

Update on Wetlands Conservation



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Landscape Conservation Design – Defined

A Process: a multi-partner collaborative planning process that defines **conservation goals**, establishes **conservation targets and objectives**, and describes the desired landscape conditions to support conservation targets at objective levels.

A Product: a science-based, spatially-explicit product that designates priority areas and estimates the amount of the conservation action necessary to attain specified conservation objectives (i.e., the “what” and “where”).

Landscape Conservation Design – Basic Elements



Why a Coastal Wetland Landscape Conservation Design?

- Coastal wetlands provide desirable ecological functions and are valued by people
- The conservation community invest considerably in coastal wetland conservation (and increasing via GLRI)
- Many programs study, monitor, restore, enhance, and protect coastal wetlands but are often “fragmented” from each other
- Shared priorities exist, but a set of common goals or vision of the desired landscape that would attain goals is lacking
- There are opportunities to leverage resources toward common coastal wetland priorities

Why a Coastal Wetland Landscape Conservation Design?

It assists in four ways:

- Identifies the coastal wetland conservation community—who are the key organizations and people?
- Articulates a shared vision—the desired amount, configuration, and quality of coastal wetlands needed to attain goals for coastal functions and values, ensuring that the vision is resilient to predicted future changes and threats
- Targets conservation activities to the “highest” priority areas
- Provides decision support to critically evaluate proposal coastal wetland conservation projects

Conservation Targets Expert Panels

- Purpose: to identify **quantifiable** and **justifiable** conservation targets for critical wetland functions and values for our starting geography, but ultimately scalable throughout the Great Lakes basin

Conservation Targets Expert Panels

Functions

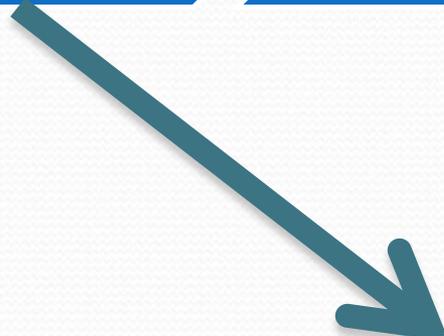
- Sue Elston (USEPA)
- Barb Avers (MDNR)
- Robb MacLeod (DU)
- Scudder Mackey (ODNR)
- Heather Shaw (Saginaw Chippewa)
- Katie Kahl (TNC)
- Doug Pearsall (TNC)
- Michelle Vanderhaar (Co-Chair)
- Mark Davis (Co-Chair)

Values

- Erika Washburn (LSNERR)
- Erik Nordman (GVSU)
- Heather Triezenberg (MSU)
- Katie Kahl (TNC)
- Doug Pearsall (TNC)
- Lama BouFajrledin (Co-Chair)
- Mark Davis (Co-Chair)

