Director Preseason Webinar

Steve Weimar

Tx Director of Chester County Bass Masters and
Black Bass Advisory Subcommittee member

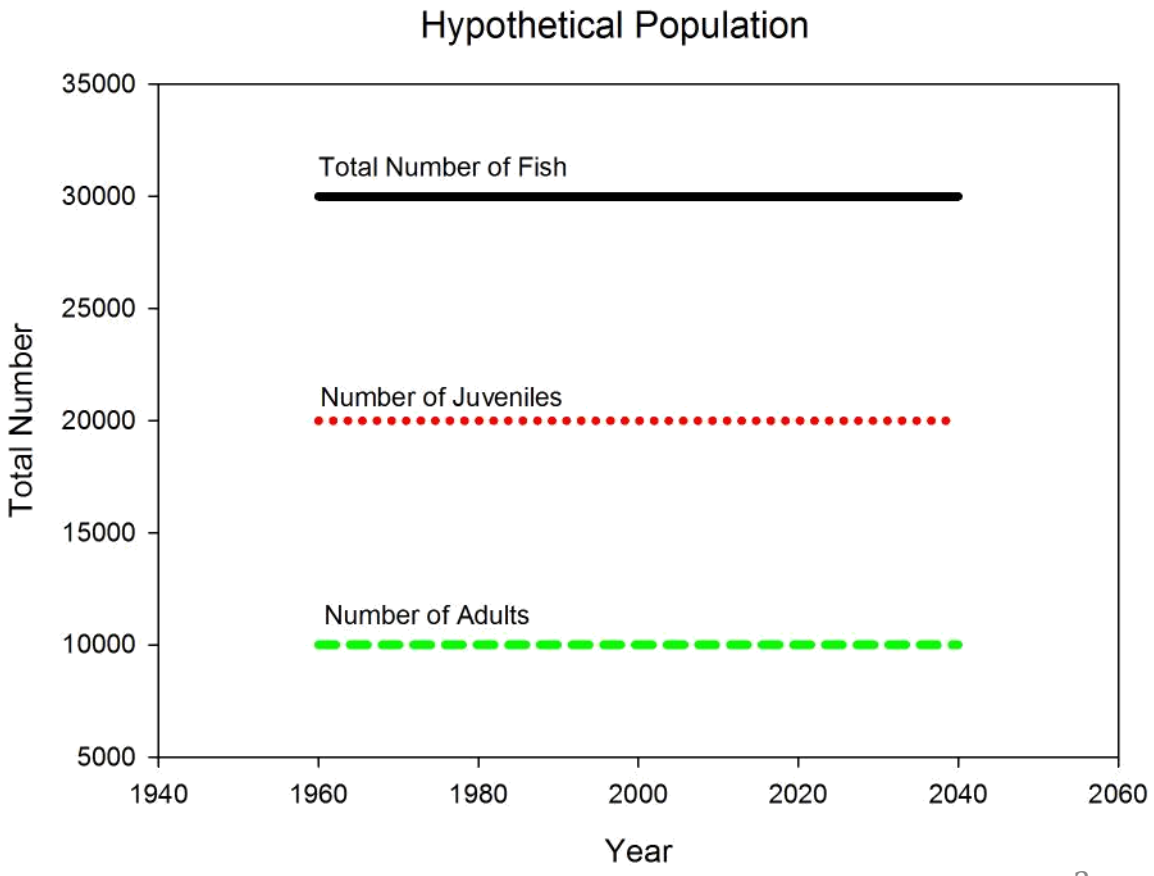
Joe Love

Tidal Bass Program Manager
for Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Status

Sustainable Bass Fishing

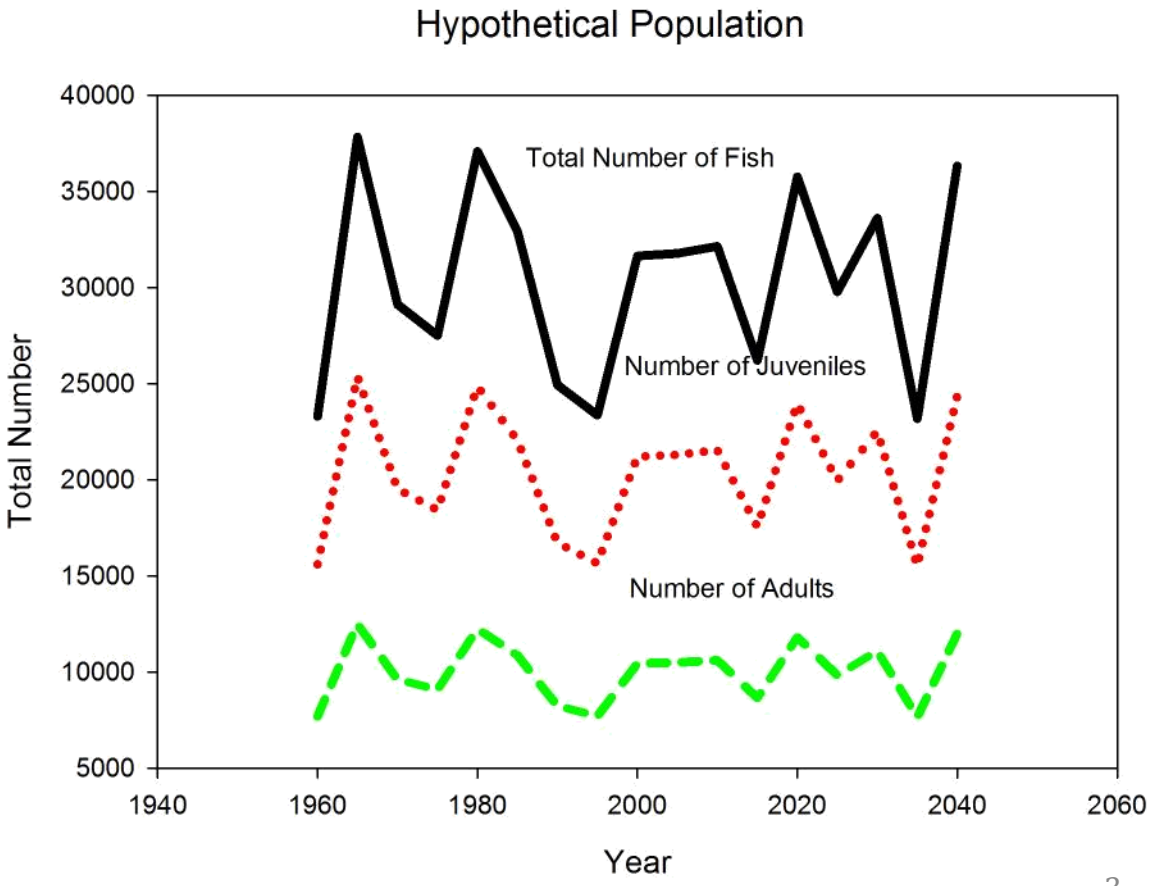
- The health of a fishery can be thought of as its sustainability
- Fisheries include people and fish populations



