

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes for January 18th, 2011 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

In Attendance: Peyton Robertson (NOAA), Nancy Butowski (for Tom O'Connell; MDDNR), Jack Travelstead (VMRC), A.C. Carpenter (PRFC), Bob Beal (ASMFC), Jon Kramer (MD Sea Grant), Bruce Vogt (NOAA), Derek Orner (NOAA), Stephanie Westby (NOAA), and Adam Davis (CRC)

Debrief (30 min)

December Full GIT Meeting

- ExComm agreed the December meeting was helpful and the list of agenda topics was appropriate
 - Other than a few technological setbacks (webinar not working and call-in system not loud enough) the meeting ran smoothly and a lot was accomplished
 - 2011 Priorities: (ExComm agreed this is an appropriate list to begin work)
 - 1) Blue Catfish Policy
 - 2) Oyster Metrics
 - 3) Blue Crab Abundance Targets
 - 4) Land Use Decision Making Communication Pathways
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Clarification

Oyster Metric Team Update (*Stephanie will be calling in at ~1:30pm*)

- The Oyster Metric Team has had two meetings since the December full GIT meeting
 - Consisted of state and federal agencies as well as academic advisors
 - Have made a lot of progress and agreement on metrics
 - Stephanie Westby, on behalf of the Oyster Metric Team, wanted to get clarification as to whether their charge included not only how to measure metrics, but also establishing goals
 - ExComm agreed that this was what was written in their team paper and they are in charge of creating goals as well
 - The goals do not need to be similar for all sites
 - a. use ranges and scales to develop metrics
 - The goal is to give managers the ability to say they have achieved a certain level of ecological restoration success
 - Nancy Butowski added that MDDNR will need a completed product by February in order to review
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Decisional

Blue Catfish Workgroup

- Tasks this workgroup should address
 - Synthesis of science across the Bay beyond what we heard at the December meeting
 - Abbreviated stock assessment
 - List of possible recommendations for the GIT to consider
 - Set of possible control strategies/options
 - Develop factsheet explaining the issue and next steps
 - Define management scenarios ranging from complete eradication to no action

- MDDNR will need a completed report by September in order to implement results for 2012
- There is a need to maintain an open and transparent process with stakeholder involvement in order to create a broader understanding
- STAC could fund a workshop, but would need to look into the speed at which this could be accomplished
 - Greg Garmin, a STAC member, also on this blue catfish team, may be able to get the ball rolling on this workshop
- Stakeholder Field Trip:
 - March/April timeframe
 - Get in contact with David Whitehurst about electrofishing

Informative

1.) 2011 Blue Crab Plan

- The assessment itself is mostly completed
 - Expect to be finalized/reviewed by the ExComm by end of January
- Adoption of this timeline creates a venue for a broader range of constituents for stakeholder involvement
- June full GIT meeting will be used to disseminate this information

2.) NOAA & MD Sea Grant Funding Opportunities

- Handout: 2011_chesapeake_bay_fisheries_science_-_noaa-nmfs-ncbo-2011-2002881[1].pdf
 - This FFO was based on NOAA's proposed budget for 2011, but the continuing resolution may hinder funding level
 - Proposals are due early March
- Handout: MDSGrfp2012-2013.pdf
 - This is a broad FFO with a main focus on the advancement of EBFM

3.) Chesapeake Bay Program

- Bay Barometer Changes and Reporting
 - Abundance targets and thresholds will replace the Fisheries Management Effort Indices
- ChesapeakeStat - Subject Matter Experts
 - 1) Oysters (possibly tributary specific) → Stephanie Westby
 - 2) Juvenile Reproduction Indices → ?
 - 3) Young-of-Year Striped Bass → Eric Durrell
 - Why only one species when we have information on ~25?
 - a. Look into the VIMS Trawl Survey (Mary Fabrizio)
- Executive Order Outcome Progress Reports
 - On track with Blue Crab
 - Oyster Metric Team is just getting started
 - Should give better indication on how to track progress

Updates

Next Executive Committee Meeting

- Adam Davis will be following up with the ExComm about scheduling this meeting