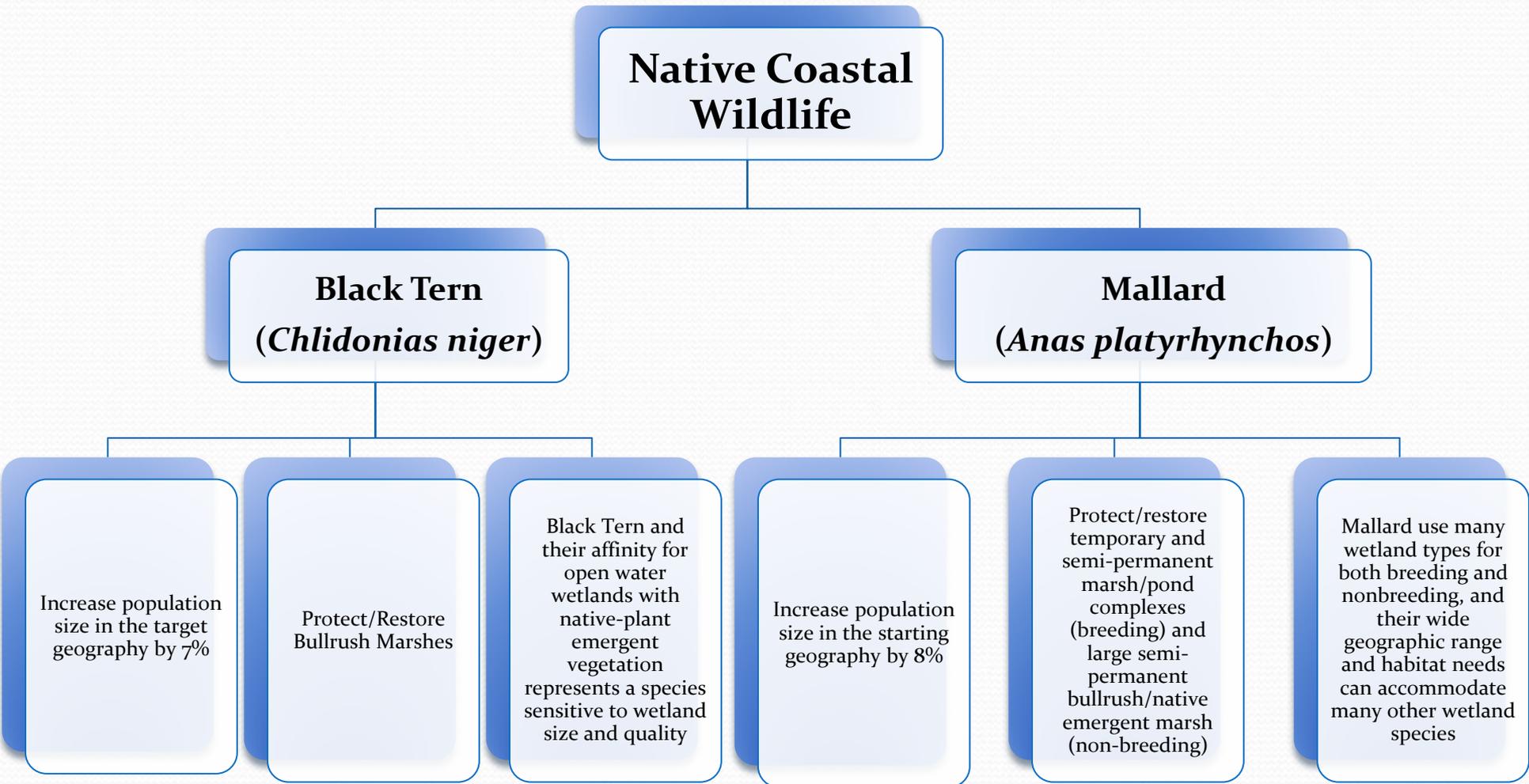
Conservation Target Setting Process

Critical Wetland Functions



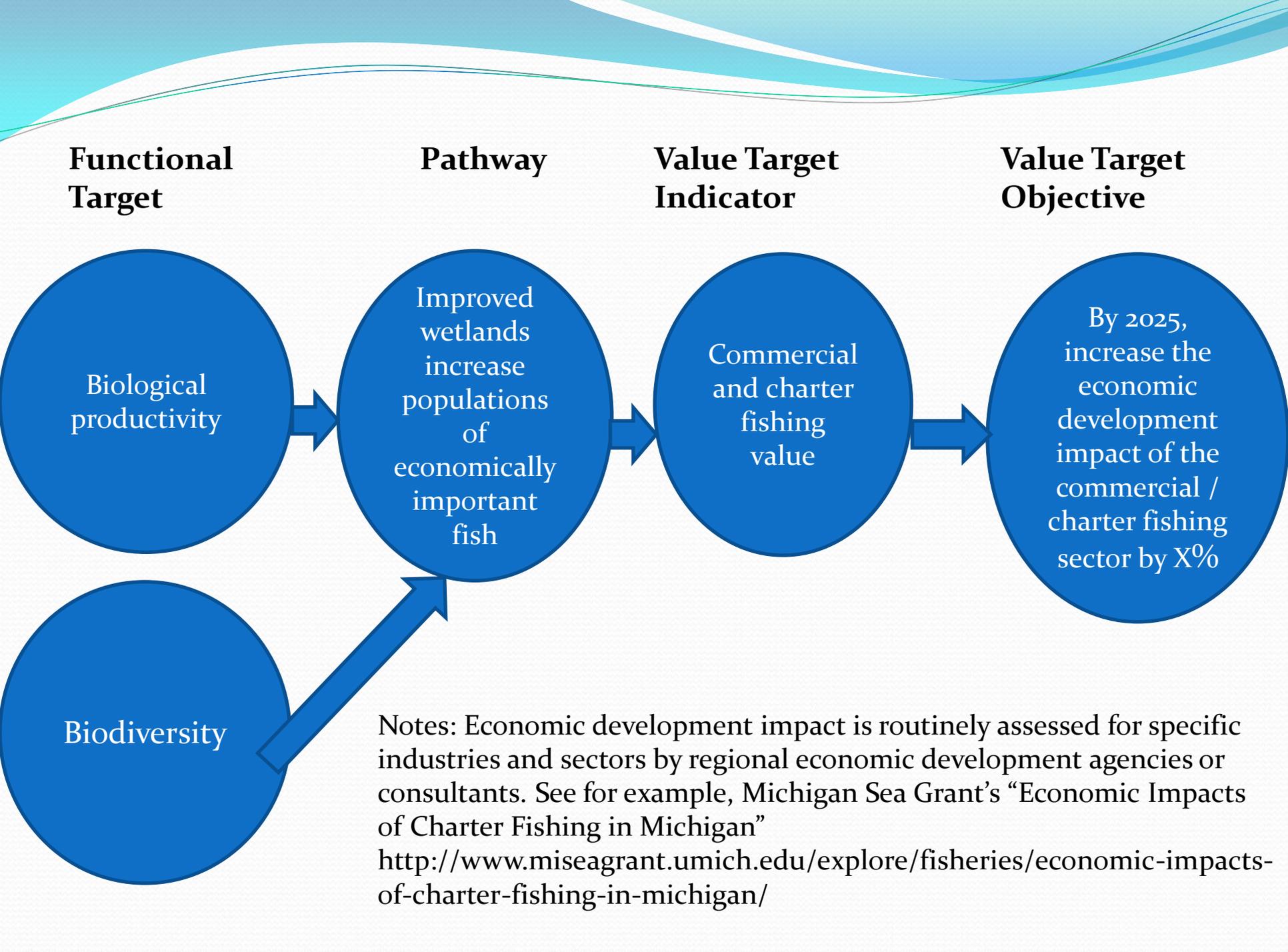
Critical Wetland Values

Critical Wetland Functions → Target Outputs Example



Target Categories

- Key Native Migratory Fish (7 indicators)
- Key Native Wetland Fish (9 indicators)
- Key Native Coastal Wildlife (10 Indicators)
- Key Invasive Plant Species (6 indicators)
- Key Native Plant Species (3 indicators)
- Biological Integrity (7 indicators)
- Landscape Integrity (7 indicators)
- Water Quality (4 indicators)
- Shoreline Buffering (2 indicators)



Functional Target

Pathway

Value Target Indicator

Value Target Objective

Biological productivity

Improved wetlands increase populations of economically important fish

Commercial and charter fishing value

By 2025, increase the economic development impact of the commercial / charter fishing sector by X%

Biodiversity

Notes: Economic development impact is routinely assessed for specific industries and sectors by regional economic development agencies or consultants. See for example, Michigan Sea Grant's "Economic Impacts of Charter Fishing in Michigan"
<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/explore/fisheries/economic-impacts-of-charter-fishing-in-michigan/>

Landscape Next Steps

- Fine tuning indicators, metrics, and justification
Draft Report December 2015
- Data assessment, acquisition, and analysis
Fall 2015
- Socializing targets with collaborative conservation community
Workshops – Spring 2016

Resilient Land and Waters Initiatives



FACT SHEET: Building community resilience by strengthening America's natural resources and supporting green infrastructure

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 8, 2014

Contact: press@ceq.eop.gov

FACT SHEET: Building community resilience by strengthening America's natural resources and supporting green infrastructure

President Obama has made it clear that we have a moral obligation to our children and future generations to leave behind a planet that is not polluted and damaged. That is why, as part of his effort to combat climate change, the President launched a Climate Action Plan last year to cut carbon pollution, prepare communities for the impacts of climate change, and lead international efforts to address this global challenge.

The Climate Action Plan recognizes that even as we act to curb the carbon pollution that is driving climate change, we must also improve our ability to prepare for the climate impacts we are already seeing across the country. States, cities, and communities depend on America's bountiful natural resources, and climate change is putting many of these vital resources at risk. By investing in smart strategies for conserving and restoring our lands and waters, we can help make communities more resilient to climate impacts while slowing the harmful effects of carbon pollution. Similarly, investments in green infrastructure can help communities better prepare for the impacts of climate change while also improving water quality and community health.



Questions?

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