Status

Bass Populations Fluctuate

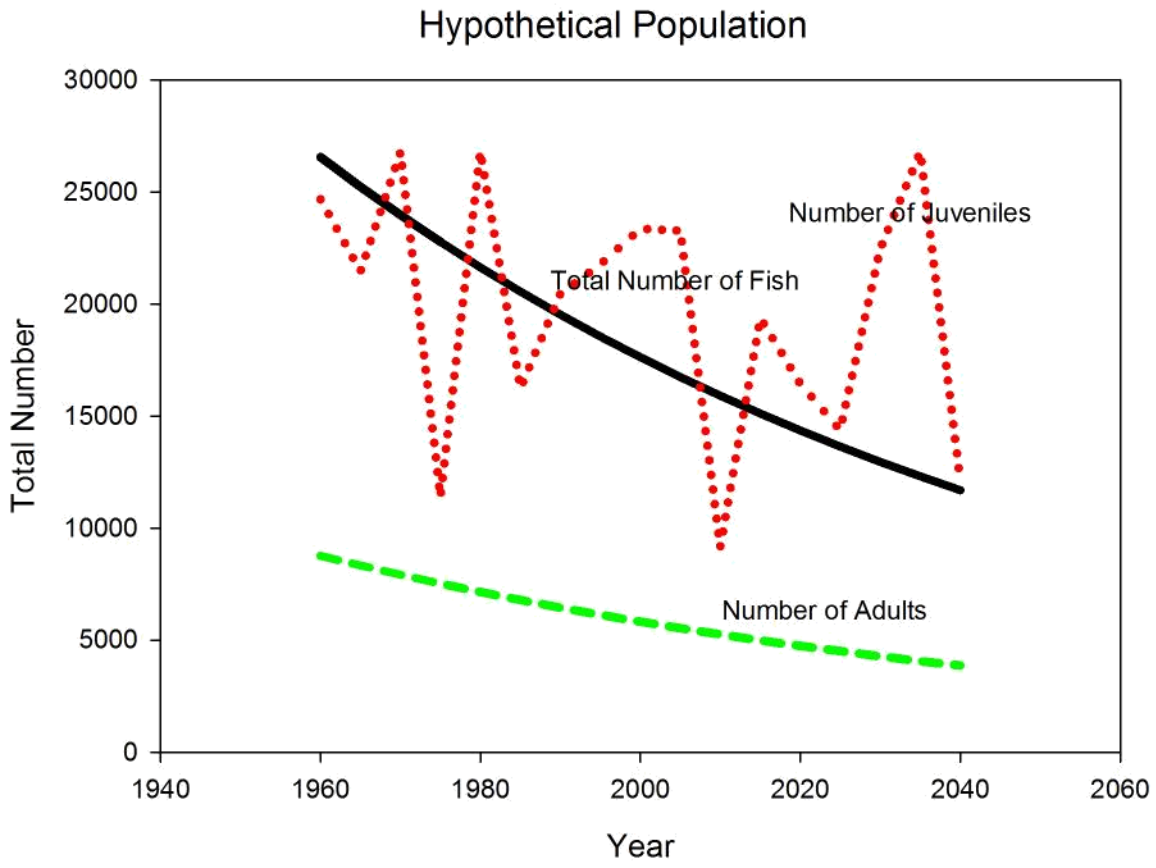
- Agencies and public monitor fisheries to diagnose health of fishery
- Number of fish most common monitoring



