

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes for February 27th, 2012 from 10:00am-12:00pm
Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/17897>

Attendance: Peyton Robertson, Tom O'Connell, A.C. Carpenter, Jack Travelstead, Bob Beal, Bryan King, Nick DiPasquale, Carin Bisland, Georgi Spridionov, Howard Townsend, Mark Mansfield, Susan Connor, Nancy Butowski, Bob Greenlee, Dave Secor, Jorge Holzer, Karl Blankenship, Bruce Vogt, Derek Orner, Andrew Turner, Adam Davis

Presentations

Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) – GIT Structure and Direction (15 min; 5 min Q&A)

- Handout: CBP Org Chart with Leader Names 12-8-1.pdf
- Nick DiPasquale (CBP Director) discussed the organizational structure of the CBP and the workgroups within the GITs. The GITs are all underway in making progress towards their individual goals. The GITs themselves, and the CBP as a whole, are looking for cross-GIT opportunities for collaboration.
 - The CBP vision is to use the best available science to make decisions and believes ecosystem-based management is the best approach.
 - The new 'Adaptive Management Framework' will provide accountability and memorialize the importance in the CBP decision making process resulting in a clear understanding of why, and how, the CBP makes complex ecosystem decisions.

Economic Valuation of Crab and Oyster Fisheries in Puget Sound (15 min; 5 min Q&A)

- Handout: February_Fisheries_GIT_CAMEO.pdf
 - Georgi Spridionov (CRC) presented on how they are using CAMEO – InVEST to put an economic valuation on recreational Dungeness crab and Oyster aquaculture in Puget Sound, and how the approach is in the progress of being applied to the Chesapeake Bay region.
 - This research combined four separate models (1. Watershed; 2. Water Quality; 3. Pacific Oyster Production, Harvest, and Value; and 4. Dungeness Crab Production, Harvest, and Value) to examine future land use management and its effects on shellfish production and market value.
 - The study concludes that managed land use growth, as compared to status quo growth regulations, could result in appreciable increase in shellfish abundance and an increase in the value of the recreational fisheries.
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Decisional

Invasive Catfish Recommendations Paper

- Handouts:
 - *Invasive Catfish Policy Implementation Recommendations.pdf*
 - *EX-COMM_Invasive_Catfish.pdf*
- The Executive Committee agreed to reconvene the *Invasive Catfish Workgroup*, with refined membership, as an *Invasive Catfish Task Force* to develop a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for blue and flathead catfish
 - FMP and team charge will consist of:
 - Coordinating actions and progress towards the five policy objectives with an emphasis on exploring potential management measures and proposing actions to mitigate impacts of invasive catfish.
 - Potential membership additions:
 - Tim Groves (MD DNR) - Catfish expertise in Maryland

- Steve Vilnut (MD DNR) - Seafood market specialist
 - Jorge Holzer (UMD) - Economist
 - Robert Hale (VIMS) – Toxicologist/contaminants specialist
- VDGIF voiced concerns regarding the recommendations paper “mandating” jurisdictions with management obligations. VDGIF stated this process should be a cooperative effort and include coordination with Pennsylvania and Delaware.
 - Jeff Smith (PA) identified as a potential candidate
- **Action Items:**
 - 1. Establish a formal charging document for the *Invasive Catfish Task Force*
 - Obtain Executive Committee approval on goals and begin implementation
 - 2. Finalize task force membership:
 - Include representatives for PA and DE

CBSAC Male Specific Reference Points Charge

- Handout: Male Reference Point Development-2.pdf
- Derek Orner and Lynn Fegley are working on a document (draft above) detailing the necessary steps to develop male specific blue crab reference points. The current plan is to hold a CBSAC workshop in May/June of 2012, so the reference points can be applied for 2013.
 - Key analytical issues that must be addressed:
 - Estimation procedures of winter dredge survey gear efficiency;
 - Estimation of winter dredge survey gear selectivity for differing sizes of crabs;
 - Crab reproductive biology (sperm limitation);
 - Estimation procedures for over-wintering mortality.
- MD DNR voiced a goal to develop and adopt male specific blue crab reference points by the 2013 fishing season.
- Discussion considered funding and experts that the Executive Committee has that could assist in the work
- **Action Items:**
 - 1. Develop a CBSAC work plan documenting who will conduct the analyses, a timeline for completion, and costs.
 - 2. Executive Committee members to send names of potential experts that can work on this project to Bruce Vogt and/or Adam Davis

Discussion of GIT Establishing MD and VA Interagency Workgroups to Advance EO Oyster Goal of Restoring 20 Tributaries by 2025

- Handout: oyster schematic 22712 BV.pdf
- ExComm agreed that MD and VA workgroups be convened under the GIT structure to ensure bay-wide coordination of restoration efforts

STAC Workshop Proposal

- Handout: Proposal for STAC Funded Land Use Workshop (v4).pdf
- Proposals are due to STAC ASAP with a follow up presentation at the STAC quarterly meeting on March, 27th-28th.
 - If the workshop is approved by STAC funding will be available June 1st.
- Executive Committee agreed on the workshop proposal and the expected outcomes.

- Tom O'Connell mentioned the need to identify data gaps; particularly monitoring and data needs to assess impacts.
 - Jim Uphoff and Margaret McGinty will be following up with GIT staff regarding this workshop.
- Dave Secor recommended Greg Garman and/or Carl Hershner as potential STAC members that can advise on the proposal. He also stressed the need to incorporate some watershed expertise.
- **Action Items:**
 - 1. Get Greg Garman or Carl Hershner on board with workshop proposal.
 - 2. Work with above person to finish the workshop proposal
 - 3. Obtain Executive Committee approval of workshop proposal at March 19th ExComm meeting
 - 4. Submit proposal to STAC following ExComm approval

2012 Workplan

- Handout: *Fisheries GIT - 2012 Work Plan (v6).pdf*
- Executive Committee approved the 2012 work plan

Informational

Signed Invasive Catfish Policy Statement

- Handout: *Final_Catfish_Policy_GIT 1-24-12 (with signatures).pdf*
- Finalized copy for your distribution and records

CBP Principals Staff Committee Meeting Update

- Handout: *PSC Fisheries GIT Presentation 2-16-12 (v2).pdf*
- The PSC meeting was Feb 16th

ASMFC Meeting Update

- There were some errors identified in calculations regarding the degree of proposed harvest reductions for Tautog. Bob Beal explained the Technical Committee is currently going over the report for accuracy and will report out to the ASMFC board ASAP. The board will then get together prior to the next full meeting to discuss the revised report.

Adaptive Management Decision Framework

- Handout: *Attachment IV a Enabling Effective Adaptive Management in CBP Final psc may.2011.pdf*
- Adaptive Management Decision Frameworks are due for the Chesapeake Bay Program by the end of March
 - Each GIT responsible for having at least one framework completed
 - Eventually the adaptive management decision framework will be applied to each GIT goal
- Update: GIT Staff is meeting this week with our "Adaptive Management Framework Coaches" to go over the Oyster Framework and discuss the Blue Crab Framework as well.

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

- March 19th, 2012 from 1:00-3:00pm

Executive Committee Meeting Schedule:

- April 16th
- May 21st
- June 11th-12th (Full GIT)
- July 16th
- August 20th
- September 17th
- ***October – Need date***
- ***November – Need date***
- December 3rd-4th (Full GIT)