

**Sustainable Fisheries GIT Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

November 20, 2017 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/november\\_2017\\_sustainable\\_fisheries\\_git\\_executive\\_committee\\_conference\\_call](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/november_2017_sustainable_fisheries_git_executive_committee_conference_call)

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**Participants**

Bob Beal	Bruce Vogt	Lynn Fegley	Kara Skipper	Marty Gary
Nancy Butowski	Rob O'Reilly	Sara Coleman	Sean Corson	

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**Decisional**

➤ **December Full GIT Meeting**

- Description:
  - Kara reviewed the draft agenda for the December Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting and made note of the allocation of facilitation roles for the Ex Comm.
- Discussion:
  - Report out on the status of the 2016 GIT Funded studies
  - [MD DNR 5-year Oyster Report](#) data will be included in MD's oyster stock status study
  - Roger Mann will not be able to present at the Dec. meeting; will schedule a presentation on the salinity-dependent oyster shell budget study at the spring meeting
  - Breakout Session on Fish GIT Priorities
    - Is this an opportunity to discuss harvest accountability for blue crab?
    - Explain the purpose the 2-year workplans and how they assist the Fish GIT in leveraging funds for relevant studies and efforts and providing staff support
    - Goal of breakouts: Determine if the Fish GIT is focusing on the right things
  - Bruce and Sara have talked with Jessica Coakley to identify a small set of research priorities for NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office's Federal Funding Opportunities.
- **Actions:**
  - **Revise the description for the ORES and Oyster Stock Status agenda items**
  - **Bruce will follow up with the Ex Comm on the inshore/offshore habitat connections**

➤ **Catfish Symposium**

- Description:
  - The Invasive Catfish Task Force hosted a Catfish Symposium at the VCU Rice Rivers Center on November 6-7. Sara provided a summary of key highlights from the presentations and discussions on the state of the science and status of the catfish fishery.
- Discussion:
  - We need more specific objectives and coordinated regulations to continue addressing invasive catfish
  - We anticipate a summary report, tributary scores and marketing materials to develop from the meeting
- **Actions:**
  - **Sara will follow up with the Invasive Catfish Task Force on the proposed follow up actions and deliverables**

➤ **Adaptive Management in Oyster Restoration**

- Description:

- At the October Ex Comm call, Jay Lazar (NOAA) discussed the proposed revisions to the goal setting procedures for restoring oysters in tributaries under the Chesapeake Bay Program's Oyster Restoration Outcome. For more details, find the presentation [here](#).
  - Discussion:
    - Will the summary chart provided on the agenda be descriptive enough to convey the updates?
    - There may be opposing opinions on applying the updates to both Maryland and Virginia tributaries
    - Maryland is considering their approach toward shallow water permitting
  - Actions:
    - Jay to clarify "substantive" shell quantity definition for the purposes of the proposed update
    - Ex Comm members to share concerns on the proposed updates with Sean, Kara or Jay.
    - Kara to provide link to the study by Roger Mann entitled "A baywide approach to oyster stock assessment, estimates of vital rates and disease status of the Eastern Oyster *Crassostrea virginica* in the Chesapeake Bay":  
<https://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/images/stories/fisheries/fspoysterstockassessmentapproach.pdf>
- **Fish GIT and Ex Comm Member Updates**
- RFPs for the 2017 GIT-funded studies will be released in early December.
  - The Virginia Oyster Interagency Team met in November to discuss how they plan to condense the workgroups, and to work more closely with the Fish GIT.

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## Informational

- **Confirm upcoming Ex Comm meeting dates**
- Monday-Tuesday, December 18-19 – Sustainable Fisheries GIT Meeting
- Monday, January 29, 1pm-3pm – Conference Call
- Monday, February 26, 2017 – 1pm-3pm – Conference Call