

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
Meeting Summary**

January 23, 2017 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/24783/>

Call Participants:

Ann Jennings	Dave Goshorn	Marty Gary
Bob Beal	Emilie Franke	Nancy Butowski
Bruce Vogt	Jake Reilly	Peyton Robertson
Chris Moore	Kara Skipper	Rob O'Reilly
Dave Blazer	Lisa Havel	Sean Corson

Presentations

- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund**
 - Jake Reilly (NFWF) discussed upcoming funding opportunities for the Chesapeake Bay through NFWF's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund. NFWF has previously offered grants through this program to support oyster restoration and fish passage. NFWF is working to develop and align their goals for the upcoming RFPs with those of the CBP's GITs. Request for Proposals (RFPs) will be issued in late February.
 - **Discussion:**
 - The amount of funding is dependent on appropriations from Congress. \$10 to \$12 million is expected for 2017. Proposals are fairly competitive, with approximately 1/3 of proposals receiving funding in each grant cycle.
 - **Action:**
 - Fisheries GIT members will send priorities for GIT activities to Kara. Kara will compile these priorities and provide to Jake for consideration in the development of NFWF's plan.

 - **Biennial Review Meeting**
 - Dave Goshorn (MD DNR, GIT 6 Chair) explained the biennial Strategy Review System (SRS). This system is a 2-year review of each outcome under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which allows the Bay Program to receive updates on outcome progress, identify obstacles and opportunities, and make necessary adjustments to management strategies.
 - **Discussion:**
 - Action teams and members of the Sustainable Fisheries GIT outcomes will work together to develop these progress reports for the Management Board. The Fisheries GIT outcomes will occur during the first (May – Fish Habitat) and second (August – Blue Crab Management and Abundance, Forage, and Oyster Restoration) SRS quarterly meetings.
 - The Forage and Fish Habitat Action teams will discuss and organize their contributions to this effort during their quarterly meetings on February 16th.
 - **Action:**
 - GIT staff will inform team and workgroups about the biennial review system and prepare materials and relevant information for the progress templates.
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Decisional

➤ **Actions from the December SFGIT Meeting**

- Team members reviewed the [December 2016 SFGIT Meeting Actions document](#) and identified progress that has been made as well as next steps in addressing these needs.
- **Actions:**
 - **Oysters**
 - Maryland and Virginia will continue their tributary selection progress and provide updates on the progress to the SFGIT.
 - Bruce will contact the NOAA [Fisheries Greater Atlantic regional office](#) concerning the Critical Habitat designation for Atlantic sturgeon and arrange a webinar to inform interested parties about the implications of the Chesapeake Bay designations.
 - Kara will send GIT members links to Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services reports and conservation and restoration maps
 - **Forage, Fish Habitat, and Blue Crabs**
 - Bruce and Emilie will draft a forage strategy using existing documents and research which they will present to the Forage Action team at their quarterly meeting
 - Gina and Bruce will work on communication strategy, connect with Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership, and focus on stressors and impacts impacting fish habitat
 - Lynn Fegley will coordinate stock assessment update tasks among the three jurisdictions.

➤ **Oyster Indicator**

- An [Oyster Dashboard](#) has been developed to communicate progress toward the [Oyster Restoration Outcome](#) of restoring 10 tributaries by the year 2025. This dashboard names all selected tributaries, quantifies the amount of completed in-water restoration acreage (construction/seeding) and target acreage and reports the progress of each tributary. Fisheries GIT staff incorporated feedback and suggested edits into the final version available online at [Chesapeake Progress](#).

➤ **Forage Video Preview**

- The Forage Action Team collaborated with the Chesapeake Bay Program's media team to develop a short video on forage in the Chesapeake Bay. This video will serve to inform a broad audience about forage species and their importance in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Please view the video here: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/videos/clip/24853>
- **Action:**
 - Ex Comm members will review the video and send any concerns to Bruce or Kara by Friday 1/27. Update: No concerns were stated. Video is now posted and can be found here: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/videos/clip/24853>

➤ **Principals' Staff Committee oyster Presentation**

- The Principals' Staff Committee (policy advisers to the Executive Council of the Chesapeake Bay) requested agenda topics for their meeting on March 1, 2017. We are interested in using this opportunity to share the progress being made in Chesapeake Bay oyster restoration. We will build off the presentations made by Susan Conner and Stephanie Westby at the December 2016 Sustainable Fisheries GIT meeting, focusing on advances made in the selected tributaries.

- **Action:**
 - Ex Comm members will verify with their organization if they approve adding this agenda item to the Principals' Staff Committee agenda and email Kara with their response.

➤ **Membership Change**

- Chris Moore (CBF) was approved by the Fisheries GIT Ex Comm to take on Bill Goldsborough's previous role in the Fisheries GIT.

➤ **February Ex Comm Conference Call**

- The next Ex Comm conference call will be on Monday, February 27th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

➤ **Member Updates**

- PRFC's members have expressed concern regarding the USDA regulations on blue catfish and the Malloys Bay Marine Sanctuary. PRFC members requested further information on the implications of these two changes and how they will affect watermen.
- The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will host their [winter meeting](#) from January 30th to February 2nd in Alexandria, VA. Agenda topics will include summer flounder, menhaden, shad and river herring, and striped bass.

Informational

➤ **Upcoming Ex Comm meeting dates**

Monday, February 27th, 1:00-3:00pm

Monday, March 27th, 1:00-3:00pm

➤ **Bay Barometer**

The Chesapeake Bay Program released the [Bay Barometer](#), a publication which offers a science-based snapshot of the Chesapeake Bay on January 31st. The data and information contained in the document help the partnership gauge success of their efforts and further plan their conservation and protection of the Bay.

➤ **FY16 GIT Funding**

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation received three funded projects in this year's funding for the GITs. Staff has reviewed bids for the project funding, and bidders are expected to be notified in the near future. GIT staff will inform the full team of the funded projects following the announcement by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The projects include:

- Shell/habitat dynamics in oyster restoration and fishery management
- Evaluation of ecosystem factors for the blue crab stock
- Citizen Monitoring of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (with Habitat GIT)
 - Includes pilot study to test the suitability of various types of fish traps and benthic grabs in a variety of fish habitats including submerged and emergent vegetation to improve forage monitoring efforts.