

Agenda for Protect and Restore Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting
April 21, 2010 2:00-4:00 pm

Brief Updates

June GIT/FEW Meeting: GIT Chair, Vice Chair and staff have had discussions lately to further flesh out exactly what outcomes and outputs we are looking for from this meeting. We will be working with ExComm members and appropriate staff as we move forward with planning.

CBP Fisheries Goal Team Webpage: This will be a public webpage for the Fisheries GIT where we will post a list of members, summaries of meetings including ExComm meetings, meeting agendas, goals, objectives and activities of the Fisheries GIT, the charter once it's finalized, and other relevant materials. This page will also eventually have an "Other Resources" section that will serve as a clearinghouse of information for members including links to decision support tools and other information.

Adobe Connect: Each Goal Team now has access to an account for Adobe Connect courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program. This program will allow us to hold Executive Committee meetings in a webinar format where participants will be connected via the web and conference call. In addition to being able to communicate over the phone, participants will be able view meeting materials online and view documents or presentations open on the leader's computer, actions and revisions in real time.

Charter: Working on revising the draft charter based on comments received so far and some materials and thoughts that were developed by the previous Fisheries Steering Committee which assist significantly in shaping a charter better suited to the Fisheries Goal Team. The goal is to provide a new draft to ExComm members for review and finalization of a draft to submit to the full membership for review well before the June meeting.

Member Invitations: Currently preparing letters for each invitee to be sent out via mail and email this week. Peyton, Tom, and Jack will follow up with phone calls to answer any immediate questions and provide a bit more information.

NOTE: Given that Shannon Green is trying to set up the first meeting for the FEW, need to alert Lynn Fegley and Rob O'Reilly regarding their formal invitation to participate in the Fisheries GIT as liaisons from the Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup to the Goal Team.

Executive Order: Comments received in latest review.

Discussion

Blue crab dredge survey results

- Update on next steps: CBSAC to meet May 19-20
- Direction to CBSAC from GIT ExComm
 - Address abundance target in their report

- Rationalization for keeping the interim target for now, will be establishing a new target

Potential of menhaden as filter feeders to improve water quality

- Recent VIMS study on menhaden (Mark Brush will join us): A recently published study by researchers at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science suggests that filter feeding by Atlantic menhaden has little net effect on overall water quality in Chesapeake Bay.
- Upcoming CBP Principle Staff Committee meeting will discuss the issue of menhaden as a means of improving water quality

ASMFC Meeting

- Striped Bass Management Board Action Item to approve/disapprove a draft addendum to go out for public review to include options for increasing the coastal commercial striped bass quota. Any preliminary viewpoints from Bay jurisdictions and NOAA?
- How do Bay jurisdictions plan to proceed with river herring management – ASMFC requires jurisdictions to develop an approved sustainable fishery management plan by 1/1/12 or their fisheries will be closed?
- Atlantic menhaden – new stock assessment and peer review report available on 4/20/10 – probably too soon to review, however, ASMFC will be in a position to determine if a management change is needed, and if so, initiate an addendum. Any preliminary viewpoints from Bay jurisdictions and NOAA?
- Striped bass intercept fishery in VA and NC –improved catch and effort estimates. Additional funding needed for MRFSS/MRIP. This is a significant fishery that ASMFC Technical Committee recommended be monitored in May 2009. ACCSP has provided some funds for a pilot program, but more is needed.

Blue catfish: Discuss the ecosystem impacts of significant increase of blue catfish in the Potomac.

Clams: Discussion on status of clams. This is also a significant filter feeder whose population has significantly decreased. Discuss developing a management plan, as well as research and monitoring.

Other

Next Executive Committee Meeting Wednesday, May 19, 2:00- 4:00 pm