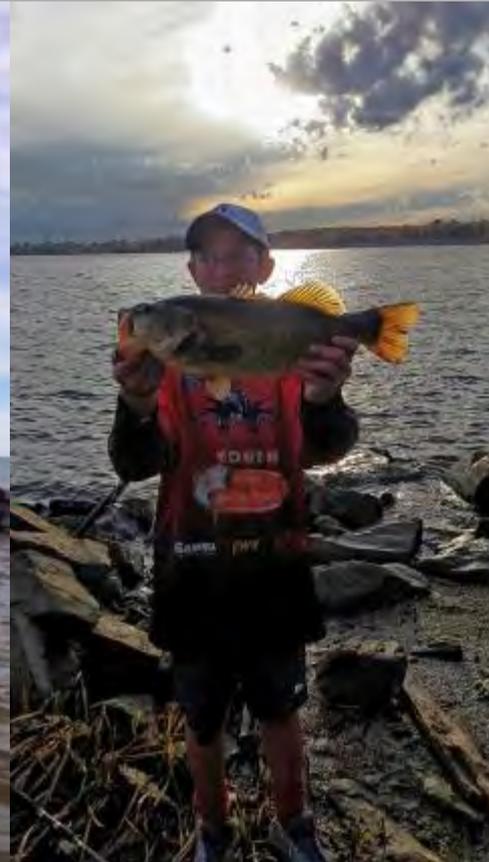


Black Bass Roundtable 2016



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Tidal Bass Program Manager
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Inland Fisheries

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Phone: 410-260-8257

Status of Reef Ball Project



Expected Date of Completion	Task	Lead Organization
January 2016	Permit Approval and send out to partners 	MDDNR/Joe Love
January 2016	Secure PCA codes to make purchases 	MDDNR/Joe Love
January 2016	Inform MPT regarding project and timeline 	MDDNR/Joe Love
Spring - Summer 2016	<i>Purchase supplies</i>	
	Provide list of reef ball supplies for purchase to MDDNR	CBF/Karl Wiley
	Purchase reef ball supplies, posts, signs, cables and hooks	MDDNR/Joe Love and Mary Groves
	Generate list of tools needed for project	MBN/Dick Berich
	Secure buoys for project	MDDNR/Mary Groves
September 2016	Issue Press Release/Put photos on project website	MDDNR/Joe Love
September 2016	Organize a list of volunteers for project	MBN/Dick Berich and CBF/Karl Wiley
September 2016	Complete stockpiling of wood at Nat'l Harb	National Harbor/Kent Digby
September 2016	Identify the wood for sinking using flags or marker	MBN/Dick Berich
September 2016	Confirm location for project (OCT - NOV), barge use (NOV), bobcat (OCT)	National Harbor/Kent Digby and Mike Rolband
October 2016	Set dates for project work	CBF/Karl Wiley
October 2016	Alert Volunteers on date of project	MBN/Dick Berich and CBF/Karl Wiley MDDNR/Mary Groves and CBF/Karl Wiley
October 2016	Transport project supplies to National Harbor	Wiley
October 2016	Build 80 reef balls/anchors for wood/hollow tube for wood	MDDNR/MBN/CBF/Volunteers
November 2016	Deploy reef balls and wood to project areas	MDDNR/MBN
Summer 2017	Provide online links of MPT special on reef project	MDDNR/Joe Love
Fall 2017	Continue monitoring reef, provide graph of data including historical data on-line	MDDNR/Joe Love and Mary Groves

Status of Black Bass Stamp



- *Deliverable: List of bills currently in session*



Status of Guide Website



Map of Licensed Charter Boats & Fishing Guides

Interested in a charter boat or fishing guide but not sure where to begin? View the map and/or table below to locate charters and guides available throughout the State. Click on a map pin to view contact and other helpful information. Additional charters and guides are added as their information becomes available.

Captains and Guides - If you would like to participate and have your charter boat/guide services on the website, please complete the [application for the Charter/Guide Website Listing on the Charter home page](#).

The information depicted on the map and table below is submitted voluntarily and may not be correct or up-to-date. Additionally, the locations depicted are based upon the marina or business address supplied and may not be accurate. Always call ahead if you're interested in a particular party.

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[View Larger Map](#)



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Business/Captain Name	Address	Phone Max Numbr	Chark Size	Website
Spring Creek Outfitters/Harold Hamb	86 Big Frog Lane Oakland MD 21550	301-387-6867	6	www.springcreekoutfitter.com
Andy Andrzejewski	406 Butternut Court LaPlata MD 20646	301-932-1509	3	
Johns Guide Service/Capt. John Stason	2509 Brown Farm Ct, Brookeville, MD 20833	301-633-7040	2	www.fishwithjgs.com

[Contact Us](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Accessibility](#)