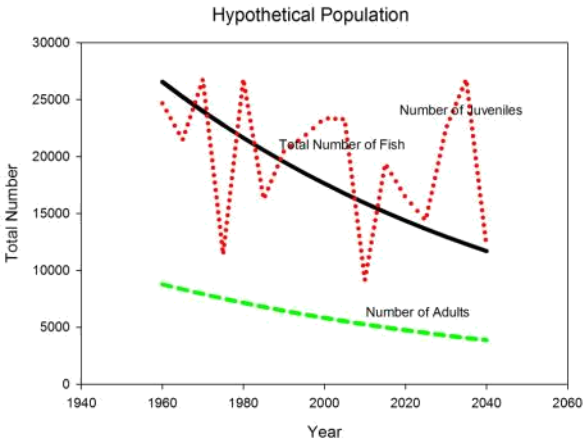
Status

Bass Populations Fluctuate

- Public Goal: avoid progressive decline in catch
- Different age classes of bass respond differently to environmental factors



Status



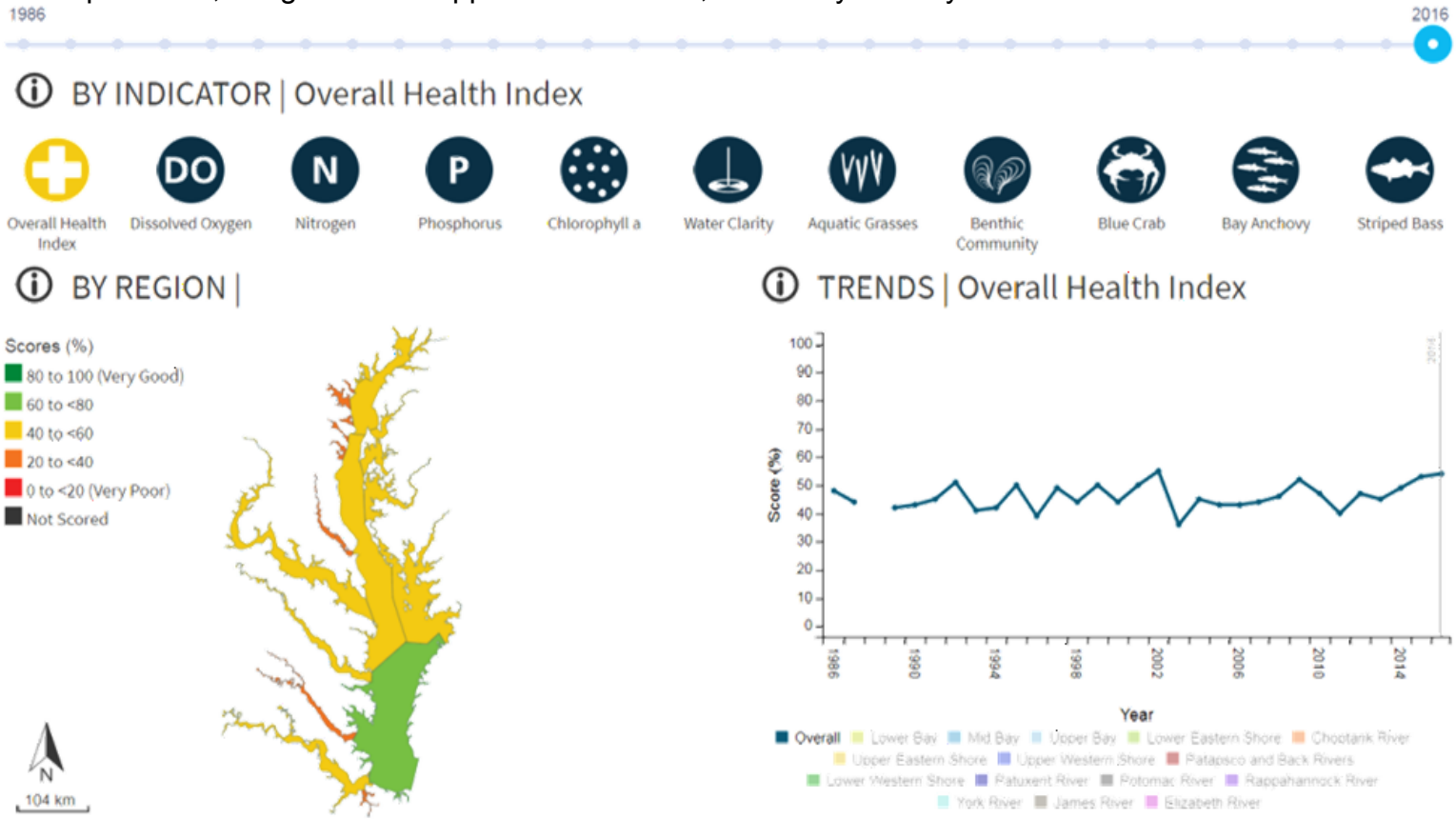


- Natural Mortality (30.3% Total Annual)
  - Old Age
  - Water Quality
  - Habitat Structure
  - Predation
  - Disease
- Fishing Mortality
  - Catch&Release (11.8%)
  - Harvest (1.4%)

Status

- Natural Mortality (30.3% Total Annual)
  - Water Quality, Habitat Structure

Ecoreport Card, Integrated and Application Network, University of Maryland Center of Environmental Science



Status

- Natural Mortality (30.3% Total Annual)
  - Predation, Disease
  - Of 912 largemouth bass caught in fall 2017 during survey, 13 (1.4%) had signs of injury or disease.
  - Invasive Species Management
    - Blue Catfish
      - 506,317 pounds harvested by commercial watermen
    - Northern Snakehead
      - 6,714 pounds harvested by commercial watermen



Extreme Disease found for one individual of largemouth bass collected in 2015 in Northeast River. While such cases are exceptionally rare, each year, staff inspect bass for disease or injury during the Tidal Bass Survey.

Status

- Fishing Mortality
  - Catch & Release (11.8%)
  - Harvest (1.4%)



Catch & Release Fishing constitutes the vast majority of fishing for black bass in Maryland.

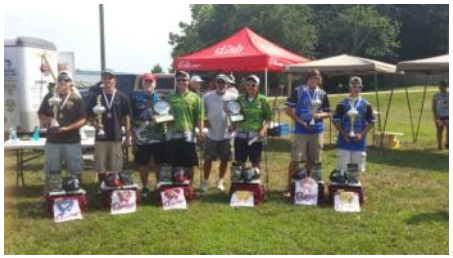


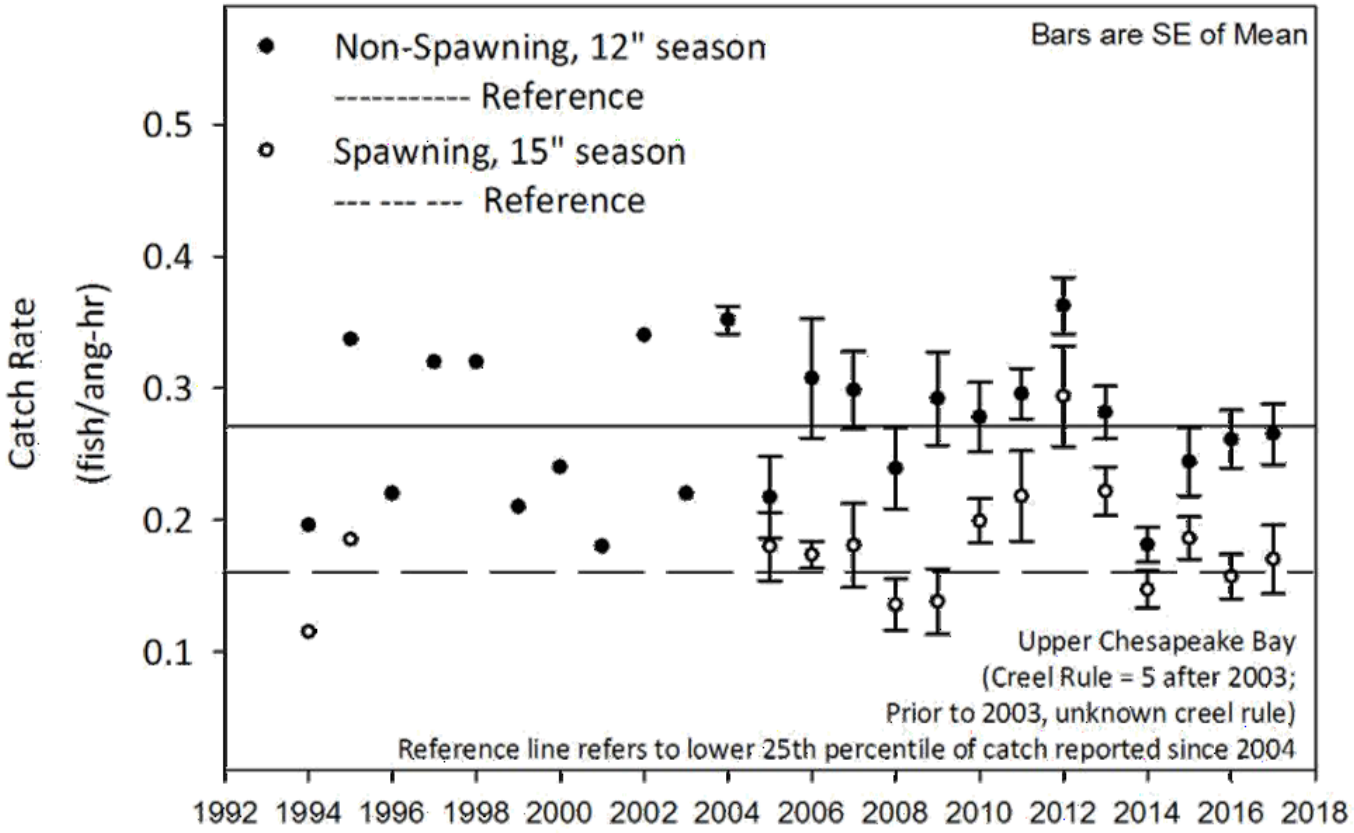
Harvest while far less common, remains an important part of the fishery.

Status









Tidal Bass Survey Assessment: Total catch of post-juveniles in the upper Chesapeake Bay was greater than in the previous eight years. We counted an average number of juveniles, relative to past surveys.

