

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes**

February 24, 2014 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21127/>

Call Participants: Peyton Robertson, Tom O'Connell, Bob Beal, Rob O'Reilly, Marty Gary, Bruce Vogt, Dave Miko, John Clark, Bob Greenlee, David Whitehurst, Joe Grist, Andrew Turner, Lynn Fegley, Jim Price, Emilie Franke

Decisional

➤ **Invasive Catfish Task Force Management Recommendations Discussion (1:00-2:00)**

- Handouts: *Chesapeake Bay Invasive Catfish Report and Recommendations 2-20-14 draft; Catfish recs Discussion Guide_Ex Comm 2-24*
- Bruce presented the Invasive Catfish Task Force's management recommendations, summarized in the Executive Summary of the Task Force's Final Report. There are seven total recommendations that fit into three general categories: Reduce Populations of Invasive Catfish, Slow Spread of Invasive Catfish, and Public Outreach Strategies.
 - The Task Force will be submitting this report to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) for peer review.
 - Ex Comm and jurisdictions discussed sending the report out to catfish management experts from outside the region.
- Ex Comm members and representatives from additional Bay jurisdictions discussed the suite of recommendations and submitted feedback on behalf of their agencies/organizations for each of the seven recommendations. Staff recorded this feedback in a separate document *Catfish recs Discussion Guide_Ex Comm 2-24*.
 - Additional Jurisdiction Participants: Bob Greenlee (VDGIF), David Whitehurst (VDGIF) John Clark (DNREC), and Dave Miko (PFBC)
 - Feedback for all recommendations was generally positive and Ex Comm members and jurisdictions voiced either support or support with modification for each recommendation. All expressed a general concern regarding monetary and manpower resources needed to pursue these recommendations.
- Decisions:
 - The Ex Comm accepted the Task Force report and agreed to make the report publically available upon final completion and review.
 - The Ex Comm acknowledged and thanked the Task Force for their work and completion of the group's charge to incorporate all available information on invasive catfish and develop a management strategy for handling these invasive species Baywide.
- Action: Staff will identify contacts in each jurisdiction to further discuss and flesh out the management recommendations. The Ex Comm and other jurisdictions will follow up on this topic again after STAC has completed the review process.

➤ **CBSAC Charter and Membership (2:00-2:20)**

- Handout: *CBSAC_Draft_Charter_Feb_24_2014_Ex_Comm*
- Andrew Turner presented progress on developing the first draft CBSAC charter. He pointed out important highlights of the draft:

- Role and responsibility of CBSAC can include activities for species other than blue crab.
- The Chair has a term limit of three years.
- The charter lists the current membership that would move forward as the official starting membership with the adoption of this charter.
- Joe Grist (current CBSAC Chair) explained that ideally the Ex Comm would make membership decisions in the future to avoid involvement by the Chair.
- Ex Comm members discussed the role of academics and consulting scientists. These consulting scientists would not be full CBSAC members and only participate in relevant CBSAC discussions.
- **Action:** The Ex Comm will submit any comments and feedback on the draft charter to Andrew Turner by COB Thursday, March 6th.

➤ **STAC Forage Workshop Proposal (2:20-2:40)**

- **Handout:** *Forage workshop Proposal_FishGIT; Forage Workshop Proposal Endorsement*
- Emilie Franke presented this draft proposal that was submitted to STAC to compete for workshop funding in 2014. She explained the role and activities of the workshop Steering Committee.
 - Joe Grist was recently added to the existing Steering Committee membership in order to have a management perspective in the group.
- STAC will review the proposal at their March 18-19th quarterly meeting.
- **Action:** Staff will keep the Ex Comm informed of the status of this proposal.

➤ **June Meeting Preliminary Discussion (2:40-2:55)**

- **Handout:** *SFGIT 2014 workplan 1-22-14*
- The Ex Comm discussed possible topics for the June full GIT meeting including:
 - CBSAC update on 2014 Advisory Report
 - Striped bass management (suggested by Jim Price)
 - Status of ASMFC Striped Bass Management Addenda
- The Ex Comm discussed inviting members of the new Virginia administration to attend and participate in the June meeting so they become familiar with the work of the Fisheries GIT.
- The Ex Comm agreed that the meeting should take place in late June (third week) to avoid conflicts earlier in the month.
- The Ex Comm agreed that the meeting will be in Virginia and suggested VIMS and Christopher Newport University for venue options.
- **Action:** Staff will finalize date (late June) and venue (VA) options for the June meeting and confirm details with the Ex Comm on their March 2014 Ex Comm call.

➤ **2014 Meeting Dates (2:55-3:00)**

- **Handout:** *2014 Calendar 2-10*
- The Ex Comm confirmed the proposed meeting dates for spring 2014 on Mondays from 1-3pm
 - March 24th
 - April 21st
 - May 19th
- **Decision:** The Ex Comm agreed to the above meeting dates for March, April, and May 2014.

➤ **Ex Comm Updates**

- Executive Committee members' updates and discussion of management issues.
- Rob O'Reilly – VMRC is considering an emergency regulation to close the speckled trout recreational fishery for the March 1st through July 31st season
- Marty Gary – PRFC hosted a Potomac River Water Quality Information Exchange on February 27th. The event informed watermen and citizens about the trends in water quality (nutrients, algal blooms, point sources) in the tidal Potomac.

Informational

➤ **Full Habitat GIT Meeting February 26th**

- The Habitat GIT is holding a full team meeting at North Point State Park on Wednesday February 26th.
- Agenda items include a discussion of the Multi-State Wetland Initiative led by Mark Bryer (TNC, Watersheds GIT Chair) and a presentation on “Integrating efforts across GITs on the Mid-Shore” by Kristin Saunders (MD DNR, Stewardship GIT Chair)
- The agenda and meeting materials can be found here
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21281/>

➤ **New Agreement Updates**

- The draft Agreement is now out for public comment until March 17, 2014. The public can view the draft and submit comments through this link
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/chesapeakebaywatershedagreement>
- DC and Maryland have scheduled public listening sessions on the Agreement scheduled for February 27th and March 4th respectively
 - <http://ddoe.dc.gov/event/public-listening-session-draft-chesapeake-bay-agreement>
 - http://www.dnr.state.md.us/ccs/CBWatershedAgreement_Draft.asp

➤ **MAFMC River Herring and Shad Advisory Panel**

- The Council is forming this new panel that “will assist in the development will assist in the development of management measures to support the conservation of river herring (alewives and blueback) and shad (American and hickory) populations”.
- <http://www.mafmc.org/newsfeed/2014/pr14-02>

➤ **Confirm upcoming meeting dates**

(Mondays 1:00-3:00 pm)

March 24, 2014

April 21, 2014

May 19, 2014