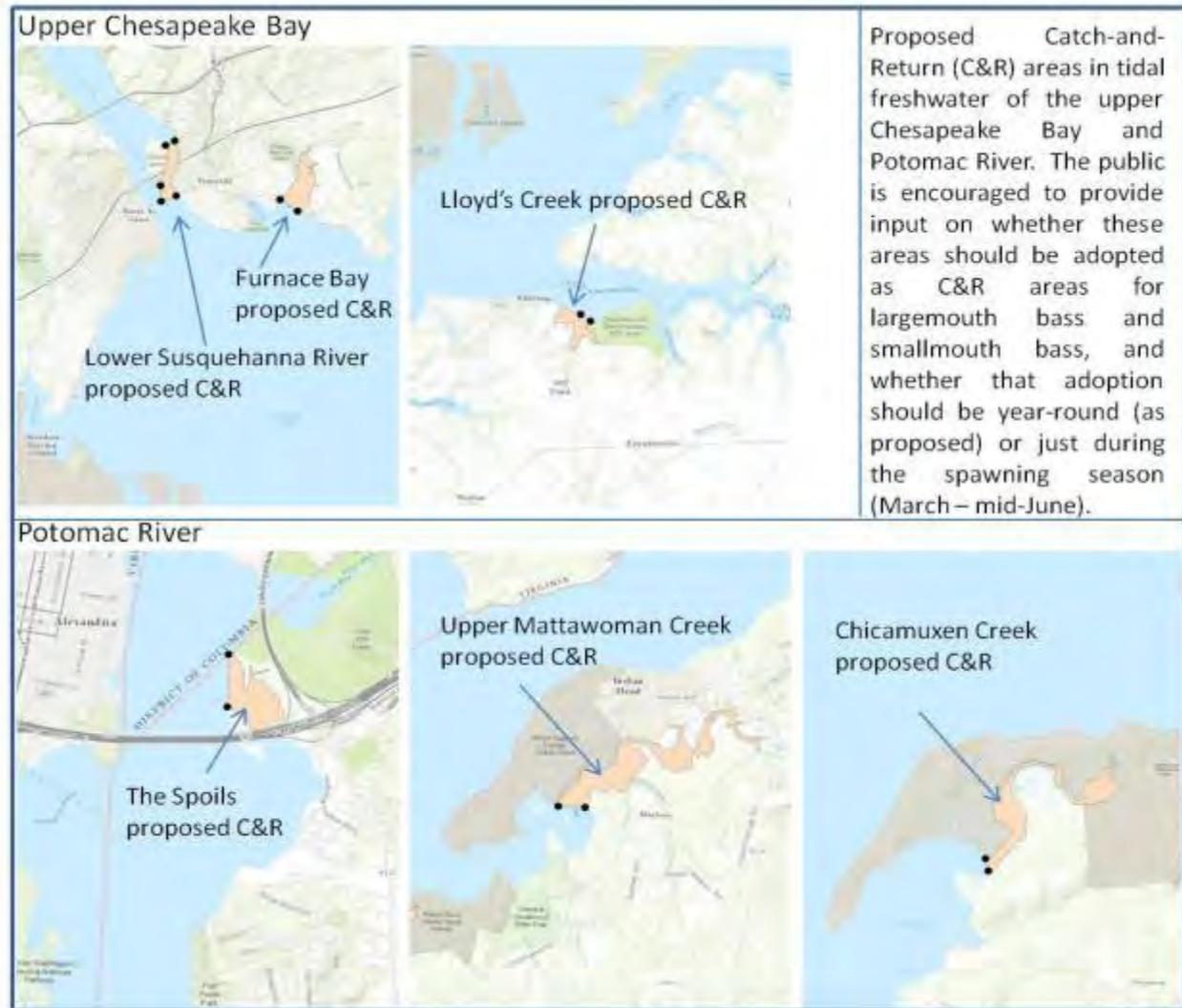
580 Taylor Ave, Annapolis MD 21401

(877-620-8DNR (8367)

Status of Catch & Return



- *Deliverable: Write-up On Catch & Return Regulation survey results*
- Surveys 2014/15
- 2016 Scoping (February)
 - Spawning areas in upper Bay, upper Bay and Potomac
 - Year-round (currently)



Status of Rogues Harbor



“...It should be noted that current alternatives, as presented in the 2010 Study, are not practicable given cost and potential environmental impacts in relation to perceived gains (i.e. creating a calm harbor for boaters). Primary environmental impacts include Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SVA) beds in the area and sedimentation from a permanent structure, which could adversely affect the harbor and/or channel, causing heightened sedimentation and an increased need for dredging. **[The Department’s Project Review Division] or PRD recommends more research and suggests amending the current 2010 Study to update information, including added alternatives such as a timber wave screen, which would facilitate flushing action, have reduced impacts, and have less visual impact; or a concrete floating breakwater.** These alternatives could be explored internally by DNR staff or a consultant, who can reexamine the project. Once a final alternative is selected, a feasibility analysis will be required for design and engineering, cost/funding, and environmental impacts. PRD recommends that whichever option is selected, Fisheries and Parks Services consider a pre-application meeting with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to discuss the project since permitting is required.

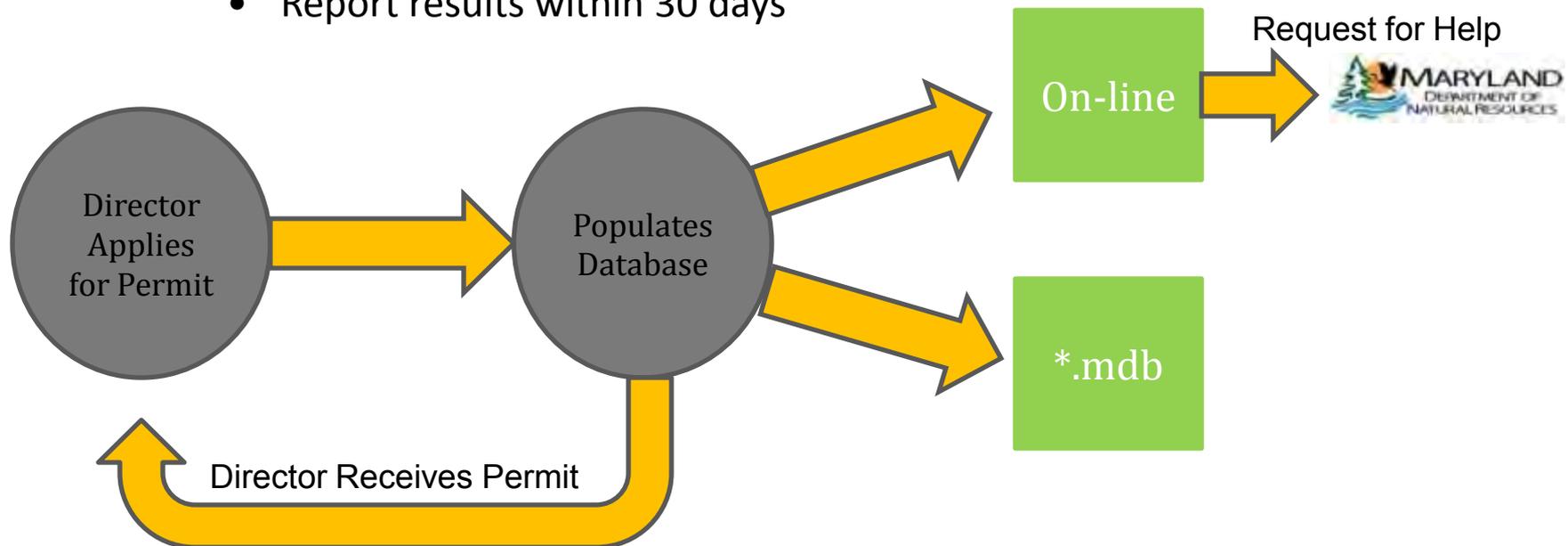
PRD requests that Fisheries submit this project for internal review when alternatives have been studied and a preferred alternative has been selected. If the preferred alternative is approved, a feasibility study can be prepared, and at least a 50% design provided to PRD for internal review. Any approval would be contingent upon funding, MDE permitting, and the mitigation of potential environmental impacts.” from Shane Johnston, Project Review Division, December 9, 2015.

