

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

September 23, 2013 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Call-In: 877-985-4165; Pass Code: 5370599

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/19248/>

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➤ **Presentation (1:00-1:40)**

**Revised Shad Abundance Indicator** – Jim Cummins (ICPRB), Eric Brittle (VDGIF), Nita Sylvester (EPA)  
(25 min)

- Handout: *Revised Shad Abundance Indicator\_FishGIT*
- The co-chairs and coordinator of the Chesapeake Bay Program's American Shad Indicator Action Team will present a revised shad indicator for the Bay and selected tributaries based on their recent discussions including a revised tributary weighting scheme and updated data for VA tributaries.
- Discussion (15 min)
  - The Executive Committee approves the updates to the shad abundance indicator
  - The indicator will be presented to the Management Board on October 10<sup>th</sup> for final approval
  - The co-chairs of the Shad Action Team would like to continue focus on this indicator in order to add more tributaries to the indicator in the future, especially Maryland tributaries
  - Peyton suggested ways to improve telling the story of the indicator on the Bay Program website. These suggestions include explaining the variability of shad abundance in each tributary, translating the percent achieved metric to actual numbers of fish, and adding more images of shad.
- **Action**: Include a Shad Indicator presentation on the December full GIT meeting agenda.

➤ **CBSAC Research Priorities (1:40-2:10)**

- Handout: *Prioritized section 8\_Critical Data and Analysis Needs*
- CBSAC has discussed and prioritized the critical data and analysis identified in the 2013 CBSAC Blue Crab Advisory Report
- Discussion: Do you concur with the prioritization?
  - The Ex Comm does agree with the prioritization
  - Jack T. emphasized item 8.4 on the list - understanding what caused the disappearance of the record level of recruits from last year
    - This question may be addressed by items 8.1-8.3
  - The Ex Comm agreed to divide the prioritized research items into three tiers:
    - Tier 1: 8.1 – 8.3
    - Tier 2: 8.4 – 8.5
    - Tier 3: 8.6 – 8.7
  - Tier 1 is the most important because these items directly relate to improving the WDS
- **Action**: The Ex Comm tasks CBSAC to build a matrix that contains funding estimates, staff time availability, approximate timeline (short vs. long-term), and additional funding sources for each research need.

➤ **Invasive Catfish Task Force Next Steps (2:10-2:30)**

- Handout: *Task Force fall 2013 teams; Messaging\_Invasive\_Catfish\_Summary\_9-20*
- In conjunction with completing their report, the Task Force has been grouped into small teams to address tasks that will inform the Report, such as acquiring catfish landings data, public messaging, and prioritizing tribes for targeted removal.
- The Task Force plans to meet in person in October to discuss progress on these tasks and work to finalize the Report.
- Discussion: Are there additional issues you would like the Task Force to discuss?
  - Marty recommended that outreach specifically include sport fishing tournament organizers as an important stakeholder in this issue
- **Actions:**
  - Ex Comm members will work with Andrew Turner to help obtain catfish landings data for their jurisdiction.
  - The Task Force will follow through on their work plan and present their finalized draft report to the Ex Comm and the full Fisheries GIT for approval at the December meeting

➤ **December full GIT Meeting Planning (2:30-2:40)**

- Handout: *Dec 2013 mtg planning*
- Tuesday-Wednesday, December 3-4, 2013 in Solomons, MD
- The handout lists potential topics to include on the December meeting agenda.
- Discussion: Are there additional topics or specific research you would like to see at the December meeting?
  - Tom O. suggested adding a striped bass topic to the agenda corresponding with the release of ASMFC's 2013 benchmark stock assessment results
  - Jack T. emphasized the importance of the new Watershed Agreement discussion as the Agreement is set to be signed in December
  - The Shad Indicator update will be added to the December meeting agenda
- **Action:** Staff will develop a draft agenda to present to the Ex Comm at the October Ex Comm meeting

➤ **September Newsletter (2:40-2:50)**

- Handout: *Sept 2013 FishGIT newsletter*
- Staff has drafted the September newsletter to be sent out later this month to keep the full GIT informed between the June and December meetings.
- Discussion: Are there any major additions or changes to the content?
- Please email specific edits to Emilie by **COB Wednesday, September 25**
- **Action:** Staff will incorporate edits from Ex Comm members and send the newsletter out to the full GIT membership before the end of the month.

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**Informational**

➤ **New Agreement Updates**

- Management Board 9/12 – fisheries outcomes were supported by the majority of jurisdictions
- PSC 9/24 – outcomes will be presented to PSC noting points of disagreement; PSC must approve outcomes to be included in the next full draft of the Agreement

- Public Comment Period – a full draft of the Agreement will be available for public comment for 30 days starting in late September or early October
- **Membership Additions**
  - Handout: New Members 9-20-13
  - All invited members have confirmed their participation on the GIT:
    - Jorge Holzer, Tom Murray, Robert T. Brown, Gibby Dean, Wayne France
- **Invasive Catfish Signs**
  - Handout: MD Invasive Catfish sign
  - The Chesapeake Bay Program has awarded funding for MD DNR to print 200 invasive catfish signs
- **Executive Order Programmatic Milestones**
  - Handout: Crab oyster 2014-15 Draft Prog Milestones
  - Draft EO milestones for 2014-2015 for oysters and blue crab
  - Milestones for completion of reef construction and seed planting will be added to the current list
- **Habitat GIT Leadership**
  - Jeff Horan (FWS) has stepped down from his role of Chair of the Habitat GIT. Mike Slattery (FWS) was nominated and approved as the new Chair.
- **Confirm upcoming meeting dates**

Upcoming Meeting Schedule (1-3 pm)

Monday, October 21st

Monday, November 18th

Tuesday-Wednesday, December 3-4<sup>th</sup> (Full GIT Meeting)

*Location: Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD*