

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 20th, 2014 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/22002/>

Call Participants: Peyton Robertson, Tom O'Connell, Rob O'Reilly, Marty Gary, Bob Beal, Troy Hartley, Nancy Butowski, Susan Conner, Jack Frye, Margaret McGinty, Bruce Vogt, Earl Meredith, Andrew Turner, Karl Blankenship, Emilie Franke

Decisional

➤ **Fisheries/Land Use Language Comparison – Troy Hartley (VA Sea Grant) (1:05-1:25pm)**

- *10-min presentation and 10-min discussion*
- Handout: Slides
- Troy gave an overview of results from a study comparing the language used in local land use planning documents vs. the ASMFC Shad and Herring FMP regarding natural resource considerations.
- There is frequent communication between scientists and fisheries managers, and between state and local planners. However, there are very few connections between those two groups. This lack of communication inhibits a mutual understanding between the two disciplines.
- In the language comparison, Sea Grant looked at how certain fisheries terms (habitat, fish impediments, etc.) were used, if at all, in local comprehensive plans, wildlife/watershed plans, and local ordinances. Overall, similar language was used only ~20% of the time.
 - Language regarding water quality, runoff, and erosion were similar, but mention of fish and habitat areas was not present in the planning documents.
- Discussion:
 - Ex Comm members suggested that further analysis should include watermen as an important link in the communication network and potential “bridgers” of information to local governments.
 - Maryland DNR reported that their Fish Habitat Workgroup has been working to inform and increase awareness among planners on the land-fish connection, and understanding common language is key.
 - Peyton pointed out that this is a relevant topic to engage with the Bay Program’s Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) and start the discussion on how to raise awareness of fisheries impacts in local governments.

Action: Ex Comm members will stay engaged in this conversation through other committee (DNR, ASMFC, etc.). Watermen should be included in any future network analyses of communication.

➤ **New VA Sea Grant/NCBO Post Doc – Bruce Vogt (NOAA) (1:20-1:35pm)**

- The new post-doc has been selected for the two-year joint NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Virginia Sea Grant EBFM fellowship. Thanks to Ex Comm members for their input as the position description was developed earlier this year.
- Bruce described that the post doc will focus on striped bass and expanding on Maryland Sea Grant’s original EBFM effort. The project outcome will be a tool that assesses the various ecosystem factors and stressors for striped bass, including the socioeconomic aspect as well as the ecological and environmental aspects.

- Discussion:
 - Ex Comm members appreciated the effort to continue the EBFM effort.
 - Bob Beal pointed out that ASMFC has done extensive multispecies work/modelling with striped bass and the post doc should connect with ASMFC contacts.

Action: Bruce and Troy will keep the Ex Comm apprised of final project developments. The post-doc will be introduced at the December Fish GIT meeting and can update the full GIT at future Fisheries GIT meetings.

- **Management Strategy Participants (1:35-1:55pm)**
 - Handout: *FishGIT MStrat Participation 10-17*
 - GIT Staff discussed the current list of jurisdictional representatives, GIT members, and interest stakeholders who are identified to develop each management strategy. Staff discussed the need for lead drafters and jurisdiction leads for each strategy.
 - Discussion: Who should be the leads for coordinating and drafting each strategy? Additions or suggestions?
 - Ex Comm members discussed the time commitments of their staff and the time constraints, but all did agree to the importance of participating on the strategies.
 - GIT staff emphasized that staff will help coordinate and compile information, but the jurisdiction and other stakeholder expertise will be essential to the strategy development.

Action: Ex Comm members agreed to identify leads ASAP for blue crabs and oysters, as well as additional representation for forage fish and fish habitat outcome.

- **December full GIT Meeting Planning (1:55-2:25pm)**
 - Handout: *Dec 2014 GIT Agenda Outline*
 - Tuesday-Wednesday, December 2-3rd, 2014 at SERC in Edgewater, MD.
 - Staff presented the draft agenda for the December meeting. Day 1 would include breakout group discussions for each of the fisheries outcomes/management strategies, and Day 2 would focus on updates on oyster restoration, CBSAC and invasive catfish. These topics were all very popular on the GIT member survey regarding meeting topics of interest.
 - A survey was sent out to all GIT members to determine what topics they are most interested in discussing. The draft agenda will be modified based on those results.
 - Discussion: What would the Ex Comm like to see on the December meeting agenda? How should the management strategy breakout discussions be structured?
 - Rob O. pointed out that VMRC and USACE should work together to provide an oyster restoration update for Virginia. Susan Conner agreed to look into an update on the USACE modelling effort for the Rappahannock oyster reefs.
 - Tom O. suggested looking into Roger Mann's final project report to for relevant updates and possible presentation during the oyster section or at a future meeting.

Action: Staff will refine agenda /presenters, especially regarding the oyster section as identified by the Ex Comm, and discuss with the Ex Comm on the November call. Staff will finalize meeting logistics.

- **Ex Comm Updates**
 - Executive Committee members' updates and discussion of management issues.

Informational

- **CBP Funding for GITs**
 - CBP is finalizing the details for the GIT funding. Fisheries GIT projects most likely receiving funding are forage metric development, CBSAC priorities, and striped bass health indicator development. Preliminary project proposals can be found [here](#).
- **Forage Workshop**
 - The Steering Committee for the STAC Forage Workshop is finalizing the workshop presenters and logistics.
 - The workshop will take place November 12-13th, 2014 at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD.
- **Invasive Catfish Updates**
 - The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is currently reviewing the Catfish Task Force's final report. A few STAC members as well as experts from outside the region are conducting the review. The review will be complete by the end of October.
- **Restore America's Estuaries Summit Poster**
 - Andrew Turner (Versar/NOAA) and Emilie Franke (CRC) will be presenting a poster at the [Restore America's Estuaries Summit](#) at National Harbor on November 3rd. The poster will give a general overview of the Fisheries GIT and use CBSAC/blue crab management as a specific example of multi-jurisdictional, coordinated management.
- **Confirm upcoming meeting dates**

Monday, November 17th from 1-3pm
Tuesday-Wednesday, December 2-3rd (*full GIT*)