



Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2020 1:00 - 3:00pm

➤ **Attendance:**

- *Guests:*
 - *Matt Balazik (VCU)*
 - *Katie Hornick (NOAA)*
 - *Dave Maginnes*
- *ExComm*
 - *Sean Corson - Chair (NOAA)*
 - *Bruce Vogt - Coordinator (NOAA)*
 - *Mandy Bromilow (NOAA)*
 - *Justin Shapiro (NOAA)*
 - *Lynn Fegley (MDNR)*
 - *Alicia LoGalbo (USACE)*
 - *Keith Lockwood (USACE)*
 - *Michael Bednarski (VDWR)*
 - *Pat Geer (VMRC)*

➤ **Presentation: Atlantic Sturgeon Restoration in the James River and Chesapeake Bay (Matt Balazik, VCU: 20 min)**

- [Presentation:](#)
 - Issue/Question - How does dredging activity in the James River, between important spawning areas in the Upper James, impact population movement.
 - A 2017 VPS survey showed active dredging had minimal impact on Sturgeon movement up the river. A 2020 VPS Survey, looking at dredging in tighter areas, closer to spawning habitat, showed promising results as well.
 - Juvenile surveys 2019-2020: Dredging does not seem to greatly impact juvenile behavior and survivability.
- Group Discussion and Questions:

- Mike Bednarski (VDWR) - Amazing results and surprising lack of impact from dredging on population.
 - Matt Balazik - Would love to do a full VPS study on juveniles in the future.
- Sean Corson (NOAA) - Maybe dredging activity is stirring up food. That could be a reason for the Atlantic Sturgeon to stick around.
 - Keith Lockwood (USACE) - It's possible that the continuous dredging in this area has led to population acclimation, above all else.
- Bruce Vogt (NOAA) - What's driving higher numbers of juveniles than in previous years?
 - Matt Balazik - Not a change in fishing methods. Benefits from Hurricane Florence (high precipitation event) possibly linked to rivers/bay having a very strong year class.
- Matt Balazik - Thoughts on future methods of pre-sampling where dredging will take place? Is this a good use of effort?
 - Mike Bednarski - This will provide useful, long term information.

➤ **Fisheries GIT Membership Report (Justin Shapiro: 5 min)**

- Please review the attached [document](#).
 - **The Executive Committee will review the updated list of removed members and send input to Justin Shapiro (justin.shapiro@noaa.gov) prior to January 8th.**
 - The commercial industry is highlighted as our area of focus, but suggestions for any listed sector are greatly appreciated.

➤ **GIT Meeting Agenda Updates (Sean: 10 min)**

- Looking at the final [Agenda](#):
 - More specifically - looking at the third-day discussion sections focused on connections to living resources and the future of oyster restoration.
- Group thoughts on two discussion sections:
 - Pat Geer - Regarding telemetry, very interested in discussing the new array in the mouth of the bay (managed by VMRC).
- **The Executive Committee will review the final agenda and send any comments prior to December 18th. This should also be sent to Justin Shapiro.**

➤ **Status of Bay Telemetry Array (Sean Corson: 10 min)**

- VMRC is taking over management of the southern portion of Chesapeake Bay array.
 - NCBO is providing 16 receivers replacing the DOD's. VMRC will manage this new array.

- Fishery managers and scientists have suggested implementing at least two arrays across the mainstem at the mouth of the Bay and near mid Bay. To accompany the bay-mouth array mentioned above, the NOAA Northeast Science Center is providing receivers for a Bay Bridge array, managed by Maryland DNR.
- **NOAA Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Action Plan (Bruce Vogt and Justin Shapiro: 10 min)**
 - Compiling Comments:
 - The Action Plan coordinators have asked for stakeholder input as they move forward with the finalizing process.
 - An updated version will be sent around in the next week by the Marine Debris Mid-Atlantic Coordinator. Justin can forward this along to the Executive Committee.
 - **Executive Committee comments on this updated Action Plan are due to the coordinators (Christy Kehoe) by January 15th. Justin will send an update outlining this comment process.**
 - Important Article on Microplastics:
 - Tire Rubber-Derived Chemical Induces Acute Mortality in Coho Salmon
 - (The scientific paper is attached to the follow-up ExComm email)
- **Update on Invasive Catfish Workgroup Subcommittees (Mandy Bromilow: 10 min)**
 - Below, is a list of ICW subcommittees who will report progress approximately twice a year to the main ICW body:
 - Marketing and Outreach
 - Scientific Research and Synthesis
 - Tributary-Specific Management
 - Processing Barriers (This subcommittee will be led by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, who have listed this particular issue as an area of focus)
 - Each subcommittee has selected chairs, who are responsible for taking the group's primary actions.
 - Any questions about subcommittee structure can be directed to Mandy Bromilow (mandy.bromilow@noaa.gov)
- **Group Input on NCBO Science Priorities (Bruce Vogt: 10 min)**
 - Link to [comments spreadsheet](#)
 - There is an opportunity to fund ~2 projects (around 2-3 years in length)
 - **The Executive Committee will respond with spreadsheet comments by January 8th. Please direct questions to Bruce Vogt or Justin Shapiro.**
- **Member Updates (30 min)**
- **Calendar and Program Updates**
 - Winter Fish GIT Meeting: January 12th-14th (1:00-4:00 PM)
 - American Fisheries Society Southern Division Meeting: April 6th-9th
 - CBP STAC Proposals Due: February 16th