

## 10/2 Oyster Summit Steering Committee minutes

- Bruce gave an introduction to what we've been thinking about the oyster summit: that it's a place to have a shared discussion among oyster people who work on restoration, wild harvest, and aquaculture to help find shared challenges and opportunities. This is the first time in 8 or more years we've had this opportunity and the science, policy, and situation overall has changed. Our broad overarching goal: figure out how to get more healthy oysters in the Bay.
- Amy gave a summary of her survey research (which most people participated in), which emphasized healthy, abundant oysters as a prerequisite for all the other ecosystem services oyster reefs offer, including economy, culture, other fisheries, and water quality. Despite the original hypothesis that we are super divided into 'oyster camps', there's a good amount of informal, one-on-one communication across sectors and states. This summit will provide one of few (on only recent) opportunity to bring those discussions under one roof and formally recognize their importance. Finally, her discussions with survey respondents emphasized some existing, recognized shared issues that might be a good starting point for forming the agenda: shell, water quality inputs and outputs, permitting and policy roadblocks, role of community members, need for better real-time monitoring.

The discussion then evolved into three main topics:

- Timing and location:
  - December is very soon, and would not work for watermen fulfilling Christmas orders, Jim's team finishing annual surveys, or academics already on break. February might be better for these groups, since it's a slow time.
  - Need to balance this with needs of potential legislators' ability to attend, since their General Assembly starts in January.
  - Location is going to be difficult for some people no matter what, but community representatives should be willing to travel.
- Format:
  - Will likely emerge based on what we want our outcomes to be.
  - Might need small group break-outs to have productive discussions
  - Do we want this open to the public, invite-only, or some hybrid with dedicated times for each?
    - These types of meetings are typically open to the public, either in entirety or time for public comment. Should consider.
    - We should invite specific people to fill out the topical discussions and because they represent a broader chunk of the community (like county leaders of watermen's groups), and potentially staff of legislative offices with oyster interests. It'll keep the group smallish and not pressure everyone to show up.
- Output: Short term and long-term.
  - Short term: consensus on some issues and new ideas on complex issues. Here's our complete list of candidate topics for the agenda. Each that we pursue will likely have some sort of short-term goal or outcome.
    - Shell availability, growth potential, and suitable alternatives
    - Larvae availability out of both hatcheries and natural spat

- Activities and policies that could be better coordinated
- New science and industry developments that legislators should know and use
- State of the economics of oysters
- Water quality: both what's needed for hatcheries and potential nutrient trading
- Protecting oyster investments from theft and poaching
- New areas to be brought into sanctuary or production as needed
- Long-term: We need some lasting impacts to continue our joint discussion and a dedicated audience to be the recipient of that and do something with it
  - Potential audience: Legislators and agency staff , oyster community leaders – this will be on the agenda of the next call
  - A list of priority areas that we all agree on would be a helpful guidance document kind of output, for decision-makers and funders