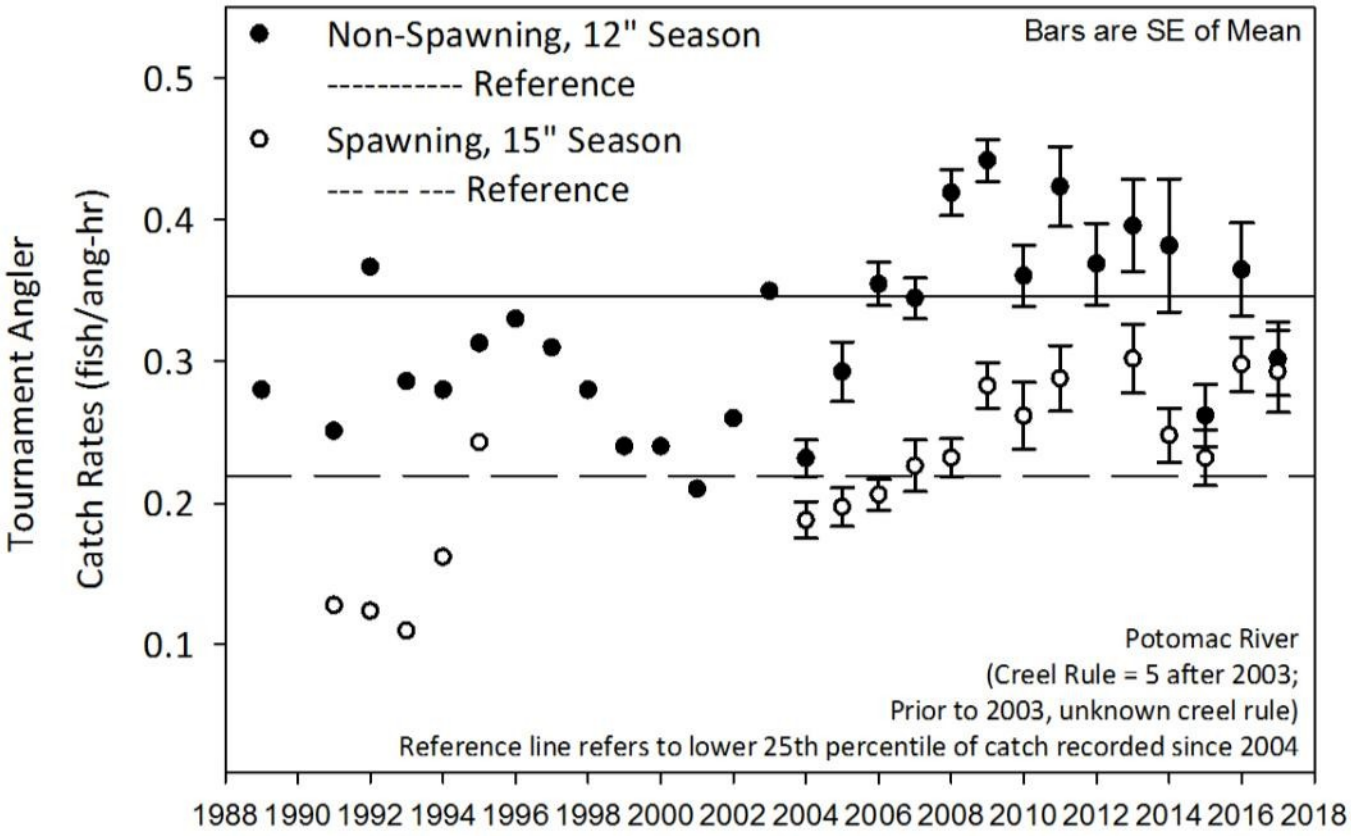
Data from Maryland Department of Natural Resources Tidal Bass Program

