



## Chesapeake Bay Program

*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

### Sustainable Fisheries Executive Committee Meeting MINUTES

Monday, May 16 · 1:00pm – 3:00pm

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#### ➤ Attendance

- Sean Corson (NCBO)
- Marty Gary (PRFC)
- Mandy Bromilow (NCBO)
- Justin Shapiro (CRC/NCBO)
- Jamileh Soueidan (CRC/NCBO)
- Lynn Fegley (MDNR)
- Bob Beal(ASMFC)
- Keith Lockwood (USACE)
- Chris Moore (CBF)
- Mike Bednarski (VDWR)
- Danny Ryan (DOEE)
- Adam Kneyon (VMRC)
- Dave Maginnes

#### Decisional Items

##### ➤ Approve Letter of Support from Fisheries GIT to the ASMFC Technical Committee

*(Bruce Vogt: 10 min)*

- *The Executive Committee agrees spot is an appropriate second species for the Chesapeake Bay-specific abundance estimates modeling project. As mentioned on the last call, the project PIs have signaled that a letter of support, on behalf of the GIT, would carry weight when making a request with ASMFC for fisheries dependent data. Bruce/Sean will review the drafted letter with the Executive Committee.*
- *Action: ExComm agreement to sign letter of support for the project on behalf of the Fisheries GIT.*

### Discussion

- *Bob Beal (ASMFC) and Lynn Fegley (MDNR) had some clarifying questions related to the specifics of the data being requested.*
  - *Bob asks if the phrase “each state” refers to states in the Chesapeake Bay or all mid-Atlantic states. If it is the latter, there could be some acquisition complications.*
    - *Mandy Bromilow (NOAA): Looking at notes from a previous meeting with the PIs, it looks as if they are interested in data ranging from New Jersey to Florida, but it depends on where spot fisheries are located.*
    - *Bob follows up by saying that the request in the letter should be as specific as possible.*
  - *Lynn asks if the team is requesting only commercial data, or if they are also requesting MRIP data?*
    - *Mandy Bromilow (NOAA): To our knowledge, MRIP data is being used to estimate movement and mortality*
- *Follow-up Action: Sean, and team, will confirm the answers to the above questions, and follow up with a final draft letter to be approved by the Executive Committee.*

### Other Business

- **Debrief on STAC Rising Temperatures Workshop (Bruce Vogt: 10 min)**
  - *The Fisheries GIT supported, and coordinated, efforts for the STAC workshop focusing on tidal impacts from rising temperatures. Bruce will summarize some of the applicable takeaways/recommendations from the workshop report.*

### Discussion

- *Lynn Fegley (MDNR): Can see where folks are coming from on recommendation one (establishing striped bass fishery closures based on temperature and hypoxia data), but notes that fisheries closures can be very controversial, and are only likely to be utilized when the impact of said closure cannot be explicitly quantified. Notes that she has some concerns with the way this recommendation is worded.*
  - *Sean Corson (NOAA): Adds additional context to say that these recommendations resulted directly from participants, and are not recommendations from any one entity in particular. Important to note that these highlighted recommendations are not regulatory guidance, but only mentioned at the workshop by those who attended.*
  - *Lynn Fegley (MDNR): Follows Sean’s point by saying that the messaging of these recommendations will be key as they are released in a future report. What they are, and are not, is important.*

- *Keith Lockwood (USACE): Supportive of recommendations to help target/site/design natural infrastructure projects to maximize resilience benefits. Also supportive of recommendations four and five (regional communication strategy for rising temperatures and exploring ways to advance ecosystem approaches to fisheries management). Also notes that Senator Kaine (VA) is putting forward a proposal for a ~10-30 million dollar pilot at Tangier Island. This could be a great opportunity to discuss including some of these proposed approaches for considering changing tidal waters.*
- *Sean Corson (NOAA): Also sees recommendation number four (strategy for regional communication between restoration/management partners) as a future workshop/continued conversation. Notes that recommendation five (exploring advancement of ecosystem based approaches to fisheries management) as a good place to start a conversation.*

➤ **Scheduling a Summer GIT Meeting** (Justin Shapiro: 10 min)

- *The GIT will aim for an in-person meeting in mid July. We will review a proposed agenda and discuss potential venues.*

Discussion

- *Team is supportive of scheduling an in-person meeting between July 18th-25th.*

➤ **Announcing NOAA's Newest Habitat Focus Area (HFA) Designation** (Sean Corson: 10 min)

- *Official HFA designation has been approved for Virginia's Middle Peninsula. Sean will discuss this exciting news, and highlight potential opportunities for the GIT's work. A release can be seen [HERE](#).*

➤ **Rod and Reef Slam Tournament Announcement** (Chris Moore: 10 min)

- *The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's annual tournament, highlighting fish habitat and oyster restoration, returns this September, 2022. Chris will highlight opportunities for participation from the GIT.*

➤ **Member Updates**

- *Mike Bednarski (VDWR):*
  - i. *Agency is putting out proposed staff regulations for public comment slated for an August vote. Link to upcoming meeting materials is [here](#) (under Board of Wildlife Resources Meeting).*
- *Lynn Fegley (MDNR):*
  - i. *A new bill out of the MD General Assembly requires MDNR to gather information on recreational catch/demographics and to assemble a task force to explore the collection of better recreational data.*
- *Keith Lockwood (USACE-Norfolk):*

- i. *The Norfolk district is excited to advertise a contract for 50 acres of reef restoration in the Piankatank river.*