

Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee

Meeting Summary

October 19th, 2015 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/23065/>

Call Participants: Peyton Robertson, Rob O'Reilly, Lynn Fegley, Bob Beal, Karl Blankenship, Nancy Butowski, Howard Townsend, Emilie Franke, Kara Skipper

Presentation

➤ **Fish Health Indicator, Prevalence of Striped Bass-Mycobacteriosis – Howard Townsend (NOAA)**

- This study utilized 16 years of MD DNR's reporting of mycobacteriosis disease data to explore connections between myco infection and environmental variables. Potential indicators from the myco data include disease associated mortality, force of infection and apparent prevalence of the disease in striped bass.
 - Findings from the study suggest that the force-of-infection increases with age and that apparent prevalence is correlated with water quality variables including total suspended solids, nitrates, and phosphates. A potential striped bass health indicator would focus on the apparent prevalence of myco for age-1 striped bass.
 - Future applications include incorporating striped bass mycobacteriosis data from Virginia, estimating the force of infection for multiple years, quantitatively linking water quality to fish productivity, and utilizing the mycobacteriosis prevalence as an indicator for striped bass.
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Decisional

➤ **Cownose Rays**

- Handout: *Cownose Ray Workshop Agenda*
- Emilie reviewed the agenda for the upcoming cownose ray workshop.
- Discussion:
 - Rob would like to have discussion on population size, fishing mortality, and bycatch. He wants to know what effect bowhunting is having on the population in terms of removals. Rob noted that it is difficult to determine the genders while the rays are in the water. He noted that there are occasionally only males in some regions; and that this could be potentially be part of a solution.
 - Peyton suggests required registrations at tournaments for participants and providing suggested written guidelines for tournaments.
 - Lynn wants to address that there are multiple contexts of concern over the cownose ray population, both ethical and conservation-based. She stated that MD DNR will take this science back to the constituents and will proceed from there.
- **Action: Emilie will relay the Ex Comm's comments to the workshop participants for discussion at the workshop.**

➤ **Oyster Summit**

- Handout: *Chesapeake Bay Oyster Summit Update*
- Emilie and Amy discussed the results of the steering committee call. Main topics included the change in date to February from the originally proposed December meeting, and focusing on short and long term goals.
- Discussion:
 - Peyton wants to use this forum to discuss the different management and harvesting options including: rotational harvests, commercial buy-in to shares, sanctuaries,

temporary sanctuaries (harvesting for 3 months of 36 month period), aquaculture, leasing and permitting. He showed interest in a comprehensive summary of efforts and organizational approaches for oyster restoration.

- Lynn thinks there's a lot of opportunity for this summit. MD DNR will release a report in the next year of the oyster restoration work that they have taken in 2010.
- Rob is concerned about the production capabilities of hatcheries and the shell budget and would be interested in having these topics covered in the summit.
- **Action:** Amy will continue refining the plans for the Oyster Summit and will take comments from members regarding the proposed date.

➤ **December 2015 Full GIT Meeting**

- Handout: December 2015 Full GIT Meeting Proposal
- Peyton reviewed the possible venue locations. Following the GIT's venue rotation, this meeting will be in Maryland.
- **Decision:** It was decided that the full GIT meeting will be a one-day meeting held on Monday, December 14th.
- **Action:** Peyton, Emilie, and Kara will decide between the two venue locations in southern Maryland that the Ex Comm selected.

➤ **November Ex Comm Call**

- Handout: 2015 Calendar
- **Decision:** It was confirmed that November 16th will be the date for the next Ex Comm call.

➤ **Ex Comm Updates**

- Based on the latest NMFS indices, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council had to cut spiny dogfish quotas in half for 2016 relative to the 2015 quotas.
- On October 27th, VMRC will hold a commission meeting in which they will determine if the crab dredge fishery season will open. The crab dredge season has been closed since 2008.
- Chesapeake Bay Program's Principal's Staff Committee met last week. The meeting included an announcement that Harris Creek oyster restoration was completed, and the Lafayette River is close to completion.

Informational

➤ **Confirm upcoming meeting dates**

Ex Comm Call (Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm)
November 16th, 2015

Full GIT Meeting
Monday, December 14th, 2015 at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD