

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes**

September 29th, 2014 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Materials: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/calendar/event/21935/>

Call Participants: *Peyton Robertson, Tom O'Connell, Rob O'Reilly, Marty Gary, Bob Beal, Joe Grist, Nancy Butowski, Jack Frye, Bruce Vogt, Andrew Turner, Emilie Franke*

Decisional

➤ **CBSAC Meeting Summary –Andrew Turner (Versar/NOAA)(1:05-1:20pm)**

- Handout: *CBSAC 2014 Sept 25th Meeting Outcomes*
- Andrew reported the major outcomes from the in-person CBSAC meeting that took place September 25th. Major action items included:
 - CBSAC will take a targeted approach to apply available summer survey data to address questions identified in the future stock assessment terms of reference.
 - CBSAC is recommending further study to assess the differences in the results from winter dredge survey vessels from each jurisdiction.
 - CBSAC will present their general process for planning for the next stock assessment at the December full GIT meeting.
- Discussion:
 - Rob O. brought up the need to determine the specific utility of each summer survey dataset that would be consistently applied from year to year to address not only stock assessment needs but needs identified in the annual stock assessment.
 - Ex Comm members discussed CBSAC's allocation of Chesapeake Bay Program funds to support priority research needs.

➤ **Blue Crab Allocation White Paper –Andrew Turner and Bruce Vogt (NCBO) (1:20-1:30pm)**

- Handout: None
- NCBO staff discussed the status of the draft blue crab allocation white paper based on discussions from the April and July Ex Comm calls. Ex Comm members submitted initial comments which NCBO staff will address.
- The current draft white paper aims to:
 - 1) outline the current fishery status and structure
 - 2) identify general issues to consider when evaluating an allocation-based management framework (ABMF)
 - 3) highlight potential advantages and challenges of a Chesapeake Bay blue crab ABMF
- Discussion:
 - Peyton discussed the white paper in context of the blue crab management outcome and the need for this white paper content to identify the issues and steps associated with evaluating an allocation framework.
 - Rob O. pointed out that evaluating an allocation framework will require decisions about what data timeframe should be considered and how to account for different regulations among the jurisdictions.
 - Ex Comm members agreed that the scope of the white paper should only include evaluation of a Baywide TAC as the logical next step. It should not include evaluation of ITQ's.

- Tom O. advocated for the important next step of data compilation/analysis of a time series of harvest data. This time series should be evaluated for data reliability and then run allocation scenarios to determine the pros and cons.
- Regarding a combined blue crab abundance/management strategy, Ex Comm members emphasized the distinction between Baywide management toward the stock reference points and the individual jurisdictions' decisions to implement an allocation framework.

Actions:

- NCBO staff will incorporate the Ex Comm members' comments on the white paper and rework the content to match the outline for the new Agreement management strategies.
- The white paper will 1) present the rationale for a Baywide allocation framework and 2) outline the steps to get there. After the white paper, the next step should be data analysis of the harvest time series.

➤ **December full GIT Meeting (1:30-1:50pm)**

- Handout: *Dec 2014 GIT Brainstorm*
- Staff presented options for dates and locations for the December full GIT meeting.
 - Based on usual pattern, December meeting targets a Maryland location. Recent meetings at academic institutions have been a great experience.
 - Staff suggestions included Horn Point Lab in Cambridge, MD that would be near oyster restoration projects that the GIT will be discussing.
 - Ex Comm members suggested options on the Western shore including SERC and other areas on the Patuxent.
 - First week of December – Ex Comm members agreed to December 2-3rd.
- Staff compiled a list of potential meeting topics including oyster restoration, a CBSAC update, and
- Discussion:
 - Tom O. expressed interest in hearing from other CBP GITs and workgroups on related outcomes and management strategies. For example the recreational fishing community is interested in the public access outcome.

Action: GIT staff will finalize the meeting location options and finalize with the Ex Comm on the October conference call. GIT staff will work with other CBP GITs to facilitate collaboration and information sharing at the December GIT meeting.

➤ **Management Strategy Example (1:50-2:20pm)**

- Handout: *Oyster Draft Elements 9-29-14*
- Staff presented a DRAFT outline for the oyster mgmt strategy as an example of the type and sources of information to be included in these documents. The outline includes the ten key elements that should be included for each strategy.
- Discussion:
 - Tom O. pointed out that the management strategies are a good opportunity to identify monitoring gaps and funding needs that would help achieve the outcomes.
 - Nancy B. discussed the existing Chesapeake Bay Program indicators and Peyton acknowledged that the indicators should align with the monitoring plan for each outcome and provide a basis for evaluation.

Action: Fish GIT staff will present similar management strategy outlines to the Ex Comm for the other outcomes as they develop and keep the Ex Comm informed of progress.

➤ **September Newsletter (2:20-2:30pm)**

- Handout: *Draft newsletter*
- Staff presented the highlights of the full GIT September newsletter. This newsletter will keep the full GIT informed between the June and December meetings.

Action: Ex Comm members can send comments to Emilie by COB Wednesday 10/1 after which GIT staff will distribute the newsletter to the full GIT. – **COMPLETE**

➤ **Ex Comm Updates**

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

➤ **New VA Sea Grant/NCBO Post-doc**

- The new EBFM post-doc has been selected for a two-year fellowship. Sea Grant and NCBO are currently outlining a few project options for the position.
- Thanks to Ex Comm members for their input as the position was developed.

➤ **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 agenda and logistics. The workshop is scheduled for 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, October 20th from 1-3pm

Monday, November 17th from 1-3pm

Tuesday-Wednesday, December 2-3rd (*full GIT*)