Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (GIT) Meeting

Stratford, Virginia
June 7th-8th, 2011

Key Outcomes:

- Decision Making Process:
  - The Fisheries GIT agreed on a process whereby the Executive Committee will act as a decision making body of the GIT. In cases where GIT members not on the Executive Committee have direct jurisdictional authority over the resources under discussion, they will be invited to be members of the Executive Committee for decisions related to the given resource.
- Oysters:
  - The Fisheries GIT was very impressed with the work of the Oyster Metric Team as well as the report they produced.
  - Longer-term next steps for oysters include selecting and prioritizing tributaries within each state in order to begin tributary scale demonstration projects as a proof of concept towards the 20 tributaries by 2025 Executive Order goal.
- Blue & Flathead Catfish:
  - The Fisheries GIT will continue to work towards a baywide agreement and resolution on blue and flathead catfish. There is general agreement that while there is a need for additional research, we currently have enough information to know that catfish are having impacts and that action is needed.
  - Proposed next steps for further discussion include public outreach campaigns, continued learning from stakeholders and other regions, and targeted management actions. These would begin within each jurisdiction to further understand the spread and consider control mechanisms for these species.
- Blue Crabs:
  - The stock assessment was well received by the Fisheries GIT, and the recently developed sex specific abundance estimates will help further define harvest control targets to better manage this species. A review of this assessment and a reevaluation of the existing interim rebuilding abundance target will be performed in the coming months.

Action Items:

1.) Blue Catfish:
- The ASMFC resolution needs redrafting to address concerns and terminology
- There is agreement that the issue is significant enough that action is needed. The Executive Committee will take the public and GIT member feedback into account and produce an outline/framework of next steps.

2.) Blue Crab:
- Draft a statement explaining that the Blue Crab stock assessment is the best available science for management decisions.
- Complete the stock assessment by August and apply results to evaluating and possibly establishing a new abundance target.
- Fill CBSAC membership gaps.

3.) Next Full GIT Meeting:
- The date of the next meeting will be shared as soon as possible. The two possible dates include the last week in November and the week of December 19-23.

Background:

The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (Fisheries GIT) is focused on facilitating fisheries management that encourages sustainable Chesapeake Bay fish populations, supports viable recreational and commercial fisheries, and promotes natural ecosystem function. The Fisheries GIT provides the forum to discuss fishery management issues that cross state and other jurisdictional boundaries. The Fisheries GIT is also working to better connect science to management decisions and create a framework/mechanism for implementing ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management. The third official meeting of the full Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team was convened on June 7th-8th, 2010, in Stratford, Virginia.

Facilitator: Lauren Flinn (RESOLVE)

Attendees: *(45)*

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee Members *(6)*
Peyton Robertson (NOAA)
Tom O'Connell (MD-DNR)
Bryan King (DC; *presenter*)
A.C. Carpenter (PRFC)
Jack Travelstead (VMRC)
Bob Beal (ASMFC; *presenter*)

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Members *(9)*
Bevin Buchheister (CBC)
Bill Goldsborough (CBF)
Ron Lukens (Omega Protein)
Mark Mansfield (USACE-Norfolk)
Mike Slattery (USFWS)
David Whitehurst (VDGIF)
Jim Gracie (Maryland Sportfish; *webinar*)
Charlie Poukish (MDE)
Tom Powers (VA Crab Management Advisory Committee)

Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup (FEW) *(2)*
Tom Miller (UMCES-CBL; *presenter*)
Howard Townsend (NOAA; *presenter*)

GIT-FEW Liaisons *(2)*
Lynne Fegley (MD DNR)
Rob O'Reilly (VMRC; *presenter*)

GIT Staff *(5)*
Bruce Vogt (NOAA)
Adam Davis (CRC)
Nancy Butowski (MD DNR; *presenter*)
Elena Chiras (NOAA)
Andrew Turner (NOAA)

Presenters *(4)*
Mary Fabrizio (VIMS)

Greg Garmin (VCU)
Bob Greenlee (VADGIF)
Mark Luckenbach (VIMS)

Guests *(19)*

Stephan Abel (ORP)
Karl Blankenship (Bay Journal)
Mary Beth Charles (NFWF; *webinar*)
Andrew Chase (Recreational Angler)
Jason Clermont (New England Aquarium; *webinar*)
Margaret Enloe (ACB)
Joseph Grist (VMRC)
Megan Hession (CRC; *webinar*)
Mike Leonard (KeepAmericaFishing; *webinar*)
Roger Mann (VIMS)
Lisa Moss (USFWS; *webinar*)
Derek Orner (NOAA)
Mike Ostrander (Recreational Angler)
Jeff Parks (Recreational Angler)
Sue Parks (Recreational Angler)
James Pauley (Recreational Angler)
Ken Perrotte (The Free Lance-Star; webin*ar*)
Jerry Webb (Recreational Angler)
Tim Wheeler (Baltimore Sun; *webinar*)

***Day 1**: Stratford Hall – Council House*

Welcome

***Objectives:** Inform on progress since December meeting; Discuss strategic process for moving forward and a membership assessment*

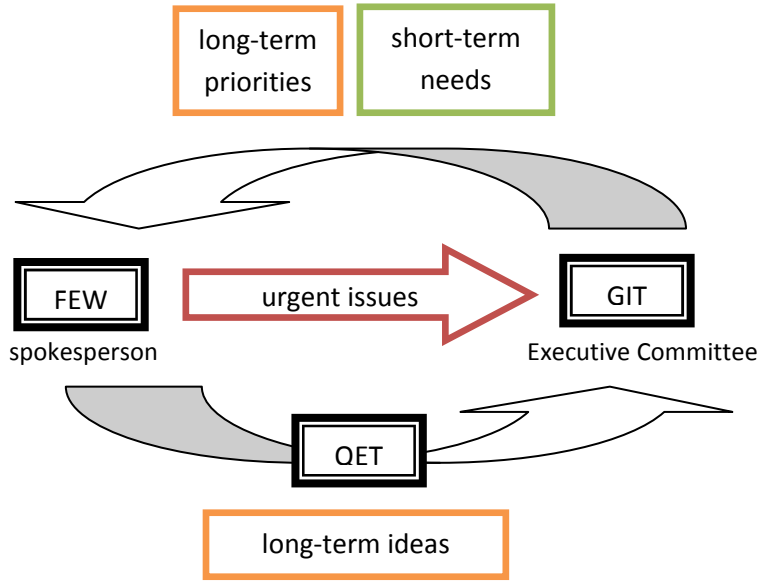
Agenda Review

- Fisheries GIT Chair Peyton Robertson welcomed all meeting participants and gave a brief synopsis of what to expect from the agenda throughout the course of the meeting.

Accomplishments and Areas of Improvement

- Attendees gave a general thumbs up for the progress of the GIT.
- Attendees noted the following accomplishments and areas of improvement for the GIT:
    - Attendance has been relatively high but could be broader; there is a need to connect with the public and reach out to other jurisdictions outside of the tidal portion of the Bay watershed. In general though, the GIT membership includes the right people at the right management levels.
    - Similarly, coordination of the group will take time but so far has been good. Information distribution to the GIT could be improved, with one participant recommending monthly email updates. Engagement with the public can also be improved.
    - The GIT should coordinate across jurisdictions to get ahead of issues rather than being reactive.
- The relationship between the Fisheries GIT and the FEW needs to be refined and clarified. Participants noted that the group needs to consider available resources and how much we can realistically accomplish. Figure 1 depicts conversation on the GIT-FEW relationship.

Figure 1.



Strategic Planning

- Participants discussed the following possible goals and priorities for the next year:
  - Increase Fisheries GIT influence on TMDL.
  - Public access points for fishing being led by the National Park Service - how can the Fisheries GIT influence this?
  - The possibility of a Bay-wide conservation framework that would generate shared management objectives and a conservation agenda in a collaborative manner.
  - Spatial planning—relationship between habitats and land use as well as waterside and fishery side of habitats.
  - Hold discussions on GIT membership to identify people who are willing to actively engage in ecosystem based fishery discussions (i.e. land use and linkages to habitat loss and impacts on fisheries health).
  - Focus on herring and shad; predator-prey relationships (including menhaden); oyster fishery management, harvest, and sanctuaries; threatened and endangered species; and continue focus on blue crab.