Status





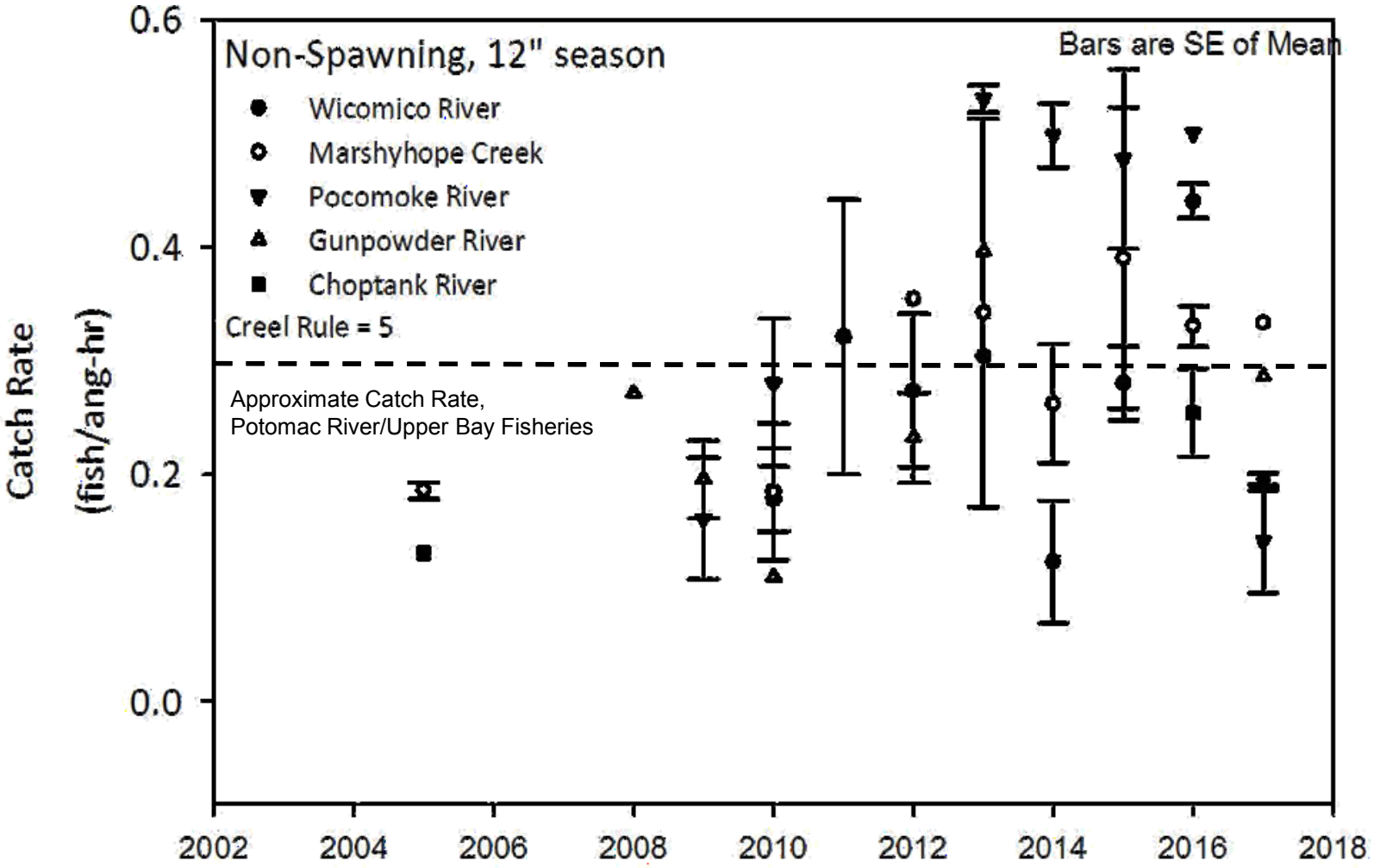




Tidal Bass Survey Assessment: While more post-juveniles were caught than prior years, catch still remains lower than that in the latter 2000's. We counted an above average number of juveniles, relative to past surveys.

Data from Maryland Department of Natural Resources Tidal Bass Program

Status



Data from Maryland Department of Natural Resources Tidal Bass Program

Status

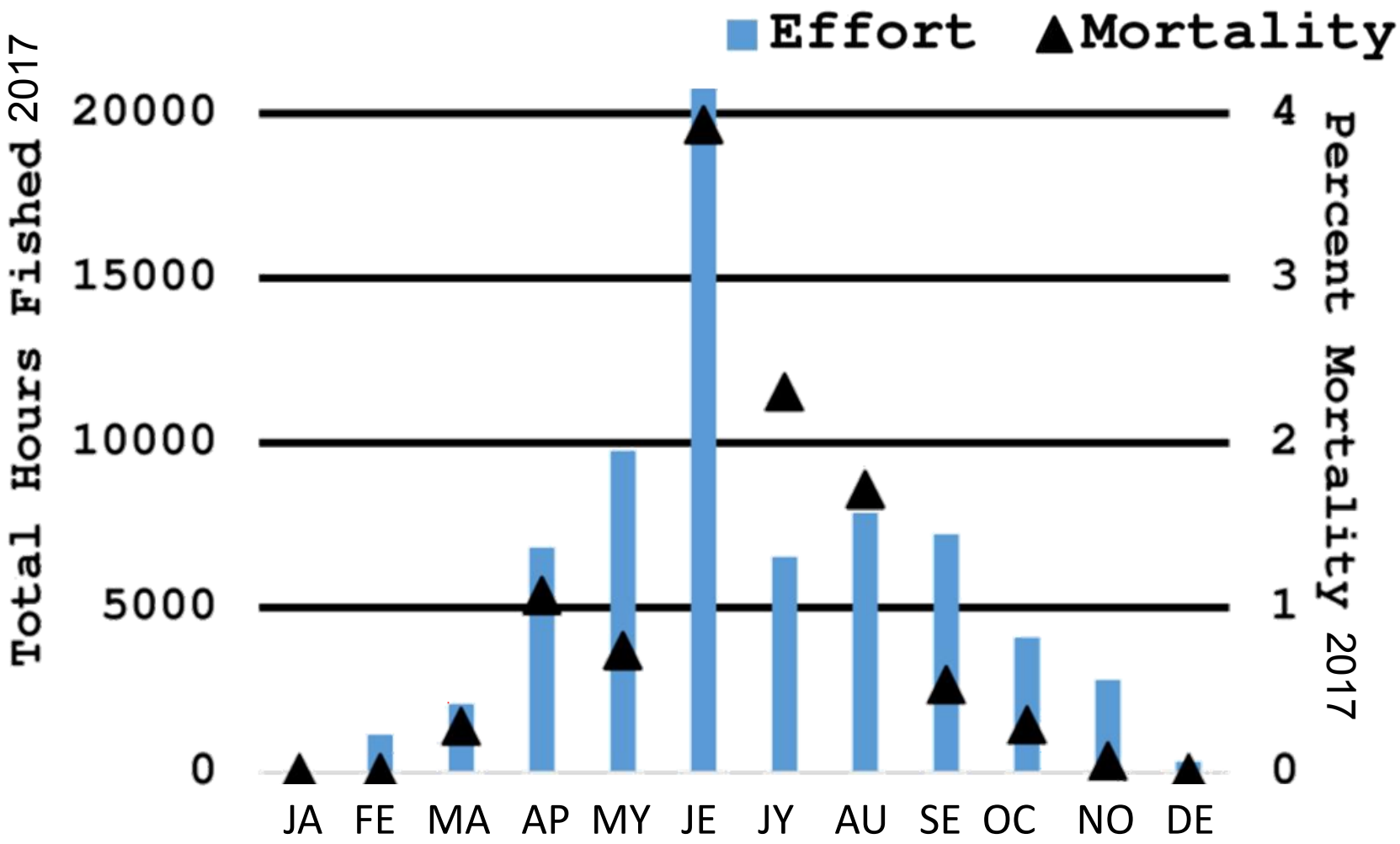
Highest Average Catch Rates of 2017

Location	Hours to catch a keeper*
Lake Habeeb	2.1 hrs
Conowingo Reservoir	2.9 hrs
Tidal Potomac River	3.2 hrs
Marshyhope Creek	3.4 hrs
Pocomoke River	3.4 hrs

