

## Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee

### Meeting Summary

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23067>

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**Call Participants:** Peyton Robertson, Lynn Fegley, Bob Beal, Karl Blankenship, Nancy Butowski, Julie Reichert, Ward Slacum, Bryan King, Bruce Vogt, Emilie Franke, Kara Skipper

### Presentation

- **Oyster BMP Expert Panel – Julie Reichert and Ward Slacum (Oyster Recovery Partnership)**
    - Julie explained how and why the Oyster BMP Expert Panel was convened and reviewed the Expert Panel's charges: to consider oyster practices as BMPs, evaluate pollutant reduction estimates, inform the Chesapeake Bay TMDL 2017 midpoint assessment and inform updates to the oyster model component in the CBP Model Framework.
    - The Fish GIT can submit comments on the various products from the Panel that come under Partnership review and provide input to the Panel as they gather the relevant science and information for discussion.
    - Discussion:
      - Peyton and Lynn, who is also an Expert Panel member, pointed out that the management implications of crediting oyster practices would be substantial, and it is important to keep the management agencies in the discussion.
      - Bruce pointed out that this Panel is very timely, and that the City of Virginia Beach has already proposed a pilot project to explore oysters as BMP's.
      - Julie explained that part of the Panel's final report will evaluate conditions under which potential oyster BMP practices would not be effective due to predation, mortality, etc.
      - Julie clarified that the Panel will build on the efforts of previous panels/reports and focus on new information.
  - **Action: Fisheries GIT will provide comments during review periods for the Panel's reports. The Fisheries GIT will provide information for Panel use if needed.**
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### Decisional

- **December 2015 Full GIT Meeting**
  - Handout: Dec 2015 Full GIT Meeting Agenda
  - Kara reviewed the agenda for the December 2015 Full GIT meeting.
  - Presentations at the meeting include Stephanie Westby and Susan Connor (oyster update), Andre Buchheister (forage indicators study), Emilie Franke (cownose ray workshop), Tom Miller and Mike Wilberg (blue crab survey data), and Matt Ogburn, Don Orth and Joseph Schmitt (catfish diet study).
  - Other agenda items include a workplan poster session and a tentative tour of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.
  - **Decision:** Ex Comm approved of agenda.
- **Workplan Progress**
  - Handout: Workplans: Blue Crab, Oyster, Forage and Fish Habitat
  - Emilie described the process of submitting and reviewing the workplans. Workplans still require additional information on cost estimates and some additional information on geographical locations at this point.
  - **Discussion:** Nancy suggested that a lead should be designated for the actions in the workplans.

- **Action:** Fisheries GIT workgroups will continue to fill out the workplans and add financial information where possible before the December 18<sup>th</sup> draft deadline for the Management Board.
- **Action:** Fisheries GIT staff will reach out to participating entities to determine the details for the key actions.

➤ **STAR Priorities**

- Handout: *STAR – Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Needs*
- Bruce explained the initial ranking of the Fisheries Goal Implementation Needs.
- **Discussion:** Lynn suggested that we should include an additional column on relative cost or where these needs are being addressed elsewhere to make this ranking more clear. She indicated that gear efficiency is of a higher priority than indicated.
- **Action:** Kara will request an extension from STAR to COB on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Action:** Ex Comm members will submit their comments and rankings to Kara by 12:00pm on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

➤ **January and February Ex Comm Call**

- Handout: *2016 Calendar*
- **Decision:** Ex Comm confirmed January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 29<sup>th</sup> Ex Comm call dates.

➤ **Ex Comm Updates**

- Marty stated that the spat set this year in the lower Potomac River is the highest in the past 33 years.
- PRFC agreed to close harvest areas in the lower Potomac to protect spat set and ensure future production.
- Peyton and Bryan noted the recent reports of increased [water clarity](#).
- Lynn stated that MD DNR's electronic reporting system should be fully implemented for all finfish species by January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Bob Beal provided updates from the ASMFC Annual meeting. The Striped Bass Management Board decided to accelerate the next rockfish update to 2016, and the Menhaden Management Board will draft a new amendment for menhaden for potential implementation in 2018 (focused on allocation and developing ecological reference points).
- Bryan voiced concern about the results of recent analyses showing elevated PCB levels found in striped bass.

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**Informational**

➤ **Confirm upcoming meeting dates**

*Ex Comm Call (Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm)*

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

*Full GIT Meeting*

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD

➤ **Oyster Summit**

- The Steering Committee met last month. They agreed on three major agenda topics: shell availability, larval availability/growth and improving coordination among jurisdictions/sectors.
  - Additional topics may include discussion on oyster economics.

- Did not include topics that are being discussed in other venues (Oyster BMP Expert Panel and Maryland sanctuary review)
- Targeted meeting date is now the third week of February.
- STAC Workshop RFP
  - STAC will be issuing their annual RFP for workshops soon. Proposals will be due in early 2016.
  - Potential Fish GIT proposals could include a workshop on oyster hatchery production and water quality issues and a workshop on fish habitat.
- GIT Project Update
  - Project information was submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT). The CBT formulated RFPs for each individual project to be released at the end of November. They project that awardees will be selected and contracts in place by the end of February.