Blue/Flathead “Invasive Catfish Field of Action”

Vision (the outcome we want to achieve):

- Invasive catfish species (blue and flathead) fully eradicated from Chesapeake Bay

Or

- Chesapeake Bay tributaries free of negative effects caused by invasive catfish

Mission (what we need to achieve the vision):

- Develop and implement bay wide policies and management strategies to reduce invasive catfish populations, mitigate their spread, and control their negative effects on native species.

Values (what we care about and/or believe in):

- A productive and balanced bay ecosystem
- Invasive species are detrimental to the bay
- Policy guided/driven by science-based considerations
- A knowledgeable and aware public
- Policy coordination and collaboration among jurisdictions yields best management outcomes

Objectives (what we are going to do; measurable outcomes):

- Establish a functional workgroup to provide scientific, technical and policy advice to the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team on invasive catfish
- Initiate a public awareness campaign on the invasive catfish issue
- Produce a scientific evaluation on whether blue/flathead catfish are invasive
- Develop a set of options/approaches for controlling populations and mitigating effects of invasive catfish
- Draft and institute an agreed upon policy/action plan based on preferred approach(es)

- Consider possible performance metrics: decreased invasive catfish populations and increased shad, herring, other affected species abundance

Proposed Workgroup Tasks, assignments, and deadline:

1. Use the currently available scientific information on blue and flathead catfish to determine if they are "invasive" by definition. In the Executive Summary of the National Invasive Species Management Plan (NISMP) the term *invasive species* defined as "a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health."
    - Team: Mary Fabrizio-lead, Greg Garman, Bob Greenlee, Mary Groves
    - Deadline: Draft May 16, Final Draft June 1.

2. Develop a Matrix of Management Options & Implications
    - Team: Greg Garman-lead, Bruce Vogt, Derek Orner, Joe Grist, Adam Davis, and Nancy Butowski
    - Deadline: Draft May 16, Final Draft June 1.

3. Develop a proposal for a Pilot Control and Surveillance program
    - Team: Greg Garman-lead, Derek Orner, Nancy Butowski, Joe Grist, Adam Davis
    - Deadline: Draft May 16, Final Draft June 1.

4. Draft an ASFMC resolution
    - Team: Bob Beal-lead, Derek Orner, GIT ExComm
    - Deadline: Draft for discussion by June 7-8 GIT meeting

5. Establish a Public Awareness Campaign including outreach and education materials and stakeholder engagement plan
    - Team: Bryan King-lead, Adam Davis, Derek Orner, Bruce Vogt
    - Deadline: Draft Framework/proposal May 16, Final Draft June 1.

6. Produce Ecopath with Ecosim (EwE) Model Runs showing rough estimate of ecological effects (i.e effects on other key resident species) of invasive catfish
    - Team: (Howard Townsend, Andrew Turner)

- Deadline: Draft Framework/proposal June 1. Model runs and synthesis July.

Note:

- **Any team can request assistance from other workgroup members and should consult with experts/individuals not identified as a workgroup member but needed to complete the task.**
- **The Full workgroup will have the opportunity to review and comment on all tasks.**
- **The expectation is that Team leads will ensure tasks and work products are completed by the deadlines, and will lead any presentation of the tasks and work products at the June 7-8 GIT meeting.**