

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
Meeting Summary**

May 23rd, 2016 from 1:00pm-2:15pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23890/>

Call Participants:

Alicia Nelson	Emilie Franke	Marty Gary
Alison Hammer	Jason Rolfe	Peyton Robertson
Amy Uhrin	Kara Skipper	Rob O'Reilly
Bruce Vogt	Karl Blankenship	
Carlie Herring	Lynn Fegley	

Presentation

➤ **Regional Impact Assessment of Derelict Fishing Gear in the Chesapeake Bay**

Amy Uhrin, Chief Scientist for NOAA's Marine Debris Program

- The NOAA Marine Debris Program has developed a spatial model to predict the distribution of derelict crab pots in the Chesapeake Bay based on previous surveys. The assessment includes quantification of the impacts of derelict crab pots, including estimates of bycatch mortality and economic impacts. With this analysis, the Marine Debris Program aims to illustrate the benefits of removing derelict fishing gear.
- **Discussion:**
 - It was noted that economic effects are challenging to quantify due to fluctuations in blue crab abundance and availability. The Ex Comm suggested that economic effects should be validated by including factors of harvest pressure, social behavior, market demand, harvest restrictions, and the degradation rates of crab pots in the assessment.
- **Decisions/Actions:**
 - Ex Comm requested to review the report before the September completion date.
 - Marty will contribute Potomac River landings data to determine possible applications.
 - Inform CBSAC of the report findings and implications towards management.

➤ **June Full Sustainable Fisheries GIT (SFGIT) Meeting**

- The June agenda has been further developed by integrating efforts included in the 2016-2017 Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) workplans and incorporating feedback from the Ex Comm. SFGIT staff reviewed the agenda items and provided recommendations for discussion.
- **Discussion:**
 - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)
 - The intro should include the basic fundamentals of and development of EAFM
 - Discussion can focus on what is occurring in state waters and other jurisdictions as well as ASMFC's role in this approach
 - Effect of Land Use on Aquatic Health in the Chesapeake Bay
 - Discussion can feature how land use will impact oyster reefs, the implications on growth, factors including sea level rise and toxics.
 - National Fish Habitat Partnership Fish Habitat Assessment
 - Use this opportunity to define fish habitat more clearly
 - Catfish Status
 - Provide harvest data for the past few years from each jurisdiction as well as longer-term data sets

- Save FDA regulation discussion for an upcoming Ex Comm call
- Sturgeon
 - Presentation will summarize new information from the Chesapeake Bay, including the recent findings presented at the recent sturgeon meeting and the implications of those findings on the Chesapeake Bay
 - Action: GIT Staff will work with the Ex Comm to bring in a USDA rep for a future Ex Comm call to discuss the catfish regulation.

➤ **CBSAC Updates**

- The recent CBSAC meeting was focused on developing the 2016 Blue Crab Advisory Report and discussing science/management recommendations. The 2016 Report is expected to be complete prior to June 30th 2016.
- Discussion:
 - Rob noted concerns about the lack of fishery dependent sampling in Virginia and the need to establish actions following management triggers. More information is needed to assess the recreational fishery, mortality estimates, and exploitation fraction.

➤ **July and August Ex Comm Calls**

- July 18th, 2016
- August 15th, 2016

Informational

➤ **Confirm upcoming meeting dates**

Ex Comm Call (Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm)

July 18th, 2016

August 15th, 2016