Oyster Metrics DRAFT Report and Discussion

Objectives: *Presentation of DRAFT Report produced by the Oyster Metric Team and discussion to get feedback from the full GIT and develop next steps for formal adoption of metrics*

Mark Luckenbach- Overview of the Oyster Metric Team's Report

- Mark Luckenbach presented the Oyster Metric Team Report. He noted that harvest reefs are excluded from the charge. Mark spoke about the difficulty in determining what defines a restored reef or tributary and the fact that long-term assessment is better, however short-term assessments are needed in order to invoke quick action. He also went on to distinguish operational goals versus functional goals and how operational goals work to achieve functional goals when it comes to both reef and tributary level goals. Next, Mark discussed the fact that it

is difficult to develop a bay-wide protocol as charged due to the fact that restoration approaches have different monitoring needs. When it comes to assessment, Mark explained that stratified sampling should be used where mapping of the bottom is available and random sampling should be used where no mapping is available. Lastly, he explained that experimentally derived relationships with oyster abundance should be used to assess the ecological function and ecosystem services provided by oyster reefs.

Discussion

- Discussion ensued concerning the fact that restoration defined as "significantly higher oyster population than before" has never been achieved and may or may not ever be achieved because it is a different era for the Bay. There was also discussion about how restorable oyster bars are found, and it was said that technology for mapping and sonar will be improving and these bars will be found increasingly more easily. There was also an idea discussed about grouping areas into two or three subsets distinguishing restoration for ecological purposes or commercial purposes. Also, it was said that restoration effort is not a "one size fits all" effort because some places are not good for restoration and it comes down to numbers per square meter and biomass. However, the goals must reflect numbers that everyone is comfortable with everywhere on a broader scale because public perception is very important and the highest level of endorsement is desired.
- The future vision of the Oyster Metrics Team was discussed in reference to the 20 tributaries vision. It was said that the tributaries need to be clearly named as the next step and communicated to politicians and the public for endorsement. Also, true population assessments are needed on the tributary level in addition to the reef level assessments. There should also be separate assessments for harvestable and non-harvestable stock. It was brought up that there needs to be a discussion concerning restoration metrics on oyster bars that are in the same area as wild fisheries. Lastly, the point was made that public and federal investments aim towards ecological benefits, not private benefits such as fisheries, so without ecological goals and benefits the funding may no longer be provided.

Decision Making Process

Objectives: *Review decision making model and discuss GIT operating principles*

- The discussion for the decision making process of the GIT began with the statement that the GIT is a governing body that is focused on its mission and avoids bias. The GIT coordinates across jurisdictions with specific implementation and management responsibilities. The GIT does not have its own unique regulatory authority - regulatory action should be viewed as a tool with which other entities may, or may not, be able to follow through with. It was discussed that regulatory agencies should be engaged on the Executive Committee for broad representation depending on each subject or species that is being covered. The Executive Committee would have to alert the Chair to bring in other entities as needed. It what also said that it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee members to bring in people from their jurisdictions. Lastly, it was mentioned that the Executive Committee should operate under full consensus.

Day 2: *Stratford Hall – Council House*

Blue and Flathead Catfish

Objectives: *Provide updates from the Invasive Catfish Workgroup in order to reach consensus on next steps in drafting a management plan/policy*

Science Presentations

Mary Fabrizio- Scientific Evaluation of Blue Catfish as Invasive

- Mary began with discussing the initial introduction of the blue and flathead catfishes into the Chesapeake Bay. She then went on to discuss potential negative effects these catfishes could have on the native fauna due to the fact that fish are included in both of their diets. Mary then spoke about the different definitions and aspects of "invasive species" and compared the two types of catfish to these defined attributes. She went on to say that introduced species may not always be invasive, and that they may have potential for ecological harm but may not be targeted for management action. She also discussed the fact that the amount of harm to the environment, ecology, and human health need to be determined prior to the development of a management plan. She mentioned that information on the catfish varies according to spatial and temporal coverage and that there are critical knowledge gaps concerning predation and competition against native species that warrant research. Mary also said that it is impossible to unequivocally demonstrate ecological harm associated with these catfishes.

Howard Townsend- Blue Catfish Ecopath with Ecosim (EwE) Model Runs

- Howard briefly discussed the value of modeling in the evaluation of the impact that non-native catfish have on native species in the fish community. In his examples, which were not meant as management advice but preliminary examples, suggested that decreases in nutrient loading in addition to increased sustained fishing mortality of catfish is needed to reduce the stocks of blue and flathead catfish. The models simulate the ecosystem from 1950-2002 and the updated model will simulate up to 2008 with updated catfish input data. Howard spoke about additional model runs which can show potential outcomes from future policy options and will account for uncertainty from initial input parameters. It was also said in the question and answer session that other species of fish can be replaced in the model.