*non-spawning season for standard 5-fish creel tournament

Data from Maryland Department of Natural Resources Tidal Bass Program

Status



Data from Maryland Department of Natural Resources Tidal Bass Program

BBAS Agenda

- Permit Guidelines
- Springtime Restrictions
- Habitat Concerns: haul seining; Conowingo; land use
  - Nick Kuttner
- Enforcement
- Education
- Conservation Award
  - Bass Class

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Mark Belton, Secretary
Joanne Throwe, Deputy Secretary

Meeting of the Black Bass Advisory Subcommittee
April 5, 2018
Tawes State Office Building
C-1 Conference Room
Annapolis, MD 21401
6:00 – 8:30 PM

Tentative Agenda

6:00 pm	Opening Remarks – Dennis Fleming (Chair)
TBD	Stockpiling at weigh-in locations following tournaments
TBD	Objectives that define a study of movement of largemouth bass between deep and shallow water areas
TBD	Status of tidewater bass fisheries
TBD	Research department is doing to address subcommittee's concerns
8:20 pm	Agenda Topics for Next Meeting and Public Comments** – Chair
8:30 pm	Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Light refreshments (sandwiches, drinks) will be served. We're sorry, but travel funds cannot be reimbursed.

*As time allows
**Public comments are recorded the last 10 minutes of every meeting. For public topics that are not on the agenda, the Chair will use a public sign-up list in deciding how to allocate the available time on the agenda to the number of people who want to speak. For topics on the agenda, the Chair will try to provide an opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic.

DRAFT

For More Information on the subcommittee visit their website.

Permits

- In 2016 BBAS considered and recommended a statewide regulation limiting anglers to keep only one fish >15” between June and February, with tournaments able to get an exemption if they follow special conditions. The Sport Fish Advisory Committee tabled this recommendation, asking for more information and clarity from BBAS. MD DNR decided to not pursue this further at this time.

Permits

- Tournaments still are subject to the fishable slot (June 15 – October 31, tidal Potomac River, tidal Susquehanna, North East, Elk) but may get an exemption by running under Special Conditions:
  - No piercing cull clips
  - Big bass (5 lbs +) require extra care: extra water when transporting, prioritized for transfer into tanks with aerated/oxygenated water, and have extra time in recovery.
  - Requirement to carry each 5 + pounder in an individual bag was removed
  - Bass in bags without aeration no more than 2 minutes between re-vitalizing stations
  - Tanks for fish to recuperate before release
  - Approved release sites
  - Participants must have a participant permit
  - Txs may develop additional or alternate special conditions with the Department

Permits

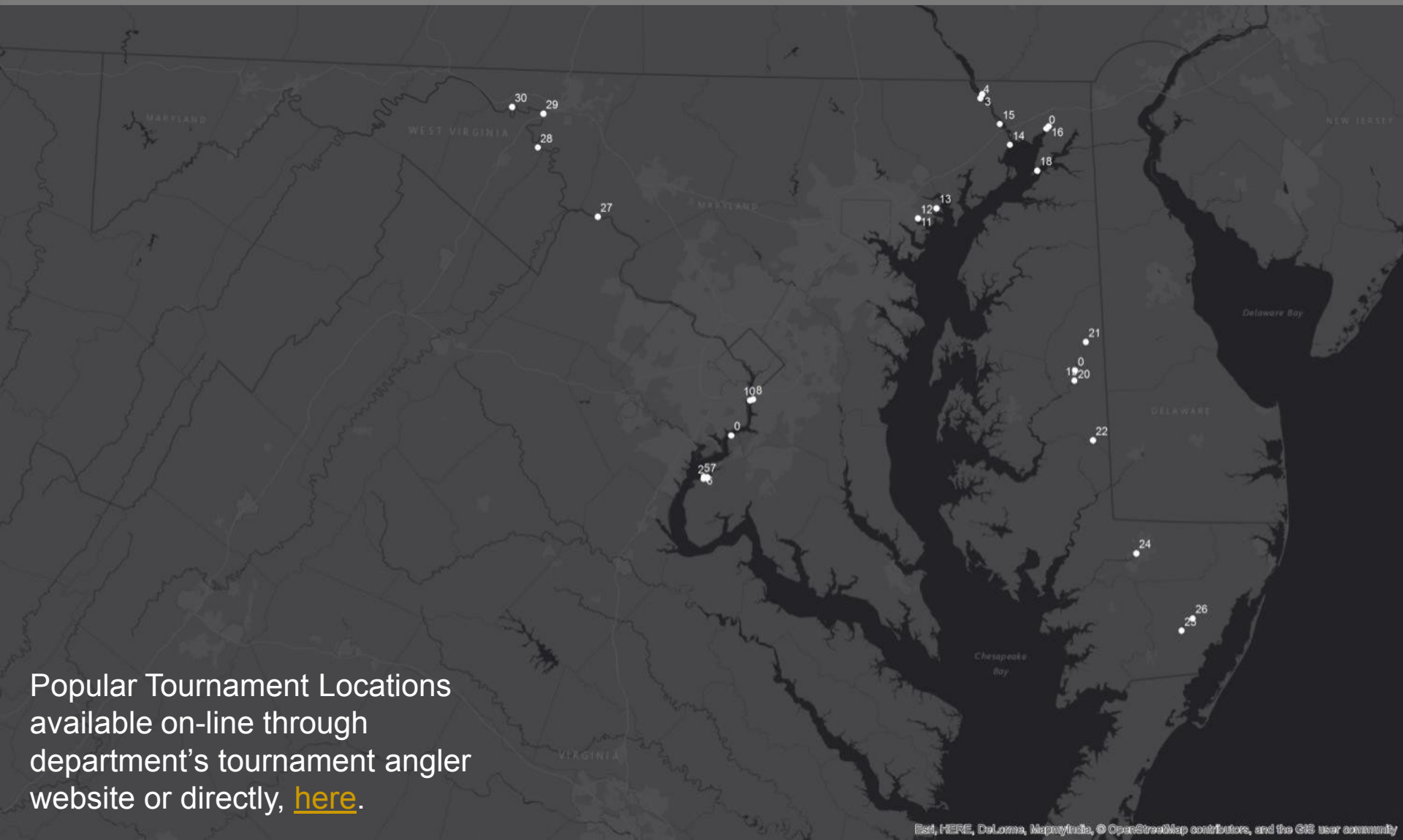
- Applications due 2 weeks prior to tournament
  - Contact Joseph Love for speedier requests
  - Online schedule is available. Please review for potential conflicts: http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/fish/tournament/displayall.asp

