

June 2019 Sustainable Fisheries GIT Decisions

June 26-27, 2019 Meeting at UMCES Horn Point Lab Oyster Hatchery

- **Endorse 2019 Advisory Report and 2017 stock assessment update for blue crab**
 - **Background:** The blue crab winter dredge survey and subsequent annual Advisory Report are a means for regularly checking in on the status of the Chesapeake Bay blue crab stock by providing abundance estimates relative to the long-term time series. Based on results of the stock assessment update, which included new abundance data through 2017 and was peer-reviewed by CBSAC, the current management framework is successful.
 - **Recommendation:** 1) Endorse the 2019 Advisory Report reviewed by CBSAC and 2) Support the stock assessment update, and task CBSAC with formalizing a process for regular updates.
 - **Vote Outcome:** approved
 - **Follow-up Actions:** Ex Comm and CBSAC will meet to consider peer-review for the update, and to develop a regular process for future updates
- **Endorse Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) new membership**
 - **Background:** From the CBSAC Charter “If a member is unable to participate in meetings and offer timely comments and contributions... CBSAC Chair and Coordinator are responsible for identifying gaps in membership and working with the Fisheries GIT Executive Committee to add and replace members as needed.”
 - Rob O’Reilly (VMRC) will step down and nominates Alexa Kretsch as VMRC representative. Alexa is a fisheries management specialist and coordinates the VMRC Crab Management Advisory Committee.
 - Lynn Fegley (MD DNR) will step down and nominates DNR representative Genine McClair. Genine is a program director managing MD DNR’s blue crab program.
 - Glenn Davis (MD DNR) will remain as Chairman for a second term.
 - **Recommendation:** Endorse all membership changes for CBSAC.
 - **Vote Outcome:** approved changes
 - **Follow-up Actions:** CBSAC will continue discussing membership as needed
- **Approve selection of Manokin River in Maryland as 10th tributary for restoration**
 - **Background:** Manokin River was selected as the 10th of 10 tributaries to restore oyster habitat and populations by 2025, under the 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement. The Maryland oyster workgroup is currently developing a tributary workplan, and is considering whether construction can begin over summer 2019.
 - **Recommendation:** Endorse the selection of Manokin River for large-scale oyster restoration in support of the 2014 Agreement oyster outcome, by recommendation of Maryland DNR.
 - **Vote Outcome:** approved
 - **Follow-up Actions:** MD Workgroup will continue with blueprint planning

- **Endorse the addition of oyster restoration as an interim BMP in the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs)**
 - **Background:** Based on Best Management Practices (BMP) Expert Panel recommendation, oyster restoration credits will be considered as one of the approved methods for state jurisdictions to achieve Phase III WIPs (August 2019). Aquaculture BMPs have been approved and included in WIPs. Restoration is under consideration for denitrification and assimilation as an interim BMP, and public oyster fishery BMPs will be considered in the future.
 - **Recommendation:** To facilitate the addition of estimates as interim BMPs, serving as placeholder for more extensive estimation, the Fisheries GIT recommends formal endorsement of the BMP Expert Panel plan.
 - **Vote Outcome:** approved
 - **Follow-up Actions:** Fisheries GIT will work with the Expert Panel, Water Quality GIT and Modeling Team to include oyster restoration as interim BMPs in Phase III WIPs