

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes**

May 19, 2014 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21534/>

Decisional

Call Participants: Peyton Robertson, Tom O'Connell, Rob O'Reilly, Bob Beal, Marty Gary, Bruce Vogt, Andrew Turner, Nancy Butowski, Karl Blankenship, Emilie Franke

- **NOAA Habitat Focus Area: Choptank Complex – Peyton Robertson (NCBO) (1:00-1:30pm)**
 - *Presentation 15 min; Discussion 15 min*
 - Handout: Choptank_HFA_Factsheet
 - Peyton described NOAA's Habitat Focus Area program and the recently selected Habitat Focus Areas in the North Atlantic, one of which is the Delmarva/Choptank River Complex. Restoration and conservation efforts in the Choptank area through the HFA program could potentially serve as a model for similar future efforts in the Bay.
 - Discussion:
 - Tom appreciated this effort as a comprehensive approach for the area and hoped that this would result in engagement and participation of local constituents.
 - Peyton pointed out that HFA efforts in the Choptank will align with the Fisheries GIT's interest in connecting the importance of habitat to fishery resources.
 - Jack asked when NOAA would consider other areas for selection, potentially other tributaries in the Bay undergoing oyster restoration like the Piankatank. It was discussed that selection of new HFAs in this region may not occur for a few years.
- **June Full GIT Meeting (1:30-2:15pm)**
 - Handout: June 2014 Fisheries GIT Agenda_5-15-14
 - Staff presented the latest agenda and reviewed the planned discussions, presentations, and logistics.
 - Discussion:
 - Rob and Bob discussed their take-aways from the recent MAFMC climate and fisheries workshop and what topics would be useful for discussion with the full GIT.
 - Tom and Rob discussed the blue crab section and their interest in characterizing each of the jurisdiction's fisheries to better understand the differences in the fishery among the jurisdictions.
 - Ex Comm members and staff agreed to develop a chart with basic blue crab fishery information before the June meeting and follow up in more detail at a future Ex Comm or full GIT meeting.
 - Ex Comm members supported the idea of providing spatial data on blue crab sex, size, and seasonal distribution throughout the Bay to complement the blue crab agenda items.
 - Rob pointed out that the caveats and the process of deriving absolute abundance should be explained when CBSAC presents the advisory report figures.
 - Rob pointed out that the natural mortality discussion item should focus on how natural mortality would contribute to such low abundance numbers coupled with low exploitation rates.

- Peyton discussed inviting more industry stakeholders to the June meeting and Rob said he will be making an announcement about the meeting to the VMRC Blue Crab Advisory Committee about the meeting.

Actions:

- **Staff will develop a matrix to document basic information about each jurisdiction's blue crab fishery. Ex Comm members will fill out the chart before the June GIT meeting so the information can be distributed at the meeting.**
- **Staff will reach out to academic institutions (CBL, VIMS, SERC) to obtain spatial data on blue crab sex, size, and seasonal distribution for the June meeting.**
- **Staff will include an update on telemetry in the Fisheries GIT members update materials.**

➤ **CBSAC Updates (2:15-2:25pm)**

- Handout: Final CBSAC Charter
- Andrew has completed a final draft of the charter. Thanks to all for submitting comments during the process.
- Ex Comm members discussed and agreed upon final edits:
 - There will be no set term for coordinator. The coordinator can decide if he/she needs to step down and Ex Comm will nominate a new coordinator as needed
 - The Coordinator and committee membership will be left to the discretion of the Ex Comm as well as the current (NOT previous) chair.
- CBSAC met at PRFC on May 12th to work on the 2014 Advisory Report. Joe G. will present the WDS results at the June full GIT meeting.
- Decision: The Ex Comm endorsed the charter with the final edits from this call.

➤ **Summer Ex Comm Call Dates (2:25-2:30pm)**

- Handout: 2014 Calendar
- Ex Comm discussed dates for the July and August conference calls.
- **Decision: Summer Ex Comm calls will take place Monday, July 21st and Monday, August 18th from 1:00-3:00pm.**

➤ **Ex Comm Updates**

- Executive Committee members' updates and discussion of management issues.

Informational

➤ **New Agreement Updates**

- On May 9th, the final draft of the New Agreement was released to the nine signatories for clearance before the June 16th Executive Council Agreement signing in Annapolis.
- The nine signatories are MD, VA, DC, PA, WV, NY, DE, CBC, and EPA (federal government).

➤ **Invasive Catfish Updates**

- Bruce presented the Task Force's work to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF). This panel is comprised of members from across the country.
- NOAA is developing a webpage on invasive species and would like to feature Chesapeake Bay invasive catfish. This is another great public outreach opportunity.

- **Oyster Restoration Monitoring and Research Information Exchange**
 - Stephanie Westby of the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office hosted an information exchange on May 15th for oyster restoration monitoring and research in the Choptank. All presentations and materials can be found [here](#) for reference.
- **Water Quality GIT Revised BMP Framework**
 - *Handout: Batiuk_Invite_BMP Framework; CBP_Verification_doc_May2014_Review*
 - The Chair of the CBP BMP Verification Committee, Rich Batiuk, has invited the Fisheries, Habitat, and Watersheds GIT to participate in a briefing on the revised BMP verification framework. This framework explains how BMPs are verified for their efficiency and effectiveness.
 - The briefing will occur during the Water Quality GIT conference call on **June 9th at 1:30pm**.
 - Importance: fisheries and habitat issues may become prominent in the BMP process (oysters?) and this could be an opportunity to continue emphasizing the connection between land use and fisheries.
 - Fisheries GIT can submit comments on the draft framework document until **June 30th**.
- **Confirm upcoming meeting dates**

Full GIT Meeting
Wed-Thurs, June 4-5th at VIMS

Ex Comm (Mondays 1-3pm)
July 21, 2014
August 18, 2014