

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes**

March 24, 2014 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21532/>

Call Participants: *Peyton Robertson, Tom O'Connell, Bryan King, Rob O'Reilly, Bob Beal, Marty Gary, Bruce Vogt, Andrew Turner, Joe Grist, Nancy Butowski, Jack Frye, Roger Mann, Howard Townsend, Jen Armstrong, Mike Slattery, Karl Blankenship, Emilie Franke*

Decisional

➤ **Update on Oyster Population Assessment and Additional Funding – Roger Mann (VIMS)**

- Handout: *Science_Presentation_GITMarch24_Mann; Oyster stock assessment Terms of Reference_2012*
- Roger Mann presented some of the data and results from his Oyster Population Assessment work. He reviewed the terms of reference developed for this work and explained which objectives will be achieved by this work.
- The overall objective of this project is to complete an oyster population assessment that includes a baywide population estimate, location-specific growth rates and disease status, age-specific mortality estimates, and the status of shell substrate.
- The Ex Comm members asked about the content of the project final report (to be completed in June), specifically about the development of biological reference. Roger responded that the research team is working to determine the most appropriate reference points based on historical data and that these reference points should be available in the final report.

Action: Ex Comm members will contact Roger with any questions about his presentation or his project in general.

➤ **Freshwater Fish Outcome Discussion**

- Handout: *Draft_Watershed_Agreement_1-28-14*
- The Ex Comm discussed the idea of a freshwater fish outcome for the New Agreement that has been suggested by a few CBP partners. Currently, the Fisheries GIT's focus is tidal waters species and the Habitat GIT's focus includes freshwater habitat and brook trout specifically.
- The Ex Comm members agreed that the importance of freshwater fish should not be ignored in the Agreement but that the Fisheries GIT currently does not have the capacity to address such an outcome under the current Sustainable Fisheries Goal. The Ex Comm also agreed that the greatest benefits to freshwater fish species will come from habitat improvements under the Habitats goal.
- The Ex Comm suggested that further language be added to the Agreement to emphasize the benefits of the habitat outcomes to the health of freshwater fish species. They recommend that this language not be a new fisheries outcome but rather would be added to enhance existing outcomes.
- The Ex Comm also discussed revising the last sentence of the blue crab management outcome to better reflect the intent of this outcome.

Actions:

- Staff will work with Mike Slattery and other Bay Program partners to develop options for freshwater fish language to add to the existing Agreement draft. Staff will also present a revision to the last sentence in the blue crab management outcome for Ex Comm approval.
- Staff will present these options to the Ex Comm for their approval via email.

➤ **CBSAC Charter and 2014 Preliminary Recommendations**

- Handout: *CBSAC Draft Charter_March24th*
- Andrew Turner presented the next draft of the CBSAC charter incorporating jurisdictions' comments.
- The Ex Comm discussed and decided that the charter should not list specific organizations from which CBSAC members should be from. The Ex Comm would rather evaluate each proposed member on a case-by-case basis. CBSAC Chair Joe Grist agreed with this decision and emphasized the need for CBSAC members who are invested in the group.
- The Ex Comm discussed the utility of the 2013 preliminary recommendation put forth by CBSAC in April 2013 and endorsed by the Ex Comm in advance of the 2013 Blue Crab Advisory Report. This preliminary recommendation from CBSAC was presented to the jurisdictions in early April last year before jurisdictions made their press releases in mid-April. MD, PRFC, and VA stated that they found this preliminary analysis useful.
- The Ex Comm discussed this year's timeline for CBSAC analysis and their upcoming press releases. CBSAC cited that they are unsure when they will have access to the WDS results to being their analysis.

Action: Ex Comm members will submit final edits on the draft charter to Andrew by COB Friday March 28th. Staff and CBSAC will determine the timeline for providing preliminary analysis of the WDS results this year. This timeline will be shared with the jurisdictions so they can coordinate their press releases with CBSAC analysis if possible.

➤ **June Full GIT Meeting**

- Handout: *June 2014 agenda brainstorm*
- Staff presented initial ideas for the June meeting to the Ex Comm. Staff emphasized that the June meeting planning will focus on providing ample discussion time and small-group breakout sessions for the June meeting agenda.
- Staff and Ex Comm members discussed meeting dates and additional potential conflicts.
- The June meeting location is confirmed for VIMS in Gloucester Point, VA.

Action: Ex Comm members will review the handout with the June meeting ideas brainstorm and contact Emilie with any comments or priorities for June full GIT agenda items.

➤ **March Newsletter**

- Handout: *March 2014 FishGIT newsletter draft*
- Staff presented the draft March newsletter that is being sent out to the full Fisheries GIT and interested parties on Friday, March 28th. The March newsletter keeps full GIT members and interested parties informed of Fisheries GIT activity and related issues between bi-annual full GIT meetings.

Action: Ex Comm members will submit edits to the draft newsletter to Emilie by COB Thursday, March 27th.

➤ **Ex Comm Updates**

- Executive Committee members' updates and discussion of management issues.
- April 10th CBP Management Board meeting and MD DNR Invasive Catfish Signs media event. Details will be sent out via email.

Informational

➤ **Chesapeake Bay Program Updates**

- Handout: *STAC_March FishGIT update*
- New Agreement:
 - The public comment period closed on March 17th. The Management Board, Principals' Staff Committee, and CBP leadership will be discussing these comments at upcoming meetings. The Fisheries GIT may be asked for their input on fisheries-related comments.
 - The Executive Council meeting and final Agreement signing is planned for June.
- Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC):
 - Peyton attended the STAC meeting on March 18th to update STAC members on the activities of the Fisheries GIT and opportunities for support and collaboration with STAC. Other GIT Chairs were also in attendance.
 - STAC and the GIT Chairs plan to continue more regular interaction with each other to foster better communication and collaboration.
 - The Invasive Catfish Task Force has formally submitted their final report to STAC for review. STAC members Mike Ford (NOAA) and Donna Bilkovic (VIMS) will be leading the review. Bruce is developing specific questions for the STAC reviewers' consideration.
 - STAC approved the Fisheries GIT's forage workshop proposal for full funding. The workshop will be co-chaired by Tom Ihde (STAC/NCBO) and Ed Houde (CBL).

➤ **Confirm upcoming meeting dates**

(Mondays 1:00-3:00 pm)

April 21, 2014

May 19, 2014

Full GIT Meeting: Tuesday-Wednesday, June 4-5th, 2014 at VIMS