5K	Have new facility at Mattaponi
	4.3 Technical issues regarding water quality at Conowingo Dam have been accepted.	1989	MDNR - A PFC - A		Standards must be monitored and enforced. A special committee within SRAFRFC has been established.
	A) Adoption of minimum oxygen standards below the dam	1991			
	B) Installation of vent/intake systems.	1989			
	C) Turbine operation to meet D.O. standard.	1989			
	D) Monitor spills as needed.	1989			
	E) Flow schedules.	1989			

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PROBLEM AREA	ACTION	DATE	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY & METHOD	ADD. STAFF or \$\$	COMMENTS/NOTES
	4.4 Establish new water classification system based on living resources, habitat, and water quality.	1990	MDNR - A DCFM - A PFC - R		Assessment of existing data underway; will provide computer-drawn maps. PA process underway.
	4.5 Promote Bay Agreement water quality commitments.	Variable	MDNR - A PFC - A DCFM - A PRFC - A VMRC - A		Requires coordination among jurisdictions and various agencies.

LEGEND: ASMFC = Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
 CBSAC = Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee
 DCFM = District of Columbia, Fisheries Management
 MDNR = Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 MAFMC = Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council
 PFC = Pennsylvania Fish Commission
 PRFC = Potomac River Fisheries Commission
 SRAFRFC = Susquehanna River Anadromous Fish Restoration Comm.
 USFWS = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 VMRC = Virginia Marine Resources Commission

A = Administrative action
 R = Regulation
 L = Legislation
 K = \$1,000
 FTE = Full time employee