

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes for February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 1:00pm-3:00pm**

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**In Attendance:** Peyton Robertson, Tom O'Connell, A.C. Carpenter, Bob Beal, Bryan King, Jack Travelstead, Bob Wood, Ed Martino, Howard Townsend, Ariana Sutton-Grier, Stephanie Westby, Sean Corson, Bruce Vogt, Derek Orner, Nancy Butowski, Shannon Green, Adam Davis

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**Presentations**

**Climate Change and its Effects on Fisheries**

- Bob Wood presented research investigating decadal scale linkages between climate dynamics and fish production in Chesapeake Bay
  - From 1880-present, the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) Index and the Striped Bass landings are very closely related
    - a.  $^{+}\text{AMO (wet/cool)} = ^{-}\text{Striped Bass}$
    - b.  $^{-}\text{AMO (dry/warm)} = ^{+}\text{Striped Bass}$
  - Findings suggest managers can use climate information to anticipate persistent recruitment declines to make appropriate long-term decisions

**Marine InVEST (Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Trade-Offs)**

- Howard Townsend and Ariana Sutton-Grier presented the Marine InVEST tool
  - A scenario-based decision support tool to demonstrate the trade-offs in ecosystem services with different management decisions
    - a. Models wave energy, coastal protection, fisheries, aquaculture, recreation
  - Includes valuation (economic or non-monetary) to help make decisions
  - Currently still in development
    - a. Want managers input so the outputs are useful
  - **Action Item:** If you have any further input please forward comments/feedback to Bruce Vogt and Adam Davis

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**Decisional**

**Oyster Metric Team**

- Stephanie Westby gave an update on the Oyster Metric Team's progress → one month delay (till April 15<sup>th</sup>) is a very likely scenario
  - Currently delving deeper into the goals (i.e. restored tributary)
  - Confident a useful product will develop, but what it 'looks like' is still unclear
    - a. Several specific goals and metrics for restoration projects
      - i. Biological, structural, and sustainability goals
      - ii. Standardized format
- Desire something adaptive that can show what impacts 'X' dollars will give us
  - Need to know this in order to get funding
- Decision: ExComm granted one month extension to the team (April 15<sup>th</sup>)

**Catfish Workgroup**

- The Catfish Workgroup met for the first time on February 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Says there is not enough science to make management decisions
    - a. Need more time and money for research

- ExComm asks what research findings would suggest we do NOT want population reductions?
  - Having some synthesis on best available science is critical to explain management decisions
- *Decision: ExComm identified the following tasks to consider*
  - Tasks for workgroup to address:
    - a. Complete baywide synthesis on catfish (i.e. population estimates, ecological impacts, etc) by June, 2011
      - i. Estimate on how many calories different size blue catfish consume/year
    - b. Is policy option of kill-on-capture out of the question?
    - c. Pilot Project: see what can be done to reduce numbers in sample tributary
  - Tasks for the Executive Committee:
    - a. Regional outreach effort on education of ecological impacts of blue catfish
    - b. Bryan King offered some D.C. funds for this
    - c. ASMFC developing position statement on blue catfish

### **Plankton Monitoring Workshop Outcomes**

- Sean Corson presented the outcomes from the Plankton Monitoring Workshop held February 7-8<sup>th</sup>
  - NOAA will need to hear usefulness from fisheries managers before funding will be available
  - Call for analysis of previous data before extension of monitoring program
  - More detailed write-up summary due around second week of March
    - a. Not sure if new information will come or just written more thoroughly
- *Decision: ExComm review report and provide input on need for plankton monitoring to support fisheries management*

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## **Informative**

### **Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup (FEW) Update**

- Shannon Green gave an overview of where the FEW plans to focus their efforts
  - 6-7 short projects over the next 6-12 months
  - **Action Item:** Send out list of projects as soon as available

### **Fish Tagging Data Workshop**

- Planning for mid-April technical workshop on setting up a receiver array for fish tracking
  - Receivers will be placed on NOAA CBIBS buoys
  - Possible array at mouth of Bay or river
  - Real-time data uploading
  - Develop web content for outreach and science products

### **Blue Crab Stock Assessment and CIE Review Update**

- Review going to be held in Baltimore during the NSA Meeting March 29-31<sup>st</sup>
  - Results will be released late-April

- Reference points are not likely to change all that much
- **Action Items:**
  - Send assessment to ExComm when available
    - a. \*Note: Not for public distribution\*
  - Schedule call before next ExComm meeting for coordination

#### **FFO Status Report**

- Funding still unknown → RFP for \$2 million (best case)
- Received ~30 Letters of Intent
- Proposals due March 4<sup>th</sup>
- ExComm will be review panel

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#### **Updates**

##### **Next Executive Committee Meeting will also be a pre-brief for ASMFC**

- Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm
  - March, 21-24<sup>th</sup> → ASMFC Winter-Spring Meeting
- **Action Item:** Send agenda items to Adam Davis