Question and Answer Session

- It was discussed that trawl survey shows range expansion for catfish and that catfish are able to tolerate higher salinities. Mary explained that if you gradually bring up the salinity when testing, the catfish can tolerate pretty much anything that has been thrown at them. Also, there has been evidence that there are more catfish where there is more concentration of prey; however, there is not enough information and studies to reassure this. It was also discussed that the value of blue catfish is not a one-way direction, there is value in the live fish that the blue catfish are possibly eating that could have been harvested. It was said as an opinion that when looking at the biomass of the fish, there cannot be enough food for the catfish to survive without eating some live fish. It was mentioned that it is possible that the catfish are filling up the nets during assessments so that it effects the assessment of striped bass stock.

Policy Presentations

Bob Beal- ASMFC Resolution

- Bob briefly discussed the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Resolution on non-native invasive catfish, which shows their support in the reduction in population levels of

these catfish and the reasons for their support. It also shows their support towards the development and implementation of a strategy against these catfish throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Bryan King- Public Awareness Campaign

- Bryan presented a factual sheet about blue and flathead catfish for the general public about the intentions of the GIT towards the controversial subject. The fact sheet is meant to be a neutral question and answer document that concerns basic catfish information and issues to relieve confusion.

Greg Garman- Matrix of Management Options

- Bruce Vogt first presented a table of four management options for blue and flathead catfish that ranged from doing nothing to completely eradicating the invasive catfish. The table also included ecological outcomes, risks, feasibility, and timeframe descriptions for each management option. The two middle options which excluded the two extremes were deemed the most realistic and feasible.
- Greg then presented the recommendations of the Catfish Working Group. The recommendation begins with the fact that the expansion of non-native, predatory catfishes has been well-documented by biologists and commercial and recreational fishers. Blue catfish may eventually occupy the upper Bay and its tributaries based on high salinity tolerance and other traits. Flathead catfish may have lower potential to become established but are capable of widespread dispersal. The Catfish Working Group was formed in response to concerns about possible impacts of invasive catfishes.
- Greg then presented ideas under the third management option in the table, policy option M3, which aims to actively remove invasive catfish from selected tributaries and monitor others to control spread. He presented specific strategies and tactics including forecasting, surveillance, and control with specific steps and descriptions for implementing each of the three strategies.

Bob Greenlee- VDGIF Perspectives

- Bob discussed the perspectives of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). He began presenting the fact that impacts from introduced species has been documented before and similar impacts can be expected in the Bay. He said that for flathead catfish, non-tidal tributaries should be focused upon because there has been limited expansion in tidal waters other than the upper tidal James River in Virginia. He also said that there is no real method for complete eradication and that control should be looked into as a solution in Virginia waters. He claimed that the blue catfish have yet to reach equilibrium in tidal Virginian rivers (but are slowly approaching it) and that populations are declining in all four rivers after dramatic increases that lasted until 2010 and that the slowing growth is impacting the size structure of the population. Bob described how a newly introduced species will typically become very abundant initially until the state of equilibrium has in fact been reached. He then pointed out that the long-term status of the blue catfish populations is unknown. He also said there has been no significant reduction in the biomass, abundance, and size distribution for other species in shallow waters (except white and channel catfish) and that there are no documented trophic cascades. He then discussed the fact that there are multiple trophic levels when it comes to blue catfish and that 85% to 98% of them are likely bottom foraging omnivores for 9 to 13 years until they shift to piscivory as a top predator. He then presented data on blue catfish catch rates, Gizzard Shad size distribution, and Largemouth Bass abundance and size structure in the James River from 1998-2009. He noted that nutrient inputs in the James river allows for both high primary production and secondary production. He then discussed "The Threshold Impact" of blue catfish and the

overlap between blue catfish and blue crab in the lower Virginia Western Shore tributaries. He also discussed that more research is needed before management can be informed on the science behind eradication and control of blue catfish. He also said that the occurrence of scales and body parts in their guts cannot be assumed acts of predation and that more research is needed. He claimed that shad as by-catch in offshore fisheries could be a more important issue relative to the blue catfish.