Status of Permitting



Black Bass Tournament Permit

- Director requests permit online and issued immediately
- Allows MD DNR to monitor tournament activity and get information about fishery
- Requirements:
 - Director agrees to ensure fish are taken care of and released in good condition
 - Report results within 30 days



Status of Permitting



- Best Management Practices
- Bass Stewardship Award
- Enforcement of Permit Requirement
 - Department's Natural Resources Police issues fines (\$125) to directors for each offense
 - Department's Fisheries Service can deny future permits



Click

Tournament Registration Form 



Watch Video
Largemouth Bass Tournament Video



Watch Video
Stopping the Spread of Invasive Species in Maryland Waters

Below are Best Management Practices (BMP) that Maryland Department of Natural Resources, other agencies, and bass conservation groups encourage during tournaments.

Please select the Best Management Practices that you will use during this tournament. Pass your cursor over bold lettering of each Best Management Practice for more details. Tournament directors who use some or all of these practices in their tournament series may be publicly recognized by the Department.

- Improve survival of bass by providing handling tips to anglers
- Improve survival of bass by excluding July and August in tournament schedule
- Improve survival of bass by creating a fishing off-limits area at weigh-in site
- Reduce number of fish released at weigh-in area by having a plan for redistributing fish away from weigh-in area
- Reduce number of fish released at weigh-in area by using multiple weigh-in sites within the lake or river
- Reduce number of fish released at weigh-in area by lowering creel limits per angler or boat
- Reduce number of big fish released at weigh-in area by implementing a fail-safe slot
- Reduce number of fish released at weigh-in area by using a no possession rule

Tournament Chapter: --Select the Chapter--

Date of Tournament: (30 days for the report) (mm/dd/yyyy)

Rain Date of Tournament: (mm/dd/yyyy)

Number of Tournament Days: --select--

Status of 6 knot zone



Status of 6 knot zone

- Speed limit at the spoils – safety concerns.
- **Action Requested: petition signing**



Status of Fisheries



- Stocking Strategy
- *Deliverable: Black Bass Annual Review*
 - Gunpowder River
 - Potomac River
 - Upper Bay
- Fishery Management Plan



Status of Fisheries

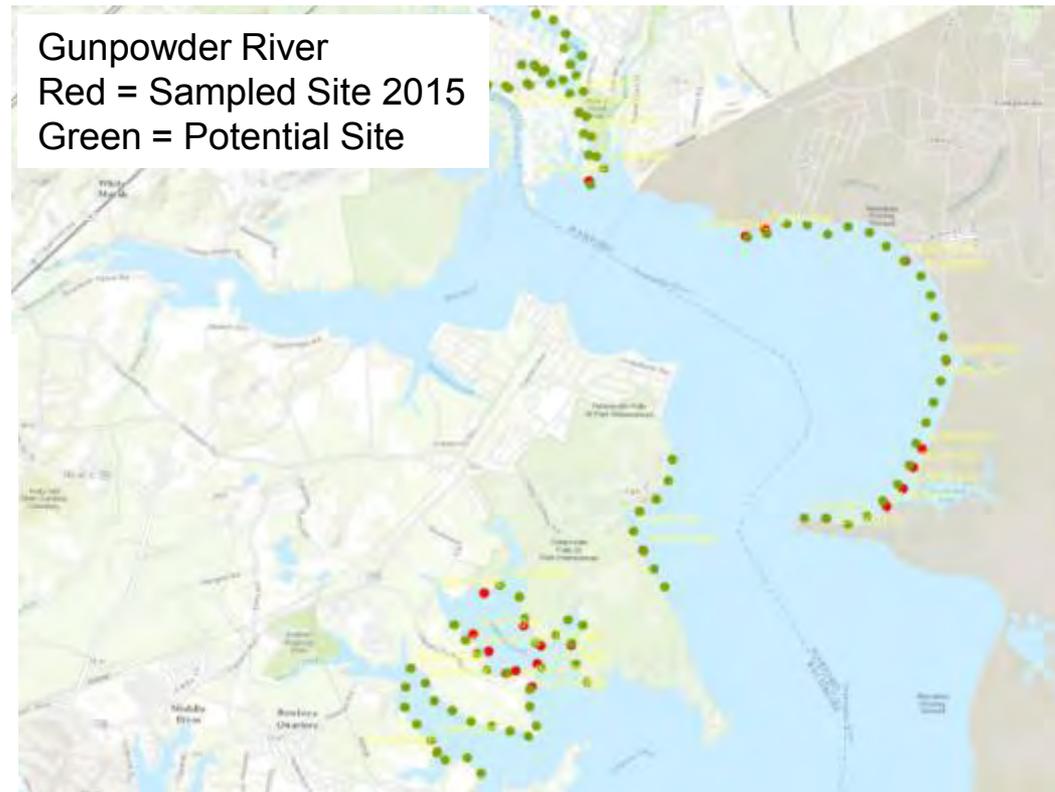
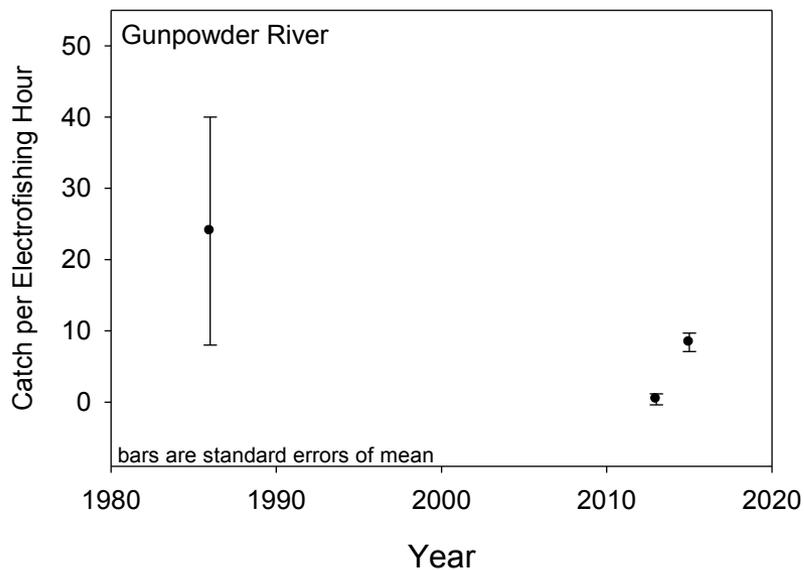


