



Fish Habitat Action Team Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, April 27 · 10:00am – 12:00pm

Attendance:

- Gina Hunt (Coordinator, MDNR)
- Justin Shapiro (CRC/NOAA)
- Peter Tango (USGS)
- Shannon Smith (VIMS)
- Lisa Havel (ASMFC)
- Michael Hutt (VDACS)
- Margaret McGinty (MDNR)
- Steve Faulkner (USGS)
- Kelly Maloney (USGS)
- Donna Bilkovic (VIMS)
- Edna Stetzar (DNREC)
- Angela Sowers (USACE)
- Jessica Coakley (MAFMC)
- Alexandra Fries (UMCES)
- Dave Maginnes
- Mandy Bromilow (NOAA)
- Bruce Vogt (NOAA)
- Jason Kahn (NOAA)
- Matt Ogburn (SERC)

Summary of Action Items Listed Below:

- *Action: The FHAT can follow up with request for monitoring feedback in the near future - Peter Tango will be in touch with more specifics about dates and feedback*
- *Action: Justin will send around proposed timeline for the NFHP funding process (Lisa's presentation)*
- *Action: Between now and the next meeting (in June), think about ideas we can put forward for the 2021 GIT-funding cycle. What can help address barriers to accomplishing our outcome?*
- *Action: Next meeting early June to finalize SRS message and discuss projects. Justin*

will send around some questions to consider as we update our narrative.

Distributed Links:

- *Jessica Coakley (MAFMC): Mid-Atlantic Committee on the Ocean Forum May 3-6*
<https://www.midatlanticocean.org/mid-atlantic-ocean-forum/>
 - *Has a DEIJ session, as well as other topics (wind, climate, etc.)*

Work Plan Updates: (10 min)

- **Shoreline Hardening GIS Update (Action 3.3)** *(Justin Shapiro, CRC)*
 - *Links to completed GIS layers: for [VA](#) and [MD](#)*

Group comments:

- *Bruce Vogt (NOAA): Asks about next steps to disseminate these results and get the maps in the hands of partners.*
 - *Peter Tango (USGS) suggests connecting with Bay Program land-use folks like Peter Clagget (USGS) to discuss results in relation to development trends*
- *Members ask what additional communication tools can be used to share these results and potential uses?*
- *Alexandra Fries (UMCES) suggests a non-technical report to highlight the project. (It may be beneficial to connect with the Local Leadership Workgroup)*
- *Justin Shapiro (NOAA) mentions connecting with the Envision the Choptank partnership*

- **Shoreline Behavior Change (Action 4.4)** *(Gina Hunt, MDNR)*
 - *The project has kicked off later than expected, but the steering committee is now meeting on a monthly basis. The PI, Action Research, is currently compiling a resource guide of shoreline information by state.*

Group Comments:

- *None at this time*

Presentations:

- **Next Generation Monitoring for the Bay Program - Applications to Fish Habitat**
(Peter Tango, USGS: 20 min)
 - *Answering PSC requests to improve bay monitoring and addressing gaps through evolving the bay's programs. Peter says that we must utilize this opportunity to speak directly to the PSC by highlighting gaps and room for innovations/improvements.*

Group Comments:

- *Donna Bilkovic (VIMS): How will wetlands be incorporated into the monitoring network?*
 - *Peter Tango (USGS) mentions SAV workgroup looking into satellite*

innovations, but is early for inclusion for PSC request

- *Steve Faulkner (USGS): We've found some shortfalls in various outcomes and are looking for MB support (in the context of monitoring). Does this include resources for these outcomes (Ex. Brook Trout)?*
 - *Peter Tango: We are hoping to capture some of these, but not prior to the first 9 months (leading up to PSC request). In longer term there are hopes to focus in on some of these goals/outcomes that could use additional support*
- *Gina Hunt (MDNR): What's the ask of the FHAT over these next 9 months*
 - *Focus of this spring: Identify vulnerabilities in current monitoring*
 - *Focus of this summer: Identify innovations that are available and should be moved to application*
- *Bruce Vogt (NOAA) brings up the need for plankton monitoring. Would this fit in?*
 - *Peter Tango: This would fall in the further needs section. More of a long term goal*
- **Action: We can follow up with request for feedback in the near future - Peter Tango will be in touch with more specifics about dates and feedback**

Funding Opportunities:

- **Changes to ACE Act and Corresponding Funding Opportunities** (*Lisa Havel, ASMFC: 10 min*)
 - *Language is still being reviewed, but there are a few new parameters to consider for funding.*
 - **Action: Justin will send around proposed timeline for this funding process (Lisa's presentation)**
- **GIT Funding 2021** (*Gina Hunt: 5 min*)
 - **Action: Between now and the next meeting (in June), think about ideas we can put forward for the 2021 cycle. What can help address barriers to accomplishing our outcome?**

Discussion Items:

- **SRS - Reviewing our Current Logic and Action Plan** (*Gina and Justin: 25 min*)
 - Timeline:
 - *July 22 - Presentation to STAR*
 - *August 12 - Presentation to Management Board*
 - *December 8 - Final Materials Due*
 - Do we have an "Ask" of the Management Board?
 - **Action: Next meeting early June to finalize SRS message and discuss projects. Justin will send around some questions to consider as we update our narrative.**

- **Indicator Development for the FHAT - Example from Forage Team** (*Justin Shapiro: 10 min*)

Group Comments:

- *Steve Faulkner (USGS) mentions potential indicator overlap with the Healthy Watersheds Assessment and Stream Health Workgroup. Steve also mentions that the non-tidal fish habitat assessment could be updated (every 2-5 years) if the team was interested in utilizing as an indicator*
- *Peter Tango (USGS) mentions that the Chesapeake Bay water quality standards are defined by criteria built upon meeting habitat needs supporting survival, growth and reproduction of fish and shellfish. The WQ Indicator in place already represents a resource for tracking habitat status and condition. Is this something we can connect to?*
- *Matt Ogburn (SERC): Mentions that he sees value in utilizing the mentioned habitat suitability indicator (for forage) as something to utilize for a potential fish habitat indicator*