- He then went on to say that control of blue catfish would be a long term effort and that eradication is not possible in Virginia waters. He then recommended that market driven increases in harvest are the only feasible mechanism, but we do not know if it will work for sure. He then discussed that a decrease in water quality is a control on the blue catfish. He then recommended that there be no harvest restriction on flathead catfish in tidal waters and that jurisdictions should make it illegal to stock catfish in public waters without a permit. He recommended support and advocacy for increases in the harvest of smaller blue catfish as well as the development of commercial markets and recreational angler harvests if accompanied with an effort to address health concerns.

Public Comments

- A recreational angler presented an estimate of 20 million dollars per year for the catfish industry in Virginia. He thinks that VDGIF should have a catfish license stamp that could be used for research and that VDGIF should have an online survey system for fisherman to report catch data. He also thinks that blue and flathead catfish are very different and that they should not be lumped together. Also, he cautions about the distinction about the implications of the terminology “invasive” and “non-native.”
- A recreational angler who fishes trophy blue catfish in the James River says that he is not sure about the ineffectiveness of electrofishing because there is no way to avoid the shock and fish that hide in the nooks and crannies of the bottom can be found. Also, he claims that it is possible that the catfish are scavenging the results of an attack by the stripers feeding on the shad and herring and that there is no proof that the catfish are eating live fish. He said he is confused about why a member of the committee was from Omega Protein. He also says that he is willing to talk about removing the small catfish and that he would personally not eat any catfish out of the James River even though he likes catfish. He adds that he would keep but not return fish under five pounds, however.
- Another recreational angler thinks there is a lack of data and that the small catfish do not have an effect compared to the fish that were 32 inches and over. He also adds that largemouth bass are nonnative and wanted to know why they are superior to blue catfish.
- One commenter has made a living off of blue catfish for 15 years and continues to do so. He believes that there are too many gaps in the science to make any definitive decisions on the catfish. He thinks there is good economic impact from the recreational fishery because it is an opportunity to introduce fishing to families and children. He claims blue catfish introduced him to other things such as heron and eagles as well as ecotourism.
- Another commenter thinks that there is a lack of information and science. He also thinks that it is a shame that blue and flathead catfish are being lumped together because they are very different species going after different prey and living in different areas. He thinks that completely eradicating catfish is a bad idea, but that encouraging the fishing of small catfish by the public would be good. He thinks that the catfish are a good stimulus to the economy. He also thinks that a public forum to document catfish catch and information was a good idea.

Discussion on Blue Catfish Next Steps for Policy and Management

- There was discussion about using proven methods and techniques on targeted control. There was an idea to use media events as a way to control the catfish populations. A discussion about the policy table also ensued concerning the fact that there might not be just one solution and that states have different needs. Also, **it was discussed that the ASMFC resolution needs redrafting to address concerns and change terminology**. Fish also need to be monitored based on age and size when observing contamination. It was mentioned that there is not much data for contamination advisories on blue catfish and that commercial fisheries are targeting people who do not know about health advisories. It was also mentioned that in the past, the team has waited too long to take action and that there should now be preventative action rather than damage control later on. Minimal action should include preventing the spread of the invasive catfish and reduce them in areas where they are not fully established.
- It was said that more science is needed; however, more science is not needed to take any action at all. **The Executive Committee will take the feedback from the meeting into account and will produce an outline/framework for next steps. There is agreement that the issue is significant enough that action is needed.**

Blue Crab

Objectives: *Brief the blue crab stock assessment; developing reference targets to guide management*

Tom Miller- Stock Assessment and Center of Independent Experts (CIE) Comments

- Tom discussed the blue crab stock assessment CIE review comments. Tom presented several graphs and showed how the crab stock has been relatively improving from the past few years and showed time series data from the years before. He also showed different target areas for fishing the correct amount of crabs that are below the threshold and leaves room for error in order to prevent overfishing and low abundance of crabs.
- In discussion after Tom's presentation, **Tom was asked to draft a statement explaining that the Blue Crab stock assessment is the best available science for management decisions.**
- It was also mentioned that the structure of fisheries is the critical policy question. It was said that future expectations are the best information we have available in order to base fishery structures off of in the future, although it is not an exact prediction of what is going to happen. Tom also said that high variability in stock is a good thing because it allows for those years in which we get five or six times the abundance of crabs versus the low abundance of crabs seen in the past years with no variability.

Rob O'Reilly- Fishery Goals and Objectives

- Rob began his presentation with basic information on both the conditions and process for hatching and for the death of crabs. He then showed data concerning the abundance of blue crabs, comparisons of peeler and hard crabs, average crab harvest per crab pot trip, average crab pot value, and more. He also addressed some issues that impact the female crab abundance and some ideas to help increase female crab abundance. Rob then presented some maps of winter dredge fisheries for the past few years and increases of female crabs that are one or more years old in the past few years in the lower bay. Rob also presented information on crab and peeler fishing licenses in Virginia and about sponge crabs.

Nancy Butowski- Process for Amending Fishery Management Plan

- Nancy presented a seven step plan for amending the fishery management plan. This seven step plan began with forming a Plan Development Team (PDT) and ends with CPB Process where the Executive Committee signs an adoption statement. The plan was said to be straightforward and intuitive.

Discussion

- There was a discussion on the fact that there must be a balance between preserving the female crab population and also having a reasonable harvest. Also, it was said that the quality of the fisheries must be looked at in addition to just the harvest numbers.
- It was decided that the information and possibilities concerning the abundance target and other goals need to be digested before decisions are made. Tom Miller needs to provide more information before CBSAC can complete its tasks.
- **1) Complete the stock assessment by August and apply results to evaluating and possibly establishing a new abundance target. 2) CBSAC positions must be filled unless current members believe they can complete the task without added members.**

Options for Next Meeting

December, 2011 Full GIT Meeting Dates						
Sunday	**Monday**	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**	**Saturday**
	11/28	**11/29**	**11/30**	**12/1**	**12/2**	**12/3**
					PRFC	
12/4	**12/5**	**12/6**	**12/7**	**12/8**	**12/9**	**12/10**
	SAFMC	**SAFMC**	**SAFMC**	**SAFMC**	**SAFMC**	
12/11	**12/12**	**12/13**	**12/14**	**12/15**	**12/16**	**12/17**
		MAFMC	**MAFMC**	**MAFMC**		
12/18	**12/19**	**12/20**	**12/21**	**12/22**	**12/23**	**12/24**
12/25	**12/26**	**12/27**	**12/28**	**12/29**	**12/30**	**12/31**

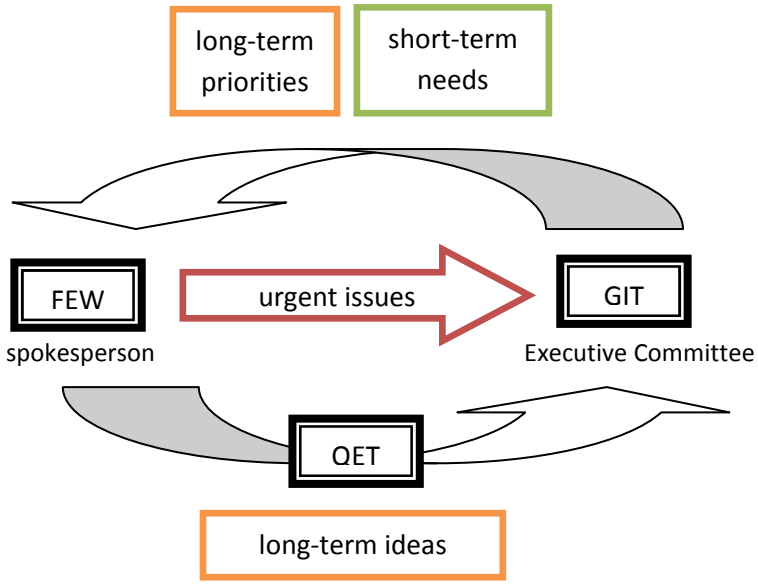
- It was discussed that the week of December 19th-23rd is the best week in December to hold the next meeting, although it is close to Christmas. A late November meeting, November 28th-30th, is also being considered. **The date of the next meeting will be shared as soon as possible.**

Appendix A. Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting
June 7-8, 2011
Flip Chart Notes

General Proposals

- Encourage "editorial" comments from workgroups

Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup



- Need for clarification of relationship
- Consider available resources – how much can we actually do?
- Technical support vs. policy management framework

Accomplishments & Areas of Improvement

- Attendance – good but could be broader
- Coordination – takes time
- Relationship with FEW
- Right people at the right levels

- Staff - √
- Info Distribution could be improved (idea – monthly emails)
- Public engagement
- Coordinated effort on emerging issues – catfish and future issues

Goals and Priorities for Next Year

- Info presentations – outside agenda topics (1 dot)
    - Land Use – info exchange; where to fit in/tell story (6 dots)
    - Habitat
- Predator-prey relationships (menhaden – added later by GIT member) (6 dots)
- TMDL Monitoring – metrics (2 dots)
- Oysters – fishery management; harvest; sanctuaries (4 dots)
- Blue crabs (5 dots)
- Herring and Shad (5 dots)
- Fishing access areas – NPS coordination
- Bay-wide fisheries conversation framework – shared management objectives (3 dots)
- Threatened and Endangered Species – NMFS – added later by GIT member; sturgeon (2 dots)
- Spatial planning (2 dots)
- Next Steps:
    - Consider list.
    - How to tackle each issue?
    - Who do we need to involve?
    - What can/will we do individually?

Oysters

Potential Next Steps

- Establish broad groups of metrics/tributaries – this team or another to do this?
- Tributary and bar selection (freshwater flush etc.) – spatial planning
- Advocate adaptive approach
- Aggregation – expert input
- Selection criteria – how to establish
- Whole population vs. sanctuaries
- Executive Order strategy –where does GIT work fit; what to do first
- Finalize metrics report
- Specific goals in specific places
- Define restored bottom
- Explore larger age-class structure

- Line up sanctuaries with metrics
- Defined sampling protocols
- Add state distinctions

Next Steps for Metrics Report

- Living document – lower working level
- Add VIMS & UMD (i.e., funders of monitoring)
- Higher level – management framework; introduce as adaptive; brief high levels for endorsement (above agency level?)
- Assessment protocols – agency level
- Goals – higher level – endorsement and money

Future Vision

- Develop means to I.D. tributaries (categories)
- ID tributaries How many? Priorities?
- Assess current efforts and projected efforts
- Restoration – aquaculture (viable vs. sterile; small scale aquaculture effects; ecological services)
- Consider disease effects
- Tributary assessment/survey
- Defined targets and results (to justify federal funding)
- Prioritize test site and demonstrate
- Discuss fishery goals and connectivity with restoration (stock assessment – harvestable and non-harvestable)

Decision-making Process

(general agreement on items highlighted in yellow)

- Management board vs. executive committee
- Communication plans vs. regulations
- All regulatory agencies on executive committee all the time or subject by subject?
- Issues for consideration
    - Who are regulatory agencies?
    - Attendance – who has interest in issue for any given meeting/call?
    - How broad? Remember there are other goal teams
    - Technical team
    - Effective use of time for GIT
- How to decide who added to Executive Committee?
    - ExComm members advise chair on their jurisdictions.
    - Others outside represented jurisdiction – input from whole GIT
- Criteria – jurisdictional authority (depending n focus); ability to allocate resources

Catfish

Outstanding Questions

- Feedback on catfish on Atlantic coast
- Science-based requirements for staff
- Gear efficiency and age structure
- Drop in size on graph
- White and channel catfish
- Follow-up document – catch and size data over time
- Sturgeon impacts

Potential Next Steps

- Identifying target sites
- Revise resolution
- Consider links with other goal teams
- Consider existing PCB data and EPA model
- Obtain more information on low-electro sampling method and others
- Prey species – impacted (river-specific); ecological importance; proximity/distribution
- Online survey for public input

Where Stand Now (as outlined by Peyton)

- There is a need for additional research.
- But we have enough information to take action.
- Catfish are having impacts.
- Are options for dealing with impacts.

Next Steps (as outlined by Peyton)

- Public outreach – raise visibility and increase awareness as a potential issue
- Matrix – spatial differentiation
- Learn from other regions
- Continue to work with stakeholders

GIT – Big Picture Questions

- Advisory vs. enforcement
- Shared commitment and collaboration
- Authority?
- Test drive with blue crab

Blue Crab

Next Steps

- Support upcoming state decisions (e.g. sponge crabs in VA)

- Begin to develop recommendations – how to get there
- Charge CBSAC with instructions
- CBSAC Charge:
    - Where have we been?
    - Where are we now?
- Interactive process between ExComm (management) and CBSAC (science)
- Collaborative press release on assessment
- Big picture questions/next steps
    - Quality of fishery
    - CBSAC membership – fill out