- Reports due 1 month after tournament: # fish (live and dead), # anglers, & # number of hours

Elements of Well Run Txs

- Fish Care:
  - Well-functioning livewells
  - Plenty of water in weigh bags; holding tanks
  - Quick processing: lots of help, mesh bags, preparation
  - Fish recuperation: oxygenated recovery tanks
  - Release into good locations
- Weigh Procedures:
  - Consistent weighing procedures
- Unloading and Loading Boats:
  - Help at the ramp for single boaters

Tournament Locations



Popular Tournament Locations available on-line through department's tournament angler website or directly, here.

Tx Location Discussion

- The most used tournament locations by far are Smallwood and Anchor.
- Suggested Improvements for Weigh-in Locations?
- How to increase use of other locations?

Conservation Award

Maryland.gov Phone Directory State Agencies Online Services Translate

MARYLAND.gov DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Enter search term

FISHING REPORTS | RECREATIONAL | COMMERCIAL | MANAGEMENT | PROGRAMS | MAPS

Fisheries

- Fisheries Home Page
- Public Notices
- Fisheries Regulations
- Fishing Licenses
- Join Our Mailing List

More Resources

- Tide Finder
- Fish Facts
- Trout Stocking
- Volunteer Angler Survey
- Invasive Species
- Youth Fishing
- Charter Boats & Guides
- Free Fishing
- State Records
- River Levels
- Espanol/Spanish Language
- Fisheries Forms
- Non-Fishing Permits

Tidal Bass Links

- Tidal Bass Home
- Black Bass Guides
- Tournaments
- Customer Resources

Director's Black Bass Conservation Awards

PURPOSE

The Director of Fishing and Boating Services will annually reward efforts to protect black bass resources by supporting tournament directors and by recognizing youth who become more knowledgeable in black bass conservation and watercraft safety, which preserve the sport for years to come.

ELIGIBILITY

The award(s) is available each year, depending on funding, for a tournament with:

1. a director or co-director applicant who is a resident of Maryland;
2. tournament participants who have a Maryland fishing license, if required by law;
3. at most 49 boats; and
4. at least 50% of angler participants who are between 16 and 25 years old, ages inclusive.

Please Review Details on the Application Process

CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed based on three criteria.

1. Director or co-director applicant should identify at least one best management practice when obtaining a permit for the tournament from Fishing and Boating Services.
2. All tournament participants should complete Fishing and Boating Services' online Bass Class, which includes boater safety videos and conservation related videos starring state and national leaders in bass conservation.
3. The director or co-director applicant should write a brief (500 words or less) narrative that describes the supply needs of the tournament and the reason for their need. Examples of supply needs could include: a waiver of the department's costs for re-distributing fish; on-board hand scales or rulers for on-the-water weigh-ins; non-piercing cull clips; barbless tackle for tournament participants; thermometers for live wells; life jackets; aerators; ice; mesh bags or bag systems for weighing bass; a

The Bass Class

Thank you for participating in this class and for promoting the sport of bass fishing for now and generations to come. Please send feedback on this class to customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov.

* Required

Email address *

Your email



What is your first and last name? *

Enter your name exactly as you'd like it to appear on your certificate.

Conservation Award

- Organizer or co-organizer should electronically submit application by May 1, 2018 to joseph.love@maryland.gov or branson.williams@maryland.gov.
- Organizer or co-organizer will be notified of their standing by June 1, 2018.
- Supply purchases will be made by the department on behalf of the organizer or co-organizer beginning July 1, 2018.

Other Concerns

- Other issues of concern to those running black bass tournaments?