

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

January 13, 2014 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/19246/>

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*Call Participants: Peyton Robertson, Tom O'Connell, Marty Gary, Bryan King, Bob Beal, Rob O'Reilly, Joe Grist, Bruce Vogt, Emilie Franke, Jack Frye, Susan Conner, Nancy Butowski, Jim Price, Karl Blankenship*

**Decisional**

➤ **Request for CBSAC Review of Winter Dredge Fishery Triggers in VA (1:00-1:20)**

- Handout: VMRC\_request\_dredge fishery triggers
- Rob O'Reilly presented VMRC's request for CBSAC to review their proposed management trigger options for a winter crab dredge fishery season. Rob explained the background and reasoning behind the proposed winter dredge fishery and the proposed trigger options for management of the fishery. VMRC is requesting CBSAC's scientific review of the trigger-based management options.
- Decision: The Ex Comm endorsed the request and tasks CBSAC with this task.
- Action: CBSAC will review VMRC's proposed management trigger options for a winter dredge fishery. CBSAC will complete their review by May 2014 in time for VMRC deliberations on this topic.

➤ **Debrief of December 2013 full GIT Meeting (1:20-1:50)**

- Handout: Dec2013 FishGIT take aways-actions; Dec2013 FishGIT Meeting Summary\_final
- Discuss how the meeting went in terms of logistics, format, etc.
- Staff highlighted the major outcomes from the meeting and discussed how to follow up on these items in the immediate future. Some outcomes could involve the participation of other full GIT members throughout the year.
- Tom O. suggested that the information from the discussion on catfish contaminant levels be added to the take-aways and actions document as an important part of the catfish discussion at the December meeting.
- Action: Staff will add the additional catfish contaminant information to the take-aways and actions document.

➤ **2014 Updated Work plan (1:50-2:10)**

- Handout: SFGIT Jan2014 workplan v1
- Discussed draft work plan that includes actions from the December meeting.
- Reviewed the timeline and associated people for each task and discussed the potential for collaboration opportunities with other GITs.
- Actions in the work plan from the December meeting include:
  - Updating the CBP oyster indicators to better communicate oyster restoration work and progress
  - Staying involved in the New Agreement public comment and drafting process
  - CBSAC's work on the new gear selectivity analysis and summer survey data
  - Completing the Invasive Catfish Task Force report
  - Gathering expertise and information to define the forage base for the related New Agreement outcome

- Action: The Ex Comm will provide comments and input to staff on the draft 2014 work plan by COB Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Staff will keep the CBP Management Board informed of the Fisheries GIT work plan.

➤ **Invasive Catfish Task Force Process Update (2:10-2:20)**

- Bruce, as the Task Force Coordinator, explained the proposed peer review process for the Task Force report, which includes a review by CBP's STAC (Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee).
- Informed the Ex Comm of the outcomes of the invasive catfish presentation to the Mid-Atlantic Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel in December. These outcomes include a meeting with NPS to post outreach materials in their public access locations in the watershed, and a future meeting with folks discussing Asian carp marketing and management plans in the Great Lakes.
- Discussed and agreed to review Task Force recommendations on the February Ex Comm call with participation by David Whitehurst (VDGIF), David Saveikis (DNREC), and a PA rep to discuss how to proceed and which actions to pursue in the short term.
- Decision: The Ex Comm endorsed the Task Force's plan moving forward for a STAC peer review and report completion.
- Actions:
  - The Task Force will complete their report before the February 24<sup>th</sup> Ex Comm call. The Task Force will submit a request for a STAC technical review before the STAC quarterly meeting in March.
  - Staff will coordinate the attendance of relevant jurisdictions and agencies for discussion of the Task Force management recommendations on the February 24<sup>th</sup> Ex Comm call.

➤ **2014 Meeting Dates and Science Presentation Topics (2:20-2:30)**

- Handout: 2014 Calendar
- Discussed future Ex Comm meeting dates and discuss science presentation topics that interest the Ex Comm for their upcoming monthly calls.
- Discussed the location of the next full GIT meeting in June, with a focus on continuing to meet at academic institutions. Ideas focused on Virginia, possibly meeting at VIMS.
- Actions: Staff will send out recommended dates for Ex Comm approval for March, April, and May 2014. Staff will begin setting up science presentations for the next Ex Comm calls.

➤ **Ex Comm Updates**

- Executive Committee members' updates and discussion of management issues.
  - Constituent input on potential striped bass allocation changes
  - PRFC's consideration of funding sources for blue catfish processing infrastructure

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**Informational**

➤ **New Agreement Updates**

- The Bay Program's Executive Council met on December 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the draft New Agreement. The Council members participated in a press conference where Governor O'Malley was announced as the new Executive Council Chair.
- Joe Gill (Secretary of Natural Resources, PSC Chair) and Frank Dawson (Deputy Secretary, MD rep. to the Management Board) are meeting with the other Bay jurisdictions over the

next few weeks to discuss support of the New Agreement outcomes and potential participation in the Management Strategies.

- The draft Bay Agreement is set to be released on January 29<sup>th</sup> for a 45-day public comment period.

➤ **Striped Bass Tagging Project – Dave Secor (UMCES)**

- This project to tag Potomac River fish that will be tracked by 23 receivers in the Potomac and lower Bay will be moving forward. The project is funded by ASMFC through a cooperative agreement with the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office.

➤ **Telemetry Discussion with the Navy**

- Peyton, Bruce, and other NOAA folks participated in a call with the Navy in response to the correspondence between them and Peyton as the Fish GIT chair regarding the Navy's telemetry array at the mouth of the Bay
- NOAA and Navy will be working together in the near future to inform the Bay Program about this array as the Bay Program looks to revamp their monitoring program.

➤ **Chesapeake Bay Program Fisheries Indicators**

- Handout: MB Fisheries Indicators Updates 11-21
- The Management Board approved the Ex Comm's recommendations for updating the oyster, striped bass, and menhaden indicators on the Bay Program website. Staff are working on these updates and will keep the Ex Comm informed.

➤ **Dr. Kevin Chu representing NOAA in the Mid-Atlantic**

- Serve as Assistant Regional Administrator for the Northeast Region and will be located in the Mid-Atlantic (Annapolis)
- Responsibilities include a focus on constituent engagement and improved communication with fishery managers in the Mid-Atlantic – we envision an opportunity to get him further involved with the Fisheries GIT.

➤ **Confirm upcoming meeting dates**

*(Mondays 1:00-3:00 pm)*

February 24, 2014