

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Meeting

Agenda for January 28th, 2013 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

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

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/19199>

Webinar: https://epa.connectsolutions.com/fisheries_git_executive_committee/

Presentation Discussion

Forage Fish & Land Use

- Handouts:
 - *Forage Fish Slides - Jordan and Kornis.pdf*
 - Unfortunately at the full GIT meeting we were ran short on time and were unable to have an adequate discussion on these presentations. We have reserved time at this Executive Committee meeting for a revisit of these presentations with appropriate discussion.
 - Discussion:
 - What are the direct management implications of this research?
 - What are the next steps the GIT should take on land use?
 - How best can we get the Fisheries GIT and influential stakeholders involved in the land use discussion?
 - Outcome: The Executive Committee discusses how to best use the work of the forage fish research for fisheries management.
-

Decisional

December GIT Meeting Outcomes and Next Steps

- Handout: *Sustainable Fisheries GIT - Dec 2012 Meeting Summary (v3).pdf*
- Following the full GIT meeting the above report was compiled and distributed to the full GIT that outlines the meeting outcomes.
- Discussion:
 - How should we proceed with accomplishing the outcomes on pages two and three of the report?
- Outcome: Fisheries GIT Executive Committee agrees on a prioritized list of outcomes following the December meeting outcomes.

Invasive Catfish Task Force Charge

- Handout: *Invasive Catfish Taskforce Charge (2.1).pdf*
- Discussion: Is this the correct charge for the Task Force?
 - Is this the right set of goals?
 - What, specifically, should we ask them to accomplish?
- Outcome: The Executive Committee has agreed on the charge and timeline for the Invasive Catfish Task Force.

Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

- Handout: *Responsive RFP FY 13.pdf*
- Timeline:
 - Proposals due to STAC by March 1st, 2013
 - Funding begins June 1st, 2013
 - Workshops must be completed by May, 31st 2014
- Workshop Ideas:

- Ecosystem Services of Restored Oyster Reefs
 - How will restored oyster reefs affect nitrogen removal rates, water quality, and provide for increased fish populations by creating structured habitat?
- EBFM
 - How should we pick up where the Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup left off with progressing towards EBFM?
- Land Use Planning Tool Kit for Citizen Engagement
 - What tools can the Fisheries GIT create to better educate and inform the public as well as encourage stakeholder involvement in planning and land use decision making processes?
- Invasive Catfish – mitigation strategies and other region approaches
 - How can we build upon what the Invasive Catfish Task Force will put together to enact mitigation and control strategies aimed at reducing impacts of invasive catfish?
- Others?
- Discussion:
 - Which idea do you think would be the most important workshop for the Fisheries GIT?
 - Are there any other's we should consider?
- Outcome: The Executive Committee agrees on a specific workshop topic and then GIT staff will begin working on a draft proposal to review at the February Executive Committee meeting.

Next Steps on Land Use

- Handout: *Fisheries GIT & Land Use 1-25-13.pdf*
- GIT Staff have had several conversations with MD DNR on how to advance the land use discussion.
- Discussion:
 - What does the Executive Committee think about the attached handout on next steps?
- Outcome:
 - Executive Committee comments on the handout and suggests how to proceed.

Charles County Comprehensive Plan

- Handouts:
 - *FWS_Charles County_Comp Plan_comments_let_01_14_13.pdf*
 - FWS Comment Letter on the proposed comprehensive plan
 - *DRAFT - Comments_on_draft_plandoc_rev_1-17-2013.pdf*
 - DRAFT MD DNR comment letter on the proposed comprehensive plan
- Conservation advocates believe the currently proposed Charles County Comprehensive Plan is inadequate to preserve natural resources and some think it is worse than the previous 2006 plan.
- Discussion:
 - The Fisheries GIT has had discussions with Margaret McGinty (MD DNR) and Tony Redman (MD DNR) on how to aid in this process. Should the Fisheries GIT push for a Chesapeake Bay Program comment letter on the proposed

comprehensive plan?

- Outcome: The Fisheries GIT Executive Committee agrees on a plan of action and how best to aid in the conservation of Charles County and Mattawoman Creek.

Fisheries GIT Goals

- Handout:
 - **Sustainable Fisheries Goal**: Restore, enhance, and protect the finfish, shellfish, and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem in the watershed and Bay.
 - **Blue Crab Outcome**: Maintain sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females (1+ years old) and continue to refine population targets between 2013 through 2025 based on best available science.
 - **Oyster Outcome**: Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 20 tributaries by 2025.
 - **Fisheries Outcome**: Improve fisheries health and production by connecting land use decision making with ecosystem science and policy and creating a precautionary management approach to ensure the sustainability of Chesapeake Bay fisheries resources across jurisdictions.
 - Comment:
 - Fisheries GIT should reconsider the third outcome since it is not really an outcome but a strategy. An outcome should be measurable and specific (e.g. which specific fisheries and where? Just tidal or nontidal as well?)
- CBP Management Board expressed concern over our third outcome as it is not something we have a means to measure. We need to rework this so that it is measurable or figure out some other means of representing this outcome.
- Discussion:
 - How should the Fisheries want to respond to this comment?
- Outcome:
 - The Executive Committee agrees on how to incorporate the third outcome into our GIT Goals statement.

2013 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

- Handout: *2013 Calendar.pdf*
- Please, come prepared having cross-checked your schedule with the proposed meeting schedule dates.
- Discussion: Do you have any conflicts with the Executive Committee or full GIT meeting dates?
- Outcome: Fisheries GIT Executive Committee informs GIT staff of conflicts and GIT staff will work around any conflicts for future meeting scheduling.

Informational

Oyster Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (TORs)

- Handout: *Chesapeake Bay oyster stock assessment Terms of Reference_2012.pdf*
- Derek Orner (NOAA) will go over the Oyster Stock Assessment TORs

Oyster Nitrogen Removal Workshop Outcomes

- Handout: *Workshop highlights.pdf*
- Peter Bergstrom (NCBO) organized an oyster nitrogen removal workshop on January 10th-11th in Wachapreague, VA

NCBO Fisheries Science Program Request for Proposals

- Handout: *Final NCBO Fisheries FY13 RFP priorities.pdf*
- NCBO will soon be soliciting for research projects.

Fisheries GIT Indicators

- Striped Bass:
 - Available online at:
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/striped_bass_abundance
- Menhaden:
 - Fisheries GIT staff are still working with ASMFC to interpret the fishing mortality data for Menhaden and how best to translate this information for public consumption.

Toxic Contaminants Report Available

- Available: <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/post/Federal-Agencies-release-Technical-Report-on-Toxic-Contaminants-in-the-Chesapeake-Bay-and-its-Watershed.aspx>
- Summarizes existing information on the extent and severity of the occurrence of toxic contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed

Bay Barometer Release

- The CBP will be publically releasing the latest Bay Barometer in Norfolk, VA on January 31st. Rob O'Reilly has agreed to deliver the Fisheries GIT indicator updates and "state-of-the-Bay" address as far as Fisheries resources are concerned.
-