- Stocking goal for tidal Largemouth Bass
- Adults obtained for brood stock – ~ 20 per 1/4 acre pond?
 - Adults from Potomac River, offspring go to Potomac River
 - Adults from upper Bay, offspring go to upper Bay
- Stocking goal depends on max number of available ponds at each hatchery, but minimum of 2500 (Potomac) and 1000 (upper Bay) advanced fingerlings at 4" - 8" (stock in October, or periodically as culling requires) raised on fish prey and pellets, OR a minimum of 12,500 (Potomac) and 5,000 (upper Bay) fingerlings at ~ 2" raised on pellets.
 - Oxytetracycline marking of fry (Manning, Unicorn)

Status of Fisheries

- Change to a Fall Survey (standard to other surveys)
- Sampling area

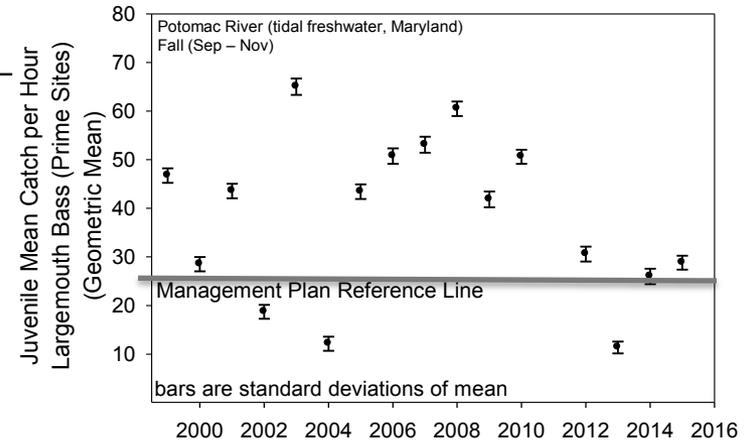
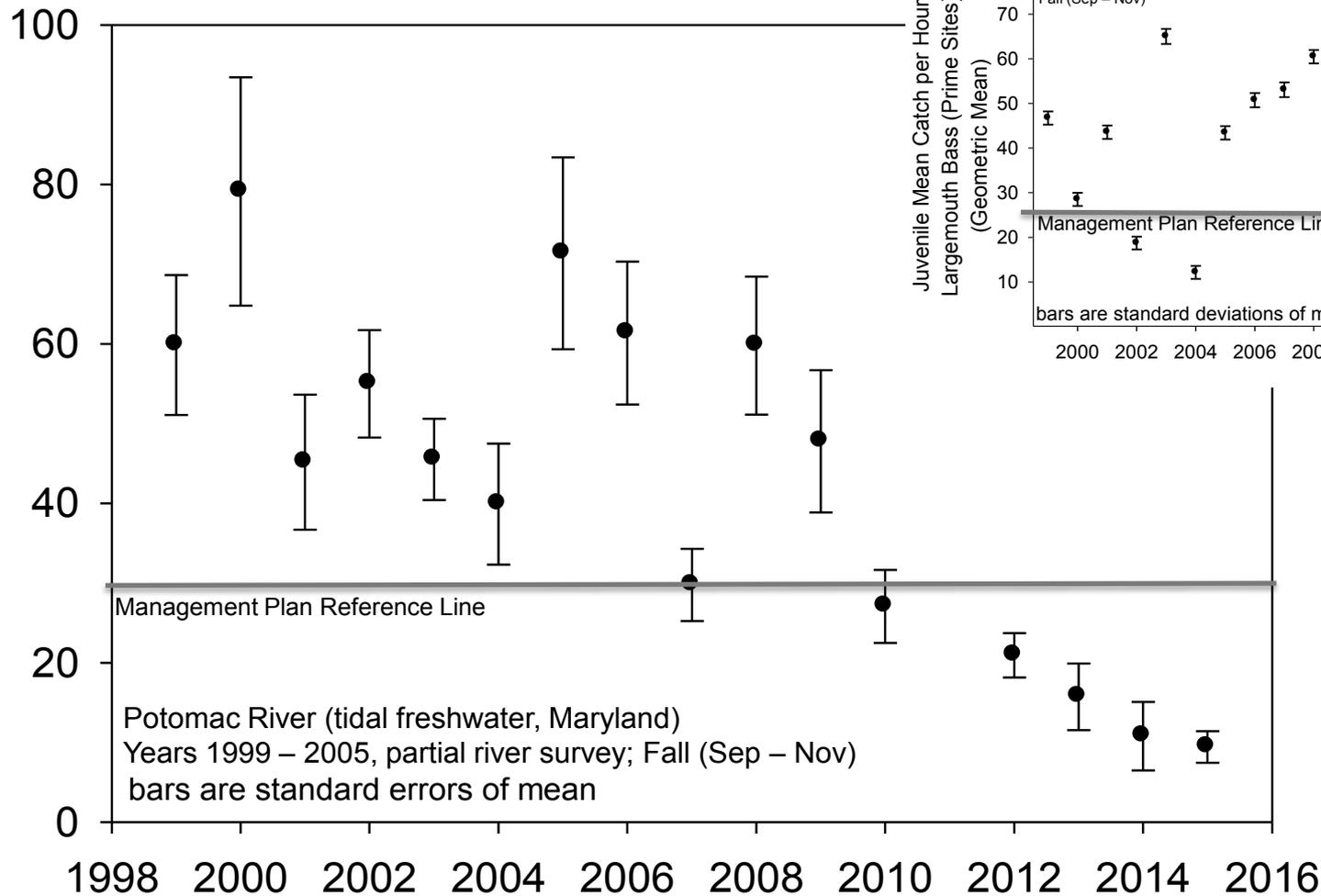
Total Catch of Largemouth Bass



Status of Fisheries



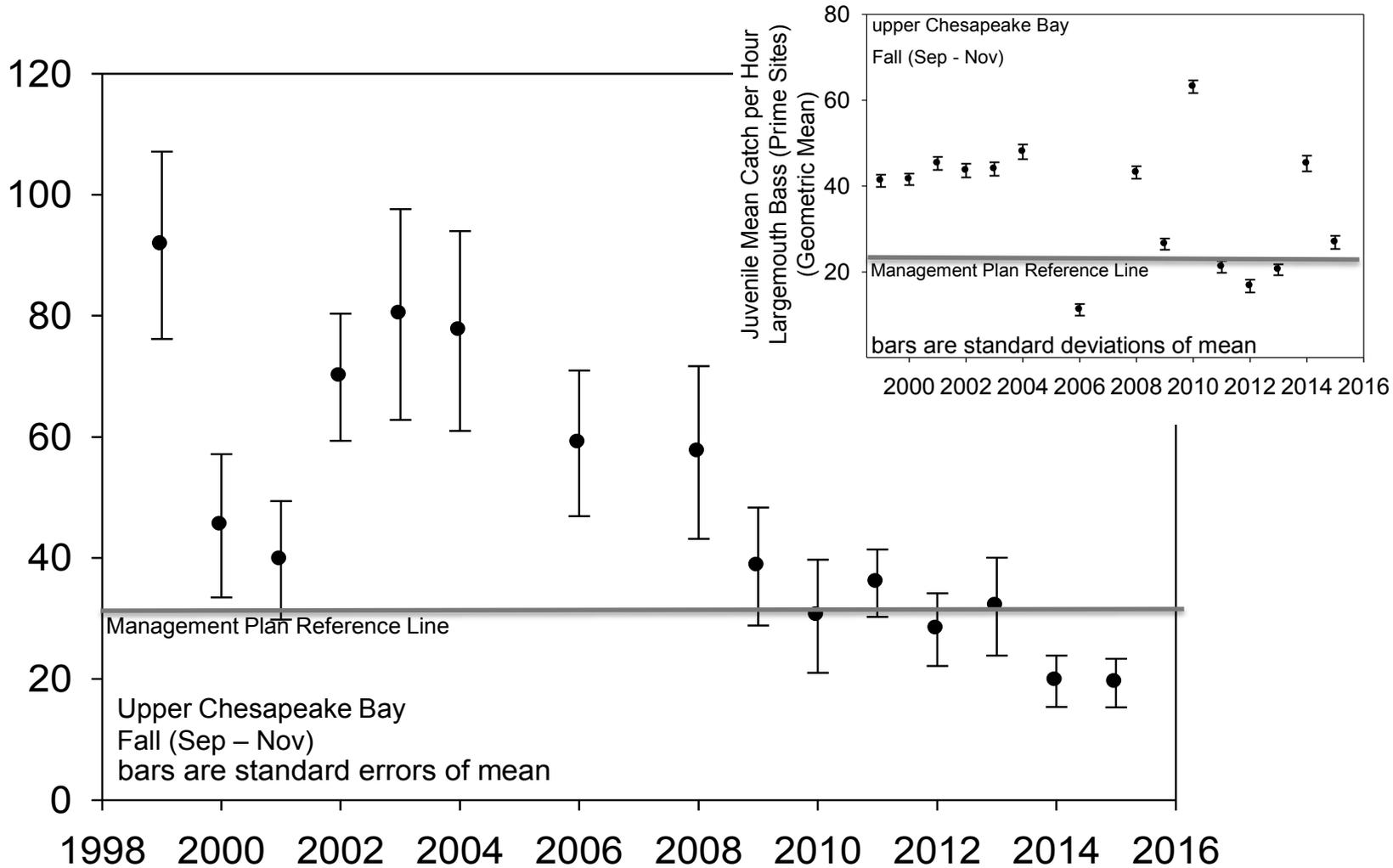
Average Catch per Hour
(Age 1+ Largemouth Bass, Prime Sites)



Status of Fisheries



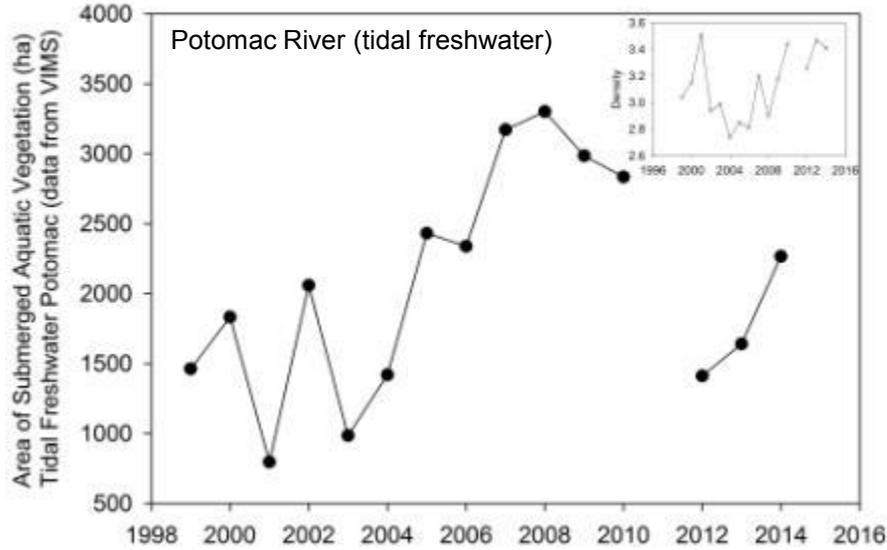
Average Catch per Hour
(Age 1+ Largemouth Bass, Prime Sites)



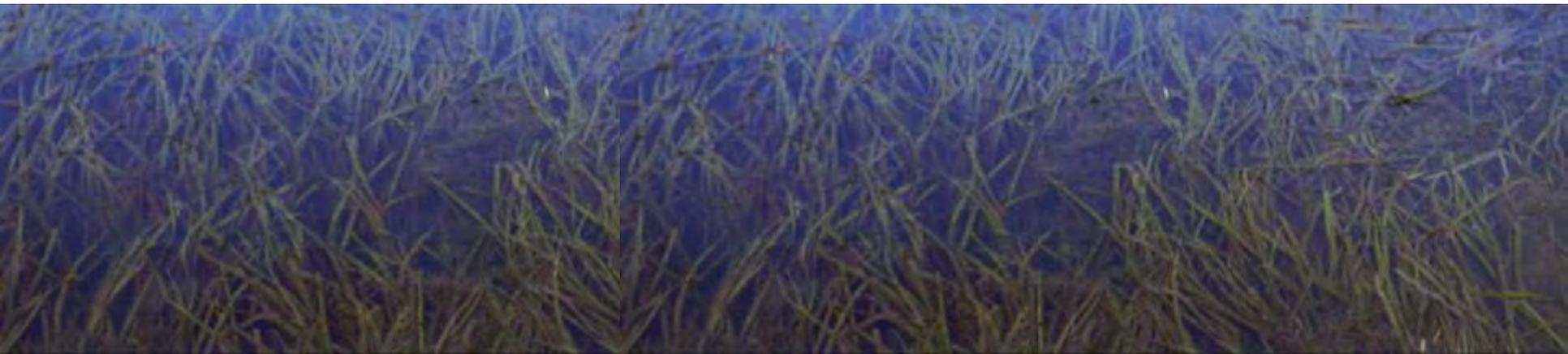
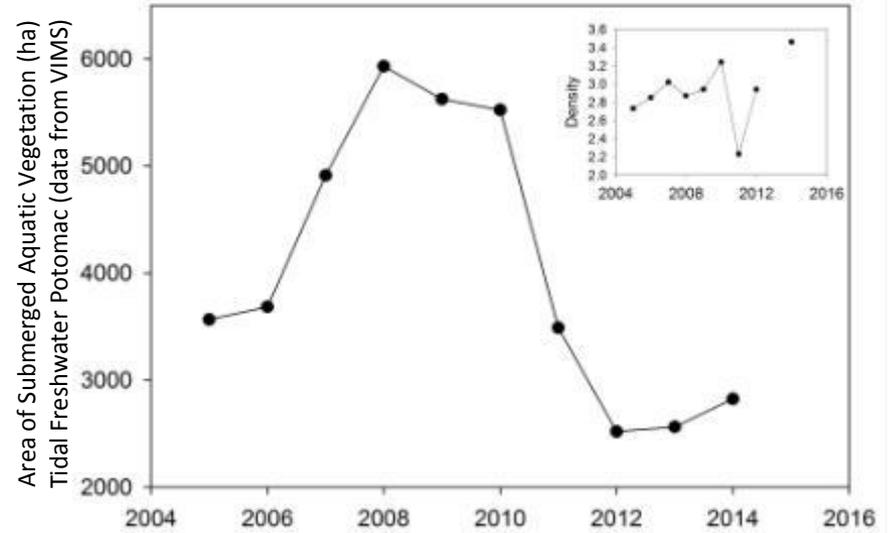
Status of Fisheries



Average SAV Area of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
(At Peak Biomass: Late Summer to Fall)



Submerged Aquatic Vegetation from
Tidal Freshwater upper Bay
(At Peak Biomass: Late Summer to Fall)



Status of Fisheries



- Current Management Actions (Fishery Management Plan)
 - Catch & Return Area Regulation Proposal
 - Permit requirements and enforcement
 - Best Management Practices (permitting)
 - Outreach to all black bass anglers on minimizing handling stress
 - Intensive stocking effort
 - Habitat Enhancement (Potomac)
- **Action Requested:**
 - Feedback on additional actions such as temporary limited or no-possession restriction for tournaments during some months (March, April, July)
 - Additional actions?

Status of Fisheries



- Signed Fishery Management Plan
- *Deliverable: FMP adoption statement*
- Fishery Management Plan 2016 update



Click

2014 Maryland FMP Report (July 2015)

Section 24. Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) in Maryland Tidewater

Stock assessments for largemouth bass in tidal freshwater rivers of Chesapeake Bay watershed are performed each year and were completed for 2014. In general, the status of most tributary populations was unchanged or exhibited improvements from previous assessments. For the heavily fished Potomac River population, however, the current status warranted additional investigation that was performed throughout 2013 and 2014. Statewide regulations are currently being reviewed and additional ones are being considered. In 2015, greater restrictions on handling fish were imposed on tournament anglers via the permit issued to tournament directors. These restrictions included directors ensuring that bags containing black bass did not leak and had water in them when transporting fish. Three large fishing areas within Potomac River and three areas in the upper Chesapeake Bay are being considered as tidal, catch-and-return areas.

Stock assessments and management actions are described in the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Largemouth Bass in Maryland Tidewater (January 2014). The goal of the FMP is to describe objective reference points and provide management targets for populations in tidal freshwater habitats of the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. When necessary, management actions are recommended to improve population structure and ultimately achieve reference points. The plan was developed in concordance with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Tidal Bass Program (TBP) survey of largemouth bass. The methodology within the SOP has undergone external peer-review for at least 3 cases and results are reported annually within the Federal Aid Report (for federal and technical audiences) and Black Bass Annual Review (for general public). The annual reviews are reports posted on the TBP website:

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/bass/index.aspx>.

Largemouth bass have been widely introduced throughout the United States from beyond their initial Mississippi River drainage distribution. As populations thrived, commercial and recreational fisheries developed. Commercial sale of largemouth bass is not legal in Maryland and the recreational fishery includes pass-time fishing, live-release competitive sportfishing, and charter boat guiding. Adults are typically caught and released by anglers throughout the year. Year-class strength may depend on the number of offspring produced during spring, their survivorship throughout summer, and their survivorship during winter. In Maryland, the number of juveniles collected during fall is usually a good indicator of year-class strength. The oldest documented largemouth bass in Maryland tidal water of the Chesapeake Bay watershed was 13 years old; however, largemouth bass are known to reach 22 years so older individuals in the watershed are likely to exist.

- *Deliverable: tentative work plan 2016*

Discussion: Middle River



- Over 200,000 fish dead
- No dedicated fund to purchase bass for restocking
- Re-prioritized funding
 - purchased bass as 2", 4", or 6" bass. Raise in hatchery or direct stock?
 - 2" bass, ~ 6000 bass and grow out to at least 4"
 - 4" bass, ~ 4400 bass and grow out 6" or stock directly
 - 6" bass, ~ 1000 bass and stock directly
 - **Action Requested: decision on strategy?**



Discussion: Possum Point



- *Deliverable: Letter from the Department*
- Steps forward with possum point coal ash ponds
 - collaboration between MD and VA permitting agencies
 - support Potomac River Fishery Commission in their efforts to manage and assess discharge, where possible



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Discussion: Broad Creek



Discussion: Broad Creek



Stakeholders expressed concerns about largemouth bass habitat quality in Broad Creek.

- Pollution could negatively affect the area of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).
- Pollution could have caused the substantial increase in filamentous green algae in the last 3 years.
- Pollution may help explain a decline in relative abundance of largemouth bass.

Discussion: Broad Creek



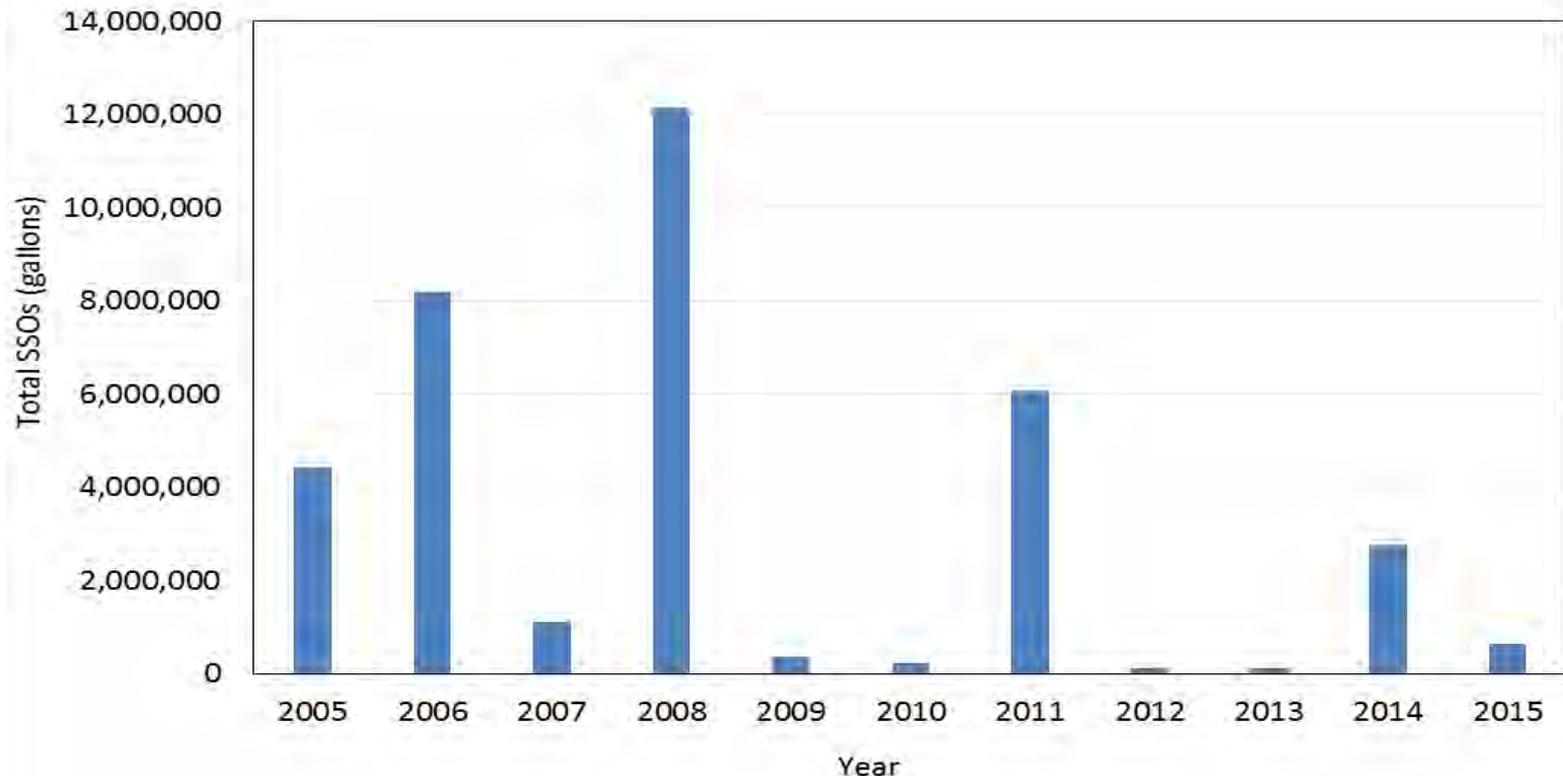
Possible Problem: sanitary sewer overflows from Broad Creek Pumping Station

- Capacity is not sufficient to preclude sanitary sewer overflows in wet weather.
- Current Capacity is 38.3 million gallons/day.
- Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission believes increasing capacity to 55.0 million gallons/day will address the problems.

An upgrade is planned for the pumping station

- Currently, approval of the plan is required from National Parks Service.
- Once approval is granted, construction is projected to take 30 months.

Discussion: Broad Creek

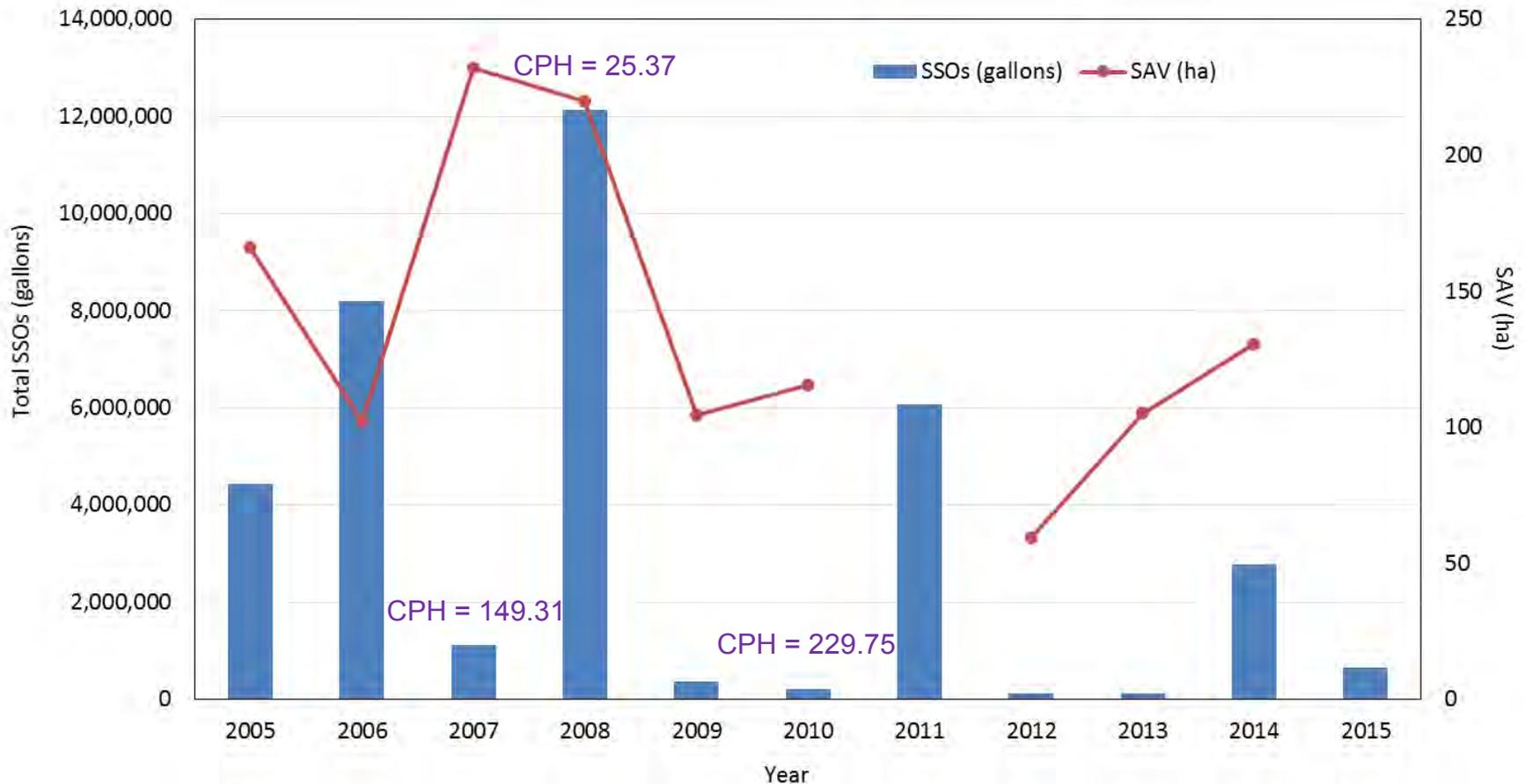


Total volume of sanitary sewer overflows in the Broad Creek watershed, 2005-2015.

Data provided by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Upgrades made in 2009.

Discussion: Broad Creek



Total volume of sanitary sewer overflows and observed SAV (ha) in the Broad Creek watershed, 2005-2015.

SAV data provided by Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Data was not provided for 2011 and 2015.

Discussion: Broad Creek



Fines Collected by MDE for SSOs in the Broad Creek watershed, 1/1/2013 – 5/31/2014.

Facility	Date Discovered	Quantity in Gallons (Estimated)	Penalty Collected
WSSC	1/16/2013	2,064	\$750
WSSC	1/23/2013	103	\$750
WSSC	3/7/2013	62	\$125
WSSC	3/9/2013	1,848	\$750
WSSC	3/15/2013	4,459	\$0
WSSC	3/26/2013	625	\$750
WSSC	4/6/2013	10	\$125
WSSC	4/18/2013	10	\$125
WSSC	5/17/2013	40	\$125
WSSC	6/16/2013	612	\$750
WSSC	6/23/2013	108	\$750
WSSC	10/11/2013	105,000	\$10,000
WSSC	12/11/2013	9	\$125
WSSC	12/16/2013	374	\$750
WSSC	1/31/2014	2,520	\$1,250
WSSC	2/4/2014	266	\$125
WSSC	2/10/2014	448	\$750
WSSC	3/31/2014	339	\$750
WSSC	4/21/2014	9,390	\$1,250
WSSC	4/30/2014	1,200,000	\$15,000
WSSC	5/16/2014	655,000	\$10,000
WSSC	5/16/2014	15	\$125

Discussion: Broad Creek



When stakeholders request help from Fisheries Service (FS):

- FS can research and provide data
- FS can work with other resource agencies to assess and report on interjurisdictional efforts
- FS can contact MD DNR's Integrated Policy & Review
 - Coordinates with permitting agencies
 - Conducts research and data collection
- Outcomes from FS have included: agency drafted letters, reports to stakeholders, and helping to elevate problems to the level of Secretary and Governor
- **Action requested: approval of strategy**

Discussion: Redistribution



- *Deliverable: summary minutes from meeting*
- *Deliverable: draft Policy*
- “MD DNR's Fisheries Service will work in partnership with organizations to redistribute some fish when requested, as long as the action is biologically necessary and the organization offsets Fisheries Service costs by providing volunteers and donations, with the latter exempted for organizations that serve individuals with physical or mental disabilities and veterans with service-connected disabilities.”
- **Action requested:** comments to policy

Discussion: Landing Fish



- Best management practices for landing fish?
 - Use of nets
 - Use of wet gloves
 - Holding fish, supporting backs
 - Others?



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- **Action Requested: Decision to add some or all to Fishing Guide/Department Documents**

Discussion: Additional



